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DAILY QUIZ — SOLVED

# Daily Quiz — May 9, 2026

9 May 2026



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## DAILY QUIZ — SOLVED ANSWER KEY

# Daily Quiz — May 9, 2026

9 May 2026 · 15 Questions · Answers &amp; Explanations Included

**Question 1**

of 15

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Which of the following correctly describes the selection committee established under the Chief Election Commissioner and Other Election Commissioners (Appointment, Conditions of Service and Term of Office) Act, 2023?

- A Prime Minister, Chief Justice of India, Leader of Opposition
- B Prime Minister, a Union Cabinet Minister, Leader of Opposition ✓
- C President, Chief Justice of India, Prime Minister
- D Prime Minister, Speaker of Lok Sabha, Leader of Opposition

## ANSWER &amp; ANALYSIS

**EXPLANATION**






**FACT:** The 2023 Act established a selection committee comprising the Prime Minister (Chair), a Union Cabinet Minister nominated by the PM, and the Leader of Opposition in Lok Sabha -- explicitly excluding the Chief Justice of India. **ANALYSIS:** This was a direct departure from the Supreme Court's recommendation in the Anoop Baranwal case (2023), raising concerns about executive dominance over the constitutional body that oversees elections.

**CONCEPT NOTE**

Article 324 vests superintendence of elections in the ECI. The Anoop Baranwal v. Union of India (2023) SC judgment recommended PM + LoP + CJI until Parliament enacted a law. Parliament enacted the 2023 Act replacing CJI with a Cabinet Minister -- making the executive 2 out of 3 votes.

The SC on May 7, 2026 labelled this "tyranny of the elected." The CEC can only be removed by an address of both Houses -- same as a Supreme Court judge.

**Q1**  **CONCEPT KIT**

 <b>CROSS-PAPER</b>	GS2 -- Constitutional bodies, separation of powers.
 <b>MAINS KEYWORDS</b>	Constitutional morality, institutional independence, Article 324, executive accountability.
 <b>COMMON MISTAKE</b>	Confusing this Act with the pre-2023 practice where CJI was included per SC mandate -- the 2023 Act <i>excluded</i> CJI.
 <b>EXAM TIP</b>	Art 324 + 2023 Act = standard Prelims cluster since 2024.
 <b>INTERVIEW</b>	Can a constitutional body that owes its appointment to the executive it oversees be genuinely independent?

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**Question 2**

of 15

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Operation Sindoor (May 2025) was described as India's largest aerial engagement since which event?

- A Kargil War, 1999
- B Balakot airstrikes, 2019
- C India-Pakistan War, 1971 ✓
- D Operation Pawan, 1987

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**ANSWER & ANALYSIS**


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**EXPLANATION**

**FACT:** Operation Sindoor in May 2025 involved over 100 aircraft and was India's largest aerial engagement since the 1971 India-Pakistan War. **ANALYSIS:** The scale -- combined air, missile, and electronic warfare -- marked a qualitative shift from the limited Balakot strike (2019) which involved fewer aircraft and no engagement with Pakistani air defences.

**CONCEPT NOTE**

Operation Sindoor launched May 7, 2025, following the Pahalgam terror attack (26 civilians killed). India struck 9 terror infrastructure sites using BrahMos missiles and 100+ aircraft -- 5 in PoJK and 4 in Pakistan's Punjab province. In the retaliation phase (May 9-10), India struck 11 Pakistani military airbases including Nur Khan, Sargodha, Murid, Bholari, Rafiqi, Sukkur, Sialkot, Pasrur, Chunian, Skardu, and Jacobabad. Ceasefire: Pakistan DGMO call May 10, 2025, 15:35 IST; effective 17:00 IST.

