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DAILY QUIZ — SOLVED

Daily Quiz -- May 16, 2026

16 May 2026



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DAILY QUIZ — SOLVED ANSWER KEY

Daily Quiz -- May 16, 2026

16 May 2026 · 14 Questions · Answers & Explanations Included

Question 1

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With reference to India's fuel pricing mechanism, consider the following statements:

- 1 Petrol was deregulated (moved to market-linked pricing) in 2010, and diesel in 2014.
- 2 Under-recovery is the same as a subsidy -- the government reimburses oil marketing companies for the difference between cost price and retail price.
- 3 India imports approximately 87 per cent of its crude oil requirements.

Which of the statements given above is/are correct?

A 1 and 2 only

B 1 and 3 only ✓

C 2 and 3 only

D 1, 2 and 3

ANSWER & ANALYSIS

EXPLANATION

Statement 1 is correct: Petrol was deregulated in June 2010 and diesel in October 2014. Statement 2 is incorrect: Under-recovery is NOT the same as a subsidy.

Under-recovery is the loss absorbed by the OMC (no direct government reimbursement); a subsidy is when the government directly compensates the company (as was done for kerosene and LPG before 2014 reforms).

Statement 3 is correct: India imports ~87% of its crude oil.

CONCEPT NOTE

The Rs 3/litre hike on May 15, 2026 was the first upward revision in over four years. At pre-hike prices, OMCs (IOC, BPCL, HPCL) were collectively losing ~Rs 1,000 crore per day.

Central excise duty on petrol: Rs 19.90/litre; diesel: Rs 15.80/litre (post-November 2021 cut levels). Every Rs 1/litre diesel hike adds ~0.1-0.2% to CPI via food and transport cost transmission with a 2-3 month lag.

The government has the option to cut central excise duty -- but each Rs 1/litre cut costs the Centre approximately Rs 13,000 crore annually in foregone revenue. The petrol deregulation (2010) and diesel deregulation (2014) were landmark reforms that reduced the fiscal subsidy burden on the government and shifted risk to OMCs.

However, political economy pressures mean OMCs rarely exercise pricing freedom near elections.

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

GS3 (energy security, inflation, fiscal policy); GS2 (subsidy reform, PSU governance).

 **MAINS KEYWORDS**

OMC under-recovery, dynamic fuel pricing, central excise duty, WPI-CPI transmission.

 **COMMON MISTAKE**

treating under-recovery as a government subsidy -- under-recovery = OMC absorbs loss with no government reimbursement; subsidy = government payment to the company.

 **EXAM TIP**

Petrol deregulated June 2010; diesel October 2014 -- these are frequently tested.

 **INTERVIEW**

Should India shift fully to daily dynamic fuel pricing, and what political economy constraints make this reform persistently difficult?

 [Read Full Article →](#)

Question 2

of 14

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Which of the following statements about the Strait of Hormuz is correct?

- A It lies between Saudi Arabia and Iran and is approximately 50 km wide at its narrowest point
- B It lies between Iran and the Oman peninsula and approximately 21 per cent of global petroleum liquids transited through it in 2023 ✓
- C It is controlled jointly by the United Arab Emirates and Iran under a 1975 bilateral treaty
- D India sources less than 30 per cent of its crude imports from countries that transit through the Strait of Hormuz

ANSWER & ANALYSIS

 **EXPLANATION**

Option B is correct. The Strait of Hormuz lies between Iran (north) and the Oman peninsula/UAE (south); it is approximately 33 km wide at the narrowest point, not 50 km.

About 21% of global petroleum liquids transited through it in 2023 per IEA data. Option A is wrong -- Saudi Arabia does not border the Strait.

Option C is wrong -- there is no such treaty. Option D is wrong -- approximately 60-65% of India's crude imports come from Hormuz-route suppliers: Iraq (~22%), Saudi Arabia (~16%), UAE (~7%), Kuwait (~5%).

 **CONCEPT NOTE**

India imports ~87% of its crude oil; top suppliers include Iraq (~22%), Saudi Arabia (~16%), Russia (~15-20% via non-Hormuz routes), UAE (~7%), Kuwait (~5%). Hormuz alternatives are limited: Saudi Arabia's Abqaiq-Yanbu pipeline (1.8 mn bpd) and UAE's Abu Dhabi Crude Oil Pipeline (1.8 mn bpd) have combined capacity well below the ~21 mn bpd that transits Hormuz.

