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DAILY QUIZ — SOLVED

Daily Quiz — May 21, 2026

21 May 2026



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DAILY QUIZ — SOLVED ANSWER KEY

Daily Quiz — May 21, 2026

21 May 2026 · 14 Questions · Answers & Explanations Included

Question 1

of 14

[Source →](#)

The Unlawful Activities (Prevention) Act, 1967 (UAPA) was significantly amended to empower the Central Government to designate INDIVIDUALS (and not merely organisations) as terrorists. This amendment was carried out in which year?

A 2004

B 2008

C 2012

D 2019 ✓

ANSWER & ANALYSIS






 **EXPLANATION**

FACT: The UAPA (Amendment) Act, 2019 introduced Section 35 enabling the Central Government to notify an individual as a terrorist by adding their name to the Fourth Schedule, on the same grounds previously available only to organisations. **ANALYSIS:** This change shifted India's counter-terror framework from organisational proscription to individual designation, raising debates on procedural fairness because the de-notification mechanism (Section 36) places the burden on the designated individual.

 **CONCEPT NOTE**

UAPA was originally enacted in 1967 to deal with secessionist activities. The 2004 amendment absorbed anti-terror provisions after POTA's repeal; the 2008 amendment (post-26/11 Mumbai attacks) tightened bail provisions under Section 43-D(5); the 2012 amendment widened the definition of "person" and broadened money-laundering linkage; the 2019 amendment introduced individual designation. The NIA Act, 2008 and UAPA are the twin pillars of India's federal counter-terror architecture. In *NIA v. Zahoor Ahmad Shah Watali* (2019), the Supreme Court held that under Section 43-D(5), courts must accept the prosecution's prima facie material at face value at the bail stage — a very high threshold.

Q1  **CONCEPT KIT**

 CROSS-PAPER	GS3 (internal security), GS2 (polity, civil liberties).
 MAINS KEYWORDS	UAPA 2019, individual designation, Section 35, Fourth Schedule, Watali doctrine, NIA Act 2008.
 COMMON MISTAKE	Attributing individual-designation power to the 2008 amendment (which actually concerned bail/investigation) — individual designation came in 2019.
 EXAM TIP	UAPA milestones — 1967 enacted; 2004 anti-terror absorption; 2008 bail tightening; 2019 individual designation.
 INTERVIEW	Does designating individuals as terrorists without conviction violate the presumption of innocence under Article 21?

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Question 2

of 14

[Source →](#)

Who chaired the Neutral Nations Repatriation Commission (NNRC) constituted under the Korean Armistice Agreement of 1953?

- A General Cariappa
- B General K.M. Cariappa
- C **General K.S. Thimayya** ✓
- D Lt Col A.G. Rangaraj

ANSWER & ANALYSIS
✓ EXPLANATION

FACT: The NNRC, established after the Panmunjom Armistice of July 27, 1953, was chaired by General K.S. Thimayya of India. The Commission also included Sweden, Switzerland, Poland and Czechoslovakia.

ANALYSIS: India's chairing of the NNRC and the 6,000-strong Custodian Force of India represented one of the most prominent peacekeeping roles played by the country in the early Cold War — a precursor to its continuing leadership in UN peacekeeping operations.






📖 CONCEPT NOTE

General K.S. Thimayya later became the 7th Chief of the Army Staff of India (1957–61). He is one of only two Indian officers awarded the DSO (Distinguished Service Order) by the British.

Lt Col A.G. Rangaraj (Maha Vir Chakra) — a distinct figure — commanded the 60 Parachute Field Ambulance, which treated approximately 222,000 patients in Korea (1950–54). India contributed 627 personnel through the 60 Para Field Ambulance and ~6,000 through the Custodian Force.

General K.M. Cariappa was India's first Indian Commander-in-Chief but had no role in the NNRC. The Korean War armistice was signed at Panmunjom on July 27, 1953 — no formal peace treaty has ever been concluded.

Q2  **CONCEPT KIT**

 CROSS-PAPER	GS1 (post-WWII history), GS2 (international relations, UN peacekeeping).
 MAINS KEYWORDS	NNRC, Korean Armistice, Panmunjom, Custodian Force of India, 60 Para Field Ambulance, India–ROK relations.
 COMMON MISTAKE	Confusing Thimayya (NNRC chair, Custodian Force) with Rangaraj (medical unit commander) — both Indian Army officers, different roles.
 EXAM TIP	Korean War 1950–53; armistice Panmunjom 1953; NNRC chair = Thimayya; medical unit = 60 Para Field Ambulance under Rangaraj.
 INTERVIEW	What does India's NNRC role say about Nehruvian non-alignment as a stance of active engagement rather than passive neutrality?