**Q2**  **CONCEPT KIT**

 <b>CROSS-PAPER</b>	GS3 -- Internal security, defence; GS2 -- India-Pakistan relations.
 <b>MAINS KEYWORDS</b>	Zero-tolerance deterrence, sub-conventional warfare, nuclear threshold management, proxy conflict.
 <b>COMMON MISTAKE</b>	Conflating Operation Sindoor with Balakot -- Sindoor was significantly larger in scale.
 <b>EXAM TIP</b>	Pahalgam: April 22; Sindoor launch: May 7; ceasefire: May 10, 2025.
 <b>INTERVIEW</b>	Does Operation Sindoor signal a permanent doctrinal shift, or will future governments revert to strategic restraint?

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**Question 3**

of 15

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With which country did India sign 13 agreements and elevate bilateral ties to an "Enhanced Comprehensive Strategic Partnership" in May 2026?

A Indonesia

B Malaysia

C Vietnam ✓

D Philippines

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

**FACT:** During Vietnamese President To Lam's state visit to New Delhi (May 5-7, 2026), India and Vietnam elevated bilateral ties to an Enhanced Comprehensive Strategic Partnership and signed 13 agreements, setting a bilateral trade target of \$25 billion by 2030. **ANALYSIS:** This upgrade signals Vietnam's importance to India's Act East Policy, Indo-Pacific strategy, and critical mineral diversification, particularly given Vietnam's rare earth reserves and South China Sea dynamics.

**📌 CONCEPT NOTE**

India-Vietnam partnership timeline: Strategic Partnership (2007) -> Comprehensive Strategic Partnership (2016) -> Enhanced CSP (2026). To Lam's visit: May 5-7, 2026.  
 Current trade: \$16 bn (2025-26); target: \$25 bn by 2030. Key MoUs: IREL-ITRRE rare earth cooperation, UPI digital payments, defence MRO for Su-30 and Kilo-class submarines.  
 Vietnam joined Indo-Pacific Oceans Initiative (IPOI) in 2026. AITIGA revision substantially concluded in 2026.

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

GS2 -- International relations, Act East Policy; GS3 -- Critical minerals, trade agreements.

 **MAINS KEYWORDS**

Act East Policy, Indo-Pacific Oceans Initiative, rare earths, South China Sea.

 **COMMON MISTAKE**

Confusing IPOI (India's framework) with Quad -- different structures.

 **EXAM TIP**

IPOI has 7 pillars; launched 2019 at East Asia Summit.

 **INTERVIEW**

Is India's defence engagement with Vietnam provocative to China, or legitimate partner-building?

 [Read Full Article →](#)

**Question 4**

of 15

[Source →](#)

According to the NCRB Crime in India 2024 report, which of the following is CORRECT?

- A Total cognizable crimes rose 6% while cybercrime cases declined
- B Cybercrime cases crossed one lakh for the first time, while overall cognizable crimes declined ~6% ✓
- C The overall crime rate was the highest since 2019 at 418.9 per lakh population
- D Cyber fraud accounted for less than 50% of total cybercrime cases

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**ANSWER & ANALYSIS**


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**EXPLANATION**

**FACT:** NCRB Crime in India 2024 recorded 1,01,928 cybercrime cases -- the first time crossing one lakh -- a 17.9% rise over 2023. Overall cognizable crimes fell ~6% from 62.41 lakh (2023) to 58.85 lakh (2024).

**ANALYSIS:** The inversion -- fewer traditional crimes, surging cybercrimes -- reflects India's rapid digital expansion without proportionate digital literacy or law enforcement capacity.

**CONCEPT NOTE**


**NCRB:** Under MHA; established 1986; publishes Crime in India annually. 2024 key data: Overall crimes 58.85 lakh (~-6%); cybercrime 1,01,928 (+17.9%); crime rate 418.9/lakh (LOWEST since 2019, not highest); cyber fraud = 72.6% of cybercrime cases; drug overdose deaths +50%. States with highest cybercrime rate: Karnataka, Telangana, Uttar Pradesh. I4C helpline: 1930. NCRP: [cybercrime.gov.in](https://cybercrime.gov.in).