India's Strategic Petroleum Reserves (Phase I = 5.33 MMT at Visakhapatnam, Mangaluru, Padur) provide only ~9-10 days of import cover -- far below the IEA's 90-day benchmark for full members. The May 2026 ISPR-ADNOC MoU expands Phase II capacity at Chandikhol (Odisha) to reduce this vulnerability.

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

GS3 (energy security, strategic petroleum reserves); GS1 (world geography -- maritime chokepoints); GS2 (India-Iran-UAE relations).

 **MAINS KEYWORDS**

Strait of Hormuz, chokepoint, ISPRL, energy security, strategic petroleum reserves.

 **COMMON MISTAKE**

confusing Hormuz (between Iran and Oman) with Malacca (between Malaysia and Indonesia) -- both are critical for India's energy imports.

 **EXAM TIP**

Hormuz = 33 km wide; 21% of global petroleum; between Iran and Oman peninsula -- memorise these three facts.

 **INTERVIEW**

What strategic options does India have if the Strait of Hormuz is blocked, and is 9-10 days of reserve cover adequate?

 [Read Full Article →](#)

Question 3

of 14

[Source →](#)

With reference to the Bhojshala-Kamal Maula complex in Dhar, Madhya Pradesh, consider the following:

1. Bhojshala was built by Raja Bhoj of the Paramara dynasty in the 11th century as a centre of Sanskrit learning.
2. The Madhya Pradesh High Court verdict of May 2026 was based entirely on the Places of Worship (Special Provisions) Act, 1991.
3. The original Vagdevi (Saraswati) idol from Bhojshala is currently in the British Museum, London. Which of the statements given above is/are correct?

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

ANSWER & ANALYSIS

 **EXPLANATION**

Statement 1 is correct: Bhojshala was built by Raja Bhoj (1000-1055 CE) of the Paramara dynasty as a centre of Sanskrit learning and housed a temple to Goddess Vagdevi (Saraswati). Statement 2 is incorrect: The HC verdict was based on ASI archaeological survey findings (1,700+ artefacts, 37 idols) – the Places of Worship Act was a contested issue, not the basis of the verdict.

Statement 3 is correct: The original Vagdevi idol was taken by the British and is currently in the British Museum, London.

 **CONCEPT NOTE**

Paramara dynasty ruled Malwa (modern MP) from the 9th to 14th century; capital at Dhar; the dynasty was ended by Alauddin Khalji's general Ain-ul-Mulk Multani in 1305 CE. Raja Bhoj (r. 1000-1055 CE) was the greatest Paramara ruler -- a polymath who authored works on Sanskrit grammar, architecture, and medicine; he also built Bhopal's Upper Lake (Bhojtal). The ASI survey of Bhojshala (November 2023--March 2024) covered 98 days and produced a 2,000-page report. The 2003 ASI arrangement that the HC quashed had allowed Hindu puja on Tuesdays and Muslim namaz on Fridays -- an unusual administrative compromise that existed for over two decades.

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

GS1 (Paramara dynasty, medieval heritage, Sanskrit learning centres); GS2 (ASI powers, Places of Worship Act, judicial review).

 **MAINS KEYWORDS**

Paramara dynasty, Bhojshala, ASI survey, Places of Worship Act 1991, Vagdevi.

 **COMMON MISTAKE**

assuming the Places of Worship Act 1991 was the basis of the HC verdict -- in fact the court relied on the ASI archaeological survey findings.

 **EXAM TIP**

Bhojshala = 11th century; Raja Bhoj = Paramara dynasty; capital Dhar; Vagdevi idol in British Museum.

 **INTERVIEW**

Should India develop a systematic policy for repatriation of cultural artefacts taken during colonial rule?

[Read Full Article →](#)

Question 4

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[Source →](#)

Which of the following is the correct statement about the Places of Worship (Special Provisions) Act, 1991?

- A The Act requires the religious character of all places of worship to be maintained as it was on January 26, 1950 (Constitution commencement)
- B **The Act freezes the religious character of all places of worship as it existed on August 15, 1947, but explicitly exempts the Ram Janmabhoomi-Babri Masjid site ✓**
- C The Act applies to all ASI-protected ancient monuments without exception
- D The Act was enacted by the Vajpayee government in response to the 1992 demolition of the Babri Masjid

ANSWER & ANALYSIS

 **EXPLANATION**

Option B is correct. The Places of Worship Act, 1991 freezes the religious character as of August 15, 1947 (Independence Day, not Republic Day -- a critical distinction).

Section 5 explicitly exempts the Ram Janmabhoomi-Babri Masjid dispute AND ASI-protected ancient and historical monuments under the Ancient Monuments and Archaeological Sites and Remains Act, 1958. The Act was enacted by the Narasimha Rao government in 1991 -- before the 1992 Babri Masjid demolition.

