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DAILY QUIZ — SOLVED

Daily Quiz — May 8, 2026

8 May 2026



CURATED & WRITTEN BY

Bharat Choudhary

UPSC Educator & Content Creator

linkedin.com/in/epicbharat

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DAILY QUIZ — SOLVED ANSWER KEY

Daily Quiz — May 8, 2026

8 May 2026 · 13 Questions · Answers & Explanations Included

Question 1

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The second Joint Commanders' Conference (2026) was held at which command headquarters, and what was its official theme?

- A Eastern Command HQ, Kolkata — "Jointness and Theaterisation"
- B Western Command HQ, Chandigarh — "Aatmanirbharta in Defence"
- C South Western Command HQ, Jaipur — "Military Capability in New Domains" ✓
- D Southern Command HQ, Pune — "Technology and Transformation"

ANSWER & ANALYSIS

EXPLANATION

FACT: The 2nd Joint Commanders' Conference was held at South Western Command HQ, Jaipur on May 7–8, 2026, themed "Military Capability in New Domains." It was coincident with Operation Sindoor's first anniversary. **ANALYSIS:** The conference marked India's first formal doctrinal release for cyber, space, cognitive, and AI warfare as integrated tri-service domains.

CONCEPT NOTE

The Joint Commanders' Conference is a high-level tri-service conclave bringing together the Defence Minister, the Chief of Defence Staff (CDS), and the three service chiefs (Army, Navy, Air Force) with all theatre and functional command commanders. It replaced the earlier practice of separate service-level conferences (which were held individually by each service).






The first edition was held in 2025 in Lucknow, immediately following Operation Sindoor — making the Jaipur 2026 conference the second edition. The current CDS is General Anil Chauhan, who is India's 3rd CDS and has been in office since January 2024.

The CDS post itself was created in January 2020 following the recommendation of the Kargil Review Committee (1999) which had highlighted the lack of jointness during the Kargil War. The Department of Military Affairs (DMA) was established simultaneously under the Ministry of Defence in 2020, with the CDS as its secretary.

The DMA handles military-specific matters — procurement, jointness, theaterisation — while the Department of Defence (DoD) continues to handle policy, finance, and administration. India's push toward Theatre Commands has been driven by this institutional reform.

The Joint Commanders' Conference is the primary platform for inter-service doctrinal alignment and is where new domain doctrines (cyber, space, cognitive warfare) are formally articulated.

Q1  **CONCEPT KIT**

 CROSS-PAPER	GS3 — India's defence architecture, jointness; GS2 — civil-military relations.
 MAINS KEYWORDS	Theatre Commands, Chief of Defence Staff, tri-service jointness, multi-domain warfare.
 COMMON MISTAKE	Confusing theatre commands (not yet operational) with functional commands (Strategic Forces, Andaman & Nicobar).
 EXAM TIP	First JCC was 2025 (Lucknow), not 2024. The 2024 Pune conference was a separate chiefs' conclave.
 INTERVIEW	Should India accelerate theatre command formation, or is jointness through doctrine enough?

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Question 2

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Which of the following best describes "cognitive warfare" as articulated in India's 2026 Joint Commanders' Conference doctrine?

- A Use of directed-energy weapons to neutralise enemy satellite communications
- B Deployment of autonomous AI systems for targeting and logistics planning
- C **Information operations, psychological operations, and counter-disinformation as strategic instruments** ✓
- D Electronic jamming and spoofing of adversary radar and missile guidance systems

ANSWER & ANALYSIS

 **EXPLANATION**

FACT: Cognitive warfare encompasses information operations, psychological operations (PsyOps), narrative management, and countering adversary disinformation campaigns. **ANALYSIS:** Pakistan's IB/ISI-linked disinformation operations during Operation Sindoor — fake casualty videos, doctored satellite images — made a formal cognitive warfare doctrine urgent for India.

