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MONTHLY PRELIMS — 151 MCQS

April 2026 — Monthly Prelims Practice

30 April 2026 · **POLITY** **ECONOMY** **ENVIRONMENT** **SCIENCE & TECH** **IR**
HISTORY & CULTURE **GEOGRAPHY** **SOCIAL ISSUES** **SECURITY & DEFENCE**
REPORTS & SCHEMES **PERSONS & AWARDS**

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MONTHLY PRELIMS PRACTICE

April 2026

Question Bank with Full Solutions & Explanations

151
QUESTIONS**11**
SUBJECTS**~35%**
STATEMENT-BASED

Polity & Governance

Economy

Environment

Science & Tech

International Relations

Geography

History & Culture

Social Issues

Security & Defence

Reports & Schemes

Persons & Awards

 **Prelims Practice** **All Answers** **Explanations** **Concept Notes**

Ujyari Contents

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HOW TO USE THIS PDF

- 1 Attempt first.** Cover the answer section and try each question before revealing — simulates exam conditions.
- 2 Statement questions** (marked Statement-Based) test logical elimination — read all statements before choosing.
- 3 Concept notes** (✦) after each explanation give the broader UPSC context — read them even for correct answers.
- 4 Revise by subject.** Use the table above to focus on weak areas before the exam.
- 5 Online version** has Quiz Mode + instant scoring at ujyari.com/monthly/

All questions are based on April 2026 current affairs — grounded in editorials from The Hindu, Indian Express, Hindustan Times, Mint, Business Standard, Economic Times and Down to Earth.

April 2026 — Monthly Prelims Practice

April 2026

151 Questions

35–40% Statement-Based

Polity & Governance

Q1

The Constitution (131st Amendment) Bill 2026, defeated in the Lok Sabha in April 2026, proposed to expand the strength of which House and on what basis?

- A** Rajya Sabha from 245 to 384 seats based on 1971 Census
- B** Lok Sabha from 543 to 850 seats based on 2021 Census-based delimitation
- C** Lok Sabha from 543 to 753 seats based on 2011 Census
- D** State Legislative Assemblies based on the latest delimitation order

✓ B Lok Sabha from 543 to 850 seats based on 2021 Census-based delimitation

The 131st Amendment Bill sought to raise Lok Sabha strength from 543 to 850 seats (815 States + 35 UTs) with delimitation based on 2021 Census population. Southern states (Tamil Nadu, Kerala, Karnataka, Andhra Pradesh, Telangana) opposed it on federal-equity grounds, arguing it penalises states that achieved demographic stabilisation. The bill needed a special majority under Article 368 but fell short -- the first constitutional amendment bill defeated in Lok Sabha in 12 years.

✦ Article 368 amendment procedure: two-thirds of members present and voting plus majority of total membership; certain matters additionally need ratification by half the states. Article 82 mandates delimitation after each census. The 84th Amendment (2001) and 87th Amendment (2003) froze delimitation till after the first census taken after 2026, using 1971 Census strength.

[Read Source →](#)

Q2
STATEMENT-BASED

Consider the following statements regarding the 131st Constitutional Amendment Bill 2026:

- 1** It was the first constitutional amendment bill to be defeated in the Lok Sabha in 12 years.
- 2** Its defeat delays implementation of the Womens Reservation under the 106th Amendment.
- 3** Under Article 368, a constitutional amendment requires only a simple majority in both Houses.

Which of the above statements are correct?

- A** 1 and 2 only
- B** 2 and 3 only
- C** 1 and 3 only
- D** 1, 2 and 3

✓ A 1 and 2 only

Statements 1 and 2 are correct. The 131st Amendment was the first constitutional amendment bill defeated in Lok Sabha since 2014. The 106th Amendment (Nari Shakti Vandan Adhiniyam, 2023) operationalises women reservation only after delimitation is completed -- the 131st defeat therefore delays it. Statement 3 is wrong -- Article 368 requires a special majority (two-thirds of members present and voting plus majority of total membership).

✦ Three types of constitutional amendment majorities: simple majority (Article 4, 169 -- not under Article 368), special majority (most amendments), and special majority plus ratification by half the states (federal provisions). The 106th Amendment provides 33 per cent reservation for women in Lok Sabha, State Legislative Assemblies, and the Delhi Legislative Assembly -- not in Rajya Sabha or State Legislative Councils.

[Read Source →](#)
Q3

The AP Reorganisation (Amendment) Act 2026 settled the long-running capital dispute in Andhra Pradesh by notifying which city as the sole capital?

A Visakhapatnam

B Kurnool

C Amaravati

D Tirupati

✓ C **Amaravati**

The AP Reorganisation (Amendment) Act 2026 notified Amaravati as the sole capital of Andhra Pradesh, formally ending the three-capital model proposed in 2020 by the YSRCP government (Visakhapatnam executive, Amaravati legislative, Kurnool judicial). The Amaravati greenfield capital project covers 33,000 acres pooled from farmers across 29 villages.

✦ Andhra Pradesh was bifurcated under the AP Reorganisation Act 2014, which made Hyderabad joint capital with Telangana for 10 years (expired 2024). Articles 2, 3 and 4 of the Constitution empower Parliament to admit, form, alter areas, boundaries or names of states by simple majority -- such Bills can be introduced only on the recommendation of the President.

[Read Source →](#)

Q4

Harivansh Narayan Singh was nominated to the Rajya Sabha in April 2026 under which Article of the Constitution?

A Article 75

B Article 80

C Article 124

D Article 331

✓ B Article 80

Article 80 empowers the President to nominate 12 persons to the Rajya Sabha having special knowledge or practical experience in literature, science, art, and social service. Harivansh was nominated under this provision. The total strength of the Rajya Sabha is fixed at 250 (238 elected + 12 nominated) under Article 80.

✦ Article 331 deals with nomination of Anglo-Indians to Lok Sabha (now lapsed after 104th Amendment 2019). Nominated Rajya Sabha members can vote in election of Vice-President but not President of India. They take oath under Article 99. The Constituent Assembly debates favoured a Rajya Sabha that combined federal representation with eminent expertise -- hence the nominated category.

[Read Source →](#)

Q5
STATEMENT-BASED

Consider the following statements regarding the CAPF (General Administration) Act, 2026:

- 1** It is India first unified administrative statute for all seven Central Armed Police Forces.
- 2** It places Assam Rifles under the sole operational control of the Ministry of Defence.

Which of the above statements is/are correct?

- A** 1 only
- B** 2 only
- C** Both 1 and 2
- D** Neither 1 nor 2

✓ A 1 only

Only Statement 1 is correct. The CAPF (General Administration) Act 2026 is India first unified statute covering BSF, CRPF, CISF, ITBP, SSB, NSG and Assam Rifles -- replacing separate Acts that governed each force. Statement 2 is incorrect: Assam Rifles continues to have dual command -- administrative control with MHA and operational control with the Indian Army (MoD).

✦ The seven CAPFs together have nearly 10 lakh personnel. BSF Act 1968 (borders with Pakistan and Bangladesh), CRPF Act 1949 (internal security, anti-LWE), CISF Act 1968 (industrial and airport security), ITBP (Indo-Tibetan border), SSB (Indo-Nepal and Indo-Bhutan borders), NSG (counter-terror), Assam Rifles (Northeast and Indo-Myanmar border). Article 355 places duty on Union to protect states against internal disturbance.

[Read Source →](#)

Q6

The Jan Vishwas (Amendment of Provisions) Act, 2026 decriminalised provisions across central laws by replacing imprisonment with monetary penalties. How many provisions across how many laws were decriminalised?

- A** 183 provisions across 42 laws
- B** 542 provisions across 65 laws
- C** 784 provisions across 79 laws
- D** 1,200 provisions across 100 laws

✓ C 784 provisions across 79 laws

The Jan Vishwas (Amendment of Provisions) Act, 2026 decriminalised 784 provisions across 79 central laws -- the largest single regulatory decriminalisation exercise in Indian history. The original Jan Vishwas Act 2023 had decriminalised 183 provisions across 42 laws. Repeat or wilful violators retain criminal liability; first-time technical offenders face only monetary penalties.

✦ Jan Vishwas Acts target the so-called inspector raj culture in laws like the Environment Protection Act 1986, Drugs and Cosmetics Act 1940, Factories Act 1948, and Legal Metrology Act 2009. The reform is rooted in the Second Administrative Reforms Commission recommendations on regulatory governance and supports the Ease of Doing Business agenda.

[Read Source →](#)

Q7
STATEMENT-BASED

Consider the following statements regarding the Census 2027:

- 1 It will be India first fully digital census, using self-enumeration via a mobile app.
- 2 It will capture caste data for the first time since the 1931 Census.
- 3 Its results will form the basis for delimitation under Article 82.

Which of the above statements are correct?

- A 1 and 2 only
- B 2 and 3 only
- C 1 and 3 only
- D 1, 2 and 3

✓ D 1, 2 and 3

All three statements are correct. Census 2027 will be India's first fully digital census, with self-enumeration via mobile app, GPS-tagged household mapping and real-time data upload to MoSPI. It will capture caste data for the first time since the 1931 Census (the 1941 census did not collect caste data due to World War II). Once published, it will trigger delimitation under Article 82 and operationalise the 106th Amendment (Women Reservation).

✦ The 2021 census was postponed due to COVID-19; the last complete census was conducted in 2011. The 84th and 87th Amendments froze delimitation till after the first census taken after 2026 -- making Census 2027 a politically and constitutionally pivotal exercise. The Registrar General and Census Commissioner under the Ministry of Home Affairs conducts the census under the Census Act 1948.

[Read Source →](#)

Q8

The 16th Finance Commission, headed by Arvind Panagariya, recommended how much for Rural Local Bodies (Gram Panchayats) for the period 2026-31?

A Rs 2.36 lakh crore

B Rs 3.50 lakh crore

C Rs 4.35 lakh crore

D Rs 5.50 lakh crore

✓ C Rs 4.35 lakh crore

The 16th Finance Commission recommended Rs 4.35 lakh crore for Rural Local Bodies (Gram Panchayats) for 2026-31 -- the highest ever devolution to local bodies in any Finance Commission award. The 15th FC had recommended Rs 2.36 lakh crore for Rural Local Bodies for 2021-26. The Commission also earmarked Rs 2,04,401 crore for disaster management based on inflation-adjusted past expenditure.

✦ Article 280 mandates constitution of the Finance Commission every five years by the President. The 16th FC retained vertical devolution at 41 per cent of the divisible pool. Local bodies receive funds via Article 280(3)(bb) and (c) which require FC recommendations for measures to augment the Consolidated Fund of a State to supplement the resources of Panchayats and Municipalities.

[Read Source →](#)

Q9
STATEMENT-BASED

Consider the following statements regarding Article 142 of the Constitution:

- 1** It empowers the Supreme Court to pass any decree or order necessary for doing complete justice in any cause or matter pending before it.
- 2** The Supreme Court has held that Article 142 powers can override substantive statutory law.

Which of the above statements is/are correct?

A 1 only

B 2 only

C Both 1 and 2

D Neither 1 nor 2

✓ A 1 only

Only Statement 1 is correct. Article 142(1) empowers the Supreme Court to pass any order necessary for complete justice in matters pending before it. Statement 2 is incorrect -- the Supreme Court has consistently held (*Supreme Court Bar Association v. Union of India*, 1998) that Article 142 cannot be used to override express statutory provisions; it can only supplement, not supplant, the law.

✦ Article 142 was invoked in the April 2026 matrimonial dissolution case where the Supreme Court dissolved an irretrievably broken marriage without going through the usual procedure under the Hindu Marriage Act 1955. Notable Article 142 invocations include the Bhopal gas tragedy (*Union Carbide settlement*), *Babri Masjid land case* (2019), and *Cauvery water dispute*. Article 142(2) extends to securing attendance of persons, discovery of documents and punishment for contempt.

[Read Source →](#)

Q10
STATEMENT-BASED

Consider the following statements regarding the Punjab Guru Granth Sahib Satkar (Amendment) Bill 2026:

- 1 The Bill prescribes a maximum punishment of life imprisonment for sacrilege of Sri Guru Granth Sahib.
- 2 Public order and police are listed in the Concurrent List of the Seventh Schedule.
- 3 Criminal law and criminal procedure are in the Concurrent List, requiring Presidential assent under Article 254 if state law conflicts with central law.

Which of the above statements are correct?

A 1 and 2 only

B 2 and 3 only

C 1 and 3 only

D 1, 2 and 3

✓ C 1 and 3 only

Statements 1 and 3 are correct. The Punjab Bill 2026 prescribes life imprisonment as the maximum punishment for sacrilege. Criminal law and criminal procedure fall in the Concurrent List (List III, Entries 1 and 2), requiring Presidential assent under Article 254 for state-central conflicts. Statement 2 is wrong -- public order and police are in the State List (List II, Entries 1 and 2), not Concurrent.

✦ Public order and police are State List subjects, allowing states to legislate on offences against religion within their territory. Section 298 of BNS (formerly IPC 295) criminalises injuring or defiling places of worship. Earlier 2018 versions of the Punjab Bill were returned by the Union government on federal-list concerns; the 2026 version is more carefully drafted.

[Read Source →](#)

Q11
STATEMENT-BASED

Consider the following statements regarding the Meghalaya Official Languages Ordinance 2026:

- 1 It recognises Khasi and Garo as official languages of Meghalaya alongside English.
- 2 Khasi and Garo are included in the Eighth Schedule of the Constitution.

Which of the above statements is/are correct?

- A 1 only
- B 2 only
- C Both 1 and 2
- D Neither 1 nor 2

✓ A 1 only

Only Statement 1 is correct. The Meghalaya Official Languages Ordinance 2026 recognises Khasi and Garo as official languages of Meghalaya alongside English. Statement 2 is incorrect -- neither Khasi nor Garo is currently in the Eighth Schedule; the demand for their inclusion is pending. The Eighth Schedule currently lists 22 languages.

✦ Article 345 allows state legislatures to adopt one or more languages as official language(s) of that state. The Eighth Schedule originally listed 14 languages; expanded over time -- Sindhi (1967), Konkani, Manipuri, Nepali (1992), Bodo, Dogri, Maithili, Santhali (2003) brought total to 22. Articles 343-351 deal with the official language. Article 350A provides for primary education in mother tongue.

[Read Source →](#)

Q12

The Supreme Court PIL of April 2026 on extending the Right to Education to ages 3-6 invokes which constitutional provision?

A Article 21

B Article 21A

C Article 45

D Article 51A(k)

✓ B Article 21A

The PIL seeks extension of Article 21A (Right to Education) to children aged 3-6 years. Currently, Article 21A inserted by the 86th Amendment 2002 covers children aged 6-14 years. Pre-primary education (ages 3-6) is mentioned only in Article 45 (Directive Principles) as amended by the 86th Amendment, which mandates early childhood care and education up to age 6.

✦ The 86th Constitutional Amendment 2002 inserted Article 21A (right to free and compulsory education for ages 6-14) and amended Article 45 to focus on early childhood care below age 6. Article 51A(k) imposes a fundamental duty on parents/guardians to provide opportunities for education to children aged 6-14. The Right to Education Act 2009 operationalised Article 21A but does not extend below age 6.

[Read Source →](#)

Q13

Ladakh, which got five new districts in April 2026, now has how many districts in total?

A 5

B 6

C 7

D 8

✓ C 7

Ladakh Union Territory now has 7 districts after the addition of five new districts (Zaskar, Drass, Sham, Nubra, and Changthang) carved out of the existing Leh and Kargil districts. The reorganisation aims at improved administrative reach in this strategically critical UT.

✦ Ladakh became a Union Territory without legislature on October 31, 2019 after the Jammu and Kashmir Reorganisation Act 2019. It borders Pakistan-occupied Kashmir, China-administered Aksai Chin (which the Government of India considers an integral part of India), and Xinjiang. The Sixth Schedule status demand for Ladakh has been pending.

[Read Source →](#)

Q14
STATEMENT-BASED

Consider the following statements regarding the Sabarimala review hearings (April 2026):

- 1 The Supreme Court referred the matter to a 9-judge Constitution Bench.
- 2 The original 2018 Sabarimala judgment was delivered by a 7-judge bench.

Which of the above statements is/are correct?

- A 1 only
- B 2 only
- C Both 1 and 2
- D Neither 1 nor 2

✓ A 1 only

Only Statement 1 is correct. A 9-judge Constitution Bench began hearing the Sabarimala review in April 2026 -- the largest bench ever constituted for a religious entry case. Statement 2 is incorrect -- the original 2018 judgment in *Indian Young Lawyers Association v. State of Kerala* was delivered by a 5-judge bench (5-2 majority, Justice Indu Malhotra dissenting).

✦ Article 145(3) requires that any case involving substantial question of law as to the interpretation of the Constitution be decided by at least 5 judges. Religious entry questions intersect Articles 14, 15, 17 (untouchability), 25 (freedom of religion) and 26 (right of denominations). The essential religious practices doctrine traces to the *Shirur Mutt* case (1954).

[Read Source →](#)

Q15
STATEMENT-BASED

Consider the following statements regarding the Online Gaming Authority of India (OGAI) constituted in April 2026:

- 1 It was established under the Promotion and Regulation of Online Gaming Act (PROGA), 2025.
- 2 Betting and gambling is a Union List subject under the Seventh Schedule.
- 3 The Authority distinguishes between games of skill and games of chance.

Which of the above statements are correct?

A 1 and 2 only

B 2 and 3 only

C 1 and 3 only

D 1, 2 and 3

✓ C 1 and 3 only

Statements 1 and 3 are correct. OGAI was established under the PROGA Act 2025 and distinguishes between games of skill and games of chance. Statement 2 is wrong -- betting and gambling is a State List subject (List II, Entry 34), not Union List. Online gaming uses inter-state digital infrastructure, creating jurisdictional complexity.

✦ OGAI regulates India's USD 8.6 billion online gaming market, real-money gaming and problem gaming concerns. Earlier IT Rules 2023 designated Self-Regulatory Bodies for online gaming. The Public Gambling Act 1867 is the colonial-era central law adopted by many states.

[Read Source →](#)

Q16
STATEMENT-BASED

Consider the following statements regarding the West Bengal Special Intensive Revision (SIR) of electoral rolls:

- 1** The Supreme Court stayed the SIR process citing concerns over arbitrary voter deletion.
- 2** Section 21 of the Representation of the People Act 1950 governs preparation and revision of electoral rolls.

Which of the above statements is/are correct?

A 1 only

B 2 only

C Both 1 and 2

D Neither 1 nor 2

✓ C Both 1 and 2

Both statements are correct. The Supreme Court stayed the SIR process for West Bengal electoral rolls and ordered restoration of deleted voter names. Section 21 of RPA 1950 deals with preparation and revision of electoral rolls and governs grounds for deletion (death, permanent relocation, double enrolment).

✦ Article 324 empowers the Election Commission to superintend, direct and control elections. Article 326 mandates universal adult suffrage (18 years and above). The Election Commission of India (Conditions of Service of Election Commissioners) Act, 2023 changed the appointment procedure of CEC and ECs. Two Acts -- RPA 1950 (electoral rolls) and RPA 1951 (conduct of elections) -- govern electoral law.

[Read Source →](#)

Q17
STATEMENT-BASED

Consider the following statements regarding the Chief Election Commissioner (CEC) Removal Motion of April 2026:

- 1** The CEC can be removed only in the manner prescribed for the removal of a Supreme Court judge under Article 124.
- 2** Other Election Commissioners can be removed only on the recommendation of the CEC.
- 3** The conditions of service of the CEC may be varied to his disadvantage after appointment under Article 324(5).

Which of the above statements are correct?

A 1 and 2 only


B 2 and 3 only

C 1 and 3 only

D 1, 2 and 3

✓ A 1 and 2 only

Statements 1 and 2 are correct. The CEC can be removed only in the manner of a Supreme Court judge under Article 124 -- requiring special majority in both Houses on grounds of proved misbehaviour or incapacity. Other ECs and Regional Commissioners can be removed only on the recommendation of the CEC. Statement 3 is wrong -- Article 324(5) explicitly bars varying CECs conditions of service to his disadvantage after appointment.

 The CEC and ECs Appointment Act 2023 created a selection committee of PM, Leader of Opposition and a Union Minister nominated by the PM. The CEC enjoys institutional protection similar to that of a SC judge -- a key insulation for electoral independence under Article 324.

[Read Source →](#)

Q18

The National Civil Services Day is celebrated annually on April 21. This date commemorates which event?