 **CONCEPT NOTE**

The Places of Worship (Special Provisions) Act, 1991 was enacted when the Ram Janmabhoomi movement was at its peak -- the intent was to prevent similar disputes from proliferating across India. Section 3 prohibits converting any place of worship; Section 4 freezes religious character as of August 15, 1947; Section 5 exempts Ram Janmabhoomi-Babri Masjid AND monuments regulated under the Ancient Monuments Act.

The constitutional validity of the Act is now before the Supreme Court (Ashwini Kumar Upadhyay v. Union of India -- petitioners argue the Act violates Articles 25-26 by permanently barring Hindus, Jains, and Buddhists from seeking restoration of religious sites). The Bhojshala case will test whether the ASI-monument exemption in Section 5 is narrow or broad.

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

GS2 (Articles 25-26 freedom of religion, Places of Worship Act, ASI powers, judicial review of legislation); GS1 (communal harmony, constitutional morality).

 **MAINS KEYWORDS**

Places of Worship Act 1991, August 15 1947 cut-off, Section 4, Section 5 exemptions, ASI protected monuments.

 **COMMON MISTAKE**

confusing the cut-off date -- it is August 15, 1947 (Independence Day), NOT January 26, 1950 (Constitution Day). This is the most common error.

 **EXAM TIP**

Enacted 1991 by Narasimha Rao; Section 4 = freeze as of Aug 15, 1947; Section 5 = exempts Babri + ancient monuments.

 **INTERVIEW**

Is the Places of Worship Act a necessary safeguard for communal harmony or an unconstitutional restriction on religious rights?

 [Read Full Article →](#)

Question 5

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[Source →](#)

The Ganges Softshell Turtle (*Nilssonia gangetica*), India's first satellite-tagged freshwater turtle as of May 2026, has which of the following conservation status designations?

- A Critically Endangered on IUCN Red List; Schedule II of WPA 1972; CITES Appendix II
- B Vulnerable on IUCN Red List; Schedule I of WPA 1972; CITES Appendix I
- C **Endangered on IUCN Red List; Schedule I of WPA 1972; CITES Appendix I ✓**
- D Endangered on IUCN Red List; Schedule IV of WPA 1972; CITES Appendix II

ANSWER & ANALYSIS
✓ EXPLANATION

The Ganges Softshell Turtle is classified Endangered (EN) on the IUCN Red List -- not Critically Endangered or Vulnerable. It is listed in Schedule I (Part II) of the Wildlife Protection Act, 1972 -- the highest level of domestic legal protection.

It is also in CITES Appendix I, meaning international commercial trade is prohibited. All three designations confirm the species faces high extinction risk.

Option A (CR) overstates the threat; Options B and D have incorrect IUCN or WPA designations.

📌 CONCEPT NOTE

India has 8 species of softshell turtles (family Trionychidae); five are found in Kaziranga National Park and Tiger Reserve. The satellite tagging initiative (May 15, 2026 -- Endangered Species Day) was conducted by WII (Wildlife Institute of India, an autonomous institution under MoEFCC) with National Geographic Society funding.

The project uses the Argos satellite system (jointly operated by NOAA, CNES, and CLS) to track seasonal movements, identify nesting sites, and assess dam/barrage impacts on migration. Key threats: riverine sand mining, fishing net bycatch, hunting for meat/eggs, dam construction disrupting habitat.

CITES Appendix distinction: Appendix I = trade banned; Appendix II = regulated; Appendix III = protection in specific countries.

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

GS3 (IUCN Red List, CITES, Schedule I WPA, freshwater biodiversity); GS1 (Kaziranga -- World Heritage Site, NE India ecology).

 **MAINS KEYWORDS**

Nilssonina gangetica, IUCN Endangered, Schedule I WPA, CITES Appendix I, satellite telemetry, Kaziranga.

 **COMMON MISTAKE**

confusing Schedule I (WPA -- highest domestic protection) with CITES Appendix I (highest international protection) -- both give maximum protection but operate under different legal regimes.

 **EXAM TIP**

IUCN categories in order of threat: EX, EW, CR, EN, VU, NT, LC -- Ganges softshell = EN (Endangered, not CR).

 **INTERVIEW**

Is satellite telemetry a cost-effective tool for wildlife conservation, or should India prioritise habitat protection over technology-driven monitoring?

 [Read Full Article →](#)

Question 6

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[Source →](#)

Endangered Species Day is observed on which day each year?

