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DAILY QUIZ — SOLVED

Daily Quiz -- May 11, 2026

11 May 2026



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DAILY QUIZ — SOLVED ANSWER KEY

Daily Quiz -- May 11, 2026

11 May 2026 · 15 Questions · Answers & Explanations Included

Question 1

of 15

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National Technology Day, observed every May 11, commemorates which scientific event?

- A Launch of Chandrayaan-1 by ISRO
- B Pokhran-II nuclear tests (Operation Shakti), 1998 ✓
- C India's first satellite Aryabhata, 1975
- D Pokhran-I (Smiling Buddha) nuclear test, 1974

ANSWER & ANALYSIS

 **EXPLANATION**

FACT: National Technology Day commemorates the Pokhran-II nuclear tests of May 11, 1998 (Operation Shakti). It was instituted in 1999 by PM Atal Bihari Vajpayee.

ANALYSIS: Pokhran-II was not just a single event but a series of five tests over May 11 and May 13, 1998, demonstrating thermonuclear, fission, and sub-kiloton designs -- establishing India as a complete-spectrum nuclear-weapon state.

 **CONCEPT NOTE**

Pokhran-II (Operation Shakti) was led scientifically by Dr A P J Abdul Kalam (then DRDO Scientific Adviser) and Dr R Chidambaram (then AEC Chairman), with political authorisation by PM Vajpayee. Three devices were detonated on May 11, 1998, and two more on May 13.

India declared itself a nuclear-weapon state. Pokhran-I (Smiling Buddha) was conducted on May 18, 1974, under PM Indira Gandhi.

National Technology Day was instituted in 1999. The 28th edition in 2026 has the theme "Responsible Innovation for Inclusive Growth." Vigyan Tech 2026 is the showcase event at Bharat Mandapam, with 500+ technologies from 14 scientific ministries.

Q1  **CONCEPT KIT**

 CROSS-PAPER	GS3 -- Science & Technology, defence; GS2 -- International relations (nuclear non-proliferation).
 MAINS KEYWORDS	Operation Shakti, Pokhran-II, NSG, Indo-US nuclear deal, nuclear-weapon state.
 COMMON MISTAKE	Confusing Pokhran-I (1974, Smiling Buddha) with Pokhran-II (1998, Operation Shakti) -- National Technology Day marks Pokhran-II, not Pokhran-I.
 EXAM TIP	Pokhran-II = May 11, 1998 = National Technology Day. Pokhran-I = May 18, 1974.
 INTERVIEW	Did Pokhran-II accelerate or delay India's integration into the global nuclear order?

 [Read Full Article →](#)

Question 2

of 15

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The Anusandhan National Research Foundation (ANRF) Act, 2023, replaced which existing body?

- A Indian Council of Scientific Research (ICSR)
- B Council of Scientific and Industrial Research (CSIR)
- C Science and Engineering Research Board (SERB) ✓
- D Department of Science and Technology (DST)

ANSWER & ANALYSIS

✓ EXPLANATION

FACT: The ANRF Act, 2023 replaced the Science and Engineering Research Board (SERB). ANRF is intended to be the apex research-funding body, with a corpus target of Rs 50,000 crore -- with 60% expected from non-government sources.

ANALYSIS: The replacement signals a shift from departmental grant-making (SERB under DST) to a mission-mode, cross-sectoral funding architecture modelled loosely on the US NSF.

📖 CONCEPT NOTE

ANRF was conceived to promote research and development (R&D), and foster a culture of research and innovation across India's universities, colleges, research institutions and R&D laboratories. SERB, the predecessor body, was a statutory body under DST established in 2008.

The ANRF Act 2023 set up ANRF as the apex national research funder. CSIR (1942) remains separate -- a network of 37 labs under the Department of Scientific and Industrial Research.

The Vigyan Tech 2026 showcase showcases nine DST-backed deep-tech outputs.

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

GS3 -- Science and Technology; GS2 -- Governance, institutional reform.

 **MAINS KEYWORDS**

ANRF, R&D funding, mission-mode research, SERB, CSIR.

 **COMMON MISTAKE**

Mixing CSIR (1942 labs network) with ANRF (2023 funding body) -- they are different.

 **EXAM TIP**

ANRF Act 2023 replaced SERB -- this is a high-frequency Prelims fact.

 **INTERVIEW**

Can ANRF mobilise the 60% private contribution it targets?

 [Read Full Article →](#)

Question 3

of 15

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Which of the following correctly describes "One Case One Data" launched by the Chief Justice of India on May 11, 2026?