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

GS3 -- Internal security; GS2 -- Governance, digital India; GS1 -- Society.

 **MAINS KEYWORDS**

Digital arrest fraud, I4C, BSA 2023, DPDP Act 2023.

 **COMMON MISTAKE**Crime rate 418.9/lakh is the **LOWEST** since 2019, not highest -- the question tests this subtle distinction. **EXAM TIP**

Cybercrime rate vs. total: both new highs in 2024.

 **INTERVIEW**

How should India restructure police training to handle cybercrime at scale?

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**Question 5**

of 15

[Source →](#)

The International Big Cat Alliance (IBCA) was launched in which year and covers how many species of big cats?

- A 2021, five species
- B 2022, seven species
- C 2023, seven species ✓
- D 2023, five species



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

**FACT:** The IBCA was launched in 2023 by PM Modi during Project Tiger's 50th anniversary and covers 7 big cat species: Tiger, Lion, Leopard, Snow Leopard, Cheetah, Jaguar, and Puma. **ANALYSIS:** Including jaguars and pumas (found only in the Americas) reflects an attempt to build the broadest possible international coalition, making IBCA a genuinely global framework rather than a South Asia-centric body.

**📖 CONCEPT NOTE**

IBCA: Headquartered in India; inter-governmental organisation; 25 member countries + 5 observers; 97 range countries. India's financial commitment: Rs 150 crore (2023-2028). 1st IBCA Summit: June 1-2, 2026, New Delhi. Project Tiger launched: 1973 (9 reserves, <1,900 tigers); now 58 reserves; 3,682 tigers (2022 census average estimate; 3,167 is the minimum); ~75% of world's wild tigers. Tiger governance: NTCA under WPA 1972 (Section 38V).

**Q5**  **CONCEPT KIT**

 <b>CROSS-PAPER</b>	GS3 -- Environment, wildlife conservation; GS2 -- International organisations.
 <b>MAINS KEYWORDS</b>	Project Tiger, NTCA, WPA 1972, big cat conservation, transboundary wildlife.
 <b>COMMON MISTAKE</b>	IBCA covers 7 species, not 5 -- students often miss Jaguar and Puma.
 <b>EXAM TIP</b>	IUCN -- Endangered: Tiger; Vulnerable: Lion, Leopard, Snow Leopard, Cheetah; Near Threatened: Jaguar; LC: Puma.
 <b>INTERVIEW</b>	How can India leverage IBCA leadership while managing political differences with range countries?

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**Question 6**

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Rabindranath Tagore's critique of the Gandhian charkha, written in 1925, was primarily based on which argument?

- A Charkha production was insufficient to meet India's textile needs
- B Mechanical spinning suppressed creative intelligence and glorified mindless repetition ✓
- C The charkha symbol was borrowed from colonial handicraft exhibitions
- D Spinning was against the principle of non-violence (ahimsa)

## ANSWER &amp; ANALYSIS

 **EXPLANATION**

**FACT:** In his 1925 essay "The Cult of the Charkha," Tagore argued that glorification of the spinning wheel suppressed creative intelligence and reduced India's national spirit to mechanical repetition -- diverting energy from rational enquiry, aesthetic development, and scientific thinking. **ANALYSIS:** The Tagore-Gandhi debate is a competition between two visions of India's modernity -- Tagore sought a creative, globally engaged civilisation; Gandhi sought a morally disciplined, self-sufficient village economy.

 **CONCEPT NOTE**

Tagore (born May 7, 1861; died 1941): Nobel Prize 1913 (Gitanjali); first Asian Nobel laureate; founded Visva-Bharati 1921 at Shantiniketan; renounced knighthood 1919 (Jallianwala Bagh). Authored Jana Gana Mana (India) and Amar Shonar Bangla (Bangladesh).

Gandhi's position: charkha as economic liberation + moral discipline. Tagore's counter: India needs creative education and rational enquiry, not mechanical repetition. 165th birth anniversary: May 7, 2026.