- A May 15 every year (fixed date)
- B The third Friday of May each year ✓
- C The third Saturday of May each year
- D June 5 every year

ANSWER & ANALYSIS

✓ EXPLANATION

Endangered Species Day is observed on the third Friday of May each year. It is NOT fixed to May 15 -- the date changes annually based on which Friday is the third of May.

In 2026, May 15 happened to be the third Friday. The day was established by the Endangered Species Coalition (USA) in 2006 to raise awareness about species at risk of extinction.

It is distinct from World Environment Day (June 5) and World Wildlife Day (March 3).

📌 CONCEPT NOTE

Key international environment/wildlife observance dates frequently asked in UPSC Prelims: World Wildlife Day = March 3 (established 2013 by UNGA -- Anniversary of CITES signing); World Water Day = March 22; Earth Day = April 22; International Biodiversity Day = May 22 (anniversary of CBD entry into force); Endangered Species Day = third Friday of May; World Environment Day = June 5 (anniversary of 1972 Stockholm Conference); World Oceans Day = June 8; International Tiger Day = July 29 (declaration from 2010 Saint Petersburg Tiger Summit); World Elephant Day = August 12; World Ozone Day = September 16 (anniversary of Montreal Protocol); World Rhino Day = September 22; World Habitat Day = first Monday of October.

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

GS3 (species conservation, environmental observances, international agreements); GS2 (multilateral institutions -- CITES, CBD, IUCN).

 **MAINS KEYWORDS**

Endangered Species Day, IUCN Red List, CITES, World Wildlife Day, species conservation.

 **COMMON MISTAKE**

thinking Endangered Species Day is always on May 15 -- it is the **THIRD FRIDAY** of May, which shifts year to year.

 **EXAM TIP**

World Wildlife Day = March 3 (CITES anniversary); World Environment Day = June 5 (Stockholm Conference anniversary); these fixed-date ones appear more in Prelims than floating-date ones like Endangered Species Day.

 **INTERVIEW**

Given that India has one of the highest numbers of endangered species, is the IUCN Red List assessment process sufficiently responsive to India's biodiversity reality?

 [Read Full Article →](#)

Question 7

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[Source →](#)

The National Deregulation Initiative, under which Tripura became the first state to complete all 51 priority areas in May 2026, is nodal to which of the following bodies?

- A DPIIT (Department for Promotion of Industry and Internal Trade)
- B NITI Aayog
- C Cabinet Secretariat ✓
- D Ministry of Finance -- Department of Expenditure

ANSWER & ANALYSIS
✓ EXPLANATION

The National Deregulation Initiative (launched January 2026) is nodal to the Cabinet Secretariat, not DPIIT. The Cabinet Secretariat is the appropriate nodal body because deregulation cuts across multiple ministries (environment, labour, land, commerce) and requires cross-ministry coordination. DPIIT leads the separately constituted Business Reforms Action Plan (BRAP).

Tripura completed all 51 priority areas across Phase I and Phase II as of May 2026, the first state to do so.

📌 CONCEPT NOTE

The distinction between the Cabinet Secretariat-led National Deregulation Initiative and the DPIIT-led Business Reforms Action Plan (BRAP) is a classic institutional mapping question. DPIIT leads: Make in India, Startup India, FDI policy, BRAP (state-level EODB ranking), IPR policy.

Cabinet Secretariat leads: cross-ministry policy coordination, Cabinet Committee decisions, the new National Deregulation Initiative. Tripura's key reforms under this initiative: White Category industries expanded from 41 to 130 (no PCB consent required); 72 services and 14 inspections integrated on the SWAAGAT single-window platform; land-use categories simplified from 100+ to 10.

The BRAP world-level counterpart is the World Bank's Doing Business Index (discontinued 2021 due to data integrity concerns).

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

GS2 (governance reforms, ease of doing business, institutional roles, cooperative federalism); GS3 (investment climate, industry classification).

 **MAINS KEYWORDS**

National Deregulation Initiative, Cabinet Secretariat, BRAP, White Category industries, SWAAGAT platform, ease of doing business.

 **COMMON MISTAKE**

attributing all EODB/deregulation reforms to DPIIT -- the National Deregulation Initiative is under the Cabinet Secretariat.

 **EXAM TIP**

DPIIT = BRAP (annual state EODB ranking); Cabinet Secretariat = National Deregulation Initiative (cross-ministry reform compliance).

 **INTERVIEW**

Can deregulation in small states like Tripura serve as a scalable model for larger states with more complex regulatory landscapes?

