



UPSC &amp; STATE PCS CURRENT AFFAIRS · UJIYARI.COM

DAILY QUIZ — SOLVED

# Daily Quiz -- May 10, 2026

---

10 May 2026



CURATED &amp; WRITTEN BY

**Bharat Choudhary**

UPSC Educator &amp; Content Creator

[linkedin.com/in/epicbharat](https://linkedin.com/in/epicbharat)

ALSO FROM THE CREATOR

**BharatNotes**Free UPSC notes, MCQs, PYQ analysis. **100% Free.**[bharatnotes.com](https://bharatnotes.com) →

ADVERTISE

**Advertise with Ujiyari**

Reach thousands of UPSC aspirants daily.

[epicbharat@gmail.com](mailto:epicbharat@gmail.com)

## DAILY QUIZ — SOLVED ANSWER KEY

# Daily Quiz -- May 10, 2026

10 May 2026 · 14 Questions · Answers &amp; Explanations Included

**Question 1**

of 14

[Source →](#)

India test-fired its first MIRV-capable Agni-class ICBM on May 8, 2026. What does the acronym MIRV stand for, and from which site was the test conducted?

- A Multiple Integrated Re-entry Vehicle; Sriharikota
- B Multiple Independently-targetable Re-entry Vehicle; APJ Abdul Kalam Island ✓
- C Manoeuvring Independent Re-entry Vehicle; Thumba
- D Modular Inter-continental Re-entry Vehicle; Pokhran

## ANSWER &amp; ANALYSIS

 **EXPLANATION**

**FACT:** MIRV stands for Multiple Independently-targetable Re-entry Vehicle -- a single missile carrying several warheads, each able to be aimed at a separate target. The May 8, 2026 test was conducted from APJ Abdul Kalam Island (formerly Wheeler Island) off the Odisha coast, with a notified danger corridor of about 3,560 km.

**ANALYSIS:** The test puts India in the company of the United States, Russia, the United Kingdom, France and China as nations with operational MIRV ICBM capability, deepening India's credible minimum deterrence under its No First Use doctrine.

 **CONCEPT NOTE**

India's earlier Mission Divyastra, launched in 2024 (March 11, 2024), was the first announced MIRV demonstration on the Agni-V platform. The May 2026 test extends this capability with a likely Hypersonic Glide Vehicle (HGV) integration, raising credible reach to the 5,000+ km envelope.

MIRV technology saturates missile-defence systems and complicates counterforce first-strike planning. India's nuclear doctrine, adopted January 4, 2003, rests on credible minimum deterrence, No First Use, and massive punitive retaliation. The Nuclear Command Authority (NCA) has a Political Council (PM-chaired) and an Executive Council (NSA-chaired); the operational arm is the Strategic Forces Command (SFC), established 2003.

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

GS3 -- Defence and S&T; GS2 -- International relations (NPT/CTBT, arms control).

 **MAINS KEYWORDS**

MIRV, HGV, No First Use, credible minimum deterrence, Strategic Forces Command, Mission Divyastra.

 **COMMON MISTAKE**

Conflating MIRV with multiple warheads on separate missiles -- MIRV means *one* missile, *multiple* re-entry vehicles aimed at *separate* targets.

 **EXAM TIP**

Wheeler Island renamed APJ Abdul Kalam Island in 2015 -- direct PYQ peg.

 **INTERVIEW**

Should India revisit its No First Use posture in light of MIRV and hypersonic missiles in the region?

 [Read Full Article →](#)

**Question 2**

of 14

[Source →](#)

Who is the third Chief of Defence Staff (CDS) of India and from which date does he assume office?

- A Gen Anil Chauhan; in office since 2022 (September 30, 2022)
- B Lt Gen NS Raja Subramani (Retd); May 31, 2026 ✓
- C Admiral Dinesh Kumar Tripathi; May 31, 2026
- D Gen Bipin Rawat; in office since 2020 (January 1, 2020)

---

**ANSWER & ANALYSIS**


---

 **EXPLANATION**

**FACT:** Lt Gen NS Raja Subramani (Retd) was announced on May 9, 2026 as the next (third) Chief of Defence Staff and Secretary, Department of Military Affairs, with effect from May 31, 2026. He succeeds Gen Anil Chauhan.

**ANALYSIS:** This is the second instance of recall from retirement (a precedent set by Gen Chauhan in 2022) made possible by Ministry of Defence rules notified in June 2022.