- A A digital case-filing portal exclusive to the Supreme Court
- B A platform that unifies case data across the Supreme Court, High Courts, and district/taluka courts ✓
- C An AI tool that drafts judgments based on precedent
- D A litigant-facing app for paying court fees only

ANSWER & ANALYSIS
✓ EXPLANATION

FACT: "One Case One Data," launched on May 11, 2026 by CJI Surya Kant, is a unified case-data platform integrating the Supreme Court, all 25 High Courts, and ~16,000 district and taluka courts. It enables automated retrieval and verification of case information and reciprocal data access between High Courts.

ANALYSIS: The reform attacks the structural problem that a case migrating across the judicial hierarchy currently has multiple disconnected digital footprints -- a barrier to litigant tracking and to system-wide pendency analytics.

📌 CONCEPT NOTE

One Case One Data is part of eCourts Phase III, approved by the Union Cabinet in September 2023 with an outlay of Rs 7,210 crore over four years. Su-Sahayak, launched simultaneously, is an AI chatbot built by NIC with the Supreme Court Registry to help citizens access case status, listing information, eFiling guidance, and court services.

SUPACE (2021) is a separate AI tool aiding judges with case research, while SUVAS handles multilingual translation of orders. The National Judicial Data Grid (NJDG) provides aggregated pendency data.

Article 39A is the DPSP anchor for equal justice and free legal aid.

Q3

CONCEPT KIT

CROSS-PAPER

GS2 -- Polity, e-governance, judicial reform; GS3 -- AI in public service.

MAINS KEYWORDS

eCourts Phase III, NJDG, Su-Sahayak, SUPACE, Article 39A, judicial digitisation.

COMMON MISTAKE

Confusing Su-Sahayak (citizen-facing chatbot) with SUPACE (judge-facing AI research tool) -- they serve different users.

EXAM TIP

eCourts Phase III = Rs 7,210 crore, 2023 Cabinet approval -- standard Prelims peg.

INTERVIEW

Can AI tools in the judiciary genuinely reduce pendency, or do they only digitise an inefficient process?

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Question 4

of 15

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The Supreme Court directives on expeditious bail disposal (May 11, 2026) are constitutionally anchored in which article, and which leading case enshrined the principle "bail is the rule, jail is the exception"?

- A Article 14; Maneka Gandhi v. Uol (1978)
- B Article 21; State of Rajasthan v. Balchand (1977) ✓**
- C Article 22; D K Basu v. State of West Bengal (1997)
- D Article 32; Hussainara Khatoon v. Bihar (1979)

ANSWER & ANALYSIS
✓ EXPLANATION

FACT: The directives are anchored in Article 21 (right to life and personal liberty). The principle "bail is the rule, jail is the exception" was enunciated by Justice V R Krishna Iyer in *State of Rajasthan v. Balchand* (1977).

ANALYSIS: The May 11, 2026 directives operationalise this principle by mandating institutional timelines (week/fortnight listings) -- shifting bail from a discretionary judicial accommodation to a procedural right that the system owes the accused.

📌 CONCEPT NOTE

The bench of CJI Surya Kant and Justice Joymalya Bagchi directed that fresh bail pleas be listed within one week or on alternate days, that status reports be filed before the first hearing, that counsel serve advance copies on the Advocate General, and that High Courts set outer timelines with weekly/fortnightly listings. Other key precedents in the bail line: *Hussainara Khatoon v. State of Bihar* (1979) -- speedy trial part of Article 21; *Arnesh Kumar v. State of Bihar* (2014) -- arrest checklist; *Satender Kumar Antil v. CBI* (2022) -- comprehensive bail guidelines; *Manish Sisodia v. ED* (2024) -- speedy trial inseparable from Article 21.

Section 480 BNSS, 2023 replaces Section 437 CrPC.

Q4  **CONCEPT KIT**

 CROSS-PAPER	GS2 -- Polity, fundamental rights; GS4 -- Ethics of justice administration.
 MAINS KEYWORDS	Article 21, personal liberty, undertrials, BNSS, Krishna Iyer, bail jurisprudence.
 COMMON MISTAKE	Attributing "bail is the rule" to Maneka Gandhi (1978) -- that case is about fair procedure; the bail dictum is from Balchand (1977).
 EXAM TIP	Balchand 1977 + Krishna Iyer + "bail is the rule" = direct Prelims peg.
 INTERVIEW	Should bail provisions under UAPA and PMLA be re-examined for Article 21 compliance?

 [Read Full Article →](#)

Question 5

of 15

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Under the Bharatiya Nagarik Suraksha Sanhita (BNSS), 2023, which section provides for the release on bond of an undertrial who has served a specified fraction of the maximum sentence?