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Question 3

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[Source →](#)

The Forward Markets Commission (FMC), the erstwhile regulator of commodity futures in India, was merged with which body, and in which year?

- A RBI; 2013
- B SEBI; 2015 ✓
- C IRDAI; 2014
- D PFRDA; 2016

ANSWER & ANALYSIS
✓ EXPLANATION

FACT: The Forward Markets Commission (FMC) was merged with the Securities and Exchange Board of India (SEBI) on September 28, 2015, bringing the commodity derivatives market under a unified securities regulator.

ANALYSIS: The merger was driven by the NSEL crisis (2013) and the recognition that commodities and securities markets share common risks.

SEBI now regulates both equity and commodity derivatives — an institutional structure crucial for the launch of new products such as the NCDEX RAINMUMBAI weather derivative.

📌 CONCEPT NOTE

The FMC was set up in 1953 under the Forward Contracts (Regulation) Act, 1952; its merger with SEBI followed the Finance Bill 2015 which repealed the FC(R) Act. NCDEX (National Commodity & Derivatives Exchange) was established in 2003 and is headquartered in Mumbai.

Indian commodity exchanges currently include NCDEX, MCX, ICEX, NSE, and BSE — but NCDEX is the dominant agri-commodity platform. Weather derivatives are PARAMETRIC instruments — pay-outs are triggered by an objective weather measurement (e.g., rainfall) rather than assessed actual loss as in indemnity-type insurance.

The legal basis is the Securities Contracts (Regulation) Act, 1956 and the SEBI Act, 1992.

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

GS3 (economy, financial regulation), GS2 (regulatory architecture).

 **MAINS KEYWORDS**

FMC, SEBI, commodity derivatives, weather derivative, NCDEX, parametric vs indemnity, SC(R)A 1956.

 **COMMON MISTAKE**

Placing the FMC–SEBI merger in 2014 or 2013 — the actual date is September 28, 2015.

 **EXAM TIP**

FMC merged with SEBI on Sept 28, 2015; commodity derivatives legal basis = SC(R)A 1956 + SEBI Act 1992.

 **INTERVIEW**

Should weather derivatives be available to farmers directly (retail) or be limited to insurance intermediaries given retail risk-management capacity?

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Question 4

of 14

[Source →](#)

The African Union was admitted as a permanent member of the G20 during which summit?

- A Rome G20 Summit, 2021
- B Bali G20 Summit, 2022
- C New Delhi G20 Summit, 2023 ✓
- D Rio de Janeiro G20 Summit, 2024

ANSWER & ANALYSIS
 **EXPLANATION**

FACT: The African Union was admitted as a permanent member of the G20 at the New Delhi G20 Summit on September 9, 2023 during India's G20 presidency — a major diplomatic outcome attributed to India's leadership.

ANALYSIS: AU admission expanded G20 representation from 19 countries + EU to 19 countries + EU + AU, giving Africa a stronger voice in global economic governance and aligning with India's Voice of the Global South positioning.

 **CONCEPT NOTE**

The G20 was originally established in 1999 (Finance Ministers track) and elevated to a Leaders' Summit in 2008 following the global financial crisis. The first AU participation as a full member was at the New Delhi Summit (Sept 9–10, 2023). India had pushed for AU admission since the start of its presidency. The IAFS (India-Africa Forum Summit) is a separate India-AU bilateral mechanism — IAFS-I in New Delhi (2008), IAFS-II in Addis Ababa (2011), IAFS-III in New Delhi (2015, attended by 41 Heads of State/Government), and IAFS-IV was scheduled for May 28–31, 2026 in New Delhi but postponed in May 2026 due to the Bundibugyo Ebola PHEIC.

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


GS2 (international institutions, India's diplomacy), GS3 (economy, Global South).

 **MAINS KEYWORDS**

G20 New Delhi 2023, AU permanent membership, India's presidency, Voice of the Global South, IAFS-IV.

 **COMMON MISTAKE**

Crediting AU admission to Bali 2022 (when only the announcement was foreshadowed) — the actual admission came at New Delhi 2023.