 **CONCEPT NOTE**


The CDS post was created by the Cabinet Committee on Security on December 24, 2019 and operationalised from January 1, 2020. Gen Bipin Rawat was the first CDS (2020-2021); Gen Anil Chauhan the second (2022-2026); Lt Gen NS Raja Subramani (Retd) the third from May 31, 2026.

The CDS is a 4-star officer, Permanent Chairman of the Chiefs of Staff Committee, and Secretary, Department of Military Affairs (DMA) within MoD -- but does NOT exercise operational command over service troops. He oversees only the existing tri-service Andaman & Nicobar Command (ANC) and Strategic Forces Command (SFC).

Theaterisation -- the integration of tri-service operational structures -- is the CDS's flagship reform agenda.

**Q2**  **CONCEPT KIT**

|   |  |
|---|--|
|  <b>CROSS-PAPER</b>    | GS3 -- Defence; GS2 -- Polity, civilian control of armed forces.   |
|  <b>MAINS KEYWORDS</b> | Department of Military Affairs, theatre commands, Chiefs of Staff Committee, ANC, SFC.   |
|  <b>COMMON MISTAKE</b> | Believing CDS commands operational troops -- he does not; he is an integrator and adviser.   |
|  <b>EXAM TIP</b>       | CDS post created Dec 24, 2019 (CCS); operationalised Jan 1, 2020 -- two dates to memorise.   |
|  <b>INTERVIEW</b>      | Is the current CDS-cum-Secretary-DMA arrangement optimal, or should India have a Permanent Chairman, Chiefs of Staff Committee on the US CJCS model? |

 [Read Full Article →](#)

**Question 3**

of 14

[Source →](#)

The Fourth India-Africa Forum Summit (IAFS-IV) will be held in Delhi from May 28 to 31, 2026. Which of the following statements about the IAFS series is correct?

- A IAFS-I was held in Addis Ababa in 2008
- B IAFS-IV is the first such summit since IAFS-III in 2015 ✓
- C The African Union joined the G20 as a permanent member during IAFS-III
- D The theme of IAFS-IV is "Connecting Continents, Securing Futures"

---

**ANSWER & ANALYSIS**


---

**EXPLANATION**

**FACT:** IAFS-IV (May 28-31, 2026, Delhi) is the first India-Africa Forum Summit since IAFS-III in 2015 -- an 11-year gap. The theme is "IA SPIRIT -- India Africa Strategic Partnership for Innovation, Resilience and Inclusive Transformation." **ANALYSIS:** The long gap reflects the pandemic and African Union's restructured summit calendar; the revival reflects renewed strategic salience of Africa for India's critical minerals, energy, diaspora, and UN reform goals.

**CONCEPT NOTE**

IAFS-I: 2008, Delhi (14 African Heads); IAFS-II: 2011, Addis Ababa; IAFS-III: 2015, Delhi (41 African Heads of State/Government); IAFS-IV: 2026, Delhi. The African Union has been a G20 permanent member since 2023, having joined on September 9, 2023 -- during India's G20 Presidency -- a landmark Indian diplomatic outcome separate from the IAFS series.

India-Africa bilateral trade: ~USD 100 billion (2023-24). India's investment stock in Africa: ~USD 75 billion. India's Africa development partnership model emphasises capacity-building and concessional finance over hard infrastructure -- contrasting with China's FOCAC framework (since 2000).

**Q3**  **CONCEPT KIT**

|   |   |
|---|---|
|  <b>CROSS-PAPER</b>    | GS2 -- International relations (Africa, G20); GS3 -- Economy (critical minerals, energy).                               |
|  <b>MAINS KEYWORDS</b> | IAFS, African Union, G20 expansion, Ezulwini Consensus, FOCAC.  |
|  <b>COMMON MISTAKE</b> | Mixing up IAFS-I (Delhi 2008) with IAFS-II (Addis Ababa 2011) -- IAFS-II is the only one outside Delhi so far.          |
|  <b>EXAM TIP</b>       | AU has been a G20 member since 2023 (joined September 9, 2023, during the New Delhi G20 Summit) -- direct Prelims fact. |
|  <b>INTERVIEW</b>      | Is India's qualitative engagement model with Africa sustainable against China's scale-based FOCAC pledges?              |

 [Read Full Article →](#)

**Question 4**

of 14

[Source →](#)

During EAM Jaishankar's May 2026 Caribbean tour, he visited Nelson Island in Trinidad & Tobago. What is the historical significance of this site?

