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DAILY QUIZ — SOLVED

Daily Quiz — May 23, 2026

23 May 2026



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DAILY QUIZ — SOLVED ANSWER KEY

Daily Quiz — May 23, 2026

23 May 2026 · 13 Questions · Answers & Explanations Included

Question 1

of 13

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The RBI's record ₹2.87 lakh crore surplus transfer to the Central Government for FY26 is statutorily anchored in which provision, and the framework for deciding it is based on which committee's recommendations?

- A Section 17 of the RBI Act, 1934; Urjit Patel Committee
- B Section 45 of the RBI Act, 1934; Y.V. Reddy Committee
- C **Section 47 of the RBI Act, 1934; Bimal Jalan Committee ✓**
- D Section 7 of the RBI Act, 1934; Tarapore Committee

ANSWER & ANALYSIS

 **EXPLANATION**

FACT: The RBI's surplus transfer is governed by Section 47 of the Reserve Bank of India Act, 1934, which requires that after meeting bad and doubtful debt provisions, contributions to reserves and other expenses, the balance of profits shall be paid to the Central Government. The Revised Economic Capital Framework (ECF), adopted by the RBI Board on August 26, 2019, is based on the recommendations of the Bimal Jalan Committee (constituted December 2018; report August 2019).

ANALYSIS: The FY26 surplus of ₹2,86,588.46 crore is a record — exceeding the previous high of ₹2,68,590.07 crore (~₹2.69 lakh crore) for FY25 — driven by foreign exchange income, gains on forex sales, and a 20.61% expansion of the RBI balance sheet to ₹91.97 lakh crore.

 **CONCEPT NOTE**

The Revised ECF maintains a Contingency Risk Buffer (CRB) — a part of realised equity that absorbs monetary, financial and credit risks. The CRB band was revised in May 2025 from the earlier 5.5%-6.5% to a new 4.5%-7.5% range, giving the Board more discretion.

The FY26 CRB has been kept at 6.5% (vs 7.5% in FY25) — releasing more surplus to the Centre. The RBI accounting year was aligned to the fiscal year (April-March) from FY21 onwards (earlier July-June).

Section 7 governs Centre-RBI directions; Section 17 lists permitted business; Section 45 deals with bank inspections. Urjit Patel Committee (2014) gave the inflation-targeting framework; Y.V. Reddy Committee (2007) reviewed FRBM; Tarapore Committees (1997 & 2006) examined capital account convertibility.

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


GS3 (Economy, monetary policy, fiscal-monetary interface).

 **MAINS KEYWORDS**

Section 47 RBI Act, Revised ECF, Bimal Jalan Committee, CRB, surplus transfer, non-tax revenue.

 **COMMON MISTAKE**

Confusing Section 47 (surplus transfer) with Section 7 (Centre directions) — both are Centre-RBI provisions but address completely different functions.

 **EXAM TIP**

RBI surplus = Section 47 RBI Act 1934; framework = Revised ECF (Aug 26, 2019) per Bimal Jalan Committee; CRB band 4.5%-7.5% (revised May 2025); accounting year April-March from FY21.

 **INTERVIEW**

Is the record RBI dividend a sign of fiscal complacency, or prudent monetisation of forex gains?

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Question 2

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India's Integrated Guided Missile Development Programme (IGMDP), under which Agni-1 was developed, was launched in which year and comprised which set of missiles?

- A 1972; Prithvi, Akash, Trishul, Nag, BrahMos
- B 1983; Prithvi, Agni, Akash, Trishul, Nag ✓
- C 1995; Agni, Akash, Astra, Nirbhay, Shaurya
- D 1989; Prithvi, Agni, Sagarika, Dhanush, Trishul

ANSWER & ANALYSIS
EXPLANATION

FACT: The Integrated Guided Missile Development Programme (IGMDP) was launched in 1983 under the leadership of Dr. APJ Abdul Kalam at DRDO, and comprised five missiles — Prithvi (surface-to-surface short-range), Agni (intermediate-range ballistic), Akash (medium-range surface-to-air), Trishul (short-range surface-to-air), and Nag (third-generation anti-tank). The programme was formally concluded on January 8, 2008 with most missiles inducted into service.