 **CONCEPT NOTE**

Cognitive warfare exploits the human mind as a domain of conflict, distinct from kinetic warfare. It involves shaping adversary perceptions, decision-making, and national will.

Key elements include: (a) PsyOps — targeted messaging to adversary military and civilian populations; (b) narrative management — controlling the information environment; (c) counter-disinformation — detecting and neutralising false information campaigns. India's cyber and cognitive domains overlap with the National Cyber Security Policy (2013, under revision) and the NCIIPC (National Critical Information Infrastructure Protection Centre) under NTRO, which is the nodal body for protecting critical civilian infrastructure from cyber attack.

India's new doctrine places cognitive warfare in the same institutional tier as cyber and space.

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


GS3 — internal security, cyber threats; GS2 — India-Pakistan relations.

 **MAINS KEYWORDS**

Cognitive warfare, PsyOps, information warfare, NCIIPC, disinformation.

 **COMMON MISTAKE**

Conflating cognitive warfare with cyber warfare — cognitive = targeting minds; cyber = targeting networks/systems.

 **EXAM TIP**

NCIIPC is under NTRO (National Technical Research Organisation), not MeitY or MHA.

 **INTERVIEW**

Can a democracy effectively conduct information operations without compromising domestic freedoms?

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Question 3

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India demonstrated ASAT (Anti-Satellite) capability in "Mission Shakti" in March 2019, making it the fourth country to do so. Which is the correct chronological order of countries that have demonstrated ASAT capability?

- A USA → China → USSR/Russia → India
- B USSR/Russia → USA → China → India ✓**
- C USA → USSR/Russia → China → India
- D USSR/Russia → China → USA → India

ANSWER & ANALYSIS
EXPLANATION

FACT: The Soviet Union (USSR) was first to demonstrate ASAT capability in the 1960s–70s, followed by the United States, then China (2007 — destroying Fengyun-1C), and finally India (March 27, 2019 — Mission Shakti).

ANALYSIS: India's Mission Shakti test at ~300 km altitude in LEO was seen as a direct response to China's 2007 ASAT demonstration.

CONCEPT NOTE

Mission Shakti (March 27, 2019): India destroyed its own decommissioned Microsat-R satellite in Low Earth Orbit (LEO) at ~300 km altitude using a Kinetic Kill Vehicle (KKV) developed by DRDO. PM Modi announced the test in a special national broadcast. India thus joined the exclusive ASAT club of USA, USSR/Russia, and China.

The Defence Space Agency (DSA) was established in 2019 to manage space-based defence assets. India's ASAT policy is officially termed "responsible" — demonstrated only in LEO (to minimise debris) and announced publicly.

China's 2007 test at ~850 km created over 3,000 trackable debris fragments still threatening ISS operations.

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


GS3 — space technology, security; GS2 — India's defence diplomacy.

 **MAINS KEYWORDS**

ASAT, Mission Shakti, Defence Space Agency, space weaponisation, debris problem.

 **COMMON MISTAKE**

Placing China before Russia in the ASAT sequence — Russia/USSR was first.

 **EXAM TIP**

Mission Shakti = March 27, 2019; DSA = 2019; India is 4th (not 3rd) country.

 **INTERVIEW**

Is India's ASAT programme consistent with its stated policy of peaceful use of space?

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Question 4

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Under Articles 163 and 164 of the Indian Constitution, what is the correct position regarding the Governor's role in inviting a party to form the government after state elections?

- A The Governor must invite the single largest party regardless of majority and can only dismiss a government after a Supreme Court order
- B **The Governor must invite the single largest party/pre-election alliance to form the government, and only the floor of the House can test majority ✓**
- C The Governor has full discretion to determine which party has majority before issuing any invitation to form government
- D The Governor must invite whichever party submits earliest a letter signed by majority MLAs to the Raj Bhavan

ANSWER & ANALYSIS
 **EXPLANATION**

FACT: The Supreme Court in *S.R. Bommai v. Union of India* (1994) and *Rameshwar Prasad v. Union of India* (2006) established that the floor of the House — not the Governor's Raj Bhavan — is the constitutionally mandated place to test majority. The Governor must invite the single largest party and cannot demand majority proof before the swearing-in.