- A It was the site of the first Indian naval base in the Caribbean (1947)
- B It is the immigration depot where Indian indentured labourers first landed in Trinidad in 1845 ✓
- C It is where Gandhi delivered his "Hind Swaraj" address in 1909
- D It is the birthplace of Trinidadian Prime Minister Kamla Persad-Bissessar

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

**FACT:** Nelson Island, Trinidad & Tobago, is the immigration depot where Indian indentured labourers first landed on Trinidadian soil in 1845, aboard the ship *Fatel Razack*. EAM Jaishankar visited the site on May 8-10, 2026 with PM Kamla Persad-Bissessar.

**ANALYSIS:** The symbolic visit reaffirms India's engagement with the global Girmitiya diaspora -- estimated at 15+ million descendants worldwide -- and recognises the human and cultural foundations of the India-Caribbean relationship.

**📌 CONCEPT NOTE**

The Girmitiya system saw Indian indentured labour transported from 1834 to 1917 by British and Dutch colonial powers to plantation colonies, after African slavery was abolished. Major destinations: Mauritius, Fiji, Trinidad & Tobago, Guyana, Suriname, South Africa, Jamaica, and Reunion.

The term "Girmitiya" derives from the labourers' mispronunciation of "Agreement" -- the indenture contract. The Government of India abolished the export of indentured labour in 1917, following agitation by Mahatma Gandhi and Gopal Krishna Gokhale.

The EAM's tour also included the 9th India-Suriname Joint Commission Meeting at Paramaribo (May 6-7, 2026), which produced a six-point partnership roadmap covering people-to-people, development, defence, project delivery, trade and tourism, and digital/AI cooperation. Suriname's President Chan Santokhi is of Indian origin; ~27% of Suriname's population is of Indian descent.

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

GS1 -- Modern Indian History (indentured labour, Gandhi); GS2 -- IR (CARICOM, diaspora).

 **MAINS KEYWORDS**

Girmitiya, Fattel Razack, indentured labour, CARICOM, Pravasi Bharatiya Divas.

 **COMMON MISTAKE**

Treating the Girmitiya system as a 19th-century phenomenon only -- it continued until 1917.

 **EXAM TIP**

Indentured labour exports abolished by India in 1917; PBD (Jan 9) commemorates Gandhi's 1915 return from South Africa.

 **INTERVIEW**

How does India's engagement with the Girmitiya diaspora balance cultural ties with the host country's independent national identity?

 [Read Full Article →](#)

**Question 5**

of 14

[Source →](#)

CARICOM, with which India recently held its 2nd Summit (Guyana, 2024), is headquartered in which city?

**A** Port of Spain, Trinidad & Tobago

**B** Bridgetown, Barbados

**C** Georgetown, Guyana ✓

**D** Kingston, Jamaica

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

**FACT:** The Caribbean Community (CARICOM), established in 1973 by the Treaty of Chaguaramas, is headquartered in Georgetown, Guyana. **ANALYSIS:** Guyana's emergence as both CARICOM HQ and the 2nd India-CARICOM Summit venue (November 2024) reflects its growing weight in the region -- driven by major offshore oil discoveries since 2019.

 **CONCEPT NOTE**

**CARICOM:** 15 member states + 5 associate members; founding treaty 1973 (Treaty of Chaguaramas, Trinidad & Tobago); HQ Georgetown, Guyana. Key institutions: CARICOM Secretariat, CARICOM Single Market and Economy (CSME), Caribbean Court of Justice (CCJ).

**India-CARICOM Summit history:** 1st Summit -- September 2019, New York (UNGA margins); 2nd Summit -- November 2024, Guyana (PM Modi visit). The 7 pillars announced at the 2nd Summit cover capacity building; agriculture and food security; renewable energy; innovation and technology; cricket and culture; ocean economy; and medicine and healthcare. CARICOM nations are a key UN voting bloc on climate and oceans issues, and several are Small Island Developing States (SIDS).

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

GS2 -- IR, regional groupings.

 **MAINS KEYWORDS**

CARICOM, Treaty of Chaguaramas, CSME, SIDS, ocean economy.

 **COMMON MISTAKE**

Placing CARICOM HQ in Port of Spain (where the Treaty of Chaguaramas was signed) -- the signing venue is not the HQ.

 **EXAM TIP**

CARICOM founded 1973; HQ Georgetown, Guyana -- standard MCQ.