- A The day Sardar Patel addressed All India Services probationers in 1947 at Metcalfe House
- B The day the Indian Administrative Service was formally constituted by Government of India order
- C The day the Civil Services Examination is conducted by UPSC annually
- D The day of Indias independence celebration for civil servants



The day Sardar Patel addressed All India Services probationers in 1947 at Metcalfe House

April 21 is celebrated as National Civil Services Day because on this day in 1947, Sardar Vallabhbhai Patel addressed the first batch of probationers of administrative services at Metcalfe House, Delhi, referring to civil servants as the "steel frame of India". The 2026 observance marked 79 years.

✦ All India Services (IAS, IPS, IFoS) are constituted under Article 312 of the Constitution and the All India Services Act 1951. The IAS replaced the colonial ICS (Indian Civil Service) post-1947. UPSC, a constitutional body under Article 315, conducts the Civil Services Examination annually. The Surinder Nath Committee and Hota Committee recommended civil service reforms.

[Read Source →](#)

Q19
STATEMENT-BASED

Consider the following statements about NCERT being granted deemed-to-be-university status under NEP 2020:

- 1 The status was granted under the University Grants Commission Act, 1956.
- 2 NCERT will now be empowered to grant its own degrees in education-related programmes.

Which of the above statements is/are correct?

A 1 only

B 2 only

C Both 1 and 2

D Neither 1 nor 2

✓ C Both 1 and 2

Both statements are correct. NCERT was granted deemed-to-be-university status under Section 3 of the UGC Act 1956, which empowers the Centre on UGC advice to declare an institution as deemed university. NCERT will now grant its own degrees in education-related programmes, integrating teacher training and curriculum research under NEP 2020.

✦ NCERT (National Council of Educational Research and Training) was established in 1961 as an autonomous society under the Ministry of Education. NCERT publishes school textbooks for CBSE and many state boards. NEP 2020 envisages a multidisciplinary approach to teacher education, replacing UGC, AICTE, NCTE with a Higher Education Commission of India (HECI) as proposed in the VBSA Bill 2025.

[Read Source →](#)

Q20
STATEMENT-BASED

Consider the following statements regarding the Supreme Court April 2026 ruling on nationwide ICU standards:

- 1** The Court mandated a three-tier ICU classification system (Level I, II, III) based on infrastructure.
- 2** Public health and hospitals are listed in the Union List under the Seventh Schedule.
- 3** The Clinical Establishments (Registration and Regulation) Act 2010 provides a central framework but has been adopted only by some states/UTs.

Which of the above statements are correct?

A 1 and 2 only

B 2 and 3 only

C 1 and 3 only

D 1, 2 and 3

✓ C 1 and 3 only

Statements 1 and 3 are correct. The SC mandated a three-tier ICU classification (Level I basic, II intermediate, III tertiary) and the Clinical Establishments Act 2010 is a central framework adopted only by some states/UTs. Statement 2 is wrong -- public health, hospitals and sanitation are State List subjects (List II, Entry 6), not Union List.

✦ The SC also ordered 1:1 nurse-to-patient ratio in tertiary ICUs and a 3-week deadline for state action plans, invoking Article 21 (right to life and health) to impose national minimum standards despite health being a State List subject.

[Read Source →](#)

Q21

Which of the following statements about Article 80 of the Constitution is **INCORRECT**?

- A** The total strength of the Rajya Sabha shall not exceed 250
- B** 12 members are nominated by the President from literature, science, art and social service
- C** Nominated members can vote in the election of the President of India
- D** Nominated members can vote in the election of the Vice-President of India

✓ C Nominated members can vote in the election of the President of India

Nominated members of Rajya Sabha **CANNOT** vote in the election of the President of India. Under Article 54, the electoral college for President consists of elected members of both Houses and elected members of State Legislative Assemblies -- excluding nominated members. However, nominated members **CAN** vote in Vice-President elections (Article 66) because that electoral college consists of all members (elected + nominated) of both Houses.

✦ Article 80 sets out the Rajya Sabha composition: maximum 250 members -- 238 representatives of States and UTs (elected by single transferable vote) and 12 nominated by President. Articles 84 (qualifications), 99 (oath), 101-104 (vacation, disqualification) apply. The 250-member ceiling is statutory; current strength is 245 (233 + 12).

[Read Source →](#)

Q22

Which of the following correctly pairs an All India Service with its founding year/source?

- A** Indian Police Service -- Constituted by All India Services Act 1951
- B** Indian Forest Service -- Constituted in 1966 under the All India Services Act 1951
- C** Indian Foreign Service -- An All India Service under Article 312
- D** Indian Revenue Service -- A central civil service constituted under Article 312


B

Indian Forest Service -- Constituted in 1966 under the All India Services Act 1951

The Indian Forest Service was constituted in 1966 under the All India Services Act 1951 (with retrospective amendment). IPS was constituted along with IAS by the AISA 1951. The Indian Foreign Service is NOT an All India Service -- it is a Central Service (Group A) under the Ministry of External Affairs. The Indian Revenue Service is also a Central Service, not under Article 312.

✦ Article 312 allows Parliament to create new All India Services if Rajya Sabha passes a resolution by two-thirds majority. Currently three AISs exist: IAS, IPS, IFoS. The Constitution does not name them -- they are statutory under AISA 1951. The UPSC under Article 315 conducts examinations. AIS members serve both Union and States (cadre system).

[Read Source →](#)

Q23
STATEMENT-BASED

Consider the following statements regarding the Supreme Court ruling on dowry givers (April 2026):

- 1** The Court held that dowry givers cannot be prosecuted as aggrieved parties under Section 7 of the Dowry Prohibition Act.
- 2** The Dowry Prohibition Act, 1961 makes both giving and taking of dowry punishable offences.

Which of the above statements is/are correct?

A 1 only

B 2 only

C Both 1 and 2

D Neither 1 nor 2

✓ C Both 1 and 2

Both statements are correct. The Supreme Court in April 2026 clarified that dowry givers cannot be prosecuted as aggrieved parties under Section 7 of the Dowry Prohibition Act 1961. The Act under Section 3 makes both giving and taking of dowry punishable offences (with imprisonment of not less than 5 years and fine).

✦ Section 498A IPC (now BNS Section 85) penalises cruelty to married women including dowry harassment. The Protection of Women from Domestic Violence Act 2005 provides civil remedies. The Indian Penal Code Section 304B (dowry death) -- now BNS Section 80 -- defines dowry death as death of a woman within 7 years of marriage in suspicious circumstances. NCRB data shows dowry deaths remain a serious concern.

[Read Source →](#)

Q24

The Karnataka High Court in April 2026 upheld menstrual leave for women employees under which constitutional provision?

- A** Article 14 alone
- B** Article 15 alone
- C** Article 21 read with Article 14
- D** Article 39(d) alone

✓ C Article 21 read with Article 14

The Karnataka High Court upheld menstrual leave as a reasonable classification under Article 14 (equality) when read with Article 21 (right to dignified life including reproductive health). The Court ruled that biology-based classification for menstrual leave does not violate Article 14 as it serves substantive equality.

✦ Article 15(3) permits the State to make special provisions for women and children -- the constitutional basis for affirmative measures. The Maternity Benefit Act 1961 provides 26 weeks paid leave (after 2017 amendment). The Code on Social Security 2020 consolidates labour welfare laws. Reasonable classification under Article 14 needs (i) intelligible differentia and (ii) rational nexus with the object sought.

[Read Source →](#)

Q25
STATEMENT-BASED

Consider the following statements regarding OBC reservation in local bodies:

- 1 The 73rd and 74th Constitutional Amendments mandate OBC reservation in Panchayats and Municipalities respectively.
- 2 The Supreme Court in *Vikas Kishanrao Gawali* (2021) laid down a triple test requirement for OBC reservation in local bodies, including a 50 per cent ceiling on total reservation.
- 3 The Constitution (105th Amendment) Act, 2021 restored the power of States and Union Territories to identify and notify Socially and Educationally Backward Classes.

Which of the above statements are correct?

A 1 and 2 only

B 2 and 3 only

C 1 and 3 only

D 1, 2 and 3

✓ B 2 and 3 only

Statements 2 and 3 are correct. The *Gawali* (2021) triple test requires (i) empirical commission to study backwardness, (ii) proportionate share of OBC representation, and (iii) total reservation not to exceed 50 per cent. The 105th Amendment Act restored State power to identify SEBCs. Statement 1 is wrong -- Articles 243D and 243T mandate reservation only for SCs, STs and women; OBC reservation is enabled but not mandated, and left to State legislatures.

✦ GS2 -- Local Governance and Reservation Policy. Article 243D (Panchayats) and Article 243T (Municipalities) mandate reservation for SCs, STs (proportionate to population) and women (not less than one-third). The *Indra Sawhney* case (1992) established the 50 per cent ceiling principle for reservations more broadly.

[Read Source →](#)

Q26
STATEMENT-BASED

Consider the following statements regarding State Legislative Assemblies in India:

- 1** Article 170 prescribes that a State Legislative Assembly shall consist of not less than 60 and not more than 500 members.
- 2** Article 172 fixes a five-year term for a Legislative Assembly unless dissolved earlier.
- 3** The Sikkim Legislative Assembly has fewer than 60 members, by virtue of a constitutional exception.

Which of the above statements are correct?

A 1 and 2 only

B 2 and 3 only

C 1 and 3 only

D 1, 2 and 3

✓ D 1, 2 and 3

All three statements are correct. Article 170(1) sets the 60-500 member band. Article 172(1) provides a five-year term unless dissolved earlier. The proviso to Article 170(1) creates exceptions: Sikkim (32 seats), Goa (40), Mizoram (40) and Arunachal Pradesh (60) operate with fewer than 60 members.

✦ GS2 -- Polity. Article 170 covers composition; Article 171 covers Legislative Councils; Article 172 covers duration. Article 333 provides for Anglo-Indian nomination by the Governor (omitted by 104th Amendment 2019 for the future). Article 174 prescribes maximum gap of six months between sessions.

[Read Source →](#)

Q27

The TV Rating Policy (TRP) reform of April 2026 expanded the household measurement panel from 30,000 to how many households?

A 40,000

B 50,000

C 60,000

D 75,000

✓ B 50,000

The TRP 2026 reform expanded the BARC (Broadcast Audience Research Council) measurement panel from 30,000 to 50,000 households -- improving representation across geographies and demographics. BARC is the joint industry body that measures television viewership in India.

✦ BARC India was set up in 2014 as a joint industry body. The Ministry of Information and Broadcasting issued the TRP guidelines under the Cable Television Networks (Regulation) Act 1995 and Telecom Regulatory Authority of India Act 1997. Print media circulation is audited by the Audit Bureau of Circulations (ABC). TRP frauds have been investigated under sections of the IT Act and IPC.

[Read Source →](#)

Economy & Development

Q28

The RBI Monetary Policy Committee held the repo rate at what level in its April 2026 (first FY27) meeting?

A 5.00 per cent

B 5.25 per cent

C 5.50 per cent

D 6.00 per cent

✓ B 5.25 per cent

The RBI MPC held the repo rate at 5.25 per cent in April 2026 (the first MPC of FY27), maintaining a neutral stance amid oil price uncertainty from the West Asia conflict. The Standing Deposit Facility (SDF) rate was 5.00 per cent and the Marginal Standing Facility (MSF) was 5.50 per cent.

✦ The MPC was constituted under the RBI Act 1934 (amended 2016) following the Monetary Policy Framework Agreement (2015) with the Government. It has 6 members -- 3 from RBI (including Governor as chair) and 3 government-nominated external members. CPI inflation target: 4 per cent +/- 2 per cent. The repo rate is the rate at which RBI lends overnight to banks against government securities.

[Read Source →](#)

Q29
STATEMENT-BASED

Consider the following statements about Indias GDP projections for FY27:

- 1 The IMF projected India GDP at 6.5 per cent for 2026.
- 2 The World Bank South Asia Update April 2026 projected India GDP at 7.6 per cent for FY26, easing to 6.6 per cent for FY27.
- 3 Moodys downgraded Indias FY27 GDP forecast from 6.8 per cent to 6 per cent citing the Iran conflict.

Which of the above statements are correct?

- A 1 and 2 only
- B 2 and 3 only
- C 1 and 3 only
- D 1, 2 and 3

✓ D 1, 2 and 3

All three statements are correct. The IMF (World Economic Outlook April 2026) retained India at 6.5 per cent while cutting global growth to 3.1 per cent. The World Bank South Asia Economic Update (April 2026) projected India at 7.6 per cent for FY26, easing to 6.6 per cent for FY27 due to West Asia conflict, making South Asia the fastest-growing region globally. Moodys Ratings cut its India FY27 forecast from 6.8 per cent to 6 per cent citing Iran conflict spillover.

✦ The IMF World Economic Outlook (WEO) is published twice a year (April, October). The World Bank Global Economic Prospects (January, June) and regional updates (April, October). Moody, S&P and Fitch are the three major credit rating agencies. India sovereign rating: Baa3 (Moody), BBB- (S&P, Fitch) -- lowest investment grade.

[Read Source →](#)

Q30
STATEMENT-BASED

Consider the following statements regarding India's defence exports in FY 2025-26:

- 1 They reached a record Rs 38,424 crore in FY 2025-26, up from Rs 23,622 crore in FY 2024-25 (62.66 per cent growth).
- 2 Private sector contribution stood at approximately 45 per cent (Rs 17,353 crore) of total defence exports.
- 3 India now exports defence equipment to over 100 countries including the United States, France, and Armenia.

Which of the above statements are correct?

- A 1 and 2 only
- B 2 and 3 only
- C 1 and 3 only
- D 1, 2 and 3

✓ D 1, 2 and 3

All three statements are correct. The Rs 38,424 crore figure represents a 62.66 per cent jump over FY 2024-25; DPSU contribution was Rs 21,071 crore (54.84 per cent) while private sector accounted for Rs 17,353 crore (45.16 per cent); export destinations exceed 100 countries.

✦ India follows the Defence Acquisition Procedure (DAP) 2020 (formerly DPP). iDEX (Innovations for Defence Excellence) supports start-ups. Atmanirbhar Bharat positive indigenisation lists ban import of 509 specified items. Key exports: Brahmos, ALH Dhruv, Pinaka MBRL, Akash SAM, electronics. India now exports to 85+ countries; FY27 target is Rs 50,000 crore.

[Read Source →](#)

Q31
STATEMENT-BASED

Consider the following statements regarding the Government e-Marketplace (GeM):

- 1 It crossed cumulative Gross Merchandise Value of Rs 18.4 lakh crore by April 2026.
- 2 It is operated by GeM SPV, a Section 8 (not-for-profit) company.
- 3 Use of GeM is mandated under Rule 149 of the General Financial Rules 2017 for government procurement of common-use items.

Which of the above statements are correct?

A 1 and 2 only

B 2 and 3 only

C 1 and 3 only

D 1, 2 and 3

✓ D 1, 2 and 3

All three statements are correct. GeM crossed Rs 18.4 lakh crore cumulative GMV by April 2026 (FY26 alone recorded Rs 5 lakh crore). It is operated by GeM SPV, a Section 8 company. Rule 149 of GFR 2017 mandates its use for procurement of common-use items by Central Ministries.

✦ GeM was launched in August 2016 by the Ministry of Commerce and Industry. It supports MSME, women entrepreneur and Startup India preferences. It complements PFMS (Public Financial Management System) and BHIM-UPI for payments.

[Read Source →](#)

Q32
STATEMENT-BASED

Consider the following statements about the India-UK Free Trade Agreement (implemented April 2026):

- 1** It includes a Double Contribution Convention exempting Indian IT workers in the UK from double social security contributions.
- 2** It is Indias 13th active FTA, targeting USD 100 billion bilateral trade by 2030.
- 3** It mandates Mode 4 (movement of natural persons) liberalisation for Indian professionals.

Which of the above statements are correct?

A 1 and 2 only

B 2 and 3 only

C 1 and 3 only

D 1, 2 and 3

✓ D 1, 2 and 3

All three statements are correct. The DCC exempts Indian IT workers in UK from double social security contributions. The FTA is Indias 13th active FTA, targeting USD 100 billion bilateral trade by 2030. Mode 4 services liberalisation allows Indian IT professionals to work in the UK under intra-company transfer.

✦ WTO GATS distinguishes four modes of services trade: Mode 1 (cross-border supply), Mode 2 (consumption abroad), Mode 3 (commercial presence), Mode 4 (movement of natural persons). FTAs must comply with GATT Article XXIV (substantially all trade). India FTAs include CEPA UAE (2022), Australia (ECTA 2022), Mauritius (CECPA 2021), Japan (CEPA 2011), Korea (CEPA 2010), ASEAN (2010).

[Read Source →](#)

Q33
STATEMENT-BASED

Consider the following statements regarding the India-New Zealand FTA signed at Bharat Mandapam on April 27, 2026:

- 1 It includes a dedicated AYUSH Annex -- the first in any Indian FTA.
- 2 It provides 100 per cent duty-free market access for Indian goods.
- 3 It commits 5,000 work visas per year for Indian professionals.

Which of the above statements are correct?

A 1 and 2 only

B 2 and 3 only

C 1 and 3 only

D 1, 2 and 3

✓ D 1, 2 and 3

All three statements are correct. The India-NZ FTA includes a dedicated AYUSH Annex (first in any Indian FTA) mutually recognising Ayurveda, Yoga, Naturopathy, Unani, Siddha and Homeopathy products and practitioners; provides 100 per cent duty-free market access for Indian goods; and commits 5,000 work visas per year for Indian professionals.

✦ The Ministry of AYUSH became a separate Ministry in 2014. The All India Institute of Ayurveda (AIIA) Delhi is a flagship institution. Yoga has been a UNESCO Intangible Cultural Heritage element since 2016. The AYUSH Visa scheme launched in 2024 attracts foreign nationals for traditional medicine treatment.

[Read Source →](#)

Q34
STATEMENT-BASED

Consider the following statements regarding KABIL (Khanij Bidesh India Limited), which got environmental clearance for lithium mining in April 2026:

- 1** It is a joint venture of NALCO, Hindustan Copper Limited, and Mineral Exploration Corporation Limited (MECL).
- 2** It secured the lithium mining clearance in Catamarca province, Argentina -- Indias first overseas lithium mine.
- 3** KABIL is a public sector undertaking under the Department of Atomic Energy.

Which of the above statements are correct?

A 1 and 2 only

B 2 and 3 only

C 1 and 3 only

D 1, 2 and 3

✓ A 1 and 2 only

Statements 1 and 2 are correct. KABIL is a JV of three Ministry of Mines PSUs -- NALCO, HCL and MECL. It secured environmental clearance in Catamarca, Argentina (Indias first overseas lithium mine). Statement 3 is wrong -- KABIL is under the Ministry of Mines, not the Department of Atomic Energy (DAE handles uranium and thorium).

✦ KABIL was incorporated in August 2019 to source strategic minerals (lithium, cobalt) from overseas. The MMDR Amendment Act 2023 listed 30 minerals as Critical Minerals. The National Critical Mineral Mission targets self-reliance. India currently imports 100 per cent of lithium and 90 per cent of cobalt.

[Read Source →](#)

Q35

In April 2026, India auctioned how many critical mineral blocks in the 7th tranche under the Mines and Minerals (Development and Regulation) Amendment Act 2023?

A 20 blocks

B 32 blocks

C 46 blocks

D 60 blocks

✓ C 46 blocks

India auctioned 46 critical mineral blocks in the 7th tranche in April 2026. The blocks included lithium, cobalt, nickel, graphite, and rare earth elements. The auction is conducted by the Ministry of Mines and individual State Governments under the MMDR Amendment Act 2023, which empowered the Centre to auction critical minerals.

✦ India Critical Minerals list has 30 minerals identified by the Ministry of Mines (2023). These are essential for clean energy transition, defence, electronics. Strategic minerals like uranium and thorium are reserved for the Atomic Energy Department. The Geological Survey of India (GSI) conducts exploration; the Mineral Exploration Corporation Ltd (MECL) supports detailed prospecting.

[Read Source →](#)

Q36
STATEMENT-BASED

Consider the following statements regarding the Income Tax Act, 2025 (effective April 1, 2026):

- 1 It replaces the Income Tax Act, 1961, after 64 years.
- 2 It introduces the concept of a fiscal year starting on April 1 for the first time.

Which of the above statements is/are correct?

- A 1 only
- B 2 only
- C Both 1 and 2
- D Neither 1 nor 2

✓ A 1 only

Only Statement 1 is correct. The Income Tax Act 2025 replaced the Income Tax Act 1961 (which had been in force for 64 years) effective April 1, 2026. Statement 2 is incorrect -- the fiscal year starting on April 1 is a long-standing British administrative legacy, not introduced by the new Act.