ANALYSIS: The Tamil Nadu Governor's demand for 118 MLA letters before inviting Vijay (TVK) contradicts this settled constitutional position.






 **CONCEPT NOTE**

Article 163: Council of Ministers shall aid and advise the Governor; Governor acts on ministerial advice except where Constitution provides for his/her discretion. **Article 164:** Chief Minister is appointed by the Governor; other ministers are appointed on the CM's advice.

The Governor's discretion is narrowest at the government formation stage: the Sarkaria Commission (1988) and Punchhi Commission (2010) both recommended that the single largest party or pre-election coalition must be invited first. The *S.R. Bommai* case (1994) — 9-judge bench — is the foundational ruling: a government cannot be dismissed without a floor test, and majority must be tested on the floor, not assessed by the Governor.

This is a critical GS2 topic.

Q4  **CONCEPT KIT**

 CROSS-PAPER	GS2 — constitutional bodies, federalism, Centre-state relations.
 MAINS KEYWORDS	Article 163, Article 164, S.R. Bommai, Governor's discretion, floor test, constitutional convention.
 COMMON MISTAKE	Thinking Article 163 gives the Governor broad discretion — it actually mandates aid and advice in nearly all functions.
 EXAM TIP	S.R. Bommai (1994) is a 9-judge bench ruling — its holdings are binding. Sarkaria and Punchhi Commissions are the two key reform commissions on Governor's role.
 INTERVIEW	Should the Governor's office be made more accountable, or is the current constitutional framework adequate?

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Question 5

of 13

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TVK (Tamilaga Vettri Kazhagam) won 108 seats in the 2026 Tamil Nadu Assembly elections, ending a long-standing political dominance. What specific achievement does this represent?

- A First party other than DMK or AIADMK to win more than 60 seats since 1989
- B First time since 1967 that neither DMK nor AIADMK is the single largest party in Tamil Nadu's assembly ✓
- C First time since the 1960 general election that Tamil Nadu required a coalition government
- D First time since 1977 that a party founded by a film actor won a state election in Tamil Nadu

ANSWER & ANALYSIS

 **EXPLANATION**

FACT: TVK's 108-seat performance ended the 59-year duopoly of DMK and AIADMK, making it the first time since 1967 that neither of the two Dravidian parties is the single largest party. **ANALYSIS:** Tamil Nadu has had unbroken Dravidian dominance since M.G. Ramachandran (MGR) and M. Karunanidhi's era — the TVK result is the most significant structural change in Tamil Nadu's polity since the late 1960s.

 **CONCEPT NOTE**






Tamil Nadu's 234-seat legislative assembly was established under the States Reorganisation Act, 1956. Since 1967, the state has alternated between DMK (founded by M. Karunanidhi) and AIADMK (founded by M.G. Ramachandran in 1972 after splitting from DMK).

This is called the Dravidian duopoly. TVK (Tamilaga Vettri Kazhagam) was founded in 2024 by actor-politician Vijay (Joseph Vijay Chandrasekhar, known as Thalapathy Vijay).

In the 2026 election, TVK won 108 seats, Congress 5; DMK won approximately 64 seats; AIADMK approximately 38 seats. Majority mark = 118.

The Tamil Nadu assembly term is 5 years; elections are held simultaneously with national/state cycles as determined by ECI.

Q5  **CONCEPT KIT**

 CROSS-PAPER	GS2 — state legislatures, government formation; GS1 — modern Indian history and regionalism.
 MAINS KEYWORDS	Dravidian politics, Governor's discretion, coalition government, floor test, political duopoly.
 COMMON MISTAKE	Confusing AIADMK (founded by MGR, 1972) with DMK (founded by Karunanidhi, 1949) — they are rival Dravidian parties.
 EXAM TIP	Tamil Nadu has 234 assembly seats; majority = 118. TVK won 108 — single largest but short of majority.
 INTERVIEW	Does the rise of TVK signal a broader shift in identity politics away from caste-based Dravidian parties?