 **INTERVIEW**

How can India use CARICOM as a force-multiplier for its Global South strategy and UN reform agenda?

 [Read Full Article →](#)

**Question 6**

of 14

[Source →](#)

The May 4, 2026 Nature Astronomy study on the super-Earth "Kua'kua" (LHS 3844 b) is significant because it represents:

- A The discovery of the first habitable rocky exoplanet
- B The first detection of water vapour in a rocky exoplanet atmosphere
- C **The first direct surface-composition imaging of a rocky exoplanet ✓**
- D The first exoplanet discovered by an Indian space mission

---

**ANSWER & ANALYSIS**


---

**✓ EXPLANATION**

**FACT:** The study presents the first direct surface-composition imaging of a rocky exoplanet -- LHS 3844 b -- using NASA's James Webb Space Telescope (JWST). The planet has a dark, basalt-like surface and no detectable atmosphere; its dayside reaches about 725 deg C. **ANALYSIS:** This is a methodological milestone -- JWST has demonstrated capability to characterise small rocky worlds directly, not just gas giants.

The technique will be crucial for any future search for biosignatures on more promising candidates.

**📌 CONCEPT NOTE**

LHS 3844 b: ~49-50 light-years from Earth; about 30% larger than Earth in radius and ~2 times Earth's mass; orbits the M-dwarf LHS 3844 with a period of ~0.5 Earth days (~11 hours); tidally locked. "Kua'kua" means "butterfly" in an indigenous Costa Rican language. JWST was launched in 2021 -- specifically December 25, 2021 (on Ariane 5 from Kourou, French Guiana) and operates at the Sun-Earth L2 Lagrange point, about 1.5 million km from Earth, on the side opposite to the Sun.

It has a 6.5 m primary mirror (gold-coated beryllium, 18 hexagonal segments) and observes in the infrared (0.6 to 28 microns). Lead agency: NASA, with ESA and CSA as partners.

Total programme cost: ~USD 10 billion.

Q6

CONCEPT KIT

**CROSS-PAPER**

GS3 -- Science &amp; Technology; space astronomy.

**MAINS KEYWORDS**

JWST, exoplanet detection methods, Lagrange points, transit photometry, direct imaging.

**COMMON MISTAKE**

Confusing JWST (at L2) with Aditya-L1 (at L1) -- these are two different Lagrange points and two different missions.

**EXAM TIP**

JWST: launched in 2021 (Dec 25, 2021); L2 point; infrared; 6.5 m mirror -- standard Prelims facts.

**INTERVIEW**

Should India invest more in space-based astronomy after AstroSat and XPoSat?

[Read Full Article →](#)

**Question 7**

of 14

[Source →](#)

The James Webb Space Telescope (JWST) operates at which orbital location, and what wavelength range is it primarily designed for?

- A Sun-Earth L1 point; ultraviolet
- B Geostationary Earth orbit; visible light
- C Sun-Earth L2 point; infrared ✓
- D Low Earth orbit; X-ray

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

**FACT:** JWST is stationed at the Sun-Earth L2 Lagrange point, about 1.5 million km from Earth on the side away from the Sun, and is primarily designed to observe in the infrared spectrum (0.6 to 28 microns). **ANALYSIS:** L2 provides a stable thermal environment and clear field of view; infrared observation is essential for peering through cosmic dust and detecting redshifted light from the early universe.

**📖 CONCEPT NOTE**

Lagrange points in the Sun-Earth system are five locations where gravitational and centrifugal forces balance to produce stable parking orbits. L1 (Sun-side, 1.5 mn km) hosts Aditya-L1 and SOHO. L2 (anti-Sun, 1.5 mn km) hosts JWST and Gaia.

L3 sits opposite the Sun from Earth. L4 and L5 are 60 deg ahead and behind Earth in its orbit.

JWST's 6.5 m gold-coated beryllium primary mirror is segmented into 18 hexagonal panels, and its sunshield is the size of a tennis court. JWST is the successor to Hubble (still operational) and complements Chandra (X-ray) and Spitzer (retired, infrared) in NASA's great observatories programme.

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

GS3 -- Space S&amp;T.

 **MAINS KEYWORDS**

Lagrange points, JWST, infrared astronomy, Hubble succession.

 **COMMON MISTAKE**

Confusing L1 (Aditya, SOHO) with L2 (JWST, Gaia) -- two very different Sun-Earth Lagrange points.

 **EXAM TIP**

Aditya-L1 = L1; JWST = L2. Both are Sun-Earth Lagrange points but on opposite sides.