ANALYSIS: BrahMos was developed separately under the Indo-Russian BrahMos Aerospace JV (1998), and is NOT part of IGMDP. Astra, Nirbhay, Shaurya, Sagarika, Dhanush are all later DRDO programmes.


CONCEPT NOTE

Agni-1 is a single-stage, solid-propellant SRBM with a range of 700-1,200 km, bridging the gap between Prithvi-II (350 km) and Agni-II (2,000+ km). The May 22, 2026 test from ITR Chandipur was conducted by the Strategic Forces Command (SFC), which was established on January 4, 2003 under the Nuclear Command Authority (NCA).

The NCA is chaired by the Prime Minister and comprises a Political Council (final authority on nuclear use) and an Executive Council. India's nuclear doctrine was officially adopted on January 4, 2003 by the CCS — its three pillars are: (i) No First Use (NFU), (ii) Credible Minimum Deterrent, and (iii) Massive Retaliation in response to a nuclear first strike.

India's most recent milestone was Mission Divyastra on March 11, 2024 — the first flight test of Agni-5 with MIRV (Multiple Independently-targetable Re-entry Vehicle) payload. India is a member of the Missile Technology Control Regime (MTCR, since 2016) but NOT of the Nuclear Suppliers Group (NSG) due to China's block.

Q2  **CONCEPT KIT**

 CROSS-PAPER	GS3 (Security, defence, technology), GS2 (nuclear diplomacy).
 MAINS KEYWORDS	IGMDP, Agni series, SFC, NCA, NFU, Credible Minimum Deterrent, Mission Divyastra, MIRV.
 COMMON MISTAKE	Including BrahMos in IGMDP — BrahMos is an Indo-Russian JV from 1998, NOT part of the original five-missile IGMDP.
 EXAM TIP	IGMDP = 1983, Dr. Kalam, 5 missiles (Prithvi, Agni, Akash, Trishul, Nag), concluded Jan 8, 2008; SFC = Jan 4, 2003 under NCA (PM-chair); nuclear doctrine — NFU + CMD + Massive Retaliation (2003); Mission Divyastra — March 11, 2024 (Agni-5 MIRV).
 INTERVIEW	Should India formally revise its No First Use policy in light of Pakistan's tactical-nuclear posture?

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Question 3

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The Supreme Court's May 22, 2026 directions mandating FIR in every missing-child case build on which landmark earlier judgment of the Supreme Court?

- A Olga Tellis v. Bombay Municipal Corporation (1985)
- B **Bachpan Bachao Andolan v. Union of India (2013)** ✓
- C Vishaka v. State of Rajasthan (1997)
- D Sakshi v. Union of India (2004)

ANSWER & ANALYSIS
 **EXPLANATION**

FACT: The May 22, 2026 directions of the bench of Justices Ahsanuddin Amanullah and R. Mahadevan operationalise the 2013 ruling in *Bachpan Bachao Andolan v. Union of India* (2013) 6 SCC 1, in which the Supreme Court had first directed mandatory FIR registration in every reported case of a missing child, with a presumption that the child has been kidnapped, abducted or trafficked unless investigation establishes otherwise. **ANALYSIS:** The 2026 order responds to persistent non-compliance — many State police forces continued treating missing-child reports as mere "general diary" entries rather than cognisable offences, defeating the purpose of the 2013 judgment.

 **CONCEPT NOTE**

The constitutional anchors invoked by the SC are Article 21 (right to life and personal liberty — read with right to dignity), Article 39(e) (protection of childhood against exploitation), Article 39(f) (children given opportunities to develop in a healthy manner) and Article 45 (early childhood care). The statutory framework is the Bharatiya Nyaya Sanhita (BNS), 2023 — Sections 137-144 cover kidnapping, abduction, and trafficking of minors — together with the Juvenile Justice (Care and Protection of Children) Act, 2015 and the POCSO Act, 2012.

The 2026 order also requires inter-operability of MHA databases TrackChild, Khoya-Paya, ZIPNET, CCTNS and Child Welfare Committee (CWC) records, and full functionalisation of approximately 788 Anti-Human Trafficking Units (AHTUs) within four weeks. NCRB 2022 recorded ~83,350 missing children.