 [Read Full Article →](#)

Question 8

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[Source →](#)

With reference to India's seafood exports, consider the following statements:

- 1 The European Union is India's largest seafood export destination by value.
- 2 MPEDA (Marine Products Export Development Authority) is under the Ministry of Commerce and Industry.
- 3 India was excluded from the EU's draft aquaculture permitted-exporter register (October 2024) due to Antimicrobial Resistance (AMR) compliance concerns.

Which of the statements given above is/are correct?

A 1 and 2 only

B 2 and 3 only ✓

C 1 and 3 only

D 1, 2 and 3

ANSWER & ANALYSIS

EXPLANATION

Statement 1 is incorrect: The EU is India's THIRD-largest seafood export destination (18.94% of total export value, USD 1.593 billion in 2025-26). The USA (~25%) and China (~20%) rank higher.

Statement 2 is correct: MPEDA is under the Ministry of Commerce and Industry; headquartered in Kochi; established under MPEDA Act, 1972. Statement 3 is correct: India was excluded from the EU's October 2024 draft aquaculture list due to AMR concerns and was reinstated in May 2026 after technical compliance improvements.

CONCEPT NOTE

India's total seafood exports in 2025-26: ~USD 8.4 billion. The dominant product is frozen shrimp/vannamei (*Litopenaeus vannamei*), which accounts for over 60% of export value.

The EU's revised aquaculture list is governed by EC Delegated Regulation (EU) 2023/905, which requires exporting countries to certify their aquaculture sectors are free from specific antimicrobial medicinal products -- a non-tariff barrier with major trade implications. India's graduation from EU GSP (Generalised Scheme of Preferences) in 2023 means Indian seafood now competes at standard MFN (Most Favoured Nation) tariff rates in the EU, making non-tariff compliance (like AMR) critical.

The nodal regulatory chain for seafood exports: MPEDA (market development, NRMP) + EIC (Certificate of Inspection) + FSSAI (domestic MRLs).

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

GS3 (seafood exports, MPEDA, food safety, AMR); GS2 (India-EU trade, non-tariff barriers, GSP graduation).

 **MAINS KEYWORDS**

MPEDA, EC Regulation (EU) 2023/905, AMR, aquaculture exports, GSP graduation, non-tariff barriers.

 **COMMON MISTAKE**

calling EU India's largest seafood market -- it is third (USA > China > EU).

 **EXAM TIP**

MPEDA = Ministry of Commerce and Industry; HQ Kochi; established 1972.
India's top seafood export = frozen shrimp (vannamei).

 **INTERVIEW**

How does India balance the need for antimicrobial use in aquaculture disease management against the rising global concern about AMR in food supply chains?

 [Read Full Article →](#)

Question 9

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[Source →](#)

The election of the Speaker of a State Legislative Assembly is governed by which Article of the Constitution?

- A Article 93
- B Article 169
- C Article 178 ✓
- D Article 194

ANSWER & ANALYSIS

EXPLANATION

Article 178 governs the election of Speaker and Deputy Speaker of the State Legislative Assembly -- the state-level equivalent of Article 93 which governs the Lok Sabha Speaker and Deputy Speaker. Article 169 deals with abolition or creation of Legislative Councils.

Article 194 deals with powers, privileges, and immunities of State Legislature members. Rathindra Bose was elected Speaker of the 18th West Bengal Legislative Assembly under Article 178 on May 15, 2026.

CONCEPT NOTE

Constitutional article mapping for presiding officers: Article 89 = Rajya Sabha -- Chairman (Vice-President) and Deputy Chairman; Article 93 = Lok Sabha -- Speaker and Deputy Speaker; Article 178 = State Legislative Assembly -- Speaker and Deputy Speaker; Article 182 = State Legislative Council -- Chairman and Deputy Chairman. Removal procedures: Article 94 (Lok Sabha Speaker) and Article 179 (State LA Speaker) both require effective majority and 14 days' notice.

Article 181: the Speaker cannot preside when a motion for their own removal is under consideration -- the Deputy Speaker presides. Pro tem Speaker (convention, not in Constitution) is appointed by Governor to conduct election of permanent Speaker.

West Bengal's 18th Assembly: 294 seats; NDA won 207 seats in the 2026 state election; Rathindra Bose (Cooch Behar Dakshin, BJP) became first Speaker from North Bengal.

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

GS2 (state legislature, constitutional provisions, role of Speaker, Tenth Schedule).

 **MAINS KEYWORDS**

Article 178, Speaker State Legislature, pro tem Speaker, effective majority, anti-defection, Tenth Schedule.

 **COMMON MISTAKE**

confusing Article 93 (Lok Sabha Speaker) with Article 178 (State LA Speaker) -- a classic constitutional mapping trap.