 **INTERVIEW**

What is the strategic rationale for nations to maintain independent space telescopes rather than relying on shared international assets?

 [Read Full Article →](#)

**Question 8**

of 14

[Source →](#)

DigiPIN, India Post's new digital address system, has which of the following characteristics?

- A A 6-digit numeric code identifying a postal sorting district
- B A 10-character alphanumeric code identifying a 4 m x 4 m grid square ✓
- C A 12-digit biometric-linked code identifying a residence
- D A QR-code-based identifier issued by UIDAI

---

**ANSWER & ANALYSIS**


---

 **EXPLANATION**

**FACT:** DigiPIN is a 10-character alphanumeric code that uniquely identifies a 4 m x 4 m grid square anywhere on Indian territory. It was developed by India Post in partnership with IIT Hyderabad and ISRO (National Remote Sensing Centre).






**ANALYSIS:** Unlike the legacy 6-digit PIN (1972), which identifies a postal sorting district, DigiPIN provides precise geo-coding -- enabling reliable last-mile delivery, emergency response, and disaster relief targeting.

 **CONCEPT NOTE**

DigiPIN, in pilot since 2025, had its initial rollout on May 27, 2025 in five states. Its companion platform is DHruva (Digital Hub for Reference and Unique Virtual Address), which acts as the address management layer for India's Digital Public Infrastructure (DPI) stack.

The DPI stack also includes Aadhaar (identity), UPI (payments), DigiLocker (documents), ABHA/ABDM (health), DIKSHA (education), ONDC (commerce), and now DigiPIN/DHruva (address). The legacy 6-digit PIN was introduced on August 15, 1972, designed by Shriram Bhikaji Velankar; the first digit denotes the postal zone (1-9, with 9 = Army Postal Service). India has 23 postal circles and ~1.55 lakh post offices -- the world's largest postal network. The DPDP Act, 2023 governs the privacy framework for any personal-data linkage to DigiPIN.

**Q8**  **CONCEPT KIT**

|   |   |
|---|---|
|  <b>CROSS-PAPER</b>    | GS3 -- S&T and Economy; GS2 -- Governance and privacy.  |
|  <b>MAINS KEYWORDS</b> | Digital Public Infrastructure, India Stack, DigiPIN, Dhruva, DPDP Act 2023.   |
|  <b>COMMON MISTAKE</b> | Believing DigiPIN replaces the 6-digit PIN -- it augments, not replaces.  |
|  <b>EXAM TIP</b>       | 10-character alphanumeric + 4 m x 4 m grid + India Post + IIT-H + ISRO partnership -- four facts to memorise.                   |
|  <b>INTERVIEW</b>      | Does precise location coding create surveillance risks even when no personal data is attached? How does DPDP 2023 address this? |

 [Read Full Article →](#)

**Question 9**

of 14

[Source →](#)

The 6-digit PIN code system in India was introduced in which year, and what does the first digit of a PIN code represent?

- A 1969; postal circle
- B 1972; postal zone ✓
- C 1985; sorting district
- D 1995; state code

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

**FACT:** The 6-digit Postal Index Number (PIN) was introduced on August 15, 1972 by the Department of Posts, designed by Shriram Bhikaji Velankar. The first digit denotes the postal zone (1-9).

**ANALYSIS:** The PIN was a major administrative innovation to handle India's growing mail volume; it remains the backbone of postal sorting even as DigiPIN adds a precision layer for digital-era use cases.

**📖 CONCEPT NOTE**

PIN code structure: 1st digit = regional zone (1=North, 2=North, 3=West, 4=West, 5=South, 6=South, 7=East, 8=East, 9=Army Postal Service / APS); 1st-2nd digits = sub-region; 1st-3rd digits = sorting district; last three digits = specific post office. India has 23 postal circles and ~1.55 lakh post offices, the world's largest network.

Department of Posts is under the Ministry of Communications. India Post has diversified into financial services (India Post Payments Bank, 2018), parcel and logistics, and now digital address services (DigiPIN, DHruva).

The 1972 PIN remains valid; DigiPIN is an additive layer for precision use cases.

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

GS3 -- Economy (logistics), GS2 -- Governance.

 **MAINS KEYWORDS**

PIN code, India Post, postal modernisation, India Post Payments Bank.

 **COMMON MISTAKE**

Believing the 9 first-digit zone covers only the armed forces -- 9 is specifically Army Postal Service, but zones 1-8 cover civilian regions.