Olga Tellis (1985) is the right-to-livelihood/Article 21 case; Vishaka (1997) gave workplace sexual-harassment guidelines; Sakshi (2004) clarified rape law interpretation.

Q3  **CONCEPT KIT**

 CROSS-PAPER	GS2 (polity, judiciary, child rights, governance), GS1 (society — vulnerable sections).
 MAINS KEYWORDS	Bachpan Bachao Andolan, Article 21, Article 39, BNS Sections 137-144, AHTUs, TrackChild, Mission Vatsalya.
 COMMON MISTAKE	Citing Vishaka or Olga Tellis for child-trafficking jurisprudence — Bachpan Bachao Andolan v Uoi (2013) is the foundational missing-children case.
 EXAM TIP	Bachpan Bachao Andolan v Uoi (2013) → mandatory FIR + presumption of kidnapping; Articles 21, 39(e)(f), 45; BNS 2023 §§137-144; JJ Act 2015; POCSO 2012; ~788 AHTUs; Mission Vatsalya (2022, replaced ICPS); NCRB 2022 — ~83,350 missing children.
 INTERVIEW	Is the SC's continuing-mandamus approach to police compliance the right institutional tool, or does it erode federal policing authority?

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Question 4

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The International Big Cat Alliance (IBCA), which Saudi Arabia joined as the 26th member on May 22, 2026, is headquartered where and covers how many big cat species?

- A Bengaluru; 5 big cats
- B New Delhi; 7 big cats ✓
- C Mysuru; 6 big cats
- D Gandhinagar; 8 big cats

ANSWER & ANALYSIS
✓ EXPLANATION

FACT: The International Big Cat Alliance (IBCA) is headquartered in New Delhi and covers seven big cat species — Tiger, Lion, Leopard, Snow Leopard, Cheetah, Jaguar and Puma (the last two are non-native to India but are protected under the alliance's global mandate). **ANALYSIS:** IBCA was launched by PM Narendra Modi at Mysuru on April 9, 2023, marking 50 years of Project Tiger (Project Tiger launched April 1, 1973 at Jim Corbett National Park). The Union Cabinet approved the framework agreement on February 29, 2024, and the alliance acquired full treaty status on January 23, 2025 with the deposit of the fifth instrument of ratification.

📌 CONCEPT NOTE

The five founding ratifiers of IBCA are India, Nicaragua, Eswatini, Somalia, and Liberia. India committed ₹150 crore as seed funding for the period 2023-28.

Saudi Arabia's May 22, 2026 accession is significant because Saudi Arabia hosts the Arabian Leopard (*Panthera pardus nimr*), listed Critically Endangered on the IUCN Red List — the AIUla Royal Commission runs a flagship Arabian Leopard breeding programme. India's tiger population stood at 3,682 per the National Tiger Conservation Authority (NTCA) "Status of Tigers" Report (2022 cycle, released April 9, 2023) — India hosts ~70% of the global wild tiger population.

The NTCA itself is a statutory body under the Wild Life (Protection) Act, 1972 (amended 2006). The 2022 amendment to WLPA streamlined schedules — Schedule I now lists most "Specially Protected" species.

Mysuru hosted the launch event but is NOT the headquarters; the HQ is New Delhi.

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


GS3 (Environment, biodiversity, multilateralism), GS2 (IR, South-South cooperation).

 **MAINS KEYWORDS**

IBCA, Project Tiger, NTCA, WLPA 1972, 7 big cats, Arabian Leopard.

 **COMMON MISTAKE**

Citing Mysuru as IBCA HQ because the launch happened there — the HQ is New Delhi; Mysuru was only the venue of the April 9, 2023 launch event.

 **EXAM TIP**

IBCA — PM Modi launch Mysuru April 9, 2023 (50 years of Project Tiger); HQ New Delhi; Cabinet nod Feb 29, 2024; treaty status Jan 23, 2025; founding 5 — India + Nicaragua + Eswatini + Somalia + Liberia; 7 big cats — Tiger, Lion, Leopard, Snow Leopard, Cheetah, Jaguar, Puma; India seed ₹150 cr (2023-28).

 **INTERVIEW**

Should IBCA expand to include all "umbrella" species or stay focused on the seven flagship big cats?