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

GS1 -- Modern Indian History, Art &amp; Culture; GS4 -- Ethics.

**MAINS KEYWORDS**

Cultural nationalism, creative education, Shantiniketan model, nationalism vs. humanism.

**COMMON MISTAKE**

Thinking Tagore opposed the freedom movement -- he deeply supported it; he opposed specific strategies and symbols.

**EXAM TIP**

Tagore-Gandhi debate PYQ: Essay/GS1 on competing visions of India.

**INTERVIEW**

Is Tagore's critique of nationalist symbolism relevant for today's cultural identity debates?

[Read Full Article →](#)

**Question 7**

of 15

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What is the Ten Degree Channel and what does it separate in the Andaman and Nicobar archipelago?

- A A deep-sea trench separating North Andaman from South Andaman
- B A navigable channel separating the Andaman Islands from the Nicobar Islands ✓
- C A shipping lane between India's mainland and Andaman Islands
- D A channel separating Great Nicobar Island from Indonesia

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**ANSWER & ANALYSIS**


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**EXPLANATION**

**FACT:** The Ten Degree Channel is a water body at approximately 10 degrees N latitude that separates the Andaman Islands to the north from the Nicobar Islands to the south. **ANALYSIS:** The channel marks not just a geographical division but also a biodiversity and administrative boundary -- the northern Andamans and southern Nicobars have distinct tribal populations, flora, and fauna.

**CONCEPT NOTE**

Andaman & Nicobar key geography: 836 islands, islets, rocks; Bay of Bengal. Southernmost point of India: Indira Point (Great Nicobar Island).

Largest island in A&N: North Andaman (~1,375 sq km); largest in Nicobar group: Great Nicobar (~921 sq km). Nearest international point from Indira Point: ~150 km from Banda Aceh/Sumatra, Indonesia.

Renamed islands (2018): Havelock -> Swaraj Dweep; Neil -> Shaheed Dweep; Ross -> Netaji Subhash Chandra Bose Dweep. 5 PVTGs: Sentinelese, Jarawa, Onge, Great Andamanese, Shompen. ANC: India's only tri-service command (est. 2001).

Q7

CONCEPT KIT

**CROSS-PAPER**

GS1 -- Indian geography; GS3 -- Maritime security; GS2 -- Tribal rights.

**MAINS KEYWORDS**

Ten Degree Channel, Indira Point, ANC, PVTGs, Strait of Malacca.

**COMMON MISTAKE**

Confusing Ten Degree Channel (Andaman-Nicobar) with Eight Degree Channel (Lakshadweep).

**EXAM TIP**

"Which channel separates Andaman from Nicobar?" = Ten Degree Channel.

**INTERVIEW**

How should India balance tribal isolation policies with Great Nicobar development?

[Read Full Article →](#)

**Question 8**

of 15

[Source →](#)

Under the Wildlife Protection Act, 1972, which section mandates the two-zone structure (core and buffer) for tiger reserves in India?

**A** Section 26A

**B** Section 38O

**C** Section 38V ✓

**D** Section 55

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

**FACT:** Section 38V of the Wildlife Protection Act, 1972 mandates the declaration of tiger reserves as Critical Tiger Habitats (core zone) and buffer zones. The core zone must be free from human activities; the buffer zone allows limited human activity including eco-tourism.

**ANALYSIS:** This two-zone model is fundamental to Project Tiger's success -- it creates an inviolate core while providing livelihood buffers for forest-edge communities.

**📌 CONCEPT NOTE**

**WPA 1972:** Governs wildlife conservation in India. Tiger reserves declared under Section 38V; notified by state government on NTCA recommendation.

**Core zone (Critical Tiger Habitat):** inviolate -- no human settlements, grazing, or tourism. **Buffer zone:** limited human activity, eco-tourism, community co-existence.