 **EXAM TIP**

Parliamentary speaker mapping: Rajya Sabha Chair = Art 89; Lok Sabha Speaker = Art 93; State LA Speaker = Art 178; State LC Chair = Art 182.

 **INTERVIEW**

Given the Supreme Court's rulings that the Speaker's anti-defection decisions are subject to judicial review, does the current framework adequately protect the democratic legitimacy of legislatures?

 [Read Full Article →](#)

Question 10

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[Source →](#)

Under the Tenth Schedule of the Constitution (anti-defection law), a member of a State Legislature is disqualified from membership if:

- A The member votes against the party whip on any matter whatsoever
- B The member voluntarily gives up the membership of the political party on whose ticket they were elected, or votes contrary to a party direction without prior party permission ✓
- C The member misses three consecutive sessions of the Legislature without permission of the House
- D The member accepts any office of profit under the State Government

ANSWER & ANALYSIS

 **EXPLANATION**

Option B is correct per the Tenth Schedule. Disqualification arises if: (i) the member voluntarily gives up party membership; or (ii) votes contrary to party direction or abstains, without prior permission and where the party has not condoned it.

Merely voting against the party whip on any matter (Option A) is incorrect -- only voting against a specific party direction (whip) triggers disqualification. Missing sessions (Option C) is governed by Articles 190/101.

Office of profit (Option D) falls under Article 191/102, not the Tenth Schedule.

 **CONCEPT NOTE**

The Tenth Schedule (52nd Constitutional Amendment Act, 1985) is one of the most tested areas of Indian Polity. Grounds for disqualification: (1) voluntary giving up of party membership; (2) voting against party direction/abstaining without permission.

Exception: if at least two-thirds of the original legislature party merges with another party -- no disqualification. The Speaker/Chairman decides on disqualification petitions (quasi-judicial function).

Supreme Court landmark judgments: *Kihoto Hollohan v. Zachillhu* (1992) -- Tenth Schedule constitutional; Speaker's decisions subject to judicial review. *Keisham Meghachandra Singh v. Speaker* (2020) -- Speaker must decide within reasonable time (indicative: 3 months); prolonged delay is subject to court intervention.

The Tenth Schedule has been misused by several state governments where Speakers delayed decisions to protect ruling party MLAs.

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

GS2 (Tenth Schedule, anti-defection law, Speaker's quasi-judicial role, judicial review of Speaker's decisions).

 **MAINS KEYWORDS**

Tenth Schedule, 52nd CA 1985, anti-defection law, voluntary relinquishment, Kihoto Hollohan, Keisham Meghachandra.

 **COMMON MISTAKE**

thinking any vote against the party whip triggers disqualification -- only voting against a specific party direction (whip), without permission, constitutes disqualification.

 **EXAM TIP**

Two grounds for disqualification (Tenth Schedule): voluntary giving up membership + voting against party direction.
Exception: two-thirds merger.

 **INTERVIEW**

Does the Speaker's role as a partisan political figure make the Tenth Schedule's anti-defection adjudication structurally compromised?

 [Read Full Article →](#)

Question 11

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Which of the following correctly describes the legal basis and implementing authority of India's Census 2027?

- A** Census Act, 1948; Office of the Registrar General and Census Commissioner of India (ORGI) under Ministry of Home Affairs ✓
- B** Census Act, 1948; NITI Aayog under the Prime Minister's Office
- C** Article 246 directly; Ministry of Statistics and Programme Implementation (MoSPI)
- D** Population Commission Act, 2000; Ministry of Health and Family Welfare

ANSWER & ANALYSIS

✓ EXPLANATION

Option A is correct. Census 2027 is conducted under the Census Act, 1948 by ORGI under the Ministry of Home Affairs.

Census is a Union subject under Entry 69 of the Union List (Seventh Schedule), making it Parliament's exclusive domain per Article 246. NITI Aayog has no role in census conduct.

MoSPI handles national accounts and sample surveys (NSSO, PLFS). There is no Population Commission Act of 2000 -- the National Population Commission is a non-statutory advisory body.

📌 CONCEPT NOTE

Census 2027 is India's first digital census and the world's largest enumeration exercise. Key milestones: Phase I (HLO -- House Listing and Housing Census) runs from April--September 2026 in rolling 30-day state windows; Phase II (Population Enumeration) is February 2027.

First-ever innovations: self-enumeration portal (se.census.gov.in); mobile app for enumerators replacing paper schedules; geo-tagging of every building/household (creating a National Building Register); real-time monitoring dashboard for ORGI.