✦ The Income Tax Act 2025 simplified language, removed redundant provisions and rationalised sections (536 sections in the new Act). The Direct Tax Code (DTC) effort began in 2009; the 2025 Act is its culmination. CBDT (Central Board of Direct Taxes) under Ministry of Finance administers direct tax laws. GAAR (General Anti-Avoidance Rules) was introduced through Finance Act 2012.

[Read Source →](#)

Q37

India achieved cumulative wind power capacity of approximately how much by April 2026, after adding 6.05 GW in FY26?

A 28 GW

B 40 GW

C 56 GW

D 75 GW

✓ C 56 GW

India cumulative wind power capacity crossed 56 GW after a record 6.05 GW added in FY26 -- the highest single-year addition. India ranks 4th globally in wind power capacity. The Ministry of New and Renewable Energy (MNRE) operates wind power schemes including offshore wind targets of 30 GW by 2030.

✦ India total renewable energy capacity is 283 GW (April 2026), ranking 3rd globally after China (1,800+ GW) and the USA (~400 GW). Target: 500 GW non-fossil fuel capacity by 2030 (Glasgow Pact / NDC). India NDC commitments under the Paris Agreement: 45 per cent emissions intensity reduction by 2030 and 50 per cent installed capacity from non-fossil sources by 2030.

[Read Source →](#)

Q38

India achieved 283 GW of total renewable energy capacity by April 2026, ranking globally at:

- A 1st (ahead of China and USA)
- B 2nd (after China)
- C 3rd (after China and USA)
- D 4th (after China, USA and Germany)

✓ C 3rd (after China and USA)

India ranks 3rd globally in renewable energy capacity at 283 GW, behind China (1,800+ GW) and the USA (~400 GW). The renewable mix: solar ~190 GW, wind ~56 GW, small hydro + biomass + others ~37 GW. India target is 500 GW non-fossil capacity by 2030.

✦ India is also 4th in wind power globally and 4th in solar power globally. The International Solar Alliance (ISA), headquartered in Gurugram, was co-launched by India and France in 2015. The Global Biofuel Alliance was launched at G20 New Delhi 2023. The PM-KUSUM scheme supports solar pumps and solarisation of agricultural feeders.

[Read Source →](#)

Q39

UPI (Unified Payments Interface) processed how many transactions in January 2026 -- the highest ever single-month volume?

A 12.50 billion

B 18.20 billion

C 21.70 billion

D 25.00 billion

✓ C 21.70 billion

UPI recorded 21.70 billion transactions in January 2026 -- the highest ever single-month volume. India accounts for the largest share of real-time digital payments globally. UPI is operated by NPCI (National Payments Corporation of India), launched in April 2016.

✦ NPCI is a not-for-profit Section 8 company under the Payment and Settlement Systems Act 2007, promoted by RBI and Indian Banks Association. UPI is operational in UAE, Singapore, France, UK, Bhutan, Nepal, Sri Lanka and others. NIPL (NPCI International Payments Ltd) handles international expansion. UPI Lite (small-value offline payments) and UPI 123Pay (feature-phone UPI) extend reach.

[Read Source →](#)

Q40
STATEMENT-BASED

Consider the following statements regarding the Prototype Fast Breeder Reactor (PFBR) at Kalpakkam that achieved first criticality in April 2026:

- 1** It is a 500 MW sodium-cooled fast breeder reactor built and operated by BHAVINI.
- 2** Its criticality marks India's entry into Stage 2 of the three-stage nuclear programme designed by Homi Bhabha.
- 3** Stage 2 of the three-stage programme uses fast breeder reactors with plutonium and thorium-232 to produce U-233.

Which of the above statements are correct?

- A** 1 and 2 only
- B** 2 and 3 only
- C** 1 and 3 only
- D** 1, 2 and 3

✓ D 1, 2 and 3

All three statements are correct. PFBR is a 500 MW sodium-cooled fast breeder reactor built and operated by BHAVINI (Bharatiya Nabhikiya Vidyut Nigam Ltd), a PSU under DAE. Its criticality marks Stage 2 entry of the Bhabha three-stage programme, which uses Pu-239 and Th-232 to breed U-233.

✦ Three-stage nuclear programme: Stage 1 (PHWRs using natural uranium produce plutonium), Stage 2 (fast breeder reactors), Stage 3 (thorium-based reactors). India has 8,46,477 tonnes of thorium reserves -- third globally. NPCIL operates PHWRs; BARC handles research; IGCAR developed fast reactor technology. The SHANTI Act 2025 opens nuclear to private sector.

[Read Source →](#)

Q41
STATEMENT-BASED

Consider the following statements about the SHANTI Act:

- 1** SHANTI stands for Strategic and Holistic Approach to Nuclear Technology and Infrastructure.
- 2** It permits private sector participation in nuclear power generation for the first time in India.
- 3** India targets 100 GW nuclear capacity by 2047 under the Act-enabled framework.

Which of the above statements are correct?

A 1 and 2 only

B 2 and 3 only

C 1 and 3 only

D 1, 2 and 3

✓ D 1, 2 and 3

All three statements are correct. SHANTI stands for Strategic and Holistic Approach to Nuclear Technology and Infrastructure. It permits private sector participation in nuclear power generation for the first time, removing the long-standing PSU monopoly under the Atomic Energy Act 1962. India targets 100 GW nuclear capacity by 2047 -- a tenfold expansion from the current ~7 GW.

✦ The Atomic Energy Act 1962 reserved nuclear power to PSUs. The Civil Liability for Nuclear Damage Act 2010 enabled the India-US 123 Civil Nuclear Agreement (2008). India is a member of the IAEA but not of the NSG (Nuclear Suppliers Group). India has the No First Use doctrine and follows credible minimum deterrence. The CTBT and NPT have not been signed by India.

[Read Source →](#)

Q42

PMGSY (Pradhan Mantri Gram Sadak Yojana), extended in April 2026, has been extended till March 2028 with an outlay of approximately:

A Rs 25,000 crore

B Rs 50,000 crore

C Rs 83,977 crore

D Rs 1.2 lakh crore

✓ C Rs 83,977 crore

PMGSY was extended till March 2028 with an outlay of Rs 83,977 crore. PMGSY was launched in December 2000 as a centrally sponsored scheme for all-weather rural road connectivity to habitations of specified population thresholds (500+ in plains, 250+ in hill/tribal/desert areas).

✦ PMGSY is administered by the Ministry of Rural Development. PMGSY-I (2000) for new connectivity, PMGSY-II (2013) for upgradation of through routes, PMGSY-III (2019) consolidates, and PMGSY-IV (2024) further extends. National Rural Infrastructure Development Agency (NRIDA) is the technical agency. Article 243G of the Constitution (added by 73rd Amendment) entrusts panchayats with rural roads under Schedule XI.

[Read Source →](#)

Q43

The Cabinet approved Small Hydro Power Scheme in April 2026 has an outlay of Rs 2,584 crore for adding how much capacity?

A 500 MW

B 1,000 MW

C 1,500 MW

D 2,500 MW

✓ C 1,500 MW

The Small Hydro Power Scheme, approved by Cabinet in April 2026, has an outlay of Rs 2,584 crore for adding 1,500 MW capacity. Small Hydro Power covers projects up to 25 MW capacity. SHP projects are administered by the Ministry of New and Renewable Energy (MNRE).

✦ Hydro power classification in India: Large hydro (> 25 MW, under Ministry of Power), Small hydro (up to 25 MW, under MNRE). Small hydro is counted as renewable energy. India estimated SHP potential is over 21,000 MW; installed capacity is about 5,000 MW. Pumped Storage Plants (PSPs) are critical for grid balancing as renewables expand.

[Read Source →](#)

Q44

The Cabinet-approved P&K Fertiliser Subsidy for Kharif 2026 has an outlay of approximately:

A Rs 15,000 crore

B Rs 25,000 crore

C Rs 41,534 crore

D Rs 70,000 crore

✓ C Rs 41,534 crore

The Cabinet approved Rs 41,534 crore Nutrient-Based Subsidy (NBS) for phosphatic and potassic (P&K) fertilisers for Kharif 2026 season. The NBS scheme covers P, K, S, Zn and B nutrients (excluding urea). Urea is subsidised separately under a different mechanism.

✦ NBS was introduced in April 2010 -- subsidy is per nutrient (NPK basis) instead of per product. Urea price remains administratively controlled. Direct Benefit Transfer (DBT) for fertilisers was rolled out from 2018 to retailers using POS machines. India imports 70 per cent of urea raw material (natural gas), 90 per cent of P (rock phosphate), 100 per cent of K (potash). One Nation One Fertiliser (BHARAT brand) was introduced in 2022.

[Read Source →](#)

Q45

Amul Cooperative Movement (GCMMF) crossed which turnover milestone in FY26, becoming the first FMCG entity in India to do so?

A Rs 50,000 crore

B Rs 75,000 crore

C Rs 1 lakh crore

D Rs 1.5 lakh crore

✓ C Rs 1 lakh crore

In FY 2025-26 Amul GCMMF crossed Rs 1 lakh crore in turnover, making it the first FMCG entity in India to achieve the milestone. The cooperative was founded in 1946 and managed under the Anand model.

✦ Article 43B (DPSP, added by 97th Amendment 2011) promotes voluntary formation, autonomous functioning, democratic control and professional management of cooperative societies. Ministry of Cooperation was created in July 2021. Operation Flood (1970-1996), led by Verghese Kurien at NDDB, made India the world largest milk producer. India produces ~230 million tonnes of milk annually.

[Read Source →](#)

Q46
STATEMENT-BASED

Consider the following statements regarding the Bharat Maritime Insurance Pool launched in April 2026:

- 1 It is India's first domestic insurance pool exclusively for shipping and marine cargo.
- 2 The Insurance Regulatory and Development Authority of India (IRDAI) regulates marine insurance under the Insurance Act 1938.

Which of the above statements is/are correct?

A 1 only

B 2 only

C Both 1 and 2

D Neither 1 nor 2

✓ C Both 1 and 2

Both statements are correct. The Bharat Maritime Insurance Pool is India's first domestic insurance pool exclusively for shipping and marine cargo, aimed at reducing dependence on London-based insurance markets. IRDAI regulates marine insurance under the Insurance Act 1938 and IRDAI Act 1999.

✦ India maritime ambition: Maritime India Vision 2030 and Amrit Kaal Vision 2047. Targets include doubling cargo handling, becoming Top 5 in shipbuilding, 25 per cent share of global seafarers, and 12 per cent maritime GDP. The Bharat Maritime Insurance Pool addresses Western sanctions risk on tankers carrying Russian oil. India National Maritime Day is April 5 (commemorating SS Loyalty 1919).

[Read Source →](#)

Q47

The Jonnagiri gold mine launched in April 2026 -- India first private gold mine -- is located in:

- A Kolar district, Karnataka
- B Kurnool district, Andhra Pradesh
- C Hutti, Karnataka
- D Singhbhum, Jharkhand

✓ B Kurnool district, Andhra Pradesh

Jonnagiri gold mine is located in Kurnool district, Andhra Pradesh and operated by Geomysore Services (India) Pvt Ltd -- making it India first private commercial gold mine. The MMDR Amendment Act 2015 enabled auction-based allocation of mineral concessions including for gold.

✦ Hutti gold mines in Karnataka (operated by Hutti Gold Mines Co Ltd, a Karnataka state PSU) was earlier the only operational gold mine in India. Kolar Gold Fields (KGF) closed in 2001. India imports nearly 800 tonnes of gold annually; domestic production is negligible. Gold import duty is 12.5 per cent (basic) + 3 per cent GST + AIDC.

[Read Source →](#)

Q48

The Bharat Steel 2026 Summit emphasised which two transformations of the Indian steel sector?

- A Privatisation and FDI liberalisation
- B Green steel via hydrogen and self-reliance in raw materials
- C Capacity expansion to 500 MT and export orientation
- D Renaming PSUs and labour reforms

✓ B Green steel via hydrogen and self-reliance in raw materials

The Bharat Steel 2026 Summit emphasised green steel transformation (via green hydrogen-based Direct Reduced Iron route) and self-reliance in raw materials (coking coal, iron ore, ferro-alloys). India is the worlds 2nd-largest steel producer (after China) with capacity above 160 MT and target of 300 MT by 2030.

✦ India National Steel Policy 2017 targets 300 MT crude steel capacity by 2030. India National Green Hydrogen Mission (Jan 2023, Rs 19,744 crore outlay) targets 5 MMT green hydrogen production by 2030. The PM Gati Shakti National Master Plan integrates infrastructure planning. India is the largest importer of coking coal (mainly from Australia, Russia, USA).

[Read Source →](#)

Q49

The RoDTEP scheme, extended in April 2026, refunds which duties and taxes to exporters?

- A** Only customs duties paid on imported inputs
- B** Only GST on exported products
- C** Embedded central, state and local duties/taxes not refunded under other schemes
- D** All taxes including income tax on export profits

✓ C **Embedded central, state and local duties/taxes not refunded under other schemes**

RoDTEP (Remission of Duties and Taxes on Export Products) refunds embedded central, state and local duties and taxes that are not refunded under other schemes (like GST or duty drawback). It was launched on January 1, 2021, replacing the MEIS (Merchandise Exports from India Scheme) which had been ruled WTO-inconsistent.

✦ RoDTEP is WTO-compliant because it only refunds taxes already incurred -- not subsidies. The Foreign Trade Policy (FTP) 2023 governs export incentives. India exports targets: USD 2 trillion (goods + services) by 2030. SEZ Act 2005, EOU scheme, Advance Authorisation scheme, EPCG (Export Promotion Capital Goods) are other export support mechanisms.

[Read Source →](#)

Q50

India patent filings in FY26 reached 1.43 lakh applications, registering a year-on-year jump of:

A 10 per cent

B 18.5 per cent

C 30.2 per cent

D 45 per cent

✓ C 30.2 per cent

India patent filings in FY26 reached 1.43 lakh applications -- a 30.2 per cent year-on-year jump. Domestic filings crossed 30 per cent of total for the first time. The patent office is the Office of the Controller General of Patents, Designs and Trade Marks (CGPDTM) under DPIIT.

✦ India is a member of the World Intellectual Property Organisation (WIPO), the Patent Cooperation Treaty (PCT), Madrid Protocol (trademarks), and the Berne Convention (copyright). Section 3 of the Indian Patents Act 1970 lists non-patentable inventions, including mere discoveries of new forms of existing substances (Section 3(d)) -- a key Public Health safeguard. India ranks 39th in the Global Innovation Index 2025.

[Read Source →](#)

Q51
STATEMENT-BASED

Consider the following statements about the ASISSE (Annual Survey of Incorporated Services Sector Enterprises):

- 1 It is India's first annual survey covering the entire formal services sector.
- 2 It is conducted by the National Statistical Office (NSO) under the Ministry of Statistics and Programme Implementation.

Which of the above statements is/are correct?

- A 1 only
- B 2 only
- C Both 1 and 2
- D Neither 1 nor 2

✓ C Both 1 and 2

Both statements are correct. ASISSE is India's first annual survey covering the entire formal (incorporated) services sector. It is conducted by NSO under MoSPI. The services sector contributes about 55 per cent of India GDP but had hitherto lacked an annual structural survey comparable to the Annual Survey of Industries (ASI) for manufacturing.

✦ NSO consists of CSO (Central Statistical Office) and NSSO (National Sample Survey Office), merged in 2019. The Periodic Labour Force Survey (PLFS) reports employment data. The Index of Industrial Production (IIP) measures industrial output. ISP (Index of Service Production) is being developed (April 2026). The Statistical Commission was constituted under the Rangarajan Committee report.

[Read Source →](#)

Q52
CERC s Market Coupling proposal (April 2026) aims to:

- A** Couple Indian and global electricity prices
- B** Aggregate bids from multiple power exchanges to discover a single national price
- C** Couple electricity and gas trading platforms
- D** Mandate uniform consumer tariffs across all states

✓ B **Aggregate bids from multiple power exchanges to discover a single national price**

CERC s Market Coupling proposal aims to aggregate bids and offers from all power exchanges (IEX, PXIL, HPX) and discover a single Market Clearing Price (MCP) for short-term electricity trading. This reduces price fragmentation and improves market efficiency.

✦ CERC (Central Electricity Regulatory Commission) was set up under the Electricity Act 2003. The Electricity Act 2003 unbundled SEBs into generation, transmission and distribution. POSOCO (Power System Operation Corporation), now Grid Controller of India, manages national grid operation. The Indian Electricity Grid Code is the technical regulation. NLDC, RLDC and SLDCs handle dispatch at three tiers.

[Read Source →](#)

Environment & Ecology

Q53
STATEMENT-BASED

Consider the following statements regarding Shekha Jheel, declared Indias 99th Ramsar Site in April 2026:

- 1 It is located in the Aligarh district of Uttar Pradesh.
- 2 It is the first Ramsar Site in Uttar Pradesh.
- 3 The Ramsar Convention on Wetlands of International Importance was adopted at Ramsar, Iran, in 1971 and India became a party in 1982.

Which of the above statements are correct?

A 1 and 2 only

B 2 and 3 only

C 1 and 3 only

D 1, 2 and 3

✓ C 1 and 3 only

Statements 1 and 3 are correct. Shekha Jheel is in Aligarh district, UP. The Ramsar Convention was adopted in 1971 at Ramsar, Iran and India became a party in 1982. Statement 2 is wrong -- UP already had several Ramsar Sites (Upper Ganga, Sandi, Saman, Nawabganj, Parvati Arga, Samaspur, Sarsai Nawar, Haiderpur, Bakhira) before Shekha Jheel.

✦ The first Indian Ramsar Sites were Chilika Lake (Odisha) and Keoladeo (Rajasthan), both designated in 1981. Wetlands (Conservation and Management) Rules 2017 govern domestic regulation. Article 48A and Article 51A(g) provide constitutional underpinning for environmental protection. India has the largest Ramsar network in Asia.

[Read Source →](#)

Q54
STATEMENT-BASED

Consider the following statements about the Indus River Dolphin in India:

- 1 Its scientific name is *Platanista gangetica minor*, a subspecies of the Ganges River Dolphin.
- 2 In India, it is restricted to a 70 km stretch of the Beas river between Beas bridge and Harike in Punjab.
- 3 It is classified as Endangered on the IUCN Red List.

Which of the above statements are correct?

- A 1 and 2 only
- B 2 and 3 only
- C 1 and 3 only
- D 1, 2 and 3

✓ D 1, 2 and 3

All three statements are correct. The Indus River Dolphin (*Platanista gangetica minor*) is a subspecies of the South Asian River Dolphin. In India, it is restricted to a 70 km stretch of the Beas river between Beas bridge and Harike in Punjab. It is classified as Endangered on the IUCN Red List. The Ganges River Dolphin (*Platanista gangetica gangetica*) is the National Aquatic Animal of India (declared in 2009).

✦ River dolphins are obligate freshwater cetaceans, functionally blind, navigate using echolocation. Project Dolphin was launched on Independence Day 2020 alongside Project Tiger and Project Elephant. Both river dolphin subspecies are in Schedule I of the Wildlife (Protection) Act 1972, giving highest protection. The Beas Conservation Reserve was declared in 2017 for dolphin protection.

[Read Source →](#)

Q55

Gangotri National Park, which reopened for the 2026 season, lies in which state and contains the source of which river?

- A Himachal Pradesh -- Yamuna
- B Uttarakhand -- Bhagirathi (Ganga)
- C Sikkim -- Teesta
- D Uttarakhand -- Alaknanda

✓ B Uttarakhand -- Bhagirathi (Ganga)

Gangotri National Park is in Uttarkashi district, Uttarakhand and contains the source of the Bhagirathi river (Ganga) at Gaumukh (3,892 m), at the snout of the Gangotri Glacier. The park spans 2,390 sq km and is on UNESCO's tentative World Heritage list.

✦ The Ganga is formed at Devprayag by the confluence of Bhagirathi (from Gaumukh) and Alaknanda (from Satopanth Glacier). Five Prayags: Vishnuprayag, Nandprayag, Karnaprayag, Rudraprayag, Devprayag. Gangotri Glacier has retreated by 2.5 km since 1780 and now retreats at ~22 metres per year. The Char Dham Yatra covers Gangotri, Yamunotri, Badrinath, Kedarnath.

[Read Source →](#)

Q56

According to the State of India Environment Report 2026 by CSE, how many of the nine planetary boundaries have been breached globally?