**NTCA:** National Tiger Conservation Authority; statutory body under MoEFCC; established by WPA 2006 amendment.

**Project Tiger:** 1973; 58 reserves; 3,682 tigers (2022 census average estimate).

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

GS3 -- Environment, biodiversity; GS2 -- Forest rights, governance.

 **MAINS KEYWORDS**

Critical Tiger Habitat, WPA 1972, NTCA, Project Tiger, forest rights vs. conservation.

 **COMMON MISTAKE**

Students often cite Forest Rights Act 2006 for tiger reserve governance -- FRA governs community rights claims, not the reserve structure.

 **EXAM TIP**

Section 38V WPA is a direct Prelims answer peg -- memorise it.  
NTCA is a statutory body.

 **INTERVIEW**

Should eco-tourism in buffer zones be expanded as a conservation finance mechanism?

 [Read Full Article →](#)

**Question 9**

of 15

[Source →](#)

The India Semiconductor Mission (ISM) 1.0 was launched in 2021 under which ministry?

**A** Ministry of Electronics and Information Technology (MeitY) ✓

**B** Ministry of Science and Technology

**C** Ministry of Commerce and Industry

**D** Department for Promotion of Industry and Internal Trade (DPIIT)

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**ANSWER & ANALYSIS**


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**✓ EXPLANATION**

**FACT:** The India Semiconductor Mission (ISM) was launched in December 2021 under the Ministry of Electronics and Information Technology (MeitY) with an outlay of Rs 76,000 crore. As of May 2026, 12 units have been approved across multiple states.

**ANALYSIS:** MeitY's jurisdiction over semiconductors reflects the broader digital economy mandate -- semiconductor self-reliance is seen as both an economic and national security imperative.

**📌 CONCEPT NOTE**

ISM 1.0: 2021; Rs 76,000 crore; 12 approved units across Gujarat, Assam, AP, UP, Odisha, Punjab. ISM 2.0: announced in Budget 2026-27 with enhanced allocation (no official USD figure confirmed).

Covers: semiconductor fabs, display fabs, compound semiconductors (GaN, SiC), chip packaging. First GaN-based Mini/Micro-LED display facility approved (2026).

India imports virtually all chips; semiconductor supply chain = national security issue. Ministry: MeitY (not DPIIT, not S&T).

Q9

CONCEPT KIT

**CROSS-PAPER**

GS3 -- Science &amp; Technology, economy; GS2 -- Industrial policy.

**MAINS KEYWORDS**

Semiconductor supply chain, ISM, GaN technology, China+1, MeitY, Aatmanirbhar Bharat.

**COMMON MISTAKE**

Attributing ISM to DPIIT or Commerce Ministry -- it is squarely under MeitY.

**EXAM TIP**

ISM 1.0 = Rs 76,000 crore; ISM 2.0 = Budget 2026-27 enhanced allocation.

**INTERVIEW**

Is India's semiconductor incentive structure sufficient to attract global fab companies?

[Read Full Article →](#)

**Question 10**

of 15

[Source →](#)

Visva-Bharati University, founded by Rabindranath Tagore, was accorded Central University status in which year and under which Act?

- A 1947, Universities Act 1947
- B 1951, Visva-Bharati Act 1951 ✓
- C 1956, UGC Act 1956
- D 1949, Constitution of India

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

**FACT:** Visva-Bharati was declared a Central University by the Visva-Bharati Act, 1951. **ANALYSIS:** Awarding Central University status reflected the Indian government's recognition of Tagore's educational philosophy as part of national heritage -- though recent controversies over the university's administration have raised governance questions about this legacy institution.

**📖 CONCEPT NOTE**

**Visva-Bharati:** Founded 1921 by Tagore at Shantiniketan, West Bengal. Educational philosophy: open-air classrooms, integration of arts/music/dance, multilingual, connected to nature.