 **EXAM TIP**PIN introduction: August 15, 1972 -- direct PYQ peg.  
Designer: Shriram Bhikaji Velankar. **INTERVIEW**

Is the strength of India Post -- its physical network -- a comparative advantage in DPI-era service delivery?

 [Read Full Article →](#)

**Question 10**

of 14

[Source →](#)

The Indian Coast Guard ship ICGS Achal, commissioned on May 9, 2026 at Goa Shipyard, is which of the following?

- A The first of a new class of offshore patrol vessels
- B The 5th of 8 Adamy-class Fast Patrol Vessels ✓
- C A submarine of the Kalvari-class
- D A minesweeper for the Indian Navy

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

**FACT:** ICGS Achal is the 5th of 8 Adamy-class Fast Patrol Vessels (FPVs) built by Goa Shipyard Limited (GSL) for the Indian Coast Guard. It is 51 m long with over 50% indigenous content, can reach 27 knots, and has an endurance of 1,500 nautical miles.

**ANALYSIS:** The induction sequence reflects ICG's steady fleet modernisation; Achal is stationed at Vadinar (Gujarat) under Coast Guard Region (North West), bolstering coastal security on India's western seaboard.

**CONCEPT NOTE**

**ICGS Achal:** 51 m FPV; complement 5 officers + 34 crew; 2 x 3000 kW diesel engines; commissioned by Shri A Anbarasu, Additional Secretary, Ministry of Defence. The Adamy class is being built by Goa Shipyard Limited under a contract awarded for 8 vessels.

The Indian Coast Guard was established under the Coast Guard Act, 1978 and operates under the Ministry of Defence. It is organised into 5 regions: North West (HQ Gandhinagar), West (Mumbai), North East (Kolkata), East (Chennai), and Andaman & Nicobar (Port Blair).

ICG handles maritime law enforcement, search and rescue, marine environment protection, and anti-smuggling/anti-trafficking in India's territorial waters and Exclusive Economic Zone (EEZ).

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

GS3 -- Defence and maritime security.

 **MAINS KEYWORDS**

Indian Coast Guard, Adanya-class FPV, Goa Shipyard, indigenous content, blue water capacity.

 **COMMON MISTAKE**

Confusing ICG with the Indian Navy -- ICG is a separate uniformed armed force of the Union with its own statute (Coast Guard Act, 1978).

 **EXAM TIP**

ICG founded 1978; under MoD; 5 regions; statutory force.

 **INTERVIEW**

Should India's Coast Guard transition into a Coast Guard-Border-Marine-Police hybrid for tighter coastal-security governance?

 [Read Full Article →](#)

**Question 11**

of 14

[Source →](#)

The IIT Madras Global Research Foundation opened a \$7.5 million deep-tech innovation hub in Menlo Park, California in 2026. Which of the following statements is correct?

- A It is the first overseas IIT campus, predating IIT Madras Zanzibar
- B It is the first IIT physical centre on US soil, but it is an innovation hub and not a degree-granting campus ✓
- C It is run jointly with Stanford University and grants joint degrees
- D It replaces IIT Madras Zanzibar as India's primary overseas IIT footprint

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

**FACT:** The Menlo Park hub is the first IIT physical centre on US soil. It is an innovation hub, not a degree-granting campus -- distinguishing it from IIT Madras Zanzibar (2023) and IIT Delhi Abu Dhabi (2024), which offer academic programmes.

**ANALYSIS:** The hub provides Indian deep-tech startups with US market access, capital connectivity, and mentorship from the Indian-American technologist diaspora in Silicon Valley.

**📌 CONCEPT NOTE**

The Menlo Park hub: \$7.5 million total; \$4.5 million greenfield investment by IIT Madras Global Research Foundation; operational since 2026 (launched April 24, 2026); announced at the SelectUSA Investment Summit (Washington DC, May 6-9, 2026); US partner: CA Startups; first 5 resident startups: Atri AI (AI infrastructure), Zerowatt (low-power computing), Satori XR (AR/VR), Greenenvironment (climate tech), ePlaneCompany (electric aviation -- IIT Madras incubated). A second hub on the US East Coast is also planned.

IIT Madras: founded 1959; ranked #1 in NIRF Overall since 2018 and #1 in Engineering since 2016; first overseas IIT campus is IIT Madras Zanzibar (2023). SelectUSA is the US Department of Commerce's flagship investment promotion programme, established in 2011.