- A Section 437
- B Section 439
- C Section 479 ✓
- D Section 483

ANSWER & ANALYSIS
✓ EXPLANATION

FACT: Section 479 of the BNSS, 2023 provides that a first-time accused undertrial who has served one-third of the maximum sentence (and half for repeat offenders) shall be released on bond by the court. **ANALYSIS:** This is one of the most consequential reforms of the BNSS -- it converts long undertrial detention from a discretionary issue into a statutory entitlement, directly addressing India's ~76% undertrial prison population.

📖 CONCEPT NOTE

BNSS replaced the Code of Criminal Procedure (CrPC), 1973 with effect from July 1, 2024. Section 480 BNSS = Section 437 CrPC (bail in non-bailable offences by Magistrate).

Section 483 BNSS = Section 439 CrPC (special bail powers of HC and Sessions Court). Section 479 BNSS is the new provision on undertrial release.

The other two pillars of the criminal law overhaul are the Bharatiya Nyaya Sanhita (BNS) 2023 -- replacing the IPC -- and the Bharatiya Sakshya Adhinyam (BSA) 2023 -- replacing the Indian Evidence Act. The May 11, 2026 SC bail directives complement Section 479 BNSS by ensuring speedy hearings.

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

GS2 -- Polity, criminal law reform; GS3 -- Internal security.

 **MAINS KEYWORDS**

BNSS, Section 479, undertrial release, criminal law reform, fair trial.

 **COMMON MISTAKE**

Confusing Section 480 BNSS (general bail) with Section 479 BNSS (undertrial-specific release).

 **EXAM TIP**

BNS = IPC; BNSS = CrPC; BSA = Evidence Act -- in force from July 1, 2024.

 **INTERVIEW**

Has Section 479 BNSS measurably reduced India's undertrial population in its first year?

 [Read Full Article →](#)

Question 6

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[Source →](#)

The VB-GRAMG Act, 2025, notified on May 11, 2026, replaces MGNREGA from July 1, 2026. Which of the following correctly describes its key provisions?

- A 100 days guaranteed; Centre-State share 90:10
- B 125 days guaranteed; Centre-State share 60:40 (with higher Centre share for NE/Himalayan states; 100% for UTs) ✓
- C 150 days guaranteed; Centre-State share 50:50
- D 125 days guaranteed; entirely Centre-funded as under MGNREGA

ANSWER & ANALYSIS

 **EXPLANATION**

FACT: The Viksit Bharat -- Guarantee for Rozgar and Ajeevika Mission (Gramin) Act, 2025 (VB-GRAMG) guarantees 125 days of unskilled manual work per rural household per year; the Centre-State cost share is 60:40 (with higher Centre contribution for NE and Himalayan states and 100% Centre funding for UTs). The budget allocation for 2026-27 is Rs 95,692 crore.

ANALYSIS: While the headline 125-day guarantee is an expansion over MGNREGA's 100 days, the 60:40 cost-share marks a sharp departure from MGNREGA, where the Centre funded 100% of wages -- shifting more fiscal responsibility to states.






 **CONCEPT NOTE**

MGNREGA, 2005 guaranteed 100 days, with the Centre funding 100% of wages and 75% of material costs (75:25). The Act was renamed from NREGA to MGNREGA in October 2009.

VB-GRAMG was passed by Parliament on December 18-19, 2025; notified May 11, 2026; effective July 1, 2026, simultaneously repealing MGNREGA. Works are drawn from the Viksit Gram Panchayat Plan (VGPP). Tech features include AI fraud detection, GPS monitoring, Aadhaar-linked payments, and biannual social audits.

A seasonal pause of up to 60 days is permitted. Article 41 (DPSP) and Article 21 (right to livelihood, per Olga Tellis 1985) anchor the right-to-work principle.

Q6  **CONCEPT KIT**

 CROSS-PAPER	GS2 -- Governance, social welfare; GS3 -- Economy, fiscal federalism.
 MAINS KEYWORDS	MGNREGA, VB-GRAMG, Article 41, Olga Tellis, fiscal federalism, social audit.
 COMMON MISTAKE	Assuming VB-GRAMG keeps MGNREGA's 100% Centre wage funding -- it does not; 60:40 share is a structural shift.
 EXAM TIP	VB-GRAMG = 125 days, 60:40 share, Rs 95,692 cr (2026-27), notified May 11, 2026, effective July 1, 2026.
 INTERVIEW	Does a 60:40 share dilute the legal guarantee character of the law?