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Question 6

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The S.R. Bommai v. Union of India (1994) Supreme Court judgment is considered a landmark in Indian constitutional law. Which of the following is **NOT** a correct statement about this ruling?

- A It established that the floor of the House is the only arena for testing a government's majority
- B It was decided by a 9-judge Constitution Bench of the Supreme Court
- C It ruled that a Governor cannot dismiss a state government without a floor test
- D It held that the President's Rule (Article 356) is beyond judicial review once proclaimed ✓

ANSWER & ANALYSIS

 **EXPLANATION**

FACT: The S.R. Bommai ruling explicitly held that Article 356 (President's Rule) is subject to judicial review, overturning the earlier position that it was beyond challenge. The other three options are correctly stated.






ANALYSIS: This overturned the earlier Shamsheer Singh (1974) position that President's Rule proclamation was non-justiciable, making federal governance more accountable.

 **CONCEPT NOTE**

S.R. Bommai v. Union of India (1994) is one of the most important federalism cases in Indian constitutional history. The case arose after the dismissal of the Bommai government in Karnataka under Article 356.

The 9-judge bench held: (1) Article 356 can be judicially reviewed; (2) Majority must be tested on the floor, not by the Governor; (3) President's Rule cannot be imposed merely on the Governor's report — there must be objective material; (4) Courts can restore a dismissed government if Article 356 was wrongly invoked. The Punchhi Commission (2010) subsequently recommended several amendments to prevent misuse of Article 356, including requiring Parliament's prior approval before 7 days in most cases.

Q6  **CONCEPT KIT**

 CROSS-PAPER	GS2 — federalism, constitutional bodies, judiciary.
 MAINS KEYWORDS	Article 356, judicial review, President's Rule, federalism, Governor's discretion.
 COMMON MISTAKE	Thinking S.R. Bommai only dealt with government dismissal — it also settled the floor test doctrine and judicial review of Article 356.
 EXAM TIP	9-judge bench, 1994. Article 356 = judicial review YES (after Bommai). Article 74 = President acts on Cabinet advice — also confirmed by Bommai.
 INTERVIEW	Has S.R. Bommai adequately prevented misuse of Article 356, or are further constitutional amendments needed?

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Question 7

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India reiterated on the first anniversary of Operation Sindoor (May 7, 2026) that the Indus Waters Treaty (IWT) remains "in abeyance." Under the IWT (1960), which rivers are allocated to India as Eastern Rivers?

A Indus, Jhelum, and Chenab

B Ravi, Beas, and Sutlej ✓

C Jhelum, Beas, and Ravi

D Chenab, Sutlej, and Indus

ANSWER & ANALYSIS
✓ EXPLANATION

FACT: Under the Indus Waters Treaty (1960), the three Eastern Rivers — Ravi, Beas, and Sutlej — were allocated for exclusive use by India. The three Western Rivers — Indus, Jhelum, and Chenab — were allocated primarily to Pakistan (with limited uses for India).

ANALYSIS: With IWT in abeyance, India could potentially pursue projects on Western Rivers beyond what IWT permits, though no major diversions have been announced.

📖 CONCEPT NOTE

The Indus Waters Treaty was signed on September 19, 1960 between India (PM Nehru) and Pakistan (President Ayub Khan) with the World Bank as guarantor. It divides the six Indus system rivers: Eastern Rivers (full use to India): Ravi, Beas, Sutlej; Western Rivers (primarily Pakistan, limited use to India): Indus, Jhelum, Chenab.

India's water share from Western Rivers is limited to run-of-river hydropower (not storage/diversion). The IWT has survived two wars (1965, 1971) and the Kargil conflict (1999).