**Q11**  **CONCEPT KIT**
 **CROSS-PAPER**


GS3 -- S&T innovation, economy; GS2 -- IR (US-India tech links).

 **MAINS KEYWORDS**

Deep tech, IIT global footprint, SelectUSA, iCET/TRUST, INDUS-X, reverse brain drain.

 **COMMON MISTAKE**

Conflating Menlo Park (innovation hub) with Zanzibar (degree campus) -- they are different models.

 **EXAM TIP**

IIT Madras Zanzibar (2023) = first overseas IIT campus; IITM Menlo Park (2026) = first US physical centre but an innovation hub, not a campus.

 **INTERVIEW**

Is exporting the IIT brand abroad a dilution of India's educational sovereignty, or a strategic asset?

 [Read Full Article →](#)

**Question 12**

of 14

[Source →](#)

Which of the following statements about the UDISE+ database is correct?

- A UDISE+ is operated by the NITI Aayog
- B UDISE+ covers only government schools, not private schools
- C UDISE+ is operated by the Department of School Education and Literacy, Ministry of Education, and covers government and private schools ✓
- D UDISE+ replaced the National Sample Survey for education data in 2024

---

**ANSWER & ANALYSIS**


---

**✓ EXPLANATION**

**FACT:** UDISE+ (Unified District Information System for Education Plus) is operated by the Department of School Education and Literacy, Ministry of Education. It covers ~14.7 lakh schools across both government and private sectors.

**ANALYSIS:** As the principal management information system for school education, UDISE+ underpins Samagra Shiksha allocations, PM POSHAN, NIPUN Bharat, and NEP 2020 monitoring; its data quality has therefore become a governance question of first order.






**📖 CONCEPT NOTE**

UDISE+ history: DISE (1995) -> UDISE (2012) -> UDISE+ (2018-19) with student-level tracking introduced through the Permanent Education Number (PEN) / APAAR ID since 2024-25. The 2024-25 UDISE+ data forms the basis of the NITI Aayog analysis released May 8, 2026 showing Jharkhand's primary dropout fell to 0% from over 11% in 2022-23, with upper primary at 1.7% and secondary at 3.5%.

Other near-zero states reported: Telangana, Uttar Pradesh, Madhya Pradesh. Caveats: UDISE+ may underestimate genuinely out-of-school children (those never enrolled), is sensitive to inter-stage transition definitions, and migration may distort cohort tracking.

A complementary metric, the Adjusted Net Enrolment Rate (ANER), captures both dropouts and never-enrolled children.

**Q12**  **CONCEPT KIT**

|   |   |
|---|---|
|  <b>CROSS-PAPER</b>    | GS2 -- Education policy, governance; GS1 -- Society.  |
|  <b>MAINS KEYWORDS</b> | UDISE+, dropout rate, NEP 2020, Samagra Shiksha, PM POSHAN, NIPUN Bharat, APAAR.                            |
|  <b>COMMON MISTAKE</b> | Confusing UDISE+ (school-level enrolment data) with NAS (National Achievement Survey -- learning outcomes). |
|  <b>EXAM TIP</b>       | UDISE+ covers ALL schools (govt + private); under DoSEL, Ministry of Education.                             |
|  <b>INTERVIEW</b>      | Is a 0% dropout rate a sign of policy success or a data-quality red flag?                                   |

 [Read Full Article →](#)

**Question 13**

of 14

[Source →](#)

The Right to Education Act, 2009 operationalises which Constitutional provision, and what age group does it cover?

- A Article 21A; ages 6-14 ✓**
- B Article 45 (DPSP); ages 6-18
- C Article 51A (Fundamental Duties); ages 0-6
- D Article 15(4); ages 3-14

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

**FACT:** The Right of Children to Free and Compulsory Education Act, 2009 (RTE Act) operationalises Article 21A of the Constitution -- a fundamental right introduced by the 86th Constitutional Amendment Act, 2002. It guarantees free and compulsory education to all children aged 6 to 14 years.

**ANALYSIS:** The RTE Act made elementary education a justiciable fundamental right, transforming education from a Directive Principle (the unamended Article 45) into a binding state obligation, and mandating 25% reservation in private unaided schools for disadvantaged children.

**📌 CONCEPT NOTE**

Article 21A was inserted by the 86th Constitutional Amendment Act, 2002. The same amendment shifted Article 45 from "free and compulsory education till age 14" to "early childhood care and education for children below the age of six." Article 51A(k) was also added, making it a fundamental duty of parents/guardians to provide educational opportunities to their children aged 6-14.