 [Read Full Article →](#)

Question 7

of 15

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Which Article of the Constitution recognises "right to work" as a Directive Principle of State Policy, and which landmark case read "right to livelihood" into Article 21?

A Article 39; Bandhua Mukti Morcha v. UoI (1984)

B Article 41; Olga Tellis v. BMC (1985) ✓

C Article 43; Maneka Gandhi v. UoI (1978)

D Article 45; PUCL v. UoI (2001)

ANSWER & ANALYSIS
✓ EXPLANATION

FACT: Article 41 (DPSP) directs the State to secure the right to work, to education, and to public assistance in certain cases. The Supreme Court in Olga Tellis v. Bombay Municipal Corporation (1985) read "right to livelihood" as part of "right to life" under Article 21.

ANALYSIS: This judicial reading converts what would otherwise be a non-justiciable DPSP into an enforceable fundamental right -- the basis for laws like MGNREGA and now VB-GRAMG.

📖 CONCEPT NOTE

Article 41 sits in Part IV (DPSPs). Article 43 is on "living wage" -- often confused with Article 41.

Olga Tellis (1985) involved Bombay pavement dwellers; the SC held their right to livelihood was a facet of Article 21. Other key Article 21 expansions: Maneka Gandhi (1978) -- fair, just, reasonable procedure; Francis Coralie Mullin (1981) -- right to live with dignity; PUCL (2001) -- right to food; KS Puttaswamy (2017) -- right to privacy.

VB-GRAMG 2025, like MGNREGA 2005, gives statutory shape to Article 41 -- both anchored in this constitutional framework.

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

GS2 -- Polity, DPSPs, fundamental rights expansion.

 **MAINS KEYWORDS**

Article 21, Article 41, Olga Tellis, right to livelihood, right to work.

 **COMMON MISTAKE**

Confusing Article 41 (right to work, DPSP) with Article 43 (living wage, DPSP) -- both are in Part IV but distinct.

 **EXAM TIP**

Olga Tellis 1985 = right to livelihood under Article 21 -- standard MCQ.

 **INTERVIEW**

Is the judicial reading of DPSPs into Article 21 an over-extension of judicial power?

 [Read Full Article →](#)

Question 8

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The Somnath Temple, which observed its 75th reconstruction anniversary on May 11, 2026, is associated with which architectural style and which historical figure who led its modern rebuilding?

- A Nagara (Kalinga) style; Jawaharlal Nehru
- B Maru-Gurjara (Chaulukya) style; Sardar Vallabhbhai Patel ✓
- C Dravida style; K M Munshi
- D Vesara style; Ahilyabai Holkar

ANSWER & ANALYSIS
✓ EXPLANATION

FACT: The reconstructed Somnath Temple is in the Maru-Gurjara (Chaulukya / Solanki) architectural style. The rebuilding was driven by Sardar Vallabhbhai Patel after India's independence, with the project executed by K M Munshi through the Somnath Trust formed in 1949.

ANALYSIS: Patel's pledge after his November 13, 1947 visit explicitly conditioned rebuilding on public donations -- the Government of India did not fund the construction, making it a case study in religious institution-funding consistent with secular principles.

📌 CONCEPT NOTE

The current Somnath Temple was reconsecrated by President Dr Rajendra Prasad on May 11, 1951, defying PM Nehru's reservation that a head-of-state attending a religious ceremony might confuse secular roles. The original temple was destroyed by Mahmud of Ghazni in 1026 CE. Ahilyabai Holkar funded a Maratha-era reconstruction in 1783.

Maru-Gurjara is also called Solanki / Chaulukya style; other examples include Modhera Sun Temple, Rani-ki-Vav (UNESCO 2014), and Dilwara Temples. Somnath is the first of 12 Jyotirlingas.

The May 11, 2026 Amrit Mahotsav featured Mahapuja, Jal Abhishek, Dhvaj Puja, the first-ever Kumbhabhishek of the present temple, a commemorative postage stamp, a commemorative coin, and an IAF Suryakiran display.

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

GS1 -- Art and Culture, modern history; GS2 -- Polity, secularism.

 **MAINS KEYWORDS**

Maru-Gurjara, Solanki architecture, Jyotirlinga, Patel, Nehru-Rajendra Prasad debate, secularism.

 **COMMON MISTAKE**

Calling the Somnath style Nagara without specifying the Maru-Gurjara sub-style -- the more precise answer is Maru-Gurjara, a Nagara variant of Gujarat-Rajasthan.

 **EXAM TIP**

Mahmud of Ghazni's Somnath raid: 1026 CE. Reconsecration: May 11, 1951.