A Three

B Five

C Seven

D All nine

✓ C Seven

According to the State of Indias Environment 2026 (CSE), seven of the nine planetary boundaries have been breached globally. India recorded 331 extreme weather days in 2025. The planetary boundaries concept was developed by Johan Rockstrom and colleagues at the Stockholm Resilience Centre (2009, updated 2023).

✦ The nine planetary boundaries are: climate change, biosphere integrity, land-system change, freshwater use, biogeochemical flows (N&P), ocean acidification, atmospheric aerosol loading, stratospheric ozone depletion, novel entities (chemical pollution). The 2023 update found six boundaries breached; the 2024 update added the 7th (ocean acidification). The CSE (Centre for Science and Environment, Delhi) was founded by Anil Agarwal in 1980.

[Read Source →](#)

Q57
STATEMENT-BASED

Consider the following statements regarding the Sundarbans, with reference to the April 2026 ecological resilience study:

- 1** It is a blue carbon ecosystem -- mangrove forests sequestering carbon in soil and biomass at rates several times higher than terrestrial forests.
- 2** The study found microplastic concentrations threatening up to 4.3 MtC/year of blue carbon sequestration.
- 3** Blue carbon ecosystems include mangroves, seagrass meadows, salt marshes and tidal flats.

Which of the above statements are correct?

- A** 1 and 2 only
- B** 2 and 3 only
- C** 1 and 3 only
- D** 1, 2 and 3

✓ D 1, 2 and 3

All three statements are correct. The Sundarbans is a blue carbon ecosystem. The April 2026 study found microplastics threatening up to 4.3 MtC/year sequestration. Blue carbon ecosystems include mangroves, seagrasses, salt marshes and tidal flats. The Sundarbans also lost 10-15 per cent ecological resilience as per the study.

✦ The Sundarbans is a UNESCO World Heritage Site (1987), Ramsar Site and Biosphere Reserve, with Sundarbans National Park as its core. It is the world's largest contiguous mangrove delta, spanning India and Bangladesh. The Mangrove Initiative for Shoreline Habitats and Tangible Incomes (MISHTI) was launched in Budget 2023-24.

[Read Source →](#)

Q58
STATEMENT-BASED

Consider the following statements about Solid Waste Management Rules 2026:

1 They mandate source segregation of waste at the household level.

2 They ban single-use plastics below 120 microns in thickness.

Which of the above statements is/are correct?

A 1 only

B 2 only

C Both 1 and 2

D Neither 1 nor 2

✓ C Both 1 and 2

Both statements are correct. The Solid Waste Management Rules 2026 mandate source segregation at the household level (wet, dry, hazardous, sanitary) and ban single-use plastic items below 120 microns in thickness. They replace the Solid Waste Management Rules 2016, building on the prior plastic ban thresholds.

✦ Earlier the Plastic Waste Management (Amendment) Rules 2021 banned single-use plastic items from July 1, 2022 and progressively raised the plastic carry bag thickness threshold from 50 to 75 microns (Sept 2021) to 120 microns (Dec 2022). Extended Producer Responsibility (EPR) framework applies. The Environment (Protection) Act 1986 provides the parent legislation. Swachh Bharat Mission (Urban and Gramin) drives implementation.

[Read Source →](#)

Q59
STATEMENT-BASED

Consider the following statements regarding Project Him Sarovar in Ladakh:

- 1 It is inspired by the Ice Stupa concept developed by Sonam Wangchuk.
- 2 Ladakh became a Union Territory with legislature under the Jammu and Kashmir Reorganisation Act 2019.
- 3 Ladakh currently has seven districts after the April 2026 reorganisation.

Which of the above statements are correct?

- A 1 and 2 only
- B 2 and 3 only
- C 1 and 3 only
- D 1, 2 and 3

✓ C 1 and 3 only

Statements 1 and 3 are correct. Project Him Sarovar is inspired by Sonam Wangchuk's Ice Stupa concept. Ladakh has seven districts after the April 2026 reorganisation (Zaskar, Drass, Sham, Nubra, Changthang added to Leh and Kargil). Statement 2 is wrong -- Ladakh became a Union Territory WITHOUT legislature under the J&K Reorganisation Act 2019; Jammu and Kashmir is the UT with legislature.

✦ Sonam Wangchuk founded the Students Educational and Cultural Movement of Ladakh (SECMOL). The Ice Stupa Project began in 2014 in Phyang village -- artificial frozen towers store winter water for spring/summer use. The Sixth Schedule status demand for Ladakh has been pending.

[Read Source →](#)

Q60

Stauranthera aureoglossa, a new plant species discovered in April 2026 and reported from Arunachal Pradesh, belongs to which plant family?

A Orchidaceae

B Asteraceae

C Gesneriaceae

D Ericaceae

✓ C Gesneriaceae

Stauranthera aureoglossa belongs to the Gesneriaceae family (African violets and related plants). It was reported by the Botanical Survey of India (BSI) from Arunachal Pradesh, becoming the 19th species of the *Stauranthera* genus in India. The Eastern Himalayan biodiversity hotspot is one of the world richest.

✦ BSI was established in 1890 (current form 1954) under MoEFCC. India has four biodiversity hotspots: Himalaya, Indo-Burma, Western Ghats and Sri Lanka, Sundaland (Nicobar Islands). The Convention on Biological Diversity (CBD 1992) and Nagoya Protocol (2010) govern access and benefit sharing. India Biological Diversity Act 2002 implements CBD domestically.

[Read Source →](#)

Q61
STATEMENT-BASED

Consider the following statements regarding marine nematodes discovered by ZSI off Tamil Nadu coast (April 2026):

- 1 Two new species, *Corononema dhriti* and *Epacanthion indica*, were discovered.
- 2 Nematodes are categorised under Phylum Nematoda and are mostly microscopic.

Which of the above statements is/are correct?

- A 1 only
- B 2 only
- C Both 1 and 2
- D Neither 1 nor 2

✓ C Both 1 and 2

Both statements are correct. ZSI (Zoological Survey of India) discovered two new marine nematode species -- *Corononema dhriti* and *Epacanthion indica* -- off the Tamil Nadu coast. Nematodes belong to Phylum Nematoda (roundworms) and are mostly microscopic, occupying virtually every ecosystem niche -- soil, freshwater, marine, parasitic.

✦ ZSI was established in 1916 under MoEFCC, headquartered in Kolkata. Its mission is taxonomic exploration of Indian fauna. India is a megadiverse country -- one of 17 globally. India hosts ~7-8 per cent of the worlds described species. The IUCN Red List categorises taxa by extinction risk. India enacted the Biological Diversity Act 2002 to give effect to CBD.

[Read Source →](#)

Q62

India landfill methane emissions: as per a UCLA study (April 2026), which two Indian landfills ranked in the global top 15?

- A Bhalswa (Delhi) 4th and Pirana (Ahmedabad) 12th
- B Jawaharnagar (Hyderabad) 4th and Kanjurmarg (Mumbai) 12th
- C Ghazipur (Delhi) 4th and Deonar (Mumbai) 12th
- D Perungudi (Chennai) 4th and Mavallipura (Bengaluru) 12th

✓ B **Jawaharnagar (Hyderabad) 4th and Kanjurmarg (Mumbai) 12th**

A UCLA study ranked Jawaharnagar landfill (Hyderabad) 4th and Kanjurmarg landfill (Mumbai) 12th globally in methane emissions. Methane is a potent greenhouse gas with about 80 times the warming potential of CO₂ over 20 years.

✦ India is a signatory to the Global Methane Pledge (launched at COP26, Glasgow 2021) -- but with reservations on the agricultural component, as livestock methane is a politically sensitive issue. Methane sources: enteric fermentation (cattle), rice paddies, landfills, oil and gas leaks. Indian Methane Inventory under National Communications to UNFCCC. SBM-Urban 2.0 targets legacy waste remediation.

[Read Source →](#)

Q63
STATEMENT-BASED

Consider the following statements about Marine Spatial Planning (MSP) -- Odisha launched India's first in April 2026:

- 1** It is a public process of analysing and allocating the spatial and temporal distribution of human activities in marine areas.
- 2** It applies only to the territorial waters (up to 12 nautical miles) of a coastal state.

Which of the above statements is/are correct?

- A** 1 only
- B** 2 only
- C** Both 1 and 2
- D** Neither 1 nor 2

✓ A 1 only

Only Statement 1 is correct. MSP is a UNESCO-IOC defined public process to allocate spatial/temporal distribution of human activities in marine areas. Statement 2 is wrong -- MSP can cover Territorial Waters (12 nm), Contiguous Zone (24 nm), and Exclusive Economic Zone (200 nm). Odisha MSP covers its EEZ.

✦ UNCLOS 1982 defines maritime zones: Internal Waters, Territorial Waters (12 nm), Contiguous Zone (24 nm), EEZ (200 nm), Continental Shelf, and High Seas. India ratified UNCLOS in 1995. The Coastal Regulation Zone (CRZ) Notification 2019 (under EPA 1986) regulates onshore activities. The Sagarmala Programme covers port-led development.

[Read Source →](#)

Q64

The Konyak tribal traditional medicine showed anti-cancer potential in April 2026 laboratory studies by which institution?

- A Tata Memorial Centre, Mumbai
- B AIIMS New Delhi
- C Nagaland University
- D National Institute of Cancer Prevention and Research, Noida

✓ C Nagaland University

A Nagaland University laboratory study showed that a traditional Konyak Naga herbal formulation has anti-cancer activity against breast cancer cell lines. The Konyak are a Naga tribe of Nagaland and the eastern Indo-Myanmar border area. The study highlighted the value of traditional ecological knowledge.

✦ India Biological Diversity Act 2002 governs access to biological resources and traditional knowledge under the Nagoya Protocol (CBD 2010). The Traditional Knowledge Digital Library (TKDL) under CSIR documents traditional medicine to prevent biopiracy. India hosts 56 per cent of all Internationally Recognised Certificates of Compliance (IRCCs) globally under Nagoya Protocol.

[Read Source →](#)

Q65

The MoEFCC draft rules of April 2026 for coastal tar ball management deal with which kind of pollution?

- A** Plastic micro-fragments from textile washing
- B** Petroleum residue deposits on beaches from shipping and oil spills
- C** Industrial effluents from estuarine discharges
- D** Sewage sludge from coastal towns

✓ B **Petroleum residue deposits on beaches from shipping and oil spills**

Tar balls are petroleum residue deposits that form on coastal beaches from shipping spills, ballast water discharge, and natural oil seeps. The MoEFCC draft rules 2026 establish protocols for monitoring, reporting and cleanup of tar ball pollution along Indian coasts.

✦ India is a signatory to MARPOL 73/78 (International Convention for the Prevention of Pollution from Ships) administered by the IMO. The Merchant Shipping Act 1958 implements MARPOL domestically. The Indian Coast Guard (under Ministry of Defence) is the nodal agency for marine pollution response. National Oil Spill Disaster Contingency Plan (NOSDCP) was issued.

[Read Source →](#)

Q66

The April 2026 IMD heatwave warning recorded temperatures above 44 degrees Celsius in north and central India. A heatwave is officially declared in plains when the maximum temperature crosses:

- A 35 degrees C or more
- B 40 degrees C or more, plus departure of +4.5 from normal
- C 45 degrees C or more (absolute criterion)
- D 50 degrees C or more (severe heatwave)

✓ B 40 degrees C or more, plus departure of +4.5 from normal

IMD declares a heatwave in plains when the maximum temperature is at least 40 degrees C and the departure from normal is +4.5 degrees C or more. A severe heatwave is declared when the departure is +6.5 degrees C or more. For coastal stations the threshold is 37 degrees C and for hills 30 degrees C.

✦ IMD (India Meteorological Department) was established in 1875 under the Ministry of Earth Sciences. It is the principal weather, climate and seismology agency. The National Disaster Management Authority (NDMA) issued Heat Action Plan guidelines in 2016. Article 21 (right to life) increasingly read to include the right to a safe environment and protection from heat.

[Read Source →](#)

Science & Technology

Q67
STATEMENT-BASED

Consider the following statements regarding the Keynes Semiconductor OSAT facility commissioned in April 2026:

- 1** It is Indias first commercial OSAT (Outsourced Semiconductor Assembly and Test) facility, located in Gujarat.
- 2** OSAT covers the front-end of chip manufacturing -- wafer fabrication and lithography.
- 3** The India Semiconductor Mission, under MeitY, has a Rs 76,000 crore outlay.

Which of the above statements are correct?

A 1 and 2 only

B 2 and 3 only

C 1 and 3 only

D 1, 2 and 3

✓ C 1 and 3 only

Statements 1 and 3 are correct. Keynes commissioned Indias first commercial OSAT facility in Gujarat. The India Semiconductor Mission was launched in 2021 with Rs 76,000 crore outlay under MeitY. Statement 2 is wrong -- OSAT is the BACK-END (chip assembly, testing, marking, packaging), not the front-end fabrication.

✦ Approved projects: Tata Electronics fab at Dholera (Gujarat), Micron ATMP at Sanand (Gujarat), CG Power at Sanand. The Semicon India Programme provides up to 50 per cent fiscal support of project cost.

[Read Source →](#)

Q68
STATEMENT-BASED

Consider the following statements about Qdenga (TAK-003), approved by CDSCO in April 2026:

- 1 It is India first approved dengue vaccine.
- 2 It is approved for individuals aged 4-60 years.
- 3 It is developed by the Japanese pharmaceutical company Takeda.

Which of the above statements are correct?

A 1 and 2 only

B 2 and 3 only

C 1 and 3 only

D 1, 2 and 3

✓ D 1, 2 and 3

All three statements are correct. Qdenga (TAK-003) is India first approved dengue vaccine, approved by CDSCO for individuals aged 4-60 years, developed by Takeda. It is a live attenuated tetravalent vaccine effective against all four dengue serotypes (DENV-1 to DENV-4) with efficacy around 80 per cent.

✦ Dengue is caused by the dengue virus transmitted by *Aedes aegypti* mosquito. India indigenous dengue vaccine candidates include DengiAll (Panacea Biotec, in trials). Other tropical diseases vaccinated in India: Japanese Encephalitis, Cholera. The Central Drugs Standard Control Organisation (CDSCO) under MoHFW is the central regulator. Drugs Controller General of India (DCGI) heads CDSCO.

[Read Source →](#)

Q69

India achieved a 1,000-km Quantum Key Distribution (QKD) network in April 2026, the longest in Asia, under which mission?

- A** Digital India Mission
- B** National Mission on Interdisciplinary Cyber Physical Systems
- C** National Quantum Mission
- D** Mission Karmayogi

✓ C National Quantum Mission

India 1,000-km QKD network was achieved under the National Quantum Mission. QKD enables tamper-proof communication using quantum mechanics principles -- any interception alters the quantum state, alerting the parties. The mission supports defence, banking and critical infrastructure communication.

✦ The National Quantum Mission was approved in April 2023 with an outlay of Rs 6,003.65 crore over 8 years (2023-31), under the Department of Science and Technology. Targets: quantum computers (50-1000 qubits), satellite-based QKD over 2,000 km, magnetometers, atomic clocks. Four Thematic Hubs were set up. India joins USA, China, Russia, EU, Japan as nations with active quantum technology programmes.

[Read Source →](#)

Q70

India first 3D glass semiconductor packaging facility was inaugurated in April 2026 in which city?

- A** Bengaluru
- B** Hyderabad
- C** Bhubaneswar
- D** Ahmedabad

✓ C Bhubaneswar

India first 3D glass semiconductor packaging facility was set up in Bhubaneswar, Odisha. 3D glass packaging uses glass substrates instead of traditional silicon or organic substrates, enabling higher density interconnects -- critical for next-generation AI chips and high-bandwidth memory.

✦ The semiconductor packaging segment is the back-end of chip manufacturing. India semiconductor strategy spans: fabs (Tata Dholera), OSAT/ATMP (Micron Sanand, Kaynes Gujarat), packaging innovations (Bhubaneswar). The Semicon India Programme offers up to 50 per cent fiscal support. India also has design strength (chip design firms, VLSI engineers).

[Read Source →](#)

Q71
STATEMENT-BASED

Consider the following statements regarding the DRDO Prajna satellite imaging system integrated with the Ministry of Home Affairs in April 2026:

- 1 The system can monitor approximately 2,500 sq km per satellite pass.
- 2 DRDO was established in 1958 under the Ministry of Defence.
- 3 The National Remote Sensing Centre (NRSC) at Hyderabad processes earth observation data.

Which of the above statements are correct?

A 1 and 2 only

B 2 and 3 only

C 1 and 3 only

D 1, 2 and 3

✓ D 1, 2 and 3

All three statements are correct. Prajna monitors approximately 2,500 sq km per pass, providing real-time imagery to MHA. DRDO was established in 1958 under MoD. NRSC at Hyderabad processes earth observation data under ISRO.

✦ DRDO has 50+ labs across India. Other DRDO space-related programmes include Microsat-R reconnaissance satellite series. ISRO handles civilian satellites. Prajna supports border management, anti-infiltration operations and disaster response.

[Read Source →](#)

Q72
STATEMENT-BASED

Consider the following statements about Direct-to-Device (D2D) satellite communication:

- 1** It enables mobile phones to connect directly to Low Earth Orbit (LEO) satellites without ground towers.
- 2** It uses the standard mobile spectrum (4G/5G bands) under Non-Terrestrial Network (NTN) protocols.

Which of the above statements is/are correct?

A 1 only

B 2 only

C Both 1 and 2

D Neither 1 nor 2

✓ C Both 1 and 2

Both statements are correct. D2D enables ordinary mobile phones to connect directly to LEO satellites without intermediate ground towers, and uses standard mobile spectrum under Non-Terrestrial Network (NTN) protocols defined by 3GPP. D2D is key for digital inclusion in remote, hilly, and oceanic areas with no terrestrial coverage.

✦ LEO satellites orbit at 200-2000 km (vs GEO at ~36,000 km). Major D2D players include Starlink (SpaceX), AST SpaceMobile, Lynk Global. India BSNL has commercial D2D pilots with Viasat. The TRAI (Telecom Regulatory Authority of India), constituted under the TRAI Act 1997, regulates spectrum and tariffs. The Indian Space Policy 2023 enables private space activities.

[Read Source →](#)

Q73

Gene drives, the focus of a CRISPR-based experimental approach to eliminate malaria reported in April 2026, work by:

- A Killing existing mosquito populations using genetically modified male mosquitoes
- B Spreading a chosen genetic trait through a wild population at greater than Mendelian inheritance rates
- C Producing vaccines against malaria parasites within mosquito gut
- D Using gene therapy to make humans resistant to Plasmodium infection

✓ B

Spreading a chosen genetic trait through a wild population at greater than Mendelian inheritance rates

Gene drives are genetic systems (often CRISPR-based) that propagate a chosen genetic trait through a wild population at greater than the normal 50 per cent Mendelian inheritance rate -- effectively forcing the trait to spread. In malaria control, gene drives can spread sterility or Plasmodium-resistance traits in Anopheles mosquito populations.

✦ CRISPR-Cas9 was developed by Jennifer Doudna and Emmanuelle Charpentier (Nobel Chemistry 2020). The WHO has published guidelines for controlled field trials of gene-drive mosquitoes. India National Vector Borne Disease Control Programme covers malaria, dengue, kala-azar, chikungunya, JE, filariasis. World Malaria Day is April 25.

[Read Source →](#)

Q74

The SBS-3 (Space-Based Surveillance) constellation, fast-tracked in April 2026 post-Operation Sindoor, targets deployment of how many military satellites?

A 12

B 24

C 36

D 52

✓ D 52

The SBS-3 constellation targets 52 military surveillance satellites by 2029. It was fast-tracked after Operation Sindoor (May 2025) which highlighted the need for high-revisit ISR satellites. The constellation will cover communications, reconnaissance and electronic intelligence (ELINT).

✦ SBS-1 was a small set of imaging satellites; SBS-2 expanded coverage. SBS-3 is the largest. The Defence Space Agency (DSA), tri-services, was set up in 2019. The Defence Space Research Organisation (DSRO) handles R&D. The Indian Space Policy 2023 enables private participation in space, including for defence. NewSpace India Ltd (NSIL) and IN-SPACE coordinate private space activity.