 **EXAM TIP**

G20 origin 1999 (Finance); Leaders' Summit since 2008; AU joined Sept 2023, New Delhi, India's presidency.

 **INTERVIEW**

Will AU's G20 membership translate into concrete African outcomes, or remain a symbolic upgrade?

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Question 5

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[Source →](#)

Under the Indus Waters Treaty, 1960, the EASTERN rivers — allocated for unrestricted use by India — are correctly identified by which of the following options?

A Indus, Jhelum, Chenab

B Ravi, Beas, Sutlej ✓

C Ravi, Chenab, Jhelum

D Sutlej, Beas, Chenab

ANSWER & ANALYSIS
✓ EXPLANATION

FACT: The Indus Waters Treaty, 1960 allocates the three EASTERN rivers — Ravi, Beas, Sutlej — to India for unrestricted use, while the three WESTERN rivers — Indus, Jhelum, Chenab — are allocated to Pakistan with India retaining limited non-consumptive rights (hydropower, agriculture up to specified limits, navigation). **ANALYSIS:** India's new Chenab hydropower projects rely on this non-consumptive rights provision; the dispute over design parameters (pondage, spillway, draw-down level) at Kishanganga and Ratle stems from differences in interpreting these limits.

📌 CONCEPT NOTE

The Indus Waters Treaty was signed at Karachi on September 19, 1960 by Prime Minister Jawaharlal Nehru and President Ayub Khan, brokered by the World Bank. The Treaty contains a three-tier dispute resolution mechanism: (1) the Permanent Indus Commission (PIC, Article VIII); (2) a Neutral Expert appointed by the World Bank; (3) a Court of Arbitration.

The IWT was placed in abeyance by India on April 23, 2025 — one day after the Pahalgam terror attack of April 22, 2025 in which 26 civilians were killed. India has invoked Articles 60–62 of the Vienna Convention on the Law of Treaties (VCLT 1969) governing material breach and fundamental change of circumstances.

The CoA at The Hague issued a partial award on Kishanganga–Ratle pondage on May 15, 2026, which India does not recognise.

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

GS2 (international relations, treaties), GS3 (water resources, internal security).

 **MAINS KEYWORDS**

IWT 1960, eastern/western rivers, PIC, Neutral Expert, Court of Arbitration, VCLT 1969 Articles 60–62, abeyance.

 **COMMON MISTAKE**

Reversing the river allocation (mixing eastern and western rivers) — Eastern = Ravi/Beas/Sutlej (India); Western = Indus/Jhelum/Chenab (Pakistan).

 **EXAM TIP**

IWT signed Sept 19, 1960, Karachi; World Bank broker; PIC under Article VIII; 3-tier dispute resolution; abeyance from April 23, 2025.

 **INTERVIEW**

Is treaty "abeyance" recognised under VCLT 1969, or does it lie in a grey zone between full suspension and termination?

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Question 6

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[Source →](#)

Under the Defence Acquisition Procedure (DAP), 2020 issued by the Ministry of Defence, which acquisition category is accorded the HIGHEST priority?

- A Buy (Global)
- B Buy and Make (Global)
- C Buy (Indian — Indigenously Designed, Developed and Manufactured / IDDM) ✓
- D Make-II






ANSWER & ANALYSIS
✓ EXPLANATION

FACT: The Defence Acquisition Procedure (DAP), 2020 places Buy (Indian — Indigenously Designed, Developed and Manufactured), commonly abbreviated as Buy (Indian-IDDM), at the top of the priority order, ahead of Buy (Indian), Buy and Make (Indian), Buy (Global – Manufacture in India), and Buy (Global). **ANALYSIS:** This is the operational expression of Aatmanirbhar Bharat in defence procurement — products like DRDO's ULPGM-V3 (developed indigenously and produced by BDL/Adani) are tailor-made for this category.

📖 CONCEPT NOTE

DAP 2020 (released by the Defence Minister in September 2020) replaced the DPP 2016. The priority order is: (1) Buy (Indian-IDDM); (2) Buy (Indian); (3) Buy and Make (Indian); (4) Buy (Global – Manufacture in India); (5) Buy (Global). DAP 2020 also introduced an offset policy revision (offset clauses now apply only to Buy Global). DRDO was established in 1958 with HQ in DRDO Bhawan, New Delhi, and operates ~52 laboratories. BDL (Bharat Dynamics Limited) is a DPSU under MoD, established in 1970, headquartered in Hyderabad — India's primary missile production agency. iDEX (Innovations for Defence Excellence) was launched in 2018 to fund defence startups.