**Declared Central University:** 1951 (Visva-Bharati Act, 1951). Tagore: born May 7, 1861; died August 7, 1941.

The Visva-Bharati Act 1951 made the President of India the Visitor and the Prime Minister the Chancellor.

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

GS1 -- Modern Indian History, Art &amp; Culture; GS2 -- Higher education governance.

 **MAINS KEYWORDS**

Shantiniketan model, Visva-Bharati, Tagore's educational philosophy, Central Universities.

 **COMMON MISTAKE**

Confusing Visva-Bharati's founding (1921) with its Central University status (1951).

 **EXAM TIP**

Visva-Bharati Act 1951 = direct answer to "which Act governs Visva-Bharati?"

 **INTERVIEW**

How does Tagore's Anandam-based education conflict with India's rote-learning exam culture?

 [Read Full Article →](#)

**Question 11**

of 15

[Source →](#)

The National Crime Records Bureau (NCRB) was established in which year and under which ministry does it function?

- A 1975, Ministry of Law and Justice
- B 1986, Ministry of Home Affairs ✓
- C 1990, Ministry of Home Affairs
- D 1986, Ministry of Justice and Empowerment

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

**FACT:** NCRB was established in 1986 and functions under the Ministry of Home Affairs (MHA). It serves as the national repository of crime statistics and publishes Crime in India, Prison Statistics India, and Accidental Deaths and Suicides in India annually.






**ANALYSIS:** NCRB data quality directly affects policy -- inaccurate or delayed reporting by states creates gaps in the national crime picture, making institutional strengthening a governance priority.

**📌 CONCEPT NOTE**

**NCRB:** Established 1986; under MHA; headquartered in New Delhi. Key publications: Crime in India (annual), Prison Statistics India, Accidental Deaths and Suicides in India (ADSI).

**Crime in India 2024:** cognizable crimes 58.85 lakh (~-6%); cybercrime 1,01,928 (+17.9%). NCRB data flows from State Crime Records Bureaus (SCRBs) to NCRB.

**Q11**  **CONCEPT KIT**

 <b>CROSS-PAPER</b>	GS3 -- Internal security; GS2 -- Governance, police reforms.
 <b>MAINS KEYWORDS</b>	NCRB, crime statistics, MHA, police reforms, data governance.
 <b>COMMON MISTAKE</b>	Placing NCRB under Ministry of Law and Justice -- it is under MHA.
 <b>EXAM TIP</b>	NCRB 1986 + MHA = standard MCQ answer. Three key NCRB annual reports: Crime in India, ADSI, Prison Statistics.
 <b>INTERVIEW</b>	NCRB depends on state police reporting -- how does underreporting distort national crime statistics?

 [Read Full Article →](#)

**Question 12**

of 15

[Source →](#)

Which ceasefire milestone ended Operation Sindoor on May 10, 2025, and who initiated the diplomatic contact?

- A United States Secretary of State called both DGMOs; agreed ceasefire at noon IST
- B Pakistan's DGMO called India's DGMO at 15:35 IST; ceasefire effective at 17:00 IST ✓
- C UN Secretary-General brokered a ceasefire; effective May 11
- D India's Foreign Secretary called Pakistani NSA; ceasefire agreed via back channel

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

**FACT:** On May 10, 2025, Pakistan's DGMO initiated a hotline call to India's DGMO at 15:35 IST. Both sides agreed to a ceasefire effective 17:00 IST. **ANALYSIS:** That Pakistan initiated the call is strategically significant -- it reflected India's escalation dominance and placed the burden of de-escalation on Pakistan, shaping the narrative that India had achieved its military objectives.

**📖 CONCEPT NOTE**

**Operation Sindoor ceasefire:** Pakistan DGMO called India DGMO on May 10, 2025, at 15:35 IST; ceasefire effective 17:00 IST -- halted all cross-border firing (land, air, sea). **DGMO hotline:** India-Pakistan military-to-military channel to manage crises and prevent accidental escalation.