 **INTERVIEW**

Was Dr Rajendra Prasad's attendance at the 1951 reconsecration consistent with constitutional secularism?

 [Read Full Article →](#)

Question 9

of 15

[Source →](#)

Which of the following is the correct list of all 12 Jyotirlingas of Shiva and their respective states?

- A** Somnath (Gujarat), Mallikarjuna (AP), Mahakaleshwar (MP), Omkareshwar (MP), Kedarnath (UK), Bhimashankar (Maharashtra), Vishwanath (UP), Trimbakeshwar (Maharashtra), Vaidyanath (Jharkhand), Nageshwar (Gujarat), Rameshwaram (TN), Grishneshwar (Maharashtra) ✓
- B** Somnath (Maharashtra), Mallikarjuna (Karnataka), Mahakaleshwar (MP), Omkareshwar (MP), Kedarnath (HP), Bhimashankar (Maharashtra), Vishwanath (Bihar), Trimbakeshwar (Maharashtra), Vaidyanath (West Bengal), Nageshwar (Gujarat), Rameshwaram (TN), Grishneshwar (Maharashtra)
- C** Somnath (Gujarat), Mallikarjuna (Telangana), Mahakaleshwar (MP), Omkareshwar (MP), Kedarnath (UK), Bhimashankar (Karnataka), Vishwanath (UP), Trimbakeshwar (Gujarat), Vaidyanath (Bihar), Nageshwar (Maharashtra), Rameshwaram (Kerala), Grishneshwar (Maharashtra)
- D** Somnath (Rajasthan), Mallikarjuna (AP), Mahakaleshwar (MP), Omkareshwar (Maharashtra), Kedarnath (UK), Bhimashankar (Maharashtra), Vishwanath (UP), Trimbakeshwar (Maharashtra), Vaidyanath (Jharkhand), Nageshwar (Gujarat), Rameshwaram (TN), Grishneshwar (Karnataka)

ANSWER & ANALYSIS

EXPLANATION

FACT: The 12 Jyotirlingas and their states are Somnath (Gujarat), Mallikarjuna (Andhra Pradesh -- Srisailem), Mahakaleshwar (Madhya Pradesh -- Ujjain), Omkareshwar (Madhya Pradesh), Kedarnath (Uttarakhand), Bhimashankar (Maharashtra), Vishwanath (Uttar Pradesh -- Varanasi), Trimbakeshwar (Maharashtra -- Nashik), Vaidyanath (Jharkhand -- Deoghar), Nageshwar (Gujarat -- Dwarka), Rameshwaram (Tamil Nadu), and Grishneshwar (Maharashtra -- near Ellora). **ANALYSIS:** Three of the twelve are in Maharashtra (Bhimashankar, Trimbakeshwar, Grishneshwar), making it the state with the most Jyotirlingas; two each in MP and Gujarat.

CONCEPT NOTE

The 12 Jyotirlingas are enumerated in the Dwadasa Jyotirlinga Stotra. There is academic debate over Vaidyanath (Jharkhand vs Parli in Maharashtra) and Nageshwar (Dwarka in Gujarat vs Aundha in Maharashtra vs Jageshwar in Uttarakhand), but the most widely accepted list is the one above, anchored in scholarly and pilgrim tradition. Somnath is consistently listed first. The Mahakaleshwar at Ujjain is unique for being south-facing (Dakshinamukhi). Kedarnath lies on the Char Dham circuit and is at 3,583 m altitude.

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


GS1 -- Art and culture, religious geography.

 **MAINS KEYWORDS**

Jyotirlinga, Shaivite tradition, Char Dham, temple geography.

 **COMMON MISTAKE**

Placing Mallikarjuna in Karnataka rather than Andhra Pradesh -- it is at Srisailam, AP.

 **EXAM TIP**

Maharashtra has 3 Jyotirlingas (Bhimashankar, Trimbakeshwar, Grishneshwar); MP has 2 (Mahakaleshwar, Omkareshwar); Gujarat has 2 (Somnath, Nageshwar).

 **INTERVIEW**

Should religious heritage tourism be a designated economic priority?

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Question 10

of 15

[Source →](#)

In the May 7, 2025 strikes of Operation Sindoor, which two strike targets were the headquarters of Jaish-e-Mohammed (JeM) and Lashkar-e-Taiba (LeT) respectively?