Q6  **CONCEPT KIT**

 CROSS-PAPER	GS3 (defence, Aatmanirbhar Bharat).
 MAINS KEYWORDS	DAP 2020, Buy IDDM, indigenisation, iDEX, BDL, ULPGM-V3.
 COMMON MISTAKE	Treating "Buy (Indian)" as the topmost category — the topmost is "Buy (Indian-IDDM)", which further demands indigenous DESIGN, not just manufacture.
 EXAM TIP	DAP 2020 priority — Buy IDDM > Buy (Indian) > Buy & Make (Indian) > Buy (Global-Manufacture in India) > Buy (Global). DRDO 1958; BDL 1970; iDEX 2018.
 INTERVIEW	Does the IDDM category create a sufficient incentive for genuine indigenous R&D, or does it merely re-label assembly with imported critical sub-systems?

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Question 7

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[Source →](#)

India's nodal agency for issuing Common Criteria (CC) certifications under the Common Criteria Recognition Arrangement (CCRA) is the STQC Directorate, which functions under which Ministry?

- A Ministry of Defence
- B Ministry of Electronics and Information Technology (MeitY) ✓
- C Ministry of Consumer Affairs, Food and Public Distribution
- D Ministry of Science and Technology

ANSWER & ANALYSIS
✓ EXPLANATION

FACT: The Standardisation Testing and Quality Certification (STQC) Directorate operates under the Ministry of Electronics and Information Technology (MeitY), Government of India. STQC runs the Indian Common Criteria Certification Scheme (IC3S) from its IT Centre at Kolkata.

ANALYSIS: India's CCDB chairmanship (April 2026 – April 2028) elevates the STQC's international profile and positions India alongside the US (NIAP), UK (CESG), Germany (BSI), Canada (CCCS) and Japan (IPA) as a Certificate Authorising Nation in IT-security standards.

📌 CONCEPT NOTE

India joined CCRA on September 16, 2013 as a Certificate Authorizing Nation — one of around 20 such nations globally; the rest (currently 18) are Certificate Consuming Nations, taking total CCRA membership to about 38 nations. The Common Criteria standard is codified as ISO/IEC 15408 and the evaluation methodology as ISO/IEC 18045 (CEM).

Certifications are graded by Evaluation Assurance Levels (EAL1 through EAL7), with EAL4 typically the highest mutually recognised level. The CCDB (Common Criteria Development Board) is the technical arm of the CCRA. The chairmanship was confirmed at the 1st Quarter CCRA meeting in Tokyo, April 14–16, 2026.

India's broader cyber-standards diplomacy is also being pursued under the Indo-US Initiative on Critical and Emerging Technologies (iCET), launched in 2022.

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

GS3 (cyber security, S&T), GS2 (international standards diplomacy).

 **MAINS KEYWORDS**

STQC, MeitY, CCRA, CCDB, ISO/IEC 15408, ISO/IEC 18045, EAL, iCET.

 **COMMON MISTAKE**

Placing STQC under the Ministry of Science and Technology — STQC is under MeitY (the same ministry that runs CERT-In and ISM).

 **EXAM TIP**

STQC = MeitY; CC standard = ISO/IEC 15408; CEM = ISO/IEC 18045; India joined CCRA Sept 16, 2013; chairmanship 2026–28.

 **INTERVIEW**

Should India push for an Indo-Pacific equivalent of CCRA to reduce dependence on Five Eyes-dominated standards bodies?

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Question 8

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AYUSH was elevated from a Department to a full-fledged Ministry of the Government of India on November 9, 2014. Which of the following systems was the LATEST to be formally added to the AYUSH grouping?

A Yoga and Naturopathy

B Sowa-Rigpa ✓

C Unani

D Siddha

ANSWER & ANALYSIS
✓ EXPLANATION

FACT: Sowa-Rigpa — the traditional medical system of the trans-Himalayan region (Ladakh, Sikkim, Arunachal Pradesh, Darjeeling-Sikkim hills) — was formally recognised by the Government of India in 2010 and was the LATEST system added to the AYUSH grouping. With this, AYUSH expanded to its current six-system form: Ayurveda, Yoga & Naturopathy, Unani, Siddha, Sowa-Rigpa and Homoeopathy.