The RTE Act 2009 came into force on April 1, 2010. Key features: (i) 25% reservation in private unaided schools for children from economically weaker sections and disadvantaged groups; (ii) no detention and no expulsion till elementary completion (revised in 2019 to allow detention from Grade 5/8 in some states); (iii) Pupil-Teacher Ratio norms; (iv) infrastructure norms; (v) ban on capitation fees and screening tests for admission.

NEP 2020 envisages extending universal access from RTE's 6-14 to age 3-18.

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

GS2 -- Social sector, governance, Constitution; GS1 -- Society.

 **MAINS KEYWORDS**

RTE 2009, Article 21A, 86th CAA 2002, 25% reservation, NEP 2020 universal access.

 **COMMON MISTAKE**

Citing Article 45 alone (which is now DPSP for ECCE 0-6) for RTE -- the fundamental right is Article 21A.

 **EXAM TIP**

86th CAA, 2002 = added Article 21A + amended Article 45 + added Article 51A(k).

 **INTERVIEW**

Should the RTE Act be expanded to cover ages 3-18, in line with NEP 2020's vision?

 [Read Full Article →](#)

**Question 14**

of 14

[Source →](#)

A Supreme Court bench on May 8, 2026 proposed creating a permanent women-only second Vice-President post in which body, building on its earlier 33% women reservation push?

- A Bar Council of India
- B Supreme Court Bar Association (SCBA) ✓
- C National Commission for Women
- D Inter-State Council

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

**FACT:** A bench of CJI Surya Kant and Justice K V Viswanathan proposed on May 8, 2026 a permanent women-only second Vice-President post in the Supreme Court Bar Association (SCBA), effective from the 2027-28 election cycle. It also retained the women-only Secretary post for the 2026 SCBA elections.

**ANALYSIS:** The proposal is rooted in Articles 14 and 15(3) of the Constitution, which permit special provisions in favour of women; it extends a trend already applied to Delhi HC Bar Association and Delhi district bar associations.






**CONCEPT NOTE**

SCBA: oldest bar association of the Supreme Court of India, founded 1951. Earlier, the Court had pushed for 33% women reservation in bar association office-bearer posts -- extended first to Delhi HC Bar Association and Delhi district bar associations.

The Bar Council of India (statutory body under the Advocates Act 1961) governs the legal profession nationally; SCBA is a registered association representing SC-practising advocates. Constitutional basis for affirmative action for women: Article 14 (equality); Article 15(3) (special provisions for women and children); Article 16(4)/(4A) for backward classes.

The 106th Constitutional Amendment Act, 2023 reserved 33% Lok Sabha and State Assembly seats for women -- distinct from but conceptually parallel to the SCBA proposal.

**Q14**  **CONCEPT KIT**

|   |  |
|---|--|
|  <b>CROSS-PAPER</b>    | GS2 -- Polity, judiciary, gender.  |
|  <b>MAINS KEYWORDS</b> | SCBA, women reservation, Articles 14 and 15(3), 106th CAA 2023, judicial activism.   |
|  <b>COMMON MISTAKE</b> | Confusing SCBA (bar association of SC-practising lawyers) with the Bar Council of India (statutory regulator of the legal profession). |
|  <b>EXAM TIP</b>       | SCBA = registered association; BCI = statutory body under Advocates Act 1961.<br>Two different entities.                               |
|  <b>INTERVIEW</b>      | Should women reservation in bar bodies be enacted by legislation, or is judicial nudging through SCBA elections sufficient?            |

 [Read Full Article →](#)



CURATED &amp; WRITTEN BY

## Bharat Choudhary

UPSC Educator &amp; Content Creator

[LinkedIn](#)[Read Full Edition](#)**ALSO FROM THE CREATOR**

### BharatNotes

Free UPSC study platform — notes across all 4 GS papers, MCQs, PYQ analysis & progress tracking. **100% Free.**

[bharatnotes.com](http://bharatnotes.com) →**ADVERTISE WITH UJJARI**

Reach **thousands of UPSC & State PCS aspirants** daily through our PDFs, website & social channels.

Coaching • EdTech • Publishers • Exam apps

[✉ epicbharat@gmail.com](mailto:epicbharat@gmail.com)

*“Success is not final, failure is not fatal: it is the courage to continue that counts.”*

— Winston Churchill