[Read Source →](#)

Q75

Artemis II, NASA first crewed lunar mission since Apollo 17 (1972), is scheduled for a lunar flyby in 2026 with a crew of:

A 2 astronauts

B 3 astronauts

C 4 astronauts

D 6 astronauts

✓ C 4 astronauts

Artemis II carries a 4-person crew on a flyby of the Moon -- the first crewed lunar mission since Apollo 17 (1972). The mission uses NASA Space Launch System (SLS) rocket and Orion crew capsule. India is a signatory to the Artemis Accords (signed June 2023).

✦ The Artemis Accords (2020) is a US-led framework for peaceful, transparent, sustainable lunar exploration -- 50+ signatories including India. India own crewed mission Gaganyaan is scheduled for 2026-27, with ISRO chosen astronauts (Group Captains Prashanth Nair, Ajit Krishnan, Angad Pratap, Shubhanshu Shukla) announced in 2024. The Outer Space Treaty 1967 governs international space law.

[Read Source →](#)

Q76
STATEMENT-BASED

Consider the following statements regarding the NSE-IGX Natural Gas Derivatives launch (April 2026):

- 1 NSE (National Stock Exchange) launched gas futures with IGX (Indian Gas Exchange).
- 2 GIXI (Gas Index) is to serve as the benchmark price for domestic gas trade.

Which of the above statements is/are correct?

A 1 only

B 2 only

C Both 1 and 2

D Neither 1 nor 2

✓ C Both 1 and 2

Both statements are correct. NSE launched natural gas derivatives in partnership with IGX (Indian Gas Exchange), India's first gas trading platform under the Petroleum and Natural Gas Regulatory Board (PNGRB). GIXI (Gas Index of India) serves as the benchmark price for domestic gas trade.

✦ PNGRB was set up under the PNGRB Act 2006 and regulates downstream gas activities. IGX was launched in 2020 as a subsidiary of Indian Energy Exchange (IEX). India targets raising the natural gas share in the energy mix from ~6 per cent currently to 15 per cent by 2030. Major gas importers under LNG contracts: Petronet LNG, GAIL, GSPC. National Gas Grid is a Government push for pipeline connectivity.

[Read Source →](#)

Q77

The Nyaya Setu AI chatbot launched in April 2026 under the DISHA programme provides legal information in how many languages?

A 10

B 15

C 18

D 22

✓ D 22

Nyaya Setu provides legal information and aid referrals in 22 Indian languages using conversational AI. It is launched by the Department of Justice under the DISHA (Designing Innovative Solutions for Holistic Access to Justice) programme.

✦ The 8th Schedule of the Constitution lists 22 official languages: Assamese, Bengali, Bodo, Dogri, Gujarati, Hindi, Kannada, Kashmiri, Konkani, Maithili, Malayalam, Manipuri, Marathi, Nepali, Odia, Punjabi, Sanskrit, Santhali, Sindhi, Tamil, Telugu, Urdu. Article 343 makes Hindi in Devanagari the official language of the Union; English continues for official purposes. National Legal Services Authority (NALSA) under Article 39A provides free legal aid.

[Read Source →](#)

International Relations

Q78
STATEMENT-BASED

Consider the following statements regarding the Chagos Archipelago situation (April 2026):

- 1 The UK suspended the agreement to transfer sovereignty of the Chagos Archipelago to Mauritius.
- 2 The Chagos Archipelago hosts the joint US-UK military base of Diego Garcia.
- 3 The International Court of Justice in 2019 declared UK administration of Chagos unlawful.

Which of the above statements are correct?

A 1 and 2 only

B 2 and 3 only

C 1 and 3 only

D 1, 2 and 3

✓ D 1, 2 and 3

All three statements are correct. The UK suspended the sovereignty handover deal under US pressure. Diego Garcia hosts a major US-UK military base. The ICJ Advisory Opinion of 2019 declared the UK administration of Chagos unlawful, and a UN General Assembly resolution endorsed the ICJ view by 116-6 vote.

✦ The Chagos Archipelago is in the central Indian Ocean. The UK detached the islands from Mauritius before granting Mauritian independence (1968), creating the British Indian Ocean Territory (BIOT). Indigenous Chagossians were forcibly removed in 1968-73. India supports Mauritian sovereignty claim but also has strategic interests in continued Diego Garcia access for Indo-Pacific stability.

[Read Source →](#)

Q79
STATEMENT-BASED

Consider the following statements regarding the South Korean Presidents state visit to India (April 19-21, 2026):

- 1 President Lee Jae Myung was the visiting head of state.
- 2 India-South Korea ties were elevated to a Special Strategic Partnership in May 2015.
- 3 The India-Korea CEPA was signed in 2009 and entered into force in 2010.

Which of the above statements are correct?

A 1 and 2 only

B 2 and 3 only

C 1 and 3 only

D 1, 2 and 3

✓ D 1, 2 and 3

All three statements are correct. President Lee Jae Myung made the state visit April 19-21, 2026 -- the first by a Korean President in over a decade. India-Korea ties were elevated to a Special Strategic Partnership in May 2015 during PM Modis Seoul visit. The India-Korea CEPA was signed in 2009 and entered into force on January 1, 2010.

✦ India Act East Policy (renamed from Look East in 2014) covers Korea. The Quad does not include Korea. Major Korean investments in India: Hyundai, Samsung, LG, POSCO, Hanwha. The K-Wave (Hallyu) is part of Korea soft power. The 2026 visit focused on semiconductors, defence (K9 Vajra, Hanwha) and a CEPA upgrade.

[Read Source →](#)

Q80

In April 2026, Myanmar military chief General Min Aung Hlaing assumed which constitutional post?

- A Prime Minister
- B State Counsellor
- C President
- D Commander-in-Chief

✓ C **President**

General Min Aung Hlaing was elected President by the junta-controlled parliament in April 2026 - formalising his rule that began with the February 2021 coup. The development complicates India Neighbourhood First policy as Myanmar civil war displaces thousands towards Mizoram and Manipur.

✦ Myanmar shares a 1,643 km border with India (Mizoram, Manipur, Nagaland, Arunachal Pradesh). Major insurgent and ethnic conflicts in Myanmar affect the Indian Northeast. The Free Movement Regime (FMR) allowed border residents to travel up to 16 km across without visa -- being phased out post-2024. India ASEAN Way emphasises engagement with the junta-led government given strategic competition with China.

[Read Source →](#)

Q81
STATEMENT-BASED

Consider the following statements about the India-Russia RELOS Pact (April 2026):

- 1 RELOS stands for Reciprocal Logistics Support Agreement.
- 2 It allows reciprocal access to each others military logistics, ports and airfields.
- 3 India has a similar logistics agreement with the United States called LEMOA.

Which of the above statements are correct?

A 1 and 2 only

B 2 and 3 only

C 1 and 3 only

D 1, 2 and 3

✓ D 1, 2 and 3

All three statements are correct. RELOS is the Reciprocal Logistics Support Agreement with Russia, providing reciprocal access to military logistics, ports and airfields. India has signed LEMOA (Logistics Exchange Memorandum of Agreement) with the US (2016), along with COMCASA (2018) and BECA (2020).

✦ India also has logistics agreements with France, Australia, Japan, Singapore, South Korea, Vietnam. These agreements do NOT permit basing of foreign troops on Indian soil. India strategic autonomy doctrine balances QUAD with Russia ties. Russia remains India largest arms supplier (S-400, Su-30, T-90, AK-203). The Brahmos missile is an India-Russia joint venture.

[Read Source →](#)

Q82
STATEMENT-BASED

Consider the following statements regarding the Overseas Citizen of India (OCI) card, with reference to the April 2026 India-Sri Lanka compact:

- 1** OCI eligibility was extended to the 6th generation descendants of Indian-origin Sri Lankan Tamils.
- 2** OCI cardholders enjoy voting rights in Indian elections.
- 3** OCI was introduced via the Citizenship (Amendment) Act 2003 and the PIO card was merged with OCI in 2015.

Which of the above statements are correct?

A 1 and 2 only

B 2 and 3 only

C 1 and 3 only

D 1, 2 and 3

✓ C 1 and 3 only

Statements 1 and 3 are correct. OCI eligibility was extended to the 6th generation Indian-origin Sri Lankan Tamils (up from 4 generations earlier). OCI was introduced via the Citizenship (Amendment) Act 2003 (effective Dec 2005) and PIO was merged with OCI in 2015. Statement 2 is wrong -- OCI is NOT dual citizenship; holders do not get voting rights, cannot hold constitutional posts, and cannot buy agricultural land.

✦ Articles 5-11 of the Constitution govern citizenship; the Citizenship Act 1955 provides for acquisition and loss of Indian citizenship. The April 2026 extension addresses long-standing concerns of stateless Indian-origin Tamils in Sri Lanka.

[Read Source →](#)

Q83
STATEMENT-BASED

Consider the following statements regarding Indias COP33 withdrawal in April 2026:

- 1 COP33 is the UN Climate Change Conference scheduled for 2028.
- 2 India ratified the Paris Agreement in 2016.
- 3 India announced its Net Zero target by 2070 at COP26, Glasgow.

Which of the above statements are correct?

- A 1 and 2 only
- B 2 and 3 only
- C 1 and 3 only
- D 1, 2 and 3

✓ D 1, 2 and 3

All three statements are correct. India withdrew its bid for COP33 (2028). India ratified the Paris Agreement in October 2016. India announced its Net Zero by 2070 target along with the Panchamrit at COP26, Glasgow in 2021.

✦ COP is the supreme decision-making body of the UNFCCC. India ratified UNFCCC in 1993, the Kyoto Protocol in 2002. India NDC targets (2022 update): 45 per cent emissions intensity reduction by 2030 (vs 2005); 50 per cent non-fossil installed capacity by 2030; 2.5-3 billion tonnes CO₂-equivalent carbon sink by 2030.

[Read Source →](#)

Q84
STATEMENT-BASED

Consider the following statements about the India-China SCO bilateral talks (April 2026):

- 1 They were held on the sidelines of the SCO Defence Ministers Meeting in Bishkek, Kyrgyzstan.
- 2 SCO has eight full members including India and Pakistan, both joined in 2017.
- 3 Both India and China are founding members of the Shanghai Cooperation Organisation.

Which of the above statements are correct?

A 1 and 2 only

B 2 and 3 only

C 1 and 3 only

D 1, 2 and 3

✓ A 1 and 2 only

Statements 1 and 2 are correct. Statement 3 is wrong -- China is a founding member (1996/2001 as Shanghai Five and then SCO) but India joined as a full member only in 2017. SCO was formally established in 2001 with founding members: China, Russia, Kazakhstan, Kyrgyzstan, Tajikistan, Uzbekistan. India and Pakistan became full members in 2017; Iran in 2023; Belarus in 2024.

✦ SCO headquarters: Beijing. The SCO Regional Anti-Terrorist Structure (RATS) is headquartered in Tashkent. India presided over SCO in 2023, holding a virtual summit. SCO summits issue declarations; India has consistently used SCO to raise its zero-tolerance stand on cross-border terrorism. The Belt and Road Initiative is not endorsed by India in SCO documents.

[Read Source →](#)

Q85

The US extended the Russian oil sanctions waiver to which date in 2026?

A April 16

B May 16

C June 16

D July 16

✓ B May 16

The US extended the Russian oil sanctions waiver to May 16, 2026 -- a critical decision for India energy security, as India imports nearly 40 per cent of crude from West Asia and has been a major buyer of discounted Russian crude (~35-40 per cent of India total crude imports).

✦ The G7 imposed a price cap on Russian seaborne crude (initially USD 60/barrel, later revised) following the 2022 invasion of Ukraine. CAATSA (Countering America Adversaries Through Sanctions Act, 2017) is the parent US law. India invoked strategic autonomy and energy security in continuing Russian oil purchases. Russian oil flows through the Suez and Cape of Good Hope to Indian refineries (Jamnagar, Sikka, Cochin, Mangalore).

[Read Source →](#)

Q86

India-Japan defence export agreement of April 2026 covers transfer of which warship class?

- A Soryu-class submarines
- B Mogami-class frigates
- C Atago-class destroyers
- D Izumo-class helicopter carriers

✓ B Mogami-class frigates

Japan amended its Three Principles on Transfer of Defence Equipment and Technology to allow export of Mogami-class stealth frigates to India -- Japan first major warship export since World War II. The Mogami is a multipurpose stealth frigate. The agreement marks deepening India-Japan defence cooperation in the Indo-Pacific.

✦ Japan post-1945 Article 9 Constitution restricted defence exports until the 2014 Three Principles reform allowed limited transfers. India-Japan Special Strategic and Global Partnership dates to 2014. The Quad (Quadrilateral Security Dialogue) includes India, Japan, Australia and USA. India-Japan 2+2 Foreign and Defence Ministerial dialogue runs since 2019. The India-Japan ACSA (Acquisition and Cross-Servicing Agreement) was signed in 2020.

[Read Source →](#)

Q87

Rajnath Singh attended the SCO Defence Ministers Meeting in April 2026 in:

- A** Beijing, China
- B** Tashkent, Uzbekistan
- C** Bishkek, Kyrgyzstan
- D** Astana, Kazakhstan

✓ C Bishkek, Kyrgyzstan

Rajnath Singh attended the SCO Defence Ministers Meeting in Bishkek, Kyrgyzstan, where he reiterated India zero-tolerance on terrorism. India and Pakistan are both members. The meeting also produced an India-China bilateral on the sidelines -- the first high-level defence dialogue post-Ladakh disengagement (2022-23).

✦ Kyrgyzstan capital: Bishkek. It is a Central Asian Republic and a member of SCO, EAEU and CSTO (Russia-led security alliance). Kyrgyzstan hosts Indian SCO Centre projects. India Central Asia summit was first hosted virtually in January 2022. The C5+1 India format includes Kazakhstan, Kyrgyzstan, Tajikistan, Turkmenistan, Uzbekistan.

[Read Source →](#)

Q88

The DIVEX 2026 joint exercise conducted in April 2026 is between Indian and which other navy?

A Bangladesh

B Sri Lanka

C Maldives

D Indonesia

✓ B Sri Lanka

DIVEX 2026 is an India-Sri Lanka naval diving exercise conducted near Visakhapatnam. INS Nireekshak (Indias diving support vessel) participated. The exercise is part of India Neighbourhood First maritime engagement and SAGAR (Security and Growth for All in the Region) doctrine.

✦ Other India-Sri Lanka exercises: SLINEX (naval), Mitra Shakti (army). India is Sri Lanka largest creditor following the 2022 economic crisis bailout (USD 4 billion). India also supports the IMF programme for Sri Lanka. The Katchatheevu island question and Tamil minority issues remain politically sensitive bilaterally.

[Read Source →](#)

Q89

The Punatsangchhu-I Hydropower Project, resumed in April 2026, is being executed in which country with Indian funding?

A Nepal

B Bhutan

C Bangladesh

D Myanmar

✓ B Bhutan

Punatsangchhu-I Hydropower Project (1,200 MW) is located on the Punatsangchhu river in Bhutan and being executed with Indian funding. Bhutan total hydropower potential is about 30,000 MW. India supplies financial, technical and equipment support for Bhutan hydropower exports to India.

✦ India-Bhutan Treaty of Friendship was revised in 2007 (replacing the 1949 treaty), removing the clause requiring Bhutan to be guided by India in foreign relations. Bhutan is not an SCO member. Tala (1,020 MW), Chukha (336 MW), Kurichhu (60 MW), Mangdechhu (720 MW) are operational Indo-Bhutan hydroelectric projects. PM Modi visited Bhutan in March 2024.

[Read Source →](#)

Q90

The Kalai-II Hydroelectric Project of 1,200 MW is on the Lohit river in:

- A** Uttarakhand
- B** Sikkim
- C** Arunachal Pradesh
- D** Nagaland

✓ C Arunachal Pradesh

Kalai-II is a 1,200 MW hydroelectric project on the Lohit river in Arunachal Pradesh. The Lohit originates in Tibet (where it is called Zayu Chu) and joins the Brahmaputra. The project is geopolitically sensitive due to its proximity to the China border and the Brahmaputra basin dynamics.

✦ The Brahmaputra (Yarlung Tsangpo in Tibet) has tributaries Subansiri, Siang, Lohit, Dibang -- all in Arunachal Pradesh. China is constructing a giant 60 GW dam at Medog on the Yarlung Tsangpo Great Bend -- a major concern for India water security. India and China do not share a water treaty, only hydrological data exchange MoUs. The Indus Waters Treaty 1960 is with Pakistan.

[Read Source →](#)

Q91

In April 2026, Pakistan withdrew from the SAFF Women Championship 2026 to be held in:

- A** India
- B** Bangladesh
- C** Bhutan
- D** Sri Lanka

✓ **A** **India**

Pakistan withdrew from the SAFF (South Asian Football Federation) Women Championship 2026 hosted by India -- another instance of sports diplomacy strained by India-Pakistan political tensions. SAFF was founded in 1997 and includes India, Pakistan, Bangladesh, Sri Lanka, Nepal, Bhutan, Maldives.

✦ SAARC (South Asian Association for Regional Cooperation), founded 1985, includes 8 members: India, Pakistan, Bangladesh, Sri Lanka, Nepal, Bhutan, Maldives, Afghanistan. The last SAARC Summit was held in Kathmandu in 2014; the 2016 Islamabad Summit was cancelled after the Uri attack. India has shifted to BIMSTEC (Bay of Bengal Initiative) as the favoured regional grouping post-2016.

[Read Source →](#)

Q92

The Exercise Cyclone-IV of April 2026 is conducted between Indian armed forces and:

A Saudi Arabia

B Egypt

C UAE

D Iran

✓ B Egypt

Exercise Cyclone-IV is the India-Egypt joint special forces exercise. In April 2026 it was conducted simultaneously with Exercise Brahmastra (India-Jordan), reflecting India deepening defence diplomacy in West Asia and Africa. The Egyptian Army was the largest Arab Army in earlier decades.

✦ India has joint exercises with most major powers: Yudh Abhyas (USA-Army), Vajra Prahar (USA-SF), Tiger Triumph (USA-Tri-services), Malabar (USA-Japan), Indra (Russia), Garuda (France), Varuna (France-Navy), Hand-in-Hand (China, suspended), Mitra Shakti (Sri Lanka), Sampriti (Bangladesh), Surya Kiran (Nepal). India-Egypt strategic partnership was elevated in 2023 during PM Modi visit.

[Read Source →](#)

Q93

The US 123 per cent anti-dumping duty announced in April 2026 targets Indian exports of:

- A** Steel
- B** Solar modules
- C** Pharmaceuticals
- D** IT services

✓ B Solar modules

The US imposed a 123 per cent anti-dumping duty on Indian solar module exports -- a major blow to India solar manufacturing sector, which earns about USD 2.5 billion from US exports. The duty was imposed on grounds of below-cost pricing and circumvention of country-of-origin rules.

✦ The WTO Anti-Dumping Agreement (Article VI of GATT) permits anti-dumping duties if exports are sold below normal value and cause material injury to domestic industry. The Production Linked Incentive (PLI) scheme for solar PV modules (Rs 24,000 crore outlay) aims to build domestic capacity. ReNew Energy 6.5 GW solar ingot-wafer factory in Anakapalli (Andhra Pradesh) supports domestic manufacturing.

[Read Source →](#)

Security & Defence

Q94
STATEMENT-BASED

Consider the following statements about the Indian Navys INS Aridhaman, commissioned in April 2026:

- 1 It is Indias third Strategic Submarine Ballistic Nuclear (SSBN) under the Advanced Technology Vessel programme.
- 2 It is larger than INS Arihant and carries the K-4 Submarine-Launched Ballistic Missile.
- 3 Its commissioning completes Indias nuclear triad (land, air and sea).

Which of the above statements are correct?

A 1 and 2 only

B 2 and 3 only

C 1 and 3 only

D 1, 2 and 3

✓ A 1 and 2 only

Statements 1 and 2 are correct. INS Aridhaman is India third SSBN under ATV programme, larger than Arihant, carrying K-4 SLBMs (3,500 km range). Statement 3 is incorrect -- India nuclear triad was already operationally completed earlier with INS Arihant patrols (2018). Aridhaman strengthens the second-strike capability rather than completing the triad afresh.

✦ India nuclear triad: land-based (Agni series ballistic missiles, Prithvi), air-based (Mirage-2000, Rafale, Su-30MKI), sea-based (Arihant-class SSBNs). India doctrine: No First Use, credible minimum deterrence, massive retaliation. The Strategic Forces Command (SFC) under the Nuclear Command Authority (NCA) operates nuclear forces. SLBMs include K-15 Sagarika (750 km) and K-4 (3,500 km).