ANALYSIS: The 2010 inclusion responded to long-standing demand from Himalayan communities and aligned India's traditional medicine framework with cultural-geographic diversity rather than only the south-Asian classical systems.

📖 CONCEPT NOTE

The Ministry of AYUSH was carved out as a full ministry on November 9, 2014; previously it was a Department under the Ministry of Health and Family Welfare (established 1995). Sowa-Rigpa traces its origins to the Tibetan medical tradition and is closely linked to Buddhist scholarship — its principal text is the Gyud-Zhi (Four Tantras).

The WHO Global Centre for Traditional Medicine (GCTM) was inaugurated at Jamnagar, Gujarat in April 2022 — the first such centre globally. The National AYUSH Mission (NAM) is a Centrally Sponsored Scheme launched in 2014 covering AYUSH dispensaries, drug quality, and medicinal plants.

India's AYUSH market is projected to cross USD 23 billion by 2026.

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


GS2 (governance, health policy), GS1 (culture, traditional knowledge).

 **MAINS KEYWORDS**

AYUSH, Sowa-Rigpa, NAM, WHO GCTM Jamnagar, Ayush Grid, traditional medicine.

 **COMMON MISTAKE**

Identifying Yoga & Naturopathy as the latest addition — Yoga was part of the framework from the start; Sowa-Rigpa was the 2010 latecomer that gave AYUSH its current six-system structure.

 **EXAM TIP**

AYUSH = Ayurveda, Yoga & Naturopathy, Unani, Siddha, Sowa-Rigpa, Homoeopathy (Sowa-Rigpa added 2010); Ministry formed Nov 9, 2014; WHO GCTM Jamnagar 2022.

 **INTERVIEW**

Does the AYUSH grouping risk diluting the distinct epistemological foundations of each system by clubbing them under one administrative umbrella?

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Question 9

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[Source →](#)

International Tea Day, observed annually on May 21, was instituted by the UN General Assembly on the basis of a proposal led by India. The relevant UNGA Resolution and year of adoption are:

- A Resolution 64/292; 2010
- B Resolution 70/1; 2015
- C Resolution 74/241; 2019 ✓
- D Resolution 77/108; 2022

ANSWER & ANALYSIS
✓ EXPLANATION

FACT: UNGA Resolution 74/241, adopted in December 2019, designated 21 May as International Tea Day with the FAO designated as the lead UN agency for the observance. India led the proposal at the FAO Intergovernmental Group on Tea (IGG-Tea).

ANALYSIS: India's leadership in instituting International Tea Day is consistent with its position as the world's second-largest tea producer and the largest producer of black tea, and reflects its broader push for product-based UN observances (also International Day of Yoga, International Year of Millets).

📌 CONCEPT NOTE

India is the world's 2nd-largest tea producer (after China), the largest producer of black tea, and also the largest tea-consuming country. The Tea Board of India is constituted under the Tea Act, 1953 (under the Ministry of Commerce and Industry) and is headquartered in Kolkata.

Major producing states: Assam (~50%), West Bengal (~21%), Tamil Nadu, Kerala, Himachal Pradesh and Karnataka.

India's GI-tagged teas: Darjeeling Tea (the FIRST Indian GI ever, in 2004), Assam Orthodox, Nilgiri Orthodox, and Kangra.

2025 production was 1,369.98 million kg; 2025 exports were a record 280.40 million kg / ₹8,488 crore.

Q1 2026 saw a >11% production fall due to rainfall deficits (Assam 97%, West Bengal 87%).

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

GS3 (agriculture, plantation crops, climate impact), GS1 (geography of plantations).

 **MAINS KEYWORDS**

International Tea Day, UNGA Res 74/241, FAO, Tea Act 1953, GI tags, Darjeeling, climate variability.

 **COMMON MISTAKE**

Mixing up the resolution number with International Yoga Day (Res 69/131, 2014) or other UN observances.

 **EXAM TIP**

International Tea Day = May 21; UNGA Res 74/241 (Dec 2019); India-led at FAO IGG-Tea; first Indian GI = Darjeeling Tea 2004; Tea Act 1953.

 **INTERVIEW**

Should India promote a Geographical Indication-based premiumisation strategy to insulate its tea exports from price volatility caused by mass-market black tea competitors?

 [Read Full Article →](#)

Question 10

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[Source →](#)

Of the following, which represents the corpus approved by the Government of India for the India Semiconductor Mission (ISM)?