- A Karachi and Quetta
- B Bahawalpur (JeM) and Muridke (LeT) ✓
- C Rawalpindi (JeM) and Lahore (LeT)
- D Sialkot (JeM) and Sargodha (LeT)

ANSWER & ANALYSIS
✓ EXPLANATION

FACT: Bahawalpur (Punjab, Pakistan) is the headquarters of Jaish-e-Mohammed -- specifically the Markaz Subhan Allah complex. Muridke (also in Punjab, Pakistan) is the headquarters of Lashkar-e-Taiba -- the Markaz Taiba. Both were struck on May 7, 2025 in Phase 1 of Operation Sindoor. **ANALYSIS:** Striking these two HQs deep inside Pakistan's Punjab heartland -- not just peripheral camps in PoJK -- was the operation's most significant signalling element: India would target organisational leadership, not just operatives.

📌 CONCEPT NOTE

Operation Sindoor was launched on the night of May 6-7, 2025 following the April 22, 2025 Pahalgam terror attack at Baisaran meadow that killed 26 civilians. The Resistance Front (TRF), an LeT proxy, claimed responsibility. Phase 1 struck 9 sites: Bahawalpur and Muridke plus seven others including Kotli, Muzaffarabad, Bhimber, Gulpur, and Bagh -- mostly in PoJK. In Phase 3 (May 9-10), India struck 11 Pakistani military airbases including Nur Khan (Rawalpindi), Sargodha, Murid, and Bholari. The ceasefire was effected via the DGMO hotline on May 10, 2025 at 17:00 IST after Pakistan-initiated contact at 15:35 IST.

Q10  **CONCEPT KIT**

 CROSS-PAPER	GS3 -- Internal security, defence; GS2 -- India-Pakistan, FATF.
 MAINS KEYWORDS	Cross-border terrorism, JeM, LeT, FATF, sub-conventional warfare.
 COMMON MISTAKE	Locating Bahawalpur or Muridke in PoJK -- both are inside Pakistan's Punjab province, not PoJK.
 EXAM TIP	Bahawalpur = JeM HQ (Markaz Subhan Allah); Muridke = LeT HQ (Markaz Taiba).
 INTERVIEW	Has the threat of HQ-strike altered Pakistani-state calculus on terror proxies?

 [Read Full Article →](#)

Question 11

of 15

[Source →](#)

The Akashteer system used during Operation Sindoor is best described as:

- A A long-range surface-to-air missile system imported from Russia
- B An indigenous integrated automated air defence control and reporting system of the Indian Army ✓
- C A satellite for real-time ISR over Pakistan
- D A naval cruise missile derived from BrahMos

ANSWER & ANALYSIS

EXPLANATION

FACT: Akashteer is an indigenous, automated integrated air defence control and reporting system of the Indian Army, designed and developed in India (BEL is the lead integrator). It networks Army Air Defence sensors and weapons for real-time, decentralised engagement.

ANALYSIS: During Operation Sindoor, Akashteer demonstrated the move from sensor-platform isolation to a network-centric air defence picture -- a structural validation that India then scaled across the Western front in the year after.

CONCEPT NOTE

Akashteer is part of the larger Akash air-defence ecosystem (the Akash missile system is medium-range, indigenously developed by DRDO). The S-400 Triumf (designated Sudarshana Chakra in Indian service) provided long-range SAM cover during Sindoor; the MR-SAM (jointly developed with Israel's IAI) provided medium-range cover.

The Indian Air Force used Rafale + SCALP for stand-off cruise strikes and HAMMER precision-guided munitions for medium-range precision strikes. BrahMos supersonic cruise missiles (Indo-Russian joint venture) were also deployed. The CDS heads the Department of Military Affairs (DMA) under which integrated theatre commands are being planned.

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

GS3 -- Defence technology, indigenisation.

 **MAINS KEYWORDS**

Akashteer, network-centric warfare, Atmanirbhar Bharat in defence, integrated theatre commands.

 **COMMON MISTAKE**

Confusing Akashteer (Army integrated control system) with the Akash missile (a SAM system itself).

 **EXAM TIP**

Akashteer = command-and-control network; Akash missile = SAM weapon system; S-400 = imported long-range SAM.

 **INTERVIEW**

How does Akashteer change the planning logic for integrated theatre commands?

 [Read Full Article →](#)

Question 12

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[Source →](#)

India's first Multi-Lane Free Flow (MLFF) barrier-less tolling system was launched in May 2026. Where was it commissioned, and what two technologies does it integrate?

- A Kherki Daula plaza on Delhi-Gurugram expressway; ANPR + UPI
- B Chorayasi plaza on NH-48, Surat-Bharuch, Gujarat; ANPR + FASTag ✓
- C Sirhaul plaza on NH-9; GPS-based satellite tolling only
- D Bharthana plaza on Yamuna Expressway; FASTag + face recognition

ANSWER & ANALYSIS
✓ EXPLANATION

FACT: The first MLFF was commissioned on May 1, 2026 at the Chorayasi Toll Plaza on NH-48 (Surat-Bharuch section), Gujarat. It integrates Automatic Number Plate Recognition (ANPR) with FASTag (RFID-based) for barrier-less, free-flow tolling.