**US role:** facilitated back-channel diplomatic signalling but did not formally broker the ceasefire. India struck 11 Pakistani airbases in the retaliation phase (May 9-10, 2025).

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

GS3 -- Internal security; GS2 -- International relations.

 **MAINS KEYWORDS**

DGMO hotline, nuclear deterrence, escalation dominance, ceasefire, proxy conflict.

 **COMMON MISTAKE**

Attributing ceasefire to US or UN mediation -- the DGMO call was bilateral, Pakistan-initiated.

 **EXAM TIP**

"Who initiated the ceasefire call?" = Pakistan's DGMO. Timing: 15:35 call, 17:00 effective.

 **INTERVIEW**

India allowed Pakistan to initiate the ceasefire call -- strategic signalling or missed opportunity for greater concessions?

 [Read Full Article →](#)

**Question 13**

of 15

[Source →](#)

India's IREL signed a rare earth cooperation MoU with Vietnam's ITRRE during the May 2026 summit. What does IREL stand for, and under which department does it function?

- A Indian Renewable Energy Limited; under MeitY
- B Indian Rare Earths Limited; under Department of Atomic Energy ✓
- C India Resources and Energy Limited; under Ministry of Mines
- D Indian Rare Elements and Logistics; under Ministry of Commerce

## ANSWER &amp; ANALYSIS

 **EXPLANATION**

**FACT:** IREL stands for Indian Rare Earths Limited -- a Central Public Sector Enterprise (CPSE) under the Department of Atomic Energy (DAE). It signed an MoU with Vietnam's ITRRE for rare earth element cooperation.

**ANALYSIS:** The MoU reflects India's critical mineral strategy -- Vietnam has the world's second-largest rare earth reserves, and diversifying supply chains away from China is a national security imperative.






 **CONCEPT NOTE**

**IREL (Indian Rare Earths Limited):** CPSE under Department of Atomic Energy (DAE); processes beach sand minerals (ilmenite, rutile, zircon, monazite); produces rare earth compounds. Rare earths: 17 elements; critical for EV batteries, wind turbines, defence electronics, semiconductors.

China controls ~60% of global rare earth production and ~85% of processing. **ITRRE:** Vietnam's Institute for Technology of Radioactive and Rare Earth.

**KABIL (Khanij Bidesh India Ltd):** overseas mineral asset acquisition -- separate from IREL.

**Q13**  **CONCEPT KIT**

 <b>CROSS-PAPER</b>	GS3 -- Economy, energy security; GS2 -- International relations.
 <b>MAINS KEYWORDS</b>	Critical minerals, rare earths, IREL, KABIL, supply chain diversification.
 <b>COMMON MISTAKE</b>	Placing IREL under MeitY or Commerce Ministry -- it is under Department of Atomic Energy (DAE).
 <b>EXAM TIP</b>	IREL = Indian Rare Earths Limited (DAE). KABIL = Khanij Bidesh India Limited (overseas mineral acquisition).
 <b>INTERVIEW</b>	Can India develop a functional rare earth processing ecosystem, or will Chinese dominance persist?

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**Question 14**

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[Source →](#)

Under the National Education Policy (NEP) 2020, what is the correct stage structure for school education in India?

- A 5+4+3+2 (Foundational, Preparatory, Middle, Secondary)
- B 4+3+3+4 (Pre-primary, Primary, Middle, Secondary)
- C 5+3+3+4 (Foundational, Preparatory, Middle, Secondary) ✓
- D 3+3+4+4 (Early childhood, Preparatory, Middle, Senior Secondary)

## ANSWER &amp; ANALYSIS

 **EXPLANATION**






**FACT:** NEP 2020 restructured India's school education from the 10+2 model to a 5+3+3+4 structure: Foundational (ages 3-8, pre-primary to Grade 2), Preparatory (8-11, Grade 3-5), Middle (11-14, Grade 6-8), and Secondary (14-18, Grade 9-12). **ANALYSIS:** This structure aligns with child development psychology -- the foundational stage emphasises play-based learning, not formal academics, addressing a key gap in India's early childhood education.