A ₹10,000 crore

B ₹46,000 crore

C ₹76,000 crore ✓

D ₹1.97 lakh crore

ANSWER & ANALYSIS
✓ EXPLANATION

FACT: The India Semiconductor Mission (ISM) was approved by the Union Cabinet in December 2021 with an outlay of ₹76,000 crore. It is administered by the Ministry of Electronics and Information Technology (MeitY).

ANALYSIS: This corpus supports fab projects (50% capital subsidy for compound semiconductor fabs), OSAT (Outsourced Semiconductor Assembly and Test) units, and design-linked incentives (DLI) — the strategic context for AMD's May 2026 Taiwan announcement, which underscores the depth of the Taiwan packaging-and-assembly ecosystem.

📌 CONCEPT NOTE

Approved ISM projects include: (i) Tata Electronics–PSMC fab at Dholera, Gujarat — India's FIRST commercial fab; (ii) Tata OSAT at Jagiroad, Assam; (iii) Micron OSAT at Sanand, Gujarat. The ₹1.97 lakh crore figure in the distractor is the total Production-Linked Incentive (PLI) outlay across 14 sectors — a different scheme.

Taiwan, by contrast, hosts ~60% of global foundry capacity (largely TSMC) and ~90% of leading-edge logic chips. The CoWoS (Chip-on-Wafer-on-Substrate) and FOPLP (Fan-Out Panel-Level Packaging) technologies are critical for AI accelerators.

India's diplomatic engagement with Taiwan is conducted through the India-Taipei Association (since 1995, no formal diplomatic ties). The Indo-US iCET was launched in 2022.

Q10  **CONCEPT KIT**

 CROSS-PAPER	GS3 (economy, S&T, supply chains).
 MAINS KEYWORDS	ISM ₹76,000 crore, Tata-PSMC Dholera, OSAT, CoWoS, FOPLP, iCET, India-Taipei Association.
 COMMON MISTAKE	Confusing the ISM corpus (₹76,000 cr, single mission) with the PLI total (₹1.97 lakh cr, multi-sector) — they are distinct schemes.
 EXAM TIP	ISM corpus = ₹76,000 cr; approved Dec 2021; under MeitY; first fab = Tata-PSMC Dholera; Micron OSAT Sanand; Tata OSAT Jagiroad.
 INTERVIEW	Should India prioritise packaging (OSAT) and design (DLI) over leading-edge fabrication, given the capital intensity of the latter?

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Question 11

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[Source →](#)

In *Bijoe Emmanuel v. State of Kerala (1986)*, the Supreme Court upheld the right of three Jehovah's Witness students to remain silent during the singing of the National Anthem in school. The judgment was grounded primarily in which combination of constitutional provisions?

- A Articles 14 and 21
- B Articles 19(1)(a) and 25 ✓
- C Articles 21 and 51A(a)
- D Articles 19(1)(b) and 29

ANSWER & ANALYSIS

 **EXPLANATION**

FACT: In *Bijoe Emmanuel v. State of Kerala (1986)*, the Supreme Court (Justices O. Chinnappa Reddy and M.M. Dutt) held that the students' refusal to sing the National Anthem on grounds of religious belief was protected by Article 25 (freedom of conscience and free profession, practice and propagation of religion) read with Article 19(1)(a) (freedom of speech and expression, which the Court held includes the right to remain silent). **ANALYSIS:** The Court held that there is no statutory or constitutional provision OBLIGING anyone to sing the National Anthem; standing respectfully suffices.

This precedent is directly relevant to the West Bengal Vande Mataram singing mandate (May 2026) for madrasas.

 **CONCEPT NOTE**

Vande Mataram was composed by Bankim Chandra Chattopadhyay in 1875 and published in his Bengali novel *Anandamath* in 1882. It was first sung at the 1896 Calcutta Session of the INC by Rabindranath Tagore.

It was adopted as the National Song by the Constituent Assembly on January 24, 1950 — a day before adoption of the Constitution — and given "equal status" with the National Anthem ("Jana Gana Mana", adopted on the same day) by the Constituent Assembly's declaration. However, no statute requires the singing of either; the National Honour Act 1971 only prevents disrespect.

The Prevention of Insults to National Honour Act, 1971 (amended 2003) provides for penalties for disrespect to the National Anthem and National Flag.

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

GS2 (polity, fundamental rights), GS1 (modern history, freedom movement).