[Read Source →](#)

Q95
STATEMENT-BASED

Consider the following statements regarding INS Taragiri commissioned in April 2026:

- 1 It is the 4th frigate of Project 17A (Nilgiri class).
- 2 Project 17A is the follow-on to Project 17 (Shivalik class) of stealth frigates.
- 3 INS Vikrant, Indias indigenous aircraft carrier, was built at Mazagon Dock Shipbuilders, Mumbai.

Which of the above statements are correct?

- A 1 and 2 only
- B 2 and 3 only
- C 1 and 3 only
- D 1, 2 and 3

✓ A 1 and 2 only

Statements 1 and 2 are correct. INS Taragiri is the 4th frigate of Project 17A (Nilgiri class), built at Mazagon Dock Shipbuilders. Project 17A is the follow-on to Project 17 (Shivalik class). Statement 3 is wrong -- INS Vikrant was built at Cochin Shipyard Ltd (Kerala), NOT Mazagon Dock (which builds frigates and destroyers).

✦ Garden Reach Shipbuilders (Kolkata) builds smaller vessels. Project 15B (Visakhapatnam-class destroyers) and Project 75I (submarines) are other major naval programmes. The Indian Navy aims for a 175-ship force by 2035 (current ~140). INS Nilgiri (lead ship) and INS Udaygiri are earlier P17A vessels.

[Read Source →](#)

Q96

The PLR Systems (Gwalior, Madhya Pradesh) delivered indigenously assembled NEGEV light machine guns of which calibre to the Indian Army in April 2026?

A 5.56 mm

B 7.62 mm

C 9 mm

D 12.7 mm

✓ B 7.62 mm

PLR Systems delivered 7.62 mm NEGEV light machine guns -- the first private sector LMG delivery under Make-in-India. NEGEV is originally designed by Israel Weapon Industries (IWI). PLR Systems is a joint venture between Adani Defence and IWI.

✦ India small arms acquisition: AK-203 (7.62 mm) under India-Russia JV at Korwa, Amethi (UP); SIG Sauer 716 (7.62 mm) imported from USA. Defence FDI: 74 per cent automatic route, 100 per cent with government approval. iDEX programme supports start-ups. Defence Acquisition Procedure (DAP) 2020 governs procurement.

[Read Source →](#)

Q97
STATEMENT-BASED

Consider the following statements about India declaration as Naxal-Free (April 2026):

- 1 The Naxalbari uprising of 1967, the origin of LWE, occurred in Darjeeling district, West Bengal.
- 2 At peak in 2010, 223 districts across 10 states were LWE-affected.
- 3 The Communist Party of India (Maoist) was formed in 2004 by merger of PWG and MCCI.

Which of the above statements are correct?

A 1 and 2 only

B 2 and 3 only

C 1 and 3 only

D 1, 2 and 3

✓ D 1, 2 and 3

All three statements are correct. Naxalbari uprising (1967) occurred in Darjeeling district, WB, led by Charu Majumdar and Kanu Sanyal. At peak in 2010, 223 districts across 10 states were LWE-affected. CPI (Maoist) was formed in September 2004 by merger of PWG (Peoples War Group) and MCCI (Maoist Communist Centre of India).

✦ CPI (Maoist) is listed as a terrorist organisation under UAPA 1967 (First Schedule). SAMADHAN strategy launched in 2017: Smart leadership, Aggressive strategy, Motivation, Actionable intelligence, Dashboard KPIs, Harnessing technology, Action plan, No financing access. The Special Infrastructure Scheme (SIS) and Road Connectivity Project for LWE-Affected Areas (RCPLWEA) drive development. PESA 1996 and FRA 2006 are critical legal protections.

[Read Source →](#)

Q98

CCTV cameras for government use must obtain mandatory certification from which Indian standards body, effective 2026?

A BIS and STQC

B TRAI alone

C NCRB alone

D CERT-In

✓ A **BIS and STQC**

India made BIS (Bureau of Indian Standards) and STQC (Standardisation Testing and Quality Certification) certification mandatory for CCTV cameras used in government installations. The mandate targets Chinese-origin hardware risk. Uncertified cameras are to be phased out of government use.

✦ BIS operates under the BIS Act 2016, Ministry of Consumer Affairs. STQC is under MeitY and provides electronic equipment testing. CERT-In (Indian Computer Emergency Response Team) under MeitY handles cyber incidents. The Information Technology Act 2000 and IT Rules 2021 govern cybersecurity. The Telecommunications Act 2023 replaced the Indian Telegraph Act 1885 and other older laws.

[Read Source →](#)

Q99

India National Maritime Day, observed in April 2026 as the 63rd edition, falls on:

A April 4

B April 5

C April 7

D April 10

✓ B April 5

National Maritime Day is observed on April 5 each year. It commemorates April 5, 1919, when SS Loyalty, the first ship of the Scindia Steam Navigation Company, sailed from Mumbai to London - a milestone for Indian shipping under colonial rule. 2026 marked the 63rd National Maritime Day.

✦ India has 12 major ports (under the Ministry of Ports, Shipping and Waterways) and over 200 non-major ports under State Governments. The Directorate General of Shipping is the central regulator under the Merchant Shipping Act 1958. Sagarmala (2015) is the flagship port-led development scheme. India ranks among the top 5 ship recycling nations (Alang, Gujarat).

[Read Source →](#)

Q100

The Indian Army UAS and Loitering Munitions Roadmap released in April 2026 targets indigenously produced drones by what year?

A 1,000+ drones by 2027

B 5,000+ drones by 2030

C 10,000+ drones by 2032

D 25,000+ drones by 2035

✓ A 1,000+ drones by 2027

The Indian Army UAS and Loitering Munitions Technology Roadmap 2026 targets 1,000-plus domestically produced drones by 2027. The roadmap covers tactical UAS, MALE-class drones, and loitering munitions (kamikaze drones) -- key lessons from the Russia-Ukraine war.

✦ India drone ecosystem: DRDO Tapas MALE (Medium-Altitude Long-Endurance), Rustom-II, Nishant. MQ-9B Predator/Sea Guardian purchase from USA was finalised in 2024. The PLI for Drones and Drone Components (Rs 120 crore initial outlay) supports manufacturing. The Drone Rules 2021 (under the Drone Act framework) liberalised the operating environment. The Directorate General of Civil Aviation (DGCA) regulates civilian drones.

[Read Source →](#)

Q101

INS Shachi, launched in April 2026, is part of which class of Indian Navy vessels?

- A** Next-Generation Offshore Patrol Vessel (NGOPV)
- B** Project 15B Destroyer
- C** Project 75 Scorpene Submarine
- D** Magar-class LST

✓ A **Next-Generation Offshore Patrol Vessel (NGOPV)**

INS Shachi is a Next-Generation Offshore Patrol Vessel (NGOPV), a class of multi-role patrol vessels for Exclusive Economic Zone surveillance, anti-piracy and SAR. The NGOPV programme reflects India naval indigenisation through Goa Shipyard Ltd (GSL).

✦ OPVs operate in maritime patrol roles between corvettes and coast guard vessels. India NGOPV programme involves 7+ vessels. The Indian Coast Guard (raised 1977, MoD) has its own Coast Guard OPV class. Project 17A (frigates), Project 15B (destroyers), Project 75 / 75I (submarines) are major surface and subsurface programmes.

[Read Source →](#)

Q102

India Wing of Defence Exports: which is NOT correct about India FY26 defence exports?

- A** Record Rs 38,424 crore -- 62.66 per cent jump from FY 2024-25
- B** Private sector share was approximately 45 per cent (Rs 17,353 crore)
- C** Major destinations include USA, France, UAE, Philippines, Armenia
- D** Exports were halted to all West Asian countries due to Iran conflict

✓ D Exports were halted to all West Asian countries due to Iran conflict

India did not halt defence exports to West Asia. Exports continued, including PINAKA MBRL deliveries to Armenia and various sales to UAE, Saudi Arabia (selective), and Egypt. The other three statements are correct: Rs 38,424 crore (62.66 per cent jump from Rs 23,622 crore), approximately 45 per cent private sector share, and major destinations as stated.

✦ India exports include Brahmos missile (Philippines), Akash SAM (Armenia), Dornier-228 aircraft (Mauritius, Sri Lanka), ALH Dhruv (multiple), HAL Tejas LCA (Argentina, Egypt prospects), Pinaka MBRL (Armenia). Atmanirbhar Bharat positive indigenisation lists (now 5 lists, 509 items total) bar imports of specified items beyond cut-off dates.

[Read Source →](#)

Q103

BEL (Bharat Electronics Limited) won a contract in April 2026 to supply which equipment to the Indian Army for LAC deployment?

A Air defence missile systems

B Mountain surveillance radars

C Electronic warfare suites

D Battlefield surveillance UAVs

✓ B Mountain surveillance radars

BEL won a contract for supply of mountain surveillance radars for deployment along the Line of Actual Control (LAC). The radars provide all-weather, day-night surveillance of high-altitude border areas. BEL is a Defence PSU (Navratna) under the Ministry of Defence.

✦ BEL was founded in 1954, headquartered in Bengaluru. It manufactures radars, electronic warfare systems, weapon systems, communications, and night vision devices. Other DPSUs include HAL (aircraft), BDL (missiles), BEML (vehicles), MIDHANI (alloys), MDL/GRSE/CSL (shipbuilding). The LAC stretches ~3,488 km in three sectors: Western (Ladakh), Middle (HP, UK), Eastern (Sikkim, AP).

[Read Source →](#)

Q104

Which of the following statements about Operation Sindoor is INCORRECT?

- A** It was India response to the Pahalgam terror attack
- B** It highlighted the need for high-revisit ISR satellites, leading to SBS-3 fast-tracking
- C** It was conducted in May 2025
- D** It was a UN-mandated peacekeeping operation

✓ D It was a UN-mandated peacekeeping operation

Operation Sindoor was NOT a UN peacekeeping mission. It was India response to the Pahalgam terror attack (April 2025), conducted in May 2025. The operation revealed gaps in real-time satellite surveillance, leading to fast-tracking of the SBS-3 constellation. Other three statements are correct.

✦ India contributes one of the largest troop levels to UN peacekeeping operations (over 6,000 personnel currently). UNDOF, UNIFIL, MONUSCO, UNMISS, UNDPKO are major missions with Indian participation. The Indian Air Force, Army, Navy, MARCOS, NSG, and Special Frontier Force (SFF) are key strategic assets. India has the Brahmos cruise missile (290-450 km range), Akash SAM, S-400 Triumf (Russia).

[Read Source →](#)

History, Art & Culture

Q105

The April 13, 1919 Jallianwala Bagh massacre occurred in which city and on which festival day?

- A Lahore -- Diwali
- B Amritsar -- Baisakhi
- C Multan -- Lohri
- D Peshawar -- Holi

✓ B **Amritsar -- Baisakhi**

The Jallianwala Bagh massacre occurred on April 13, 1919 in Amritsar (Punjab) on Baisakhi (Vaisakhi) day, when General Reginald Dyer ordered troops to fire on an unarmed crowd. The British official figure was 379 killed; Indian estimates 1,000+. 2026 marked the 107th anniversary.

✦ Jallianwala Bagh: 6-7 acre walled garden with only five narrow exits. The Hunter Commission (1920) censured Dyer but no criminal prosecution followed. Tagore returned his knighthood. Gandhi launched the Non-Cooperation Movement (1920-22) partly in response. The Rowlatt Act 1919 (anti-sedition) was the trigger for the gathering. UK has expressed regret (Theresa May 2019) but no formal apology.

[Read Source →](#)

Q106
STATEMENT-BASED

Consider the following statements about Mahatma Jyotirao Phule (200th birth anniversary, April 11, 2026):

- 1 He founded the Satyashodhak Samaj in 1873.
- 2 His wife Savitribai Phule is regarded as India's first female teacher.
- 3 He authored Gulamgiri (1873) which compared Indian caste system to American slavery.

Which of the above statements are correct?

A 1 and 2 only

B 2 and 3 only

C 1 and 3 only

D 1, 2 and 3

✓ D 1, 2 and 3

All three statements are correct. Jyotirao Phule founded the Satyashodhak Samaj (Society of Truth-Seekers) in 1873 to challenge Brahminic authority. His wife Savitribai Phule was India's first female teacher when the couple opened the first school for girls at Bhidewada, Pune in 1848. He wrote Gulamgiri (Slavery) in 1873, dedicating it to American abolitionists. The title Mahatma was conferred in 1888.

✦ Phule belonged to the Mali (gardener) caste. His anti-caste social reform predated and enabled Ambedkar constitutional project. Other 19th century reformers: Raja Ram Mohan Roy (Brahmo Samaj 1828), Ishwar Chandra Vidyasagar (widow remarriage), Dayananda Saraswati (Arya Samaj 1875), Periyar E.V. Ramasamy (Self-Respect Movement), Sri Narayana Guru (Kerala). Savitribai Phule birth anniversary is January 3.

[Read Source →](#)

Q107

The First Battle of Panipat (500th anniversary in 2026) was fought between Babur and:

A Sikandar Lodi

B Ibrahim Lodi

C Bahlul Lodi

D Sher Shah Suri

✓ B Ibrahim Lodi

The First Battle of Panipat was fought on April 21, 1526 between Babur (12,000 troops) and Ibrahim Lodi (~100,000 troops including 1,000 war elephants). Ibrahim Lodi -- the last Sultan of the Delhi Sultanate -- was killed in battle. The battle established Mughal rule, which lasted (with variations) until 1857.

✦ Battles of Panipat: First (1526, Babur vs Ibrahim Lodi), Second (1556, Akbar/Bairam Khan vs Hemu), Third (1761, Marathas/Sadashivrao Bhau vs Ahmad Shah Abdali). Babur's use of Ottoman field artillery and the tulughma flanking tactic were decisive. Baburnama is his memoirs, written in Chagatai Turkic. The Mughals included Akbar, Jahangir, Shah Jahan, Aurangzeb as the Great Mughals.

[Read Source →](#)

Q108

Ambedkar Jayanti was celebrated on April 14, 2026 as the 135th birth anniversary. Dr B.R. Ambedkar was born in:

- A** Pune, Maharashtra
- B** Mhow (Madhya Pradesh)
- C** Nagpur, Maharashtra
- D** Aurangabad, Maharashtra

✓ B **Mhow (Madhya Pradesh)**

Dr B.R. Ambedkar was born on April 14, 1891 at Mhow (now Dr Ambedkar Nagar), Madhya Pradesh, in a Mahar family. He was Chairman of the Drafting Committee of the Indian Constitution. He converted to Buddhism on October 14, 1956 in Nagpur (Deekshabhoomi) along with about 5 lakh followers. He died on December 6, 1956.

✦ Ambedkar founded the Bahishkrit Hitakarini Sabha (1924), Independent Labour Party (1936), Scheduled Castes Federation (1942), Republican Party of India (1956, posthumously launched). He was the first Law Minister of independent India (1947-51) and resigned over the Hindu Code Bill stalemate. Awarded Bharat Ratna posthumously in 1990. His 17-volume Writings and Speeches are published by Government of Maharashtra.

[Read Source →](#)

Q109

The ASI announced in April 2026 the discovery of a 1,500-year-old stepped reservoir on which island?

A Salsette Island

B Elephanta Island

C Sriharikota Island

D Diu Island

✓ B **Elephanta Island**

The Archaeological Survey of India announced the discovery of a 1,500-year-old stepped water reservoir on Elephanta Island (Gharapuri), off the Mumbai coast. Elephanta Caves were inscribed as a UNESCO World Heritage Site in 1987 for their Shiva-centric Hindu rock-cut sculpture.

✦ Elephanta Caves date primarily to the 5th-6th century CE, attributed broadly to the Kalachuri or Rashtrakuta period. The Trimurti Shiva sculpture is the most iconic. ASI was founded by Alexander Cunningham in 1861 and operates under the Ministry of Culture as per the Ancient Monuments and Archaeological Sites and Remains Act 1958 (amended 2010). India has 43 UNESCO World Heritage Sites (35 cultural, 7 natural, 1 mixed).

[Read Source →](#)

Q110

Buddha Purnima 2026 fell on April 29 and is celebrated on the full moon day of which Hindu month?

- A Chaitra
- B Vaishakha
- C Jyeshtha
- D Magha

✓ B **Vaishakha**

Buddha Purnima (also called Vesak) is celebrated on the full moon day of Vaishakha month of the Hindu calendar. It commemorates the birth, enlightenment (Nirvana), and death (Mahaparinirvana) of Gautama Buddha. The 2026 observance was a triple holiday under Buddhist, Hindu and government calendars.

✦ Gautama Buddha was born at Lumbini (Nepal), attained enlightenment at Bodh Gaya (Bihar), gave his first sermon at Sarnath (UP), and attained Mahaparinirvana at Kushinagar (UP). These four are the principal Buddhist pilgrimage sites in the Indian Buddhist Circuit. India has been promoting Buddhist tourism via the Buddhist Circuit Train. The Buddhist Sangha was founded after the first sermon (Dhamma Chakka Pavattana).

[Read Source →](#)

Q111

Raja Ravi Varma painting Yashoda and Krishna sold in April 2026 at an auction setting a new record. The painting was sold for approximately:

A Rs 50 crore

B Rs 100 crore

C Rs 167.2 crore

D Rs 250 crore

✓ C Rs 167.2 crore

Raja Ravi Varma painting Yashoda and Krishna sold for Rs 167.2 crore at auction -- a record for Indian art. Raja Ravi Varma (1848-1906) was a princely painter from Kilimanoor, Travancore, who pioneered the fusion of European academic realism with Indian themes (gods, epics) and made art accessible through oleographs.

✦ Raja Ravi Varma was awarded the Kaisar-i-Hind in 1904. His Lakshmi, Saraswati and Damayanti are widely reproduced. The Hicks-Ravi Varma Press at Lonavala (started 1894) democratised devotional imagery. India art records: M.F. Husain, V.S. Gaitonde (his Untitled 1961 sold for Rs 42 crore in 2020 set previous record), Tyeb Mehta, Amrita Sher-Gil. Government Art and Cultural Heritage agencies: NGMA (Delhi), Lalit Kala Akademi.

[Read Source →](#)

Q112

Samrat Samprati, the Mauryan king highlighted in April 2026, is significant in Indian religious history as:

- A Patron of Buddhism after Ashoka
- B Patron of Jainism, often called the Jain Ashoka
- C Founder of the Saiva-Siddhanta order
- D Convert to Christianity after meeting Greek traders

✓ B Patron of Jainism, often called the Jain Ashoka

Samrat Samprati was a Mauryan king (grandson of Ashoka through Kunala) who is regarded in Jain tradition as a great patron of Jainism -- sometimes called the Jain Ashoka. He commissioned Jain temples and missionaries across the subcontinent and reportedly Greek territories.

✦ Mauryan succession: Chandragupta Maurya (321-297 BCE) -> Bindusara -> Ashoka (273-232 BCE) -> Kunala -> Samprati -> Dasharatha -> Brihadratha (killed by Pushyamitra Shunga). Bindusara is associated with Ajivika sect; Ashoka with Buddhism (post-Kalinga War, 261 BCE); Samprati with Jainism. Jain tradition holds Chandragupta Maurya himself adopted Jainism and died via Sallekhana at Shravanabelagola.

[Read Source →](#)

Geography

Q113

Indias first Petroglyph Conservation Park was set up in April 2026 in which Union Territory?

- A** Ladakh
- B** Jammu and Kashmir
- C** Andaman and Nicobar Islands
- D** Puducherry

✓ A **Ladakh**

Indias first Petroglyph Conservation Park was set up in Ladakh to protect prehistoric rock art. Petroglyphs are images carved into rock surfaces. The Ladakh petroglyphs date from the Neolithic to early historic period and depict ibex, hunting scenes, and ritualistic motifs.

✦ Ladakh has rich prehistoric rock art especially in the Indus Valley sites (Domkhar, Alchi). Rock art in India also exists at Bhimbetka (Madhya Pradesh, UNESCO World Heritage 2003), Edakkal Caves (Kerala), and several Deccan sites. The Archaeological Survey of India (ASI) administers protected monuments under the AMASR Act 1958.

[Read Source →](#)

Q114

The Great Nicobar Mega-Project highlighted in April 2026 is located in which biogeographical region?

A Indo-Burmese

B Sundaland

C Western Ghats

D Himalayan

✓ B Sundaland

The Great Nicobar Island is part of the Sundaland biodiversity hotspot. Great Nicobar is the southernmost Indian island, with Indira Point being India southernmost land point. The mega-project (Rs 72,000 crore) includes a transshipment port at Galathea Bay, airport, township, and power plant.