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Question 5

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Under Article 6 of the WTO Dispute Settlement Understanding (DSU), which India invoked on May 22, 2026 to block China's panel request on solar/IT measures, when is a dispute panel actually established?

- A At the first DSB meeting where the request is on the agenda
- B **At the second DSB meeting where the request is on the agenda — automatically, unless consensus to reject** ✓
- C Only after the WTO Director-General gives written consent
- D Only after the parties agree on the panellists

ANSWER & ANALYSIS

EXPLANATION

FACT: Under Article 6 of the WTO Dispute Settlement Understanding (DSU), a dispute panel is established automatically at the second DSB meeting at which the request appears on the agenda, unless the DSB decides by consensus NOT to establish the panel (so-called "negative consensus"). At the first DSB meeting, a member can block the request; at the second, blocking is no longer possible.

ANALYSIS: This is precisely the procedural lever India used on May 22, 2026 — by blocking China's first request, India bought time for diplomatic engagement and to brief its trade team, knowing that panel formation is essentially certain at the next DSB meeting.






CONCEPT NOTE

The dispute concerns India's renewable-energy and IT-related trade measures — specifically the Basic Customs Duty (BCD) of 40% on solar modules and 25% on solar cells (effective April 1, 2022), the Approved List of Models and Manufacturers (ALMM), and the ~₹24,000 crore PLI Scheme (Tranche I + Tranche II) for high-efficiency solar PV modules. China controls over 80% of the global solar PV value chain (polysilicon, wafers, cells, modules).

The WTO was established on January 1, 1995 under the Marrakesh Agreement (signed April 15, 1994); India is a founding member. The current Director-General is Dr. Ngozi Okonjo-Iweala (Nigeria, since March 2021 — first woman, first African DG).

The WTO Appellate Body has been dysfunctional since December 11, 2019, when its membership fell below the quorum of three because the United States has been blocking new appointments since 2017. India's renewable target is 500 GW non-fossil capacity by 2030 — part of the Panchamrit pledges made at COP-26 Glasgow (November 2021).

Q5  **CONCEPT KIT**

 CROSS-PAPER	GS2 (IR, WTO, India-China), GS3 (renewable energy, industrial policy).
 MAINS KEYWORDS	DSU Article 6, dispute panel, negative consensus, WTO Appellate Body, BCD on solar, ALMM, PLI Solar, Panchamrit, 500 GW.
 COMMON MISTAKE	Believing the WTO panel can be blocked indefinitely — the first block buys time, but the second DSB meeting establishes the panel automatically under negative-consensus rule.
 EXAM TIP	DSU Art 6 — panel at 2nd DSB meeting (negative consensus); WTO estd Jan 1, 1995 (Marrakesh 1994); DG Ngozi Okonjo-Iweala (March 2021); Appellate Body dysfunctional since Dec 2019 (US blocks); India 500 GW non-fossil by 2030 (Panchamrit, COP-26 Glasgow Nov 2021); India BCD — 40% modules, 25% cells (April 2022).
 INTERVIEW	Is the WTO dispute system still credible without a functional Appellate Body, and what is India's preferred reform path?

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Question 6

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The UN Military Gender Advocate of the Year Award won by Major Abhilasha Barak for 2025 operationalises which landmark UN Security Council resolution, adopted in which year?

A UNSC Resolution 1325 (2000) — Women, Peace and Security ✓

B UNSC Resolution 1373 (2001) — Counter-Terrorism

C UNSC Resolution 2178 (2014) — Foreign Terrorist Fighters

D UNSC Resolution 1540 (2004) — Non-Proliferation

ANSWER & ANALYSIS
EXPLANATION

FACT: UN Security Council Resolution 1325, adopted unanimously on October 31, 2000, is the landmark "Women, Peace and Security (WPS)" resolution. It recognises the disproportionate impact of armed conflict on women and the importance of women's full and equal participation in conflict prevention, resolution, and post-conflict peacebuilding.

ANALYSIS: The UN Military Gender Advocate of the Year Award, instituted in 2016 by the UN Department of Peace Operations (DPO), Office of Military Affairs, is conferred annually on May 29 — the International Day of UN Peacekeepers — and operationalises Resolution 1325 within UN peacekeeping operations.