India announced IWT was in abeyance following the Pahalgam terror attack (April 22, 2025) and Operation Sindoor (May 7–10, 2025). This was the first time since 1960 that India had formally suspended participation in the treaty mechanism.

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

GS2 — India-Pakistan relations, international treaties; GS1 — Indian rivers, water resources.

 **MAINS KEYWORDS**

Indus Waters Treaty, Eastern/Western Rivers, World Bank, water security, Pakistan-sponsored terrorism.

 **COMMON MISTAKE**

Confusing which rivers belong to India vs Pakistan — Eastern (Ravi, Beas, Sutlej) = India; Western (Indus, Jhelum, Chenab) = Pakistan.

 **EXAM TIP**

 IWT signed 1960; India can use Western Rivers for run-of-river hydropower only.
 Permanent Indus Commission = joint body for implementation.

 **INTERVIEW**

Is unilateral suspension of a World Bank-guaranteed treaty a sustainable policy, or does it create more diplomatic vulnerabilities?

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Question 8

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The Union Cabinet (May 5, 2026) approved raising the Supreme Court's judge strength from 34 to 38. Which constitutional provision governs the number of Supreme Court judges, and what was the court's original judge strength at its establishment in 1950?

- A Article 124; original strength was 8 (CJI + 7 judges) ✓**
- B Article 124; original strength was 26 (CJI + 25 judges)
- C Article 143; original strength was 12 (CJI + 11 judges)
- D Article 124; original strength was 34 (same as current before this expansion)

ANSWER & ANALYSIS

EXPLANATION

FACT: Article 124 of the Constitution establishes the Supreme Court and states that it shall consist of a Chief Justice and such other judges as Parliament may by law prescribe. The original Supreme Court (Number of Judges) Act, 1956 set the strength at 8 (CJI + 7).

ANALYSIS: Strength has been raised multiple times — to 11 (1960), 14 (1977), 18 (1986), 26 (2009), 31 (2019 — 31→34 via amendment), and now proposed 38.






CONCEPT NOTE

Article 124 establishes the Supreme Court of India. The number of judges (other than CJI) is determined by Parliament by law.

The Supreme Court (Number of Judges) Act, 1956 set the original number at 7 (plus CJI = 8 total). Subsequent amendments: 1956: 8 → 1960: 11 → 1977: 18 → 1986: 26 → 2009: 31 → 2019: 34 → proposed 2026: 38.

The 2026 expansion is being driven by: (1) 92,823 pending cases (as of April 30, 2026), (2) Need for more Constitution Benches to hear pending Article 370 consequential matters, electoral bonds case follow-ups, and new petitions. The Bill must pass both Houses of Parliament before taking effect.

Q8  **CONCEPT KIT**

 CROSS-PAPER	GS2 — judiciary, constitutional provisions.
 MAINS KEYWORDS	Article 124, judicial pendency, Supreme Court (Number of Judges) Act, judicial reform, constitution bench.
 COMMON MISTAKE	Thinking the number is fixed by the Constitution itself — it is set by Parliament by law; the Constitution only mandates a CJI.
 EXAM TIP	Article 124 = establishment of SC; Article 125 = judges' salaries; Article 126 = appointment of acting CJI.
 INTERVIEW	Does expanding judge strength address case pendency, or is the real problem systemic — vacancies, filing volumes, and lack of alternative dispute resolution?

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Question 9

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The Supreme Court ruled (May 2026) that "a legal fiction is created for a definite purpose and cannot extend beyond its legitimate scope" in the context of the Tenth Schedule. Under the Tenth Schedule's merger exception, which two conditions BOTH must be met for a merger to be valid?