✦ Great Nicobar is part of the Andaman and Nicobar Islands UT. It hosts the Shompen and Nicobarese tribes (Particularly Vulnerable Tribal Groups). Great Nicobar Biosphere Reserve covers most of the island. The project faces criticism for environmental clearance, tribal rights (under PESA equivalent provisions and FRA 2006), and seismic risk (the 2004 tsunami affected the islands). Indira Point lighthouse is at the southernmost tip.

[Read Source →](#)

Q115

Which of the following temples/places is NOT a Char Dham Yatra destination in Uttarakhand?

A Gangotri

B Yamunotri

C Badrinath

D Tarakeshwar

✓ D **Tarakeshwar**

Tarakeshwar (in Hooghly district, West Bengal) is NOT part of the Char Dham Yatra. The Char Dham Yatra of Uttarakhand consists of Gangotri (Bhagirathi/Ganga), Yamunotri (Yamuna), Badrinath (Vishnu), and Kedarnath (Shiva). The Char Dham Yatra 2026 season opened with Gangotri Temple on April 30, 2026.

✦ The original All-India Char Dham (defined by Adi Shankaracharya) includes Badrinath (north), Dwarka (west), Puri (east), and Rameswaram (south) -- not to be confused with the Uttarakhand Chota Char Dham. PM Gati Shakti and Char Dham All-Weather Road Project aim to improve connectivity. The Ganga has two main source-streams: Bhagirathi (Gaumukh) and Alaknanda (Satopanth) -- they merge at Devprayag.

[Read Source →](#)

Q116
STATEMENT-BASED

Consider the following statements about the Sundarbans:

- 1 It is the worlds largest contiguous mangrove forest, spanning India and Bangladesh.
- 2 The Indian portion lies primarily in the state of Odisha.
- 3 It is a UNESCO World Heritage Site and a Ramsar Site.

Which of the above statements are correct?

A 1 and 2 only

B 2 and 3 only

C 1 and 3 only

D 1, 2 and 3

✓ C 1 and 3 only

Statements 1 and 3 are correct. The Sundarbans is the worlds largest contiguous mangrove forest spanning India and Bangladesh. Statement 2 is incorrect -- the Indian Sundarbans lie in West Bengal, NOT Odisha (Odisha has Bhitarkanika mangroves). The Sundarbans is a UNESCO World Heritage Site (Sundarbans National Park, 1987) and a Ramsar Site.

✦ Mangrove species in Sundarbans include Sundari (*Heritiera fomes*), Genwa, Goran, Keora. The Royal Bengal Tiger (the Tiger swims here uniquely well) and the Sundarbans Estuarine Crocodile inhabit the delta. The Indian National Tiger Conservation Authority (NTCA, 2006) manages tiger reserves. India has 56 tiger reserves with 3,925 tigers (2022 estimate). Cyclone Aila (2009) and Amphan (2020) severely affected the Sundarbans.

[Read Source →](#)

Q117

The Lohit river, on which the Kalai-II hydroelectric project is being constructed, joins:

- A** The Subansiri
- B** The Siang to form the Brahmaputra
- C** The Brahmaputra at Sadiya in Assam
- D** The Ganga at Allahabad

✓ C The Brahmaputra at Sadiya in Assam

The Lohit river joins the Brahmaputra at Sadiya in Assam, where the Brahmaputra is also joined by the Siang and Dibang. The Lohit originates in southeastern Tibet as the Zayu Chu and enters India through Arunachal Pradesh. The Lohit is sometimes called the river of blood owing to legends.

✦ The Brahmaputra system in Arunachal Pradesh: Siang (the main course, called Yarlung Tsangpo in Tibet), Dibang, Lohit, Subansiri, Kameng. The Brahmaputra is one of the world largest rivers by discharge. In Bangladesh it is called Jamuna (the western branch) and joins the Padma (Ganga). Major hydroelectric projects in this region include Subansiri Lower (2,000 MW), Dibang (3,000 MW under planning).

[Read Source →](#)

Q118

India 99 Ramsar Sites are spread across how many states/UTs (as of April 2026)?

- A** 12 states/UTs
- B** 18 states/UTs
- C** 24 states/UTs
- D** All 28 states + 8 UTs

✓ C 24 states/UTs

99 Ramsar sites are spread across approximately 24 States/UTs; Telangana, Arunachal Pradesh, Meghalaya, Nagaland are among those without any. India has the largest network of Ramsar Sites in Asia and the third-largest globally (after the UK and Mexico). Tamil Nadu has the most Ramsar Sites among Indian states.

✦ India ratified the Ramsar Convention in 1982. The first two Indian Ramsar Sites were Chilika Lake (Odisha) and Keoladeo (Rajasthan), both designated in 1981. Wetlands International, IUCN and ICUN-WCMC support Ramsar work globally. The Wetlands (Conservation and Management) Rules 2017 (under EPA 1986) govern wetlands. National Plan for Conservation of Aquatic Ecosystems (NPCA) covers wetland conservation.

[Read Source →](#)

Social Issues

Q119

The Manipur ethnic conflict, three years on in April 2026, started in which month and year?

A January 2022

B May 2023

C November 2023

D February 2024

✓ B May 2023

The Manipur ethnic conflict between the Meitei and Kuki-Zo communities began in May 2023 with the Tribal Solidarity March in Churachandpur. By April 2026: 217 deaths, 58,800 displaced, 6,000 FIRs filed, and over 4,000 houses burnt.

✦ Core trigger: Manipur High Court order recommending Scheduled Tribe status for the Meitei community; Kuki-Zo groups opposed. Hill districts are Kuki-Zo majority; valley districts (especially Imphal) are Meitei majority. Manipur has 60 Assembly seats. Articles 244 and Sixth Schedule deal with tribal areas of Northeast (though Manipur is partly covered by Hill Areas under Sub-paragraph 7 of paragraph 20 of the Sixth Schedule, applying primarily to Assam, Meghalaya, Tripura, Mizoram).

[Read Source →](#)

Q120
STATEMENT-BASED

Consider the following statements about Indias Female Labour Force Participation Rate (FLFPR):

- 1 As per PLFS Annual Report 2023-24, FLFPR is approximately 41.7 per cent.
- 2 Rural FLFPR is 47.6 per cent and urban FLFPR is 25.4 per cent.
- 3 The Periodic Labour Force Survey is conducted by the National Statistical Office.

Which of the above statements are correct?

A 1 and 2 only

B 2 and 3 only

C 1 and 3 only

D 1, 2 and 3

✓ D 1, 2 and 3

All three statements are correct. India FLFPR is approximately 41.7 per cent (PLFS Annual Report 2023-24), with rural FLFPR at 47.6 per cent and urban FLFPR at 25.4 per cent. The PLFS is conducted by NSO under MoSPI since 2017-18 (it replaced the earlier quinquennial NSSO employment surveys).

✦ PLFS uses Usual Status (US) and Current Weekly Status (CWS) as labour force measures. The Code on Wages 2019, Code on Social Security 2020, Industrial Relations Code 2020 and Occupational Safety, Health and Working Conditions Code 2020 consolidated 29 labour laws. SAGE, eShram (informal sector portal), Skill India and Mission Karmayogi support workforce development. Gender pay gap in India is about 28 per cent.

[Read Source →](#)

Q121

Poshan Pakhwada 2026 (April) focused on which key target window for child nutrition?

- A** Conception to birth
- B** First 1,000 days (conception to age 2)
- C** Maximizing brain development in the first six years of life
- D** School age (6-14 years)

✓ C Maximizing brain development in the first six years of life

The 8th Poshan Pakhwada (April 9-23, 2026) had the theme "Maximizing Brain Development in the First Six Years of Life". While the first 1,000 days remain a critical sub-window, the formal 2026 theme emphasises the broader 0-6 cognitive development period.

✦ NFHS-5 (2019-21) reported stunting at 35.5 per cent and wasting at 19.3 per cent among under-5 children. The National Nutrition Mission (POSHAN Abhiyaan) was launched in March 2018 and renamed POSHAN 2.0 in 2021. The Anganwadi system under Integrated Child Development Services (ICDS) is the implementation network. Mission Saksham Anganwadi integrates Anganwadi services.

[Read Source →](#)

Q122


Which of the following is NOT correct about the ILO Universal Social Protection Report 2026?

- A 52.4 per cent of the global population has effective social protection coverage
- B India PM-JAY scheme reaches about 500 million people
- C India has comprehensive contributory unemployment insurance for all workers
- D India contributory pension schemes have limited coverage of informal sector



India has comprehensive contributory unemployment insurance for all workers

India does NOT have comprehensive contributory unemployment insurance for all workers. ESIC (Employees State Insurance Corporation) covers some formal sector employees; the Atal Beemit Vyakti Kalyan Yojana provides limited unemployment relief. The other three statements are correct: 52.4 per cent global coverage (WSPR 2024-26); PM-JAY covers ~500 million; contributory pension and unemployment cover remain limited in India.

 ILO (International Labour Organisation) was founded in 1919 (Treaty of Versailles), making it the oldest UN specialised agency. India is a founding member. ILO Convention 102 (Social Security Minimum Standards, 1952) sets the baseline. India ratified 47 ILO Conventions. SDG 1.3 calls for nationally appropriate social protection systems for all by 2030.

[Read Source →](#)

Q123

The Karnataka High Court April 2026 ruling on menstrual leave upheld it under which doctrine?

- A** Formal equality
- B** Substantive equality
- C** Procedural equality
- D** Equality of outcome

✓ B Substantive equality

The Karnataka High Court upheld menstrual leave under the substantive equality doctrine -- which permits and at times mandates differential treatment to remedy structural disadvantages. The Court relied on Article 14 read with Article 21 (right to dignified life including reproductive health).

✦ Substantive equality (also called real or transformative equality) is distinct from formal equality (treating likes alike). Indian Supreme Court has endorsed substantive equality in cases like *Mithu v. State of Punjab*, *NALSA v. Union of India* (2014, transgender rights), and *Navtej Singh Johar v. Union of India* (2018, decriminalising Section 377). Articles 15(3) and 15(4) enable special provisions for women, SCs, and STs.

[Read Source →](#)

Q124

India Heat Crisis (April 2026 analysis) is exacerbated by which legislative gap?

- A** No central law specifically recognising heatwaves as notified disasters
- B** Absence of any state-level Heat Action Plan
- C** No enforceable Right to Cool under Article 21
- D** All of the above

✓ A **No central law specifically recognising heatwaves as notified disasters**

There is no central law that specifically recognises heatwaves as notified disasters under the Disaster Management Act 2005 -- a key legislative gap. Several states have non-statutory Heat Action Plans (Ahmedabad pioneered in 2013). Article 21 has been interpreted to include the right to a safe environment, though no explicit Right to Cool exists.

✦ The Disaster Management Act 2005 set up NDMA (national), SDMA (state) and DDMA (district). Notified disasters under the Act allow drawing of NDRF/SDRF funds. Cyclone, flood, drought, earthquake, tsunami, landslide, avalanche, fire, hailstorm, frost, cloudburst, pest attack, and cold wave are notified. Heatwave is recognised by IMD operationally but not listed as a notified disaster -- a gap NDMA has urged to fix.

[Read Source →](#)

Q125

The Supreme Court April 2026 PIL on extending Article 21A to pre-primary education concerns children of which age group?

A 0-3 years

B 3-6 years

C 6-14 years

D 14-18 years

✓ B 3-6 years

The PIL seeks extending Article 21A (Right to Education) to children aged 3-6 years -- the pre-primary or early childhood care and education window. Currently Article 21A covers 6-14 years. The 86th Constitutional Amendment (2002) also amended Article 45 (DPSP) to focus on early childhood care below age 6.

✦ NEP 2020 envisages a 5+3+3+4 school structure replacing the 10+2 model, with the foundational stage covering ages 3-8 (Anganwadi/pre-primary + Classes 1-2). The Right of Children to Free and Compulsory Education Act 2009 operationalises Article 21A. The new National Curriculum Framework for Foundational Stage (NCF-FS) was launched in October 2022. POSHAN 2.0 and Saksham Anganwadi integrate nutrition with early learning.

[Read Source →](#)

Q126

The Thrissur Pooram fireworks tragedy (April 2026) at Mundathikode highlighted regulatory gaps related to:

- A** The Explosives Act 1884 and the Petroleum and Explosives Safety Organisation
- B** The Factories Act 1948 alone
- C** The Indian Motor Vehicles Act 1988
- D** The Drugs and Cosmetics Act 1940



The Explosives Act 1884 and the Petroleum and Explosives Safety Organisation

The tragedy (15 dead, dozens injured) at Mundathikode in Kerala highlighted regulatory gaps in the Explosives Act 1884 and the role of PESO (Petroleum and Explosives Safety Organisation). PESO under DPIIT, Ministry of Commerce regulates manufacturing, storage and transport of explosives. The Explosives Rules 2008 specify licensing.

✦ India fireworks manufacturing is concentrated in Sivakasi (Tamil Nadu) and Krishnagiri. The Supreme Court (Arjun Gopal v. UoI, 2018) banned barium-based fireworks and limited bursting hours, in the context of pollution and child labour. The 2026 Thrissur Pooram was held without fireworks for the first time -- a major social shift.

[Read Source →](#)

Q127

The Womens Credit Portfolio in India crossed Rs 76 lakh crore by FY26 -- as per the NITI Aayog-CIBIL report. Which of the following is INCORRECT about this milestone?

- A** It represents womens share of consumer credit
- B** It is supported by schemes like Stand-Up India and Mudra Yojana
- C** The Womens share of total credit is reportedly higher in rural India than urban India
- D** Womens credit portfolio includes only Self-Help Group (SHG) loans

✓ D Womens credit portfolio includes only Self-Help Group (SHG) loans

The Rs 76 lakh crore portfolio does NOT include only SHG loans -- it covers all formal credit to women borrowers including consumer credit, MSME loans, home loans, education loans, and SHG/Mudra. The other three statements are correct.

✦ Stand-Up India (2016) provides loans of Rs 10 lakh to Rs 1 crore to at least one SC/ST and one woman entrepreneur per bank branch. PM Mudra Yojana (2015) provides Shishu (up to Rs 50,000), Kishore (Rs 50,000-5 lakh), and Tarun (Rs 5-20 lakh) loans, with women accounting for ~70 per cent of beneficiaries. The Deen Dayal Antyodaya Yojana - NRLM mobilises rural women into SHGs (Lakshpati Didi target: 3 crore by 2027).

[Read Source →](#)

Reports, Indices & Schemes

Q128

India Pharmacopoeia is the official pharmacopoeia of India under which Act?

- A** Drugs and Cosmetics Act, 1940
- B** Pharmacy Act, 1948
- C** Indian Medicine Central Council Act, 1970
- D** National Medical Commission Act, 2019

✓ A **Drugs and Cosmetics Act, 1940**

The Indian Pharmacopoeia (IP) is the official drug standards reference book under the Drugs and Cosmetics Act 1940. The Indian Pharmacopoeia Commission (IPC) under MoHFW publishes the IP. It defines standards for active pharmaceutical ingredients, excipients, formulations and biological products.

✦ The Indian Pharmacopoeia 2026 was released on January 2, 2026 (10th edition) by Union Health Minister J P Nadda. The Drugs Controller General of India (DCGI) heads CDSCO. Key drug regulators globally: USFDA (USA), EMA (Europe), PMDA (Japan), MHRA (UK), Health Canada. The WHO Prequalification programme helps Indian generics access global markets. India is the worlds largest supplier of generic medicines, often called the pharmacy of the world.

[Read Source →](#)

Q129
STATEMENT-BASED

Consider the following statements about the 16th Finance Commission:

- 1 It is chaired by Arvind Panagariya, former Vice Chairman of NITI Aayog.
- 2 Its award covers the five-year period 2026-31.
- 3 It retained vertical devolution at 41 per cent of the divisible pool.

Which of the above statements are correct?

- A 1 and 2 only
- B 2 and 3 only
- C 1 and 3 only
- D 1, 2 and 3

✓ D 1, 2 and 3

All three statements are correct. The 16th Finance Commission is chaired by Arvind Panagariya, former Vice Chairman of NITI Aayog. Its award covers 2026-31. It retained vertical devolution at 41 per cent of the divisible pool, the same level as the 15th FC.

✦ Article 280 mandates the FC. The 15th FC (N.K. Singh) covered 2021-26. The 14th FC (Y.V. Reddy) covered 2015-20 and raised vertical devolution from 32 per cent to 42 per cent. The horizontal devolution formula of the 16th FC: Income Distance (42.5 per cent), Population 2011 (17.5 per cent), Demographic Performance (10 per cent), Forest and Ecology (10 per cent), Area (10 per cent), GDP Contribution (10 per cent).

[Read Source →](#)

Q130
STATEMENT-BASED

Consider the following statements regarding the IMF World Economic Outlook April 2026:

- 1 The IMF cut its global growth forecast for 2026 to 3.1 per cent, down from 3.3 per cent in the January 2026 WEO Update.
- 2 India was retained at 6.5 per cent in the April 2026 WEO.
- 3 SDRs (Special Drawing Rights) are valued by a basket of five currencies including the Indian Rupee.

Which of the above statements are correct?

A 1 and 2 only

B 2 and 3 only

C 1 and 3 only

D 1, 2 and 3

✓ A 1 and 2 only

Statements 1 and 2 are correct. The IMF cut global growth to 3.1 per cent for 2026 from 3.3 per cent in the January update, and retained India at 6.5 per cent. Statement 3 is wrong -- the SDR basket consists of USD, EUR, RMB (Chinese Yuan), JPY and GBP; the Indian Rupee is NOT in the SDR basket.

✦ IMF WEO is published in April and October, with updates in January and July. The IMF was established at Bretton Woods in 1944. India is a founding member. India quota share is 2.75 per cent (8th-largest). The Quota and Voice Reforms have been pending for years. The April 2026 cut was attributed to West Asia conflict, energy price spikes, and trade tensions.

[Read Source →](#)

Q131

The World Bank South Asia Economic Update April 2026 projected India GDP at 7.6 per cent for FY26 (easing to 6.6 per cent for FY27 due to West Asia conflict), making South Asia:

- A The fastest-growing region globally
- B The second-fastest-growing region after East Asia
- C On par with East Asia in growth
- D In recession

✓ A The fastest-growing region globally

The World Bank projected South Asia as the fastest-growing region globally for 2026, with India at 7.6 per cent for FY26 (easing to 6.6 per cent for FY27 due to West Asia conflict). South Asia growth is driven primarily by India, which accounts for over 80 per cent of regional GDP. The World Bank Group consists of IBRD, IDA, IFC, MIGA and ICSID.

✦ The World Bank was set up at Bretton Woods (1944). India is one of the largest borrowers. The Bank issues Global Economic Prospects (Jan, June) and regional updates (April, October). World Development Reports are flagship publications. The new Beyond GDP framework and IDA20 replenishment are recent themes.

[Read Source →](#)

Q132

Three Tripura panchayats won top National Panchayat Awards 2025 (announced April 2026). The Awards are administered by which Ministry?

- A Ministry of Home Affairs
- B Ministry of Rural Development
- C Ministry of Panchayati Raj
- D Ministry of Cooperation

✓ C Ministry of Panchayati Raj

The National Panchayat Awards are administered by the Ministry of Panchayati Raj. The Ministry recognises Gram Panchayats, Block Panchayats and Zila Panchayats for excellence in nine thematic SDG categories. Three Tripura panchayats won in 2025 cycle.

✦ Panchayati Raj was constitutionally enshrined by the 73rd Amendment 1992 (Articles 243-243O, 11th Schedule lists 29 subjects). The Ministry of Panchayati Raj was created in 2004. Article 243G empowers states to devolve powers to panchayats. National Panchayati Raj Day is April 24 (anniversary of the 73rd Amendment coming into force on April 24, 1993).

[Read Source →](#)

Q133
STATEMENT-BASED

Consider the following statements about the State of Indias Environment 2026 Report (CSE):

- 1 It found seven of nine planetary boundaries have been breached globally.
- 2 India recorded 331 extreme weather days in 2025.
- 3 It is published by the Centre for Science and Environment, Delhi.

Which of the above statements are correct?

A 1 and 2 only

B 2 and 3 only

C 1 and 3 only

D 1, 2 and 3

✓ D 1, 2 and 3

All three statements are correct. The State of Indias Environment 2026 Report by CSE found seven of nine planetary boundaries breached, India experienced 331 extreme weather days in 2025, and is published by CSE Delhi.