CONCEPT NOTE

Major Abhilasha Barak is India's first woman combat aviator (qualified in the Army Aviation Corps in 2022) and currently serves as Female Engagement Team (FET) Commander with the Indian Battalion (INDBATT) of UNIFIL in Lebanon. Two earlier Indian women have won this award — Major Suman Gawani (2019, UNMISS South Sudan) and Major Radhika Sen (2023, MONUSCO Democratic Republic of Congo) — making India one of the most-decorated troop contributors on this metric.

UNIFIL (UN Interim Force in Lebanon) was established by UNSC Resolutions 425 and 426 of March 19, 1978; its headquarters is at Naqoura, Lebanon. The International Day of UN Peacekeepers has been observed on May 29 since 2002, per UNGA Resolution 57/129 of December 11, 2002 — the date chosen to mark the establishment of the first UN peacekeeping mission, UNTSO, on May 29, 1948.

India is the 5th largest UN troop contributor today (>6,000 personnel deployed) and has contributed approximately 2,90,000 personnel to over 50 UN peacekeeping missions since 1948.

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


GS2 (IR, UN peacekeeping, India-UN), GS1 (Society — women in armed forces).

 **MAINS KEYWORDS**

UNSC Res 1325, Women Peace and Security, UN DPO, UN Peacekeepers Day, UNIFIL, Female Engagement Team, combat aviator.

 **COMMON MISTAKE**

Confusing UNSC Res 1325 (WPS, 2000) with UNSC Res 1373 (Counter-Terrorism, 2001) — both are post-Cold War landmark resolutions, but Res 1325 is about Women, Peace and Security and is the basis of this award.

 **EXAM TIP**

UNSC Res 1325 — Oct 31, 2000 (WPS); UN Mil Gender Advocate Award — instituted 2016 (UN DPO); conferred annually on May 29 (Intl Day of UN Peacekeepers, since 2002 per UNGA Res 57/129); UNIFIL — UNSC Res 425+426 of March 19, 1978; HQ Naqoura; India winners — Suman Gawani (2019, UNMISS), Radhika Sen (2023, MONUSCO), Abhilasha Barak (2025, UNIFIL).

 **INTERVIEW**

Should India's combat-arm exposure for women translate into a formal review of combat-role restrictions in the Indian Army?

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Question 7

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The International Day to End Obstetric Fistula, observed on May 23, was designated by which UN General Assembly resolution and is led by which UN agency?

A UNGA Res 67/147 of December 2012; lead agency UNFPA ✓

B UNGA Res 55/2 of September 2000; lead agency WHO

C UNGA Res 70/1 of September 2015; lead agency UN Women

D UNGA Res 60/265 of October 2006; lead agency UNICEF

ANSWER & ANALYSIS
EXPLANATION

FACT: The International Day to End Obstetric Fistula was designated by UN General Assembly Resolution 67/147, adopted on December 20, 2012, with the first observance held on May 23, 2013. The United Nations Population Fund (UNFPA) is the lead agency — it has run the global Campaign to End Fistula since 2003 with partner ministries and NGOs.

ANALYSIS: WHO/UNFPA estimate that approximately 500,000 women globally live with untreated obstetric fistula — primarily in sub-Saharan Africa and South Asia — caused by prolonged obstructed labour without timely emergency obstetric care.





CONCEPT NOTE

The 2026 theme is "Her Health is a Right; Invest in Ending Fistula and Childbirth Injuries." Obstetric fistula is preventable through timely access to emergency obstetric care, and treatable through reconstructive surgery. India's maternal indicators have improved sharply — the Maternal Mortality Ratio (MMR) has fallen to 97 per 1,00,000 live births per the Sample Registration System (SRS) 2018-20 bulletin, from 130 in SRS 2014-16.

The SDG 3.1 target is to reduce MMR to less than 70 by 2030. NFHS-5 (2019-21) reported institutional delivery at 88.6% (up from 78.9% in NFHS-4).