The 16-year gap since 2011 is unprecedented -- it has affected: delimitation exercise (frozen until post-2027 census), welfare scheme targeting (based on stale 2011 SECC data), and OBC reservation debates. Entry 69 of the Union List: "Census" -- only Parliament can legislate; states cannot conduct parallel censuses.

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

GS2 (Census Act 1948, Union List Entry 69, ORGI, digital governance); GS1 (Indian society -- demography, sex ratio, literacy, urbanisation).

 **MAINS KEYWORDS**

Census Act 1948, ORGI, Union List Entry 69, self-enumeration, House Listing Census, Phase I HLO, delimitation.

 **COMMON MISTAKE**

attributing census to MoSPI (national accounts) -- census is ORGI/MHA. MoSPI = NSSO, PLFS, national accounts; ORGI = Census + SRS (Sample Registration System).

 **EXAM TIP**

Census = MHA/ORGI/Census Act 1948/Union List Entry 69 -- four facts to connect for any Prelims question.

 **INTERVIEW**

Should India include OBC caste enumeration in Census 2027, and what are the constitutional and political implications of doing so?

 [Read Full Article](#) →

Question 12

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[Source →](#)

According to Census 2011, which of the following correctly states India's demographic profile?

- A Total population 121 crore; overall sex ratio 943; child sex ratio (0-6 years) 940; literacy rate 73%
- B Total population 121 crore; overall sex ratio 943; child sex ratio (0-6 years) 919; literacy rate 73% ✓
- C Total population 111 crore; overall sex ratio 933; child sex ratio (0-6 years) 927; literacy rate 65%
- D Total population 121 crore; overall sex ratio 960; child sex ratio (0-6 years) 914; literacy rate 73%

ANSWER & ANALYSIS

EXPLANATION

Option B is correct per Census 2011. Total population = 121.09 crore; overall sex ratio = 943 females per 1,000 males; child sex ratio (0-6 years) = 919 (a decline from 927 in 2001, triggering the Beti Bachao Beti Padhao programme); literacy = 73% (male 80.9%, female 64.6%).

Option A has incorrect child sex ratio (940). Option C is Census 2001 data (111 crore).

Option D has incorrect overall sex ratio (960 is a policy target, not the 2011 actual).

CONCEPT NOTE

2011 Census key data points: Total population 121.09 crore; decadal growth rate 17.64% (2001-11, down from 21.54% in 1991-2001); urban population 31.2% (377 million -- crossing 30% for first time); SC = 16.6%; ST = 8.6%; sex ratio overall 943 (up from 933 in 2001); child sex ratio 919 (down from 927 in 2001 -- alarming). Government response to declining child sex ratio: Beti Bachao Beti Padhao (BBBP) launched January 2015 in Panipat, Haryana.

NFHS-5 (2019-21) shows India's Total Fertility Rate (TFR) at 2.0 -- below replacement level of 2.1. Census 2027 is expected to confirm: lower TFR, improved sex ratio, higher urbanisation (projected ~38-40%), and lower overall population growth rate.

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

GS1 (Indian society -- demographic transition, sex ratio, literacy, urbanisation); GS2 (census governance, delimitation implications).

 **MAINS KEYWORDS**

Census 2011 data, sex ratio, child sex ratio, literacy, TFR, demographic transition, Beti Bachao Beti Padhao.

 **COMMON MISTAKE**

confusing Census 2001 data (111 crore population) with Census 2011 (121 crore) -- Option C in this question is a classic distractor.

 **EXAM TIP**

Census 2011 must-memorise: 121 crore, sex ratio 943, child sex ratio 919, literacy 73%, urban 31.2%.

 **INTERVIEW**

With India's TFR below replacement level in many states, should population policy shift from family planning to pro-natalist incentives?

 [Read Full Article →](#)

Question 13

of 14

[Source →](#)

Which constitutional provision empowers Parliament to create a Legislature for a Union Territory, as was done for Puducherry under the 14th Constitutional Amendment Act, 1962?

A Article 239A ✓

B Article 239AA

C Article 240

D Article 371

ANSWER & ANALYSIS
EXPLANATION

Article 239A was inserted by the 14th Constitutional Amendment Act, 1962 and empowers Parliament to create a body to function as a Legislature for a Union Territory -- used to create Puducherry's legislative assembly. Article 239AA (69th CA, 1991) created a Special Status Legislature for Delhi; it was also applied to J&K after the 104th CA, 2019.

Article 240 empowers the President to make regulations for certain UTs (Andaman and Nicobar, Lakshadweep, etc.). Article 371 contains special provisions for certain states (Maharashtra, Gujarat, Nagaland, Manipur, etc.).