✦ CSE was founded by Anil Agarwal in 1980. It publishes the annual State of Indias Environment Report and the fortnightly Down to Earth magazine. CSEs reports on Centre for Science and Environment have influenced policy on air pollution (Delhi 1996 case), pesticides, and renewable energy. The Bhopal Declaration (2007) on environment governance is one of its outputs.

[Read Source →](#)

Q134

The IRDAI in April 2026 designated three Domestic Systemically Important Insurers (D-SIIs) for FY26. Which of the following is NOT a D-SII?

- A** LIC (Life Insurance Corporation)
- B** GIC Re (General Insurance Corporation of India)
- C** New India Assurance
- D** SBI Life Insurance

✓ D SBI Life Insurance

SBI Life Insurance is NOT a D-SII designated by IRDAI for FY26. The three D-SIIs are LIC, GIC Re, and New India Assurance. D-SIIs face higher regulatory scrutiny including additional capital and governance requirements.

✦ D-SII designation is the insurance sector analogue of D-SIB (Domestic Systemically Important Banks) in banking. RBI D-SIBs are SBI, HDFC Bank and ICICI Bank. IRDAI was constituted under the IRDAI Act 1999. LIC was nationalised in 1956; general insurance in 1972 (4 PSUs). The Insurance Laws (Amendment) Act 2015 raised FDI in insurance to 49 per cent (since raised to 74 per cent in 2021).

[Read Source →](#)

Q135

PM-KUSUM scheme under the Ministry of New and Renewable Energy supports:

- A** Off-grid solar lighting for tribal villages
- B** Solar pumps and solarisation of agricultural feeders
- C** Rooftop solar for residential households
- D** Wind energy in coastal areas

✓ B Solar pumps and solarisation of agricultural feeders

PM-KUSUM (Pradhan Mantri Kisan Urja Suraksha evam Utthaan Mahabhiyan) supports solar pumps, solarisation of grid-connected agricultural feeders, and small grid-connected solar plants on farmer land. Launched in 2019, it aims to add 34,800 MW solar capacity in the agriculture sector by March 2026.

✦ PM-KUSUM has three components: A (decentralised ground-mounted solar plants on farmer land), B (standalone solar pumps), C (solarisation of grid-connected agricultural pumps). PM Surya Ghar Muft Bijli Yojana (2024) supports rooftop solar for 1 crore households. The Solar Energy Corporation of India (SECI) and MNRE administer solar schemes.

[Read Source →](#)

Q136
STATEMENT-BASED

Consider the following statements regarding PMAY-U 2.0 (Pradhan Mantri Awas Yojana - Urban):

- 1 It is administered by the Ministry of Housing and Urban Affairs.
- 2 It targets construction of 1 crore additional houses over 5 years for urban poor.

Which of the above statements is/are correct?

- A 1 only
- B 2 only
- C Both 1 and 2
- D Neither 1 nor 2

✓ C Both 1 and 2

Both statements are correct. PMAY-U 2.0 is administered by the Ministry of Housing and Urban Affairs and targets construction of 1 crore additional houses for urban poor over 5 years (FY24-FY29). It builds on PMAY-U 1.0 (2015), which targeted Housing for All by 2022.

✦ PMAY-U has four components: In-Situ Slum Redevelopment (ISSR), Credit Linked Subsidy Scheme (CLSS), Affordable Housing in Partnership (AHP), Beneficiary-Led Construction (BLC). PMAY-Gramin operates separately under MoRD. The Census 2011 Slum Database identifies eligible beneficiaries. Article 21 has been interpreted to include the right to shelter (*Olga Tellis v. BMC, 1985*).

[Read Source →](#)

Persons & Awards

Q137

The Bihar BJP appointed which leader as the first BJP Chief Minister of Bihar in April 2026?

- A Sushil Modi
- B Samrat Choudhary
- C Nityanand Rai
- D Shahnawaz Hussain

✓ B **Samrat Choudhary**

Samrat Choudhary became Bihar first BJP Chief Minister, ending the Nitish Kumar era. Bihar Legislative Assembly has 243 seats. Bihar Legislative Council (Vidhan Parishad) has 75 members, making Bihar one of only six states with a bicameral legislature.

✦ Other Indian states with Legislative Councils (Vidhan Parishad): Andhra Pradesh, Karnataka, Maharashtra, Telangana, Uttar Pradesh. Article 169 allows abolition/creation of Legislative Councils. Articles 168-177 cover State Legislatures. Nitish Kumar served multiple terms as CM since 2005 with shifting alliances (JD(U) with NDA, then Mahagathbandhan, then NDA again).

[Read Source →](#)

Q138

Asha Bhosle, who passed away in April 2026, was honoured with which highest civilian award?

- A Padma Vibhushan
- B Padma Bhushan only
- C Bharat Ratna
- D Dadasaheb Phalke Award and Padma Vibhushan

✓ D Dadasaheb Phalke Award and Padma Vibhushan

Asha Bhosle (1933-2026) received the Padma Vibhushan (2008) and Dadasaheb Phalke Award (2000), the highest civilian and cinematic honours respectively. She did NOT receive the Bharat Ratna (her sister Lata Mangeshkar received Bharat Ratna in 2001). She holds Guinness records for the most singles recorded by any artist.

✦ Civilian honours hierarchy: Bharat Ratna -> Padma Vibhushan -> Padma Bhushan -> Padma Shri. Bharat Ratna in music has gone to M.S. Subbulakshmi (1998), Pandit Ravi Shankar (1999), Lata Mangeshkar (2001), Pandit Bhimsen Joshi (2009). The Dadasaheb Phalke Award is the highest film award, instituted in 1969. India National Film Awards include Best Playback Singer.

[Read Source →](#)

Q139

Raghu Rai, who passed away in April 2026 at age 83, was famous for being:

- A** The first Indian film director to win a Palme dOr
- B** The first Indian Magnum photographer and a leading photojournalist
- C** The Director of the National Gallery of Modern Art
- D** A Sahitya Akademi Award-winning novelist

✓ B The first Indian Magnum photographer and a leading photojournalist

Raghu Rai (1942-2026) was India first Magnum photographer (Magnum Photos is the premier global photographic cooperative founded by Henri Cartier-Bresson and others in 1947) and one of India most celebrated photojournalists. He documented Indian politics, religion and the Bhopal gas tragedy. He was awarded the Padma Shri in 1971.

✦ Magnum Photos was co-founded in 1947 by Henri Cartier-Bresson, Robert Capa and others. Raghu Rai joined in 1977 -- the first Indian member. India photography legends include S. Paul, Steve McCurry (American working on India), Pablo Bartholomew, Dayanita Singh. Photo journalism awards include the Pulitzer Prize for Photography and the World Press Photo.

[Read Source →](#)

Q140

Harivansh Narayan Singh, nominated to Rajya Sabha in April 2026, has previously held which constitutional post?

- A** Speaker of the Lok Sabha
- B** Deputy Chairman of the Rajya Sabha
- C** Comptroller and Auditor General
- D** Lokpal Chairperson

✓ B Deputy Chairman of the Rajya Sabha

Harivansh Narayan Singh has served as Deputy Chairman of the Rajya Sabha. He was a senior journalist and editor before entering Parliament. He was first nominated as a JD(U) MP in 2014 and elected Deputy Chairman in 2018. The April 2026 nomination was under Article 80(1)(a).

✦ Rajya Sabha Chairman is the Vice-President of India (Article 64). The Deputy Chairman (Article 89) is elected by Rajya Sabha members from amongst themselves. In Lok Sabha, the Speaker (Article 93) and Deputy Speaker preside. Anglo-Indian community nomination to Lok Sabha (Article 331) was discontinued by the 104th Amendment 2019.

[Read Source →](#)

Q141

Bhupender Yadav was endorsed as President of which biodiversity-related international body at its inaugural Assembly?

A International Big Cat Alliance (IBCA)

B CITES Standing Committee

C IPBES Multidisciplinary Expert Panel

D International Whaling Commission

✓ A **International Big Cat Alliance (IBCA)**

Bhupender Yadav, Union Minister for Environment, Forest and Climate Change, was endorsed as President of the International Big Cat Alliance (IBCA) at its inaugural Assembly in June 2025. IBCA was formally launched in 2023 during Project Tiger 50th anniversary and covers 7 big cat species across 97 range countries.

✦ India hosts the IBCA Secretariat. India has signed CITES (Convention on International Trade in Endangered Species 1973). Project Tiger (1973), Project Elephant (1992), Project Lion (Asiatic Lion, Gujarat), Project Dolphin (2020), Project Cheetah (2022, Kuno NP) are major Indian wildlife conservation programmes. India has 56 tiger reserves managed by NTCA under the Wildlife (Protection) Act 1972.

[Read Source →](#)

Q142
STATEMENT-BASED

Consider the following statements regarding the Goods and Services Tax (GST) Council:

- 1 It is a constitutional body established under Article 279A.
- 2 The Union Finance Minister chairs the Council and decisions require a three-fourths majority.
- 3 Each State has one vote regardless of size; the Centre has one-third weightage in voting.

Which of the above statements are correct?

- A 1 and 2 only
- B 2 and 3 only
- C 1 and 3 only
- D 1, 2 and 3

✓ D 1, 2 and 3

All three statements are correct. The GST Council is a constitutional body under Article 279A (inserted by the 101st Amendment 2016), chaired by the Union Finance Minister, with decisions requiring a 3/4 majority -- one-third weight to the Centre and two-thirds to all States combined, each State carrying one vote.

✦ GS2 -- federalism and constitutional bodies. The GST Council exemplifies cooperative-federalism architecture but recent Tamil Nadu and Kerala disputes have raised debates on weightage. Article 279A(4) lists the Council mandate; Article 279A(6) requires it to be guided by harmonised market for goods and services.

[Read Source →](#)

Q143
STATEMENT-BASED

Consider the following statements regarding the Income Tax Act 2025 effective April 1, 2026:

- 1 It replaces the Income Tax Act 1961 after 64 years.
- 2 It rationalises the law into 536 sections with simplified language.
- 3 It is the first Indian tax statute to introduce General Anti-Avoidance Rules (GAAR).

Which of the above statements are correct?

A 1 and 2 only

B 2 and 3 only

C 1 and 3 only

D 1, 2 and 3

✓ A 1 and 2 only

Statements 1 and 2 are correct. The Income Tax Act 2025 replaces the 1961 Act after 64 years, effective April 1, 2026, and rationalises the law into 536 sections with simplified language. Statement 3 is wrong -- GAAR was introduced via the Finance Act 2012 and made effective from April 1, 2017, under the Income Tax Act 1961 itself.

✦ The Direct Tax Code (DTC) effort began in 2009; the 2025 Act is its culmination. CBDT (Central Board of Direct Taxes) under Ministry of Finance administers direct tax laws. The new Act removes redundant provisions while retaining the substantive framework of taxation.

[Read Source →](#)

Q144
STATEMENT-BASED

Consider the following statements regarding the 7th tranche auction of critical mineral blocks (April 2026):

- 1 India auctioned 46 critical mineral blocks under the MMDR Amendment Act 2023.
- 2 The MMDR Amendment Act 2023 listed 30 minerals as Critical Minerals.
- 3 Strategic minerals like uranium and thorium are auctioned by the Department of Atomic Energy under the same tranche.

Which of the above statements are correct?

A 1 and 2 only

B 2 and 3 only

C 1 and 3 only

D 1, 2 and 3

✓ A 1 and 2 only

Statements 1 and 2 are correct. India auctioned 46 critical mineral blocks in the 7th tranche under the MMDR Amendment Act 2023, which listed 30 minerals as Critical Minerals. Statement 3 is wrong -- uranium and thorium are reserved for the Department of Atomic Energy and are NOT auctioned under the MMDR critical minerals tranches; the auctions cover lithium, cobalt, nickel, graphite, REEs etc.

✦ The MMDR Amendment Act 2023 empowered the Centre to auction critical minerals. The Geological Survey of India (GSI) conducts exploration; the Mineral Exploration Corporation Ltd (MECL) supports detailed prospecting. The National Critical Mineral Mission targets self-reliance.

[Read Source →](#)

Q145
STATEMENT-BASED

Consider the following statements comparing global GDP forecasts for India released in April 2026:

- 1 The IMF World Economic Outlook April 2026 retained India at 6.5 per cent for 2026.
- 2 The World Bank South Asia Economic Update April 2026 projected India at 7.6 per cent for FY26, easing to 6.6 per cent for FY27.
- 3 Moodys upgraded Indias FY27 GDP forecast from 6 per cent to 6.8 per cent citing easing oil prices.

Which of the above statements are correct?

A 1 and 2 only

B 2 and 3 only

C 1 and 3 only

D 1, 2 and 3

✓ A 1 and 2 only

Statements 1 and 2 are correct. The IMF retained India at 6.5 per cent (WEO April 2026). The World Bank projected India at 7.6 per cent in its South Asia Economic Update, making South Asia the fastest-growing region globally. Statement 3 is wrong -- Moodys DOWNGRADED Indias FY27 forecast from 6.8 per cent to 6 per cent citing Iran conflict spillover, not the other way around.

✦ IMF WEO is published twice a year (April, October). The World Bank issues Global Economic Prospects (Jan, June) and regional updates (April, October). Moodys, S&P and Fitch are the three major credit rating agencies. India sovereign rating: Baa3 (Moodys), BBB- (S&P, Fitch) -- lowest investment grade.

[Read Source →](#)

Q146
STATEMENT-BASED

Consider the following statements regarding the SHANTI Act with reference to India's civil nuclear sector:

- 1** SHANTI stands for Strategic and Holistic Approach to Nuclear Technology and Infrastructure.
- 2** It permits private sector participation in nuclear power generation for the first time in India.
- 3** The Atomic Energy Act 1962 reserved nuclear power exclusively to public sector undertakings prior to this Act.

Which of the above statements are correct?

- A** 1 and 2 only
- B** 2 and 3 only
- C** 1 and 3 only
- D** 1, 2 and 3

✓ D 1, 2 and 3

All three statements are correct. SHANTI stands for Strategic and Holistic Approach to Nuclear Technology and Infrastructure. It permits private sector participation in nuclear power generation for the first time in India. The Atomic Energy Act 1962 had previously reserved nuclear power generation to PSUs (NPCIL, BHAVINI).

✦ India targets 100 GW nuclear capacity by 2047 under the SHANTI-enabled framework. The Civil Liability for Nuclear Damage Act 2010 enabled the India-US 123 Civil Nuclear Agreement (2008). India is a member of the IAEA but not of the NSG. India has the No First Use doctrine.

[Read Source →](#)

Q147
STATEMENT-BASED

Consider the following statements regarding Buddha Purnima 2026 (April 29):

- 1 It commemorates the birth, enlightenment and Mahaparinirvana of Gautama Buddha.
- 2 It is observed on the full moon day of the Hindu month of Vaishakha.
- 3 The four principal Buddhist pilgrimage sites in India are Bodh Gaya, Sarnath, Kushinagar and Sanchi.

Which of the above statements are correct?

- A 1 and 2 only
- B 2 and 3 only
- C 1 and 3 only
- D 1, 2 and 3

✓ A 1 and 2 only

Statements 1 and 2 are correct. Buddha Purnima commemorates the birth, enlightenment (Nirvana) and Mahaparinirvana of Gautama Buddha and is observed on the Vaishakha Purnima. Statement 3 is wrong -- the four principal Buddhist pilgrimage sites are Lumbini (birth, in Nepal), Bodh Gaya, Sarnath and Kushinagar; Sanchi is a major Buddhist heritage site (UNESCO 1989) but not one of the four primary pilgrimage sites linked to Buddhas life events.

✦ India promotes Buddhist tourism via the Buddhist Circuit Train. The Buddhist Sangha was founded after the first sermon (Dhamma Chakka Pavattana) at Sarnath. Buddha Purnima 2026 was a triple holiday under Buddhist, Hindu and government calendars.

[Read Source →](#)

Q148
STATEMENT-BASED

Consider the following statements regarding the 16th Finance Commission grants for Rural Local Bodies (2026-31):

- 1** The Commission recommended Rs 4.35 lakh crore for Rural Local Bodies (Gram Panchayats).
- 2** This is the highest ever devolution to local bodies in any Finance Commission award.
- 3** The Commission earmarked Rs 2,04,401 crore for disaster management based on actual past disaster expenditure (2015-16 to 2023-24) adjusted for inflation.

Which of the above statements are correct?

A 1 and 2 only

B 2 and 3 only

C 1 and 3 only

D 1, 2 and 3

✓ D 1, 2 and 3

All three statements are correct. The 16th FC allocated Rs 4,35,236 crore for rural local bodies (2026-31), the highest-ever allocation. The disaster management allocation of Rs 2,04,401 crore is methodologically grounded in past expenditure (inflation-adjusted) rather than a hypothetical Disaster Risk Index.

✦ Article 280 mandates the Finance Commission every five years. Local bodies receive funds via Article 280(3)(bb) and (c). The 16th FC retained vertical devolution at 41 per cent of the divisible pool. Arvind Panagariya (former NITI Aayog Vice Chairman) chairs the 16th FC.

[Read Source →](#)

Q149
STATEMENT-BASED

Consider the following statements regarding the Chagos Archipelago sovereignty dispute:

- 1** The International Court of Justice in 2019 issued an advisory opinion that the UK should end its administration of the Chagos Archipelago as rapidly as possible.
- 2** Diego Garcia is the largest island in the archipelago and hosts a joint US-UK military base.
- 3** India has consistently supported Mauritius sovereignty over the Chagos Archipelago at the UN General Assembly.

Which of the above statements are correct?

A 1 and 2 only

B 2 and 3 only

C 1 and 3 only

D 1, 2 and 3

✓ D 1, 2 and 3

All three statements are correct. The ICJ 2019 advisory opinion held the UK should end its administration; the UNGA endorsed this 116-6 in May 2019, with India voting in favour of Mauritius. Diego Garcia (largest island) hosts a US-UK base since the 1966 agreement.

✦ GS2 -- IR, decolonisation, ICJ. The Chagos dispute exemplifies continuing colonial-era sovereignty issues. UK in October 2024 agreed to hand over sovereignty to Mauritius while retaining a 99-year lease on Diego Garcia; the suspension of that deal in April 2026 reopens questions.

[Read Source →](#)

Q150
STATEMENT-BASED

Consider the following statements regarding Marine Spatial Planning (MSP), with reference to Odishas launch in April 2026:

- 1 Odisha launched Indias first Marine Spatial Plan in April 2026.
- 2 MSP can cover the Exclusive Economic Zone extending up to 200 nautical miles from baseline.
- 3 India ratified the UN Convention on the Law of the Sea (UNCLOS) in 1995.

Which of the above statements are correct?

A 1 and 2 only

B 2 and 3 only

C 1 and 3 only

D 1, 2 and 3

✓ D 1, 2 and 3

All three statements are correct. Odisha launched Indias first Marine Spatial Plan in April 2026. MSP can cover the EEZ extending up to 200 nm from baseline, beyond the Territorial Waters (12 nm) and Contiguous Zone (24 nm). India ratified UNCLOS in 1995.

✦ UNCLOS 1982 defines maritime zones: Internal Waters, Territorial Waters (12 nm), Contiguous Zone (24 nm), EEZ (200 nm), Continental Shelf, and High Seas. The Coastal Regulation Zone (CRZ) Notification 2019 regulates onshore activities. The Sagarmala Programme covers port-led development.

[Read Source →](#)

Q151
STATEMENT-BASED

Consider the following statements regarding Operation Sindoor (May 2025) referenced in April 2026 developments:

- 1 It was Indias military response to the Pahalgam terror attack of April 2025.
- 2 It highlighted gaps in real-time satellite surveillance, leading to fast-tracking of the SBS-3 constellation of 52 military satellites.
- 3 It was conducted under a UN Security Council Chapter VII mandate.

Which of the above statements are correct?

A 1 and 2 only

B 2 and 3 only

C 1 and 3 only

D 1, 2 and 3

✓ A 1 and 2 only

Statements 1 and 2 are correct. Operation Sindoor was Indias response to the Pahalgam terror attack (April 2025), conducted in May 2025. It highlighted gaps in real-time ISR satellites, leading to the fast-tracking of the SBS-3 constellation (52 military satellites targeted by 2029). Statement 3 is wrong -- Operation Sindoor was NOT a UN-mandated operation; it was a national counter-terror response.

✦ The Defence Space Agency (DSA), tri-services, was set up in 2019. The Indian Space Policy 2023 enables private participation in space, including for defence. NewSpace India Ltd (NSIL) and IN-SPACE coordinate private space activity.

[Read Source →](#)



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