- A The CM must endorse the merger AND at least two-thirds of legislators must vote for it
- B **The original political party must formally merge AND at least two-thirds of the legislature party must support it ✓**
- C At least two-thirds of legislators must vote AND the Election Commission must certify the merger
- D The Speaker must recognise the merger AND the merged group must comprise at least 15 members

ANSWER & ANALYSIS

 **EXPLANATION**

FACT: The Tenth Schedule's merger exception (para 4) requires: (1) the original political party (not just the legislature wing) must merge with another party, AND (2) at least two-thirds of the members of the legislature party must agree. Both conditions are required simultaneously.

ANALYSIS: The legislature party alone cannot claim a merger — this was the crux of the AAP MPs' disqualification dispute.

 **CONCEPT NOTE**

The Tenth Schedule (Anti-Defection Law) was inserted by the 52nd Constitutional Amendment, 1985. It disqualifies legislators who: (a) voluntarily give up party membership, (b) vote contrary to party direction without permission.

Exceptions: (1) Speaker's exemption for those who vote with their conscience on confidence motions in certain circumstances; (2) Merger — para 4 — requires BOTH: the original party merging AND two-thirds of legislators agreeing.

Para 7 bars judicial review of Speaker's decisions (but not absolutely after Kihoto Hollohan case).

In the AAP MPs' case, they claimed BJP merger; courts are testing whether the original AAP party (not just 7 MPs) actually merged — which it did not. The SC's "legal fiction" ruling clarifies that two-thirds threshold is a verification mechanism, not a merger mechanism itself.

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


GS2 — constitutional bodies, anti-defection, parliamentary procedures.

 **MAINS KEYWORDS**

Tenth Schedule, anti-defection, merger exception, para 4, legal fiction doctrine.

 **COMMON MISTAKE**

Thinking two-thirds threshold alone creates a valid merger — the original party must also merge.

 **EXAM TIP**

Para 4 = merger exception; Para 7 = bar on courts (limited by Kihoto Hollohan 1992). 52nd Amendment = 1985.

 **INTERVIEW**

Does the anti-defection law strike the right balance between party discipline and legislative conscience?

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Question 10

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[Source →](#)

AMOC (Atlantic Meridional Overturning Circulation) is driven by thermohaline circulation. Which two physical properties of ocean water drive thermohaline circulation?

- A Temperature and dissolved oxygen content
- B Salinity and dissolved carbon dioxide content
- C Temperature and salinity ✓
- D Depth and water pressure

ANSWER & ANALYSIS
✓ EXPLANATION

FACT: Thermohaline circulation is driven by differences in water density caused by two factors: temperature (thermo) and salinity (haline). Cold, salty water is denser and sinks; warm, fresh water is less dense and remains at the surface.

ANALYSIS: Arctic freshwater influx from melting ice reduces salinity, making surface water less dense and disrupting the sinking that drives AMOC.

📖 CONCEPT NOTE

Thermohaline circulation (THC) is the deep-ocean circulation system driven by density gradients. "Thermo" = heat/temperature; "haline" = salt/salinity. AMOC is the Atlantic branch of the global THC system.

It works as follows: Warm, salty Atlantic surface water flows northward; in the sub-Arctic (especially the Labrador and Greenland Seas), this water cools, becomes denser, and sinks to form North Atlantic Deep Water (NADW); NADW flows southward at depth; eventually upwells in other ocean basins. This circulation transports ~1.3 petawatts of heat northward, keeping Western Europe ~5°C warmer than it would otherwise be.

Climate change disrupts AMOC by adding freshwater (from ice melt), reducing surface salinity, and preventing the deep water formation that drives the current. RAPID monitoring array (operational since 2004, at 26°N latitude) has measured a 15% weakening since measurements began.

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

GS1 — physical geography, ocean currents; GS3 — climate change.

 **MAINS KEYWORDS**

Thermohaline circulation, AMOC, ocean conveyor belt, ITCZ, monsoon teleconnections.

 **COMMON MISTAKE**

Thinking AMOC is only about surface currents — it involves deep-ocean circulation and is a 3D system.

 **EXAM TIP**

RAPID array monitors AMOC at 26°N since 2004.
AMOC ≠ Gulf Stream (Gulf Stream is the surface part; AMOC is the whole overturning system including deep return flow).