CONCEPT NOTE

Union Territory governance architecture: UTs without Legislature (e.g., Chandigarh, Dadra and Nagar Haveli and Daman and Diu, Lakshadweep) -- governed by Administrator/Lt. Governor under Article 239, with President making regulations under Article 240. UTs with Legislature: Puducherry (Article 239A, 14th CA 1962; Assembly has 33 seats = 30 elected + 3 nominated; LG has MORE powers than a Governor), Delhi (Article 239AA, 69th CA 1991; 70-seat Assembly; LG has overriding powers in certain matters -- SC clarified in GNCTD v. Uoi 2023), J&K (Article 239AA applied via 104th CA 2019 after J&K Reorganisation Act 2019 made it a UT with legislature; 90-seat Assembly).

Jammu and Kashmir is unique: UT with legislature AND the J&K Reorganisation Act preserves some special features.

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

GS2 (Union Territory governance, Articles 239-240, 239A, 239AA, Lieutenant Governor powers, cooperative federalism).

 **MAINS KEYWORDS**

Article 239A, 14th Constitutional Amendment, Union Territory legislature, Puducherry LG powers, Article 239AA.

 **COMMON MISTAKE**

confusing Article 239A (Puducherry -- 1962) with Article 239AA (Delhi -- 1991); the two look similar but were inserted 29 years apart for different UTs.

 **EXAM TIP**

239A = Puducherry (14th CA 1962); 239AA = Delhi (69th CA 1991) + J&K (104th CA 2019). Article 240 = President makes regulations for UTs without legislature.

 **INTERVIEW**

Why does Puducherry's Lieutenant Governor have more powers than the Governor of a full state, and is this constitutionally sound?

 [Read Full Article →](#)

Question 14

of 14

[Source →](#)

With reference to MPEDA and its regulatory functions, which of the following correctly identifies its parent ministry and the primary Act under which it was established?

- A Ministry of Fisheries, Animal Husbandry and Dairying; Marine Products Export Development Authority Act, 1972
- B **Ministry of Commerce and Industry; Marine Products Export Development Authority Act, 1972 ✓**
- C Ministry of Commerce and Industry; Export-Import Bank Act, 1981
- D Ministry of Agriculture and Farmers Welfare; Marine Products Export Development Authority Act, 1972

ANSWER & ANALYSIS
✓ EXPLANATION

MPEDA (Marine Products Export Development Authority) is under the Ministry of Commerce and Industry -- established under the Marine Products Export Development Authority Act, 1972. It is headquartered in Kochi, Kerala. Despite "fisheries" being in the name of a separate ministry (Ministry of Fisheries, Animal Husbandry and Dairying -- which handles fisheries production), MPEDA is an export promotion body and therefore falls under Commerce. The Export-Import Bank Act (1981) established EXIM Bank, not MPEDA.

📌 CONCEPT NOTE

MPEDA's key functions: registration of seafood exporters; operating the National Residue Monitoring Plan (NRMP) to test for antibiotic residues in export consignments; quality certification and accreditation of processing plants; market development through participation in international seafood fairs; subsidies for cold-chain infrastructure and processing equipment; coordination with EIC (Export Inspection Council, under MoCI) for Certificates of Inspection. MPEDA has accredited over 900 seafood processing establishments.

The institutional confusion between MPEDA (MoCI -- export) and NFDB/FIDF/PM Matsya Sampada Yojana (MoFAHD -- production) is a common UPSC trap. India's aquaculture production has grown from 3.9 mn tonnes (2013-14) to ~10 mn tonnes (2025-26), making India the world's second-largest aquaculture producer after China.

Q14  **CONCEPT KIT**
 **CROSS-PAPER**

GS3 (seafood exports, aquaculture sector, Blue Economy); GS2 (institutional mapping -- MPEDA, EIC, FSSAI roles in export certification).

 **MAINS KEYWORDS**

MPEDA, MPEDA Act 1972, NRMP, EIC, seafood exports, AMR compliance, Blue Economy.

 **COMMON MISTAKE**

placing MPEDA under Ministry of Fisheries -- MPEDA is an EXPORT body under Ministry of Commerce; fisheries production bodies are under MoFAHD.

 **EXAM TIP**

MPEDA = Ministry of Commerce and Industry; EIC = Ministry of Commerce and Industry; FSSAI = Ministry of Health; NFDB = Ministry of Fisheries.

 **INTERVIEW**

Should India establish a unified Blue Economy Authority integrating MPEDA, NFDB, and coastal fishery management, or is the current fragmented institutional structure adequate?

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