 **CONCEPT NOTE**

NEP 2020: Approved July 2020, replacing NEP 1986 (with 1992 amendment). Key features: 5+3+3+4 structure; mother tongue medium until Grade 5; FLN (Foundational Literacy and Numeracy) goals by Grade 3 (target year: 2026-27); NIPUN Bharat programme (launched July 2021) operationalises FLN targets.

NITI Aayog 2026 report: 1.19 lakh schools without electricity; learning-level vs. grade-level teaching gap; recommends Teaching at the Right Level (TaRL) methodology (pioneered by Pratham). UDISE+ 2024-25: key data source for school statistics.

**Q14**  **CONCEPT KIT**

 <b>CROSS-PAPER</b>	GS2 -- Social sector, education policy; GS1 -- Society.
 <b>MAINS KEYWORDS</b>	NEP 2020, 5+3+3+4, NIPUN Bharat, FLN, foundational literacy, TaRL, UDISE+.
 <b>COMMON MISTAKE</b>	Confusing 5+3+3+4 with 5+4+3+2 or 4+3+3+4 -- the correct form is Foundational(5) + Preparatory(3) + Middle(3) + Secondary(4).
 <b>EXAM TIP</b>	NEP 2020 replaces NEP 1986 -- know the structural change from 10+2 to 5+3+3+4.
 <b>INTERVIEW</b>	Has NEP 2020's foundational literacy focus addressed India's learning crisis, or is it a policy on paper only?

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**Question 15**

of 15

[Source →](#)

Which of the following correctly describes the Prasar Bharati Act and when Prasar Bharati became operational?

- A Enacted 1987; operational 1990 -- oversees only Doordarshan
- B Enacted 1990; operational 1997 -- oversees Doordarshan and All India Radio ✓
- C Enacted 1997; operational 2000 -- oversees Doordarshan, AIR, and WAVES OTT
- D Enacted 1990; operational 1995 -- oversees All India Radio only

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**ANSWER & ANALYSIS**


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 **EXPLANATION**

**FACT:** The Prasar Bharati (Broadcasting Corporation of India) Act was enacted in 1990 but Prasar Bharati became operational in 1997. It oversees both Doordarshan (television) and All India Radio (Akashvani).

**ANALYSIS:** Prasar Bharati was designed to be autonomous from government control -- a statutory public broadcaster -- though its autonomy in practice has often been questioned, particularly regarding appointment of leadership.

 **CONCEPT NOTE**

**Prasar Bharati:** Statutory autonomous public broadcaster; established by Prasar Bharati Act 1990; operational since 1997. Two major services: Doordarshan (DD) -- television; All India Radio (AIR/Akashvani) -- radio.

**Ministry:** Information and Broadcasting. Recent initiative: Waves OTT platform (free-to-air streaming).

**Chairman:** Prasoon Joshi (appointed since May 2, 2026) -- lyricist, ad professional, CBFC Chairman since 2017. Previous chairman: Navneet Sehgal (resigned).

**Q15**  **CONCEPT KIT**

 <b>CROSS-PAPER</b>	GS2 -- Government bodies, media regulation; GS1 -- Indian culture and media.
 <b>MAINS KEYWORDS</b>	Prasar Bharati, public broadcasting, media autonomy, Doordarshan, All India Radio.
 <b>COMMON MISTAKE</b>	Confusing enactment (1990) with operational date (1997) -- a 7-year gap.
 <b>EXAM TIP</b>	Prasar Bharati Act 1990 + operational 1997 = standard MCQ. Prasoos Joshi appointment: May 2, 2026.
 <b>INTERVIEW</b>	Can a public broadcaster genuinely be autonomous when its leadership is appointed by the government it is meant to hold accountable?

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*“It does not matter how slowly you go as long as you do not stop.”*

— Confucius