 **MAINS KEYWORDS**

Bijoe Emmanuel 1986, Article 25, Article 19(1)(a), right to remain silent, National Anthem/Song, Vande Mataram, Constituent Assembly Jan 24, 1950.

 **COMMON MISTAKE**

Citing Article 21 (right to life) instead of Article 19(1)(a) and Article 25 — the Bijoe Emmanuel reasoning was speech/conscience based, not life/liberty.

 **EXAM TIP**

Bijoe Emmanuel 1986 = Art 19(1)(a) + Art 25; Vande Mataram National Song from Jan 24, 1950; composer Bankim Chandra (1875), Anandamath (1882).

 **INTERVIEW**

Does the SC's "stand respectfully but need not sing" formula adequately protect conscientious dissent, or does it create societal pressure that effectively coerces participation?

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Question 12

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[Source →](#)

Which of the following Intangible Cultural Heritage (ICH) elements was the FIRST Indian inscription on UNESCO's Representative List of the Intangible Cultural Heritage of Humanity?

- A Yoga
- B Kumbh Mela
- C Kutiyattam Sanskrit Theatre ✓
- D Vedic Chanting






ANSWER & ANALYSIS
EXPLANATION

FACT: Kutiyattam Sanskrit Theatre — the traditional Sanskrit drama of Kerala — was India's FIRST inscription on UNESCO's Representative List of the Intangible Cultural Heritage of Humanity, originally proclaimed a Masterpiece of the Oral and Intangible Heritage of Humanity in 2001 and formally inscribed in 2008 when the Representative List was constituted under the 2003 Convention. **ANALYSIS:** The 2003 UNESCO Convention on the Safeguarding of Intangible Cultural Heritage created the modern ICH listing framework; India ratified it in 2005. As of May 2026, India has 16 ICH inscriptions — the latest being Deepavali, inscribed at the 20th Intergovernmental Committee session held at Red Fort, New Delhi (December 8–13, 2025).

CONCEPT NOTE

India's 16 ICH inscriptions (chronological): Kutiyattam Sanskrit Theatre (2008), Vedic Chanting (2008), Ramlila (2008), Ramman of Garhwal (2009), Mudi yettu of Kerala (2010), Kalbelia folk songs/dances of Rajasthan (2010), Chhau dance (2010), Buddhist chanting of Ladakh (2012), Sankirtana of Manipur (2013), Traditional brass and copper utensil craft of the Thatheras of Jandiala Guru (2014), Yoga (2016), Nawrouz (2016, multinational), Kumbh Mela (2017), Durga Puja of Kolkata (2021), Garba of Gujarat (2023), Deepavali (2025 — latest). World Day for Cultural Diversity for Dialogue and Development is observed on May 21, established by UNGA Resolution 57/249 (December 2002). The Indian nodal body is the Ministry of Culture; supporting institutions include IGNCA, ASI, Sangeet Natak Akademi, Lalit Kala Akademi and Sahitya Akademi.

Q12  **CONCEPT KIT**

 CROSS-PAPER	GS1 (art and culture), GS2 (international organisations, UNESCO).
 MAINS KEYWORDS	UNESCO ICH 2003 Convention, Kutiyattam, Yoga 2016, Kumbh Mela 2017, Garba 2023, Sangeet Natak Akademi.
 COMMON MISTAKE	Identifying Yoga (2016) or Kumbh Mela (2017) as the FIRST Indian inscription — both are high-profile but later additions; Kutiyattam (2008) is the first.
 EXAM TIP	First Indian ICH = Kutiyattam (2008); Yoga = 2016; Kumbh Mela = 2017; Durga Puja Kolkata = 2021; Garba (2023); latest = Deepavali (December 2025); total = 16.
 INTERVIEW	How should India balance commercialisation pressures (e.g., on Kumbh Mela tourism) with the safeguarding obligations under the 2003 UNESCO Convention?

 [Read Full Article →](#)

Question 13

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[Source →](#)

The National Investigation Agency (NIA), India's federal counter-terror investigation agency, was established under which legislation, and in response to which incident?

A NIA Act, 2008; 26/11 Mumbai terror attacks ✓

B POTA, 2002; Parliament attack of 2001

C NIA Act, 2006; Mumbai train bombings of 2006

D UAPA, 2008; Akshardham attack of 2002

ANSWER & ANALYSIS
✓ EXPLANATION

FACT: The National Investigation Agency was established under the National Investigation Agency Act, 2008, enacted by Parliament in the immediate aftermath of the 26/11 Mumbai terror attacks (November 26–29, 2008). The Act came into force on December 31, 2008.