ANALYSIS: The pairing is deliberate -- FASTag handles vehicles with valid balances; ANPR backstops by reading number plates to capture all vehicles, with an E-Notice system for missed payments. This makes evasion technically harder than under barrier-based tolling.

📌 CONCEPT NOTE

NH-48 is the busiest National Highway corridor in India (older NH-8 / NH-4 renumbered in 2010), connecting Delhi-Mumbai-Chennai. Day-1 throughput at Chorayasi was around 41,500 vehicles.

The rollout plan: Phase 1 of 25 NH plazas in 2026; Phase 2 of around 200 plazas in FY 2026-27; full NH network MLFF by end-2026. Implementing agency: National Highways Authority of India (NHAI), a statutory body under the NHAI Act, 1988, working under the Ministry of Road Transport and Highways (MoRTH).

FASTag was launched in 2014 (managed by NPCI) and made mandatory pan-India from February 15, 2021. India's logistics cost is around 13-14% of GDP; the National Logistics Policy 2022 targets single digits by 2030.

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


GS3 -- Infrastructure, economy; GS2 -- e-governance, data protection.

 **MAINS KEYWORDS**

MLFF, ANPR, FASTag, PM Gati Shakti, National Logistics Policy 2022, logistics cost.

 **COMMON MISTAKE**

Assuming MLFF eliminates FASTag -- it does not; FASTag remains a payment rail, with ANPR as the identification backstop.

 **EXAM TIP**

MLFF = ANPR + FASTag; Chorayasi NH-48 = first plaza, May 1, 2026; NHAI Act 1988.

 **INTERVIEW**

What privacy safeguards should the DPDP Act, 2023 impose on ANPR datasets?

 [Read Full Article →](#)

Question 13

of 15

[Source →](#)

Hantavirus is best described as which of the following?

- A A bacterial pathogen transmitted by mosquitoes, causing flaviviral fever
- B A rodent-borne RNA virus causing HPS in the Americas and HFRS in Eurasia ✓
- C A tick-borne protozoan parasite causing relapsing fever
- D A waterborne picornavirus with faecal-oral transmission

ANSWER & ANALYSIS

 **EXPLANATION**

FACT: Hantaviruses are rodent-borne, enveloped, negative-sense RNA viruses of the family Hantaviridae (order Bunyvirales). They cause Hantavirus Pulmonary Syndrome (HPS) in the Americas -- highly lethal (35-40%) -- and Haemorrhagic Fever with Renal Syndrome (HFRS) in Eurasia.

ANALYSIS: Person-to-person spread is documented ONLY for Andes virus (ANDV), which is the strain confirmed in the MV Hondius cluster -- a key reason for elevated WHO and CDC concern despite the small cluster size.

 **CONCEPT NOTE**

Transmission is primarily via inhalation of aerosolised excreta (urine, faeces, saliva) of infected rodents -- Sigmodontinae in the Americas, Muridae in Eurasia. No vaccine is currently approved.

Incubation is typically 2-4 weeks. The MV Hondius outbreak (a Dutch-flagged Polar Class expedition cruise ship) had 8 cases and 3 deaths as of May 8, 2026, with 6 confirmed Andes virus.

Two Indian nationals were aboard, asymptomatic, under observation. India's ICMR-NIV Pune (apex virology lab, established 1952, BSL-4) and the VRDL Network of 165+ labs (coordinated by ICMR-NIV under the Department of Health Research) provide molecular diagnostics.

India is the IHR (2005) National Focal Point through NCDC under MoHFW.

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

GS3 -- Science & Tech, disaster management, public health; GS2 -- WHO, IHR 2005, health governance.

 **MAINS KEYWORDS**

Zoonosis, One Health, IHR 2005, VRDL, NIV Pune, BSL-4.

 **COMMON MISTAKE**

Classifying Hantavirus as a bacterial or arthropod-borne pathogen -- it is rodent-borne and viral.

 **EXAM TIP**

HPS (Americas) vs HFRS (Eurasia); person-to-person ONLY in Andes virus.

 **INTERVIEW**

How prepared is India's VRDL network for a novel zoonotic outbreak entering through ports?

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Question 14

of 15

[Source →](#)

The Viral Research and Diagnostic Laboratory (VRDL) network in India is coordinated by which apex body, and falls under which Department?