 **INTERVIEW**

How should India plan its monsoon-dependent agriculture for a future of more erratic rainfall patterns?

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Question 11

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[Source →](#)

New research (May 2026) warns that AMOC could weaken by 59% by 2100. Through which mechanism does AMOC weakening most directly threaten India's Southwest Monsoon?

- A It cools the Arabian Sea, reducing evaporation and moisture supply to the monsoon system
- B It causes the Inter-Tropical Convergence Zone (ITCZ) to shift southward, pulling the monsoon rain belt away from India ✓
- C It increases El Niño frequency in the Atlantic Ocean, which propagates westward to suppress Indian monsoon
- D It raises Indian Ocean sea levels, disrupting coastal low-pressure systems that drive onshore monsoon winds

ANSWER & ANALYSIS

 **EXPLANATION**

FACT: AMOC transports heat northward, maintaining Northern Hemisphere warmth. When AMOC weakens, the Northern Hemisphere cools relative to the Southern Hemisphere, shifting the ITCZ (the monsoon rain belt) southward — away from India.

ANALYSIS: A southward ITCZ shift reduces the duration and intensity of India's June–September monsoon season, with cascading impacts on agriculture and water security.

 **CONCEPT NOTE**






The ITCZ (Inter-Tropical Convergence Zone) is the equatorial zone where trade winds from the two hemispheres converge, creating a belt of heavy rainfall. India's monsoon onset and withdrawal follows the seasonal north-south migration of the ITCZ. When Northern Hemisphere is warmer (typical), ITCZ sits north of the equator over South Asia from June–September, bringing the SW monsoon.

If the Northern Hemisphere cools (as with AMOC weakening), the ITCZ shifts southward, reducing Indian monsoon rainfall.

This is a "teleconnection" — a climate impact transmitted across great distances via the atmosphere and ocean.

Indian agriculture is the most directly exposed large economic sector: ~55% of crop area is rain-fed; kharif (June–October) crops include rice, maize, millets, and pulses — all monsoon-dependent. A 10% monsoon deficit historically correlates with ~2% GDP contraction.

Q11  **CONCEPT KIT**

 CROSS-PAPER	GS1 — Indian monsoon mechanism, geography; GS3 — climate change and food security.
 MAINS KEYWORDS	ITCZ, AMOC, monsoon teleconnection, thermohaline circulation, climate justice.
 COMMON MISTAKE	Thinking El Niño is the only mechanism linking Atlantic/global systems to Indian monsoon — AMOC-ITCZ link is distinct.
 EXAM TIP	ITCZ = seasonal north-south migration drives Indian monsoon. AMOC weakening = ITCZ shifts south = shorter, weaker monsoon.
 INTERVIEW	What adaptation strategies should India prioritise — water harvesting, crop diversification, or cloud seeding?

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Question 12

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[Source →](#)

India's 2026 Southwest Monsoon forecast by IMD projects below-normal rainfall at 90–95% of the Long Period Average (LPA). What does the LPA figure of 87 cm represent?

- A Average annual rainfall across all of India over the past 30 years
- B **Average June–September (southwest monsoon season) rainfall across India based on data from 1971–2020** ✓
- C Average rainfall received by the Indo-Gangetic Plain during the southwest monsoon
- D Average annual rainfall of India's 14 agro-climatic zones combined

ANSWER & ANALYSIS

 **EXPLANATION**

FACT: The IMD's LPA (Long Period Average) of 87 cm refers to the average June–September monsoon season rainfall across India calculated over the reference period 1971–2020 (the current 50-year benchmark). **ANALYSIS:** A forecast of 90–95% of LPA means approximately 78–83 cm — significantly below the median, with broad agricultural and economic implications.

 **CONCEPT NOTE**






IMD's LPA is the standard benchmark for monsoon forecasting. The reference period is updated every 10 years: current LPA = 87 cm (1971–2020).