ANALYSIS: NIA's creation marked a structural shift towards a federal counter-terror investigation framework, addressing the limitations of state-level investigation in cases of trans-border or multi-state terror conspiracies that had been exposed by the Mumbai attacks.

📌 CONCEPT NOTE

NIA is headquartered in New Delhi and has regional and branch offices across India. The NIA Act, 2008 conferred concurrent jurisdiction over the Scheduled Offences listed in its Schedule — including offences under UAPA 1967, Atomic Energy Act, Anti-Hijacking Act, SAARC Convention (Suppression of Terrorism) Act, and others.

The NIA (Amendment) Act, 2019 expanded scheduled offences (adding human trafficking, cyber terrorism, manufacture/sale of prohibited arms) and gave NIA extra-territorial jurisdiction for offences committed against Indians or affecting Indian interests abroad. The NIA Act co-exists with the UAPA framework — UAPA defines terror offences and procedural safeguards (e.g., Section 43-D(5) bail provisions); NIA Act creates the investigation agency.

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

GS3 (internal security, federalism), GS2 (governance).

 **MAINS KEYWORDS**

NIA Act 2008, 26/11 Mumbai attacks, UAPA, Scheduled Offences, NIA Amendment 2019, extra-territorial jurisdiction.

 **COMMON MISTAKE**

Attributing NIA's establishment to the 2001 Parliament attack (which led to POTA 2002, repealed 2004) — NIA came after 26/11 (2008).

 **EXAM TIP**

NIA Act 2008 (post 26/11); came into force Dec 31, 2008; HQ New Delhi; 2019 amendment expanded scheduled offences and added extra-territorial jurisdiction.

 **INTERVIEW**

Has NIA become an effective federal counter-terror agency, or do federal-state friction points (state consent for investigation) still hamper its operations?

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Question 14

of 14

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India joined the Common Criteria Recognition Arrangement (CCRA) as a Certificate Authorising Nation in which year?

A 2010

B 2011

C 2013 ✓

D 2016

ANSWER & ANALYSIS
✓ EXPLANATION

FACT: India joined the CCRA on September 16, 2013 as a Certificate Authorising Nation — one of around 20 such nations worldwide. The remaining CCRA members (currently 18) are Certificate Consuming Nations, which can only accept (not issue) CC certifications.

ANALYSIS: India's 2013 entry as an Authorising Nation, combined with its 2026–28 chairmanship of the CCDB, represents a significant rise in India's status in cyber-security standards — a domain increasingly seen as a geo-economic and strategic battleground.




📌 CONCEPT NOTE

The Common Criteria Recognition Arrangement (CCRA) is the international agreement under which signatories mutually recognise IT-security certifications issued under the Common Criteria standard (ISO/IEC 15408). Total membership is approximately 38 nations (20 Authorising + 18 Consuming).

Certificate Authorising Nations include the United States (NIAP), Canada (CCCS), United Kingdom (CESG/NCSC), Germany (BSI), France (ANSSI), Japan (IPA), the Netherlands, Italy, Spain, South Korea, Australia/NZ, Sweden, Turkey, India and a few others. India's nodal body, the STQC Directorate under MeitY, operates the Indian Common Criteria Certification Scheme (IC3S) from STQC IT Centre, Kolkata.

India's CCDB chairmanship (April 2026 – April 2028) was confirmed at the 1st Quarter CCRA meeting in Tokyo, April 14–16, 2026.

Q14  **CONCEPT KIT**

 CROSS-PAPER	GS3 (cyber security, S&T diplomacy), GS2 (international institutions).
 MAINS KEYWORDS	CCRA, Certificate Authorising Nation, STQC, MeitY, IC3S, CCDB chairmanship, ISO/IEC 15408.
 COMMON MISTAKE	Placing India's CCRA entry in 2016 (when the CSC nuclear convention was ratified) — CCRA membership came earlier, on September 16, 2013.
 EXAM TIP	India joined CCRA on Sept 16, 2013 as Authorising Nation; STQC under MeitY; IC3S at Kolkata; CC standard = ISO/IEC 15408; CCDB chair 2026–28.
 INTERVIEW	With AI-enabled cyber threats rising, do existing Common Criteria frameworks adequately address ML-model security, or is a new evaluation methodology needed?

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— Aristotle

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