- A AIIMS Delhi; under Ministry of Science and Technology
- B ICMR-NIV Pune; under Department of Health Research, MoHFW ✓
- C NCDC; under Ministry of Home Affairs
- D CSIR-CCMB Hyderabad; under DSIR






ANSWER & ANALYSIS
✓ EXPLANATION

FACT: The VRDL network -- with over 165 labs across India -- is coordinated by ICMR-NIV Pune (the apex virology lab; BSL-4; established 1952) and falls under the Department of Health Research (DHR), Ministry of Health and Family Welfare. **ANALYSIS:** The DHR-ICMR-NIV chain ensures that molecular diagnostics for emerging pathogens -- including hantavirus, Nipah, Crimean-Congo, dengue, and SARS-CoV-2 -- are available beyond a handful of metros, decentralising surveillance capacity.

📖 CONCEPT NOTE

The VRDL network was scaled up rapidly during COVID-19, providing the spine for India's testing capacity. Apex VRDLs (the highest tier) provide referral and confirmatory testing; Regional and State VRDLs handle frontline diagnostics. NCDC (National Centre for Disease Control), also under MoHFW, is India's IHR (2005) National Focal Point and runs the Integrated Disease Surveillance Programme (IDSP). ICMR (Indian Council of Medical Research) is the apex body for biomedical research and is the parent organisation of NIV Pune. The Department of Health Research was created in 2007 within MoHFW.

Q14  **CONCEPT KIT**

 CROSS-PAPER	GS3 -- Health, disaster management; GS2 -- Health governance, federal architecture.
 MAINS KEYWORDS	VRDL, NIV Pune, ICMR, NCDC, IDSP, IHR 2005, pandemic preparedness.
 COMMON MISTAKE	Placing VRDL under DST or DBT -- it is under DHR within MoHFW.
 EXAM TIP	ICMR-NIV Pune is the apex VRDL; NCDC is the IHR Focal Point.
 INTERVIEW	Are the VRDL gains from COVID-19 being sustained, or are labs idling?

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Question 15

of 15

[Source →](#)

The 10th Indian Ocean Dialogue (IOD 2026) is organised by which body, and which Indian maritime vision does it operationalise?

- A NITI Aayog; Neighbourhood First Policy
- B Indian Council of World Affairs (ICWA) + MEA; SAGAR (Security and Growth for All in the Region) ✓
- C Observer Research Foundation; Act East Policy
- D IORA Secretariat; Indo-Pacific Economic Framework (IPEF)

ANSWER & ANALYSIS
✓ EXPLANATION

FACT: The Indian Ocean Dialogue is organised by the Indian Council of World Affairs (ICWA) in partnership with the Ministry of External Affairs. The 2026 edition -- the 10th, a decadal milestone -- is themed "Indian Ocean Region in a Transforming World." It operationalises the SAGAR vision (Security and Growth for All in the Region) -- announced by PM Modi in March 2015 in Mauritius.

ANALYSIS: ICWA's role reflects the deliberate use of a Track-II / Track-1.5 platform to coordinate maritime policy thinking with academic, IORA-member, and diplomatic stakeholders.






📌 CONCEPT NOTE

ICWA is India's oldest international affairs think-tank, founded in 1943 by Sir Tej Bahadur Sapru. Its headquarters Sapru House in New Delhi hosts the Sapru House Lecture series -- with Vietnamese President To Lam delivering the 56th edition on May 6, 2026 on India-Vietnam relations.

SAGAR was announced by PM Modi at Port Louis, Mauritius, in March 2015. IORA (Indian Ocean Rim Association) was founded in 1997, has 23 members, and is headquartered in Mauritius.

India is also a member of the Quad, the Colombo Security Conclave, and the Indian Ocean Naval Symposium (IONS). The IOD theme for 2026 emphasises maritime security, blue economy, IORA cooperation, and climate resilience.

Q15  **CONCEPT KIT**

 CROSS-PAPER	GS2 -- International relations; GS3 -- Maritime security, blue economy.
 MAINS KEYWORDS	SAGAR, IORA, ICWA, Indo-Pacific, blue economy, net security provider.
 COMMON MISTAKE	Confusing IORA (intergovernmental body, Mauritius HQ) with the Indian Ocean Dialogue (Track-1.5 forum organised by ICWA).
 EXAM TIP	SAGAR = 2015, Mauritius, PM Modi; IORA = 1997, 23 members, Mauritius HQ; ICWA = 1943, Sir Tej Bahadur Sapru.
 INTERVIEW	Has SAGAR delivered on its promise of India as a "net security provider," or remained primarily aspirational?

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