IMD classifies monsoon performance as: Normal = 96–104% of LPA; Above normal = 104–110%; Excess = >110%; Below normal = 90–96%; Deficient = <90%. A "below normal" monsoon typically impacts kharif sowing, reservoir levels, groundwater recharge, and power generation (since ~30% of India's electricity is from hydro).

IMD issues long-range forecasts in two stages: Stage 1 (April) and Stage 2 (May/June) — with Stage 2 being more accurate. IMD uses ensemble model predictions, Monsoon Mission CFS model, and statistical models for forecasting.

A below-normal monsoon in 2026, combined with AMOC weakening concerns, highlights systemic climate vulnerabilities.

Q12  **CONCEPT KIT**

 CROSS-PAPER	GS1 — Indian monsoon; GS3 — agriculture, food security.
 MAINS KEYWORDS	LPA, IMD, southwest monsoon, El Niño, kharif crops, climate variability.
 COMMON MISTAKE	Confusing LPA (50-year period average) with a single year's average; also confusing SW monsoon (June–Sep) with NE monsoon (Oct–Dec, mainly Tamil Nadu/Andhra).
 EXAM TIP	LPA = 87 cm; normal = 96–104% of LPA; current reference period 1971–2020.
 INTERVIEW	Should India update its agricultural policy framework to plan for structurally below-normal monsoons as a new normal?

 [Read Full Article →](#)

Question 13

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[Source →](#)

India's NCIIPC (National Critical Information Infrastructure Protection Centre) is the nodal body for protecting critical civilian infrastructure from cyber attack. Under which organisation does NCIIPC function?

- A Ministry of Electronics and Information Technology (MeitY)
- B **National Technical Research Organisation (NTRO) ✓**
- C Indian Computer Emergency Response Team (CERT-In) under MeitY
- D Ministry of Home Affairs (MHA) under the National Security Council

ANSWER & ANALYSIS
✓ EXPLANATION

FACT: NCIIPC functions under the National Technical Research Organisation (NTRO), a technical intelligence agency under the Prime Minister's Office. **ANALYSIS:** NCIIPC's placement under NTRO (rather than MeitY or MHA) reflects the intelligence-led approach to critical infrastructure protection — combining cyber defence with technical intelligence gathering.






📖 CONCEPT NOTE

NCIIPC (National Critical Information Infrastructure Protection Centre) was established under Section 70A of the Information Technology Act, 2000 (as amended by the IT Amendment Act, 2008). It designates and protects "Critical Information Infrastructure" (CII) — computer systems whose incapacitation would have a debilitating impact on national security, economy, public health, or safety.

NTRO (National Technical Research Organisation) is a technical intelligence agency under the PMO, responsible for signals intelligence and technical analysis. CERT-In (Computer Emergency Response Team-India) is a different body under MeitY that handles incident reporting and response for the wider internet ecosystem.

MeitY handles broader IT policy; MHA handles internal security including cybercrime police coordination. Understanding the NCIIPC–NTRO relationship is a PYQ-adjacent question.

Q13  **CONCEPT KIT**

 CROSS-PAPER	GS3 — cyber security, internal security; GS2 — institutional framework, security agencies.
 MAINS KEYWORDS	NCIIPC, NTRO, critical information infrastructure, Section 70A IT Act, cyber warfare.
 COMMON MISTAKE	Placing NCIIPC under MeitY — it is under NTRO (PMO). CERT-In is the MeitY body.
 EXAM TIP	NCIIPC = under NTRO = under PMO. Established under Section 70A IT Act, 2000. Protects "critical information infrastructure."
 INTERVIEW	Should India's cyber defence architecture be consolidated under a single agency, or does the current fragmented model have advantages?

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CURATED & WRITTEN BY

Bharat Choudhary

UPSC Educator & Content Creator

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“The best time to plant a tree was 20 years ago. The second best time is now.”

— Chinese Proverb