India's key maternal-health schemes — Janani Suraksha Yojana (JSY, 2005), Janani Shishu Suraksha Karyakram (JSSK, 2011), Pradhan Mantri Surakshit Matritva Abhiyan (PMSMA, 2016), LaQshya (2017), and Surakshit Matritva Aashwasan (SUMAN, 2019) — collectively drive the institutional-delivery push. UNGA Res 55/2 (2000) is the Millennium Declaration; Res 70/1 (2015) is the 2030 Agenda for SDGs; Res 60/265 (2006) is about MDG follow-up.

Q7  **CONCEPT KIT**

 CROSS-PAPER	GS2 (Welfare schemes, women's health, UN), GS1 (Society — women, health).
 MAINS KEYWORDS	Obstetric Fistula Day, UNFPA, MMR, JSY, JSSK, PMSMA, LaQshya, SUMAN, SDG 3.1.
 COMMON MISTAKE	Citing UNICEF or WHO as the lead agency — UNFPA leads the End Fistula Campaign, while WHO/UNICEF play supporting roles.
 EXAM TIP	Fistula Day — UNGA Res 67/147 (Dec 20, 2012); first obs May 23, 2013; lead UNFPA; ~500,000 women globally; India MMR 97 (SRS 2018-20); SDG 3.1 <70 by 2030; NFHS-5 institutional delivery 88.6%; schemes — JSY 2005, JSSK 2011, PMSMA 2016, LaQshya 2017, SUMAN 2019.
 INTERVIEW	Is institutional delivery alone sufficient to eliminate fistula, or does the quality of emergency obstetric care need separate attention?

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Question 8

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[Source →](#)

World Turtle Day, observed on May 23 every year, was founded by which organisation and is it a United Nations-designated day?

- A World Wildlife Fund (WWF); UN-designated since 1990
- B American Tortoise Rescue (USA); NOT a UN day ✓
- C IUCN; UN-designated since 2000
- D TRAFFIC International; UN-designated since 2002

ANSWER & ANALYSIS
✓ EXPLANATION

FACT: World Turtle Day was founded in the year 2000 by American Tortoise Rescue (ATR), a non-profit based in Malibu, California, USA. It is NOT a United Nations-designated day — unlike the International Day to End Obstetric Fistula (also May 23), which IS a UN day. **ANALYSIS:** World Turtle Day is widely observed by conservation NGOs, zoos and schools, and the 2026 theme is "I Promise to Help Turtles!" The day raises awareness of the threats facing the world's 7 species of sea turtles and 300+ species of freshwater turtles and tortoises.

📖 CONCEPT NOTE

India hosts 5 of the world's 7 marine turtle species — Olive Ridley (*Lepidochelys olivacea*), Green Turtle (*Chelonia mydas*), Hawksbill (*Eretmochelys imbricata*), Loggerhead (*Caretta caretta*), and Leatherback (*Dermochelys coriacea*). After the 2022 amendment to the Wild Life (Protection) Act, 1972, all five species are listed under Schedule I (highest protection). Three Olive Ridley arribada (mass-nesting) sites in Odisha are globally significant — Gahirmatha (located within Bhitarkanika National Park — the world's largest known Olive Ridley nesting beach), Rushikulya in Ganjam district, and Devi river mouth. The Indian Coast Guard has run Operation Olivia since the early 1980s — patrolling the Odisha coast during nesting season (November-May) against trawler bycatch and illegal fishing. Turtle Excluder Devices (TEDs) in trawl nets are mandatory. The Olive Ridley is listed Vulnerable on the IUCN Red List and Appendix I of CITES. The Indian Star Tortoise (*Geochelone elegans*) was moved from CITES Appendix II to Appendix I at CoP18 (Geneva, 2019). WWF was founded in 1961; IUCN in 1948; CITES entered into force in 1975.

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

GS3 (Environment, biodiversity, marine conservation), GS1 (Geography — Odisha coast).

 **MAINS KEYWORDS**

Olive Ridley, arribada, Gahirmatha, Bhitarkanika, Operation Olivia, CITES Appendix I, WLPA Schedule I, TEDs.

 **COMMON MISTAKE**

Assuming World Turtle Day is UN-designated because it shares a date with Fistula Day — only Fistula Day is UN-designated; Turtle Day is a civil-society observance by American Tortoise Rescue.

 **EXAM TIP**

World Turtle Day — 2000, founded American Tortoise Rescue, NOT UN; 2026 theme "I Promise to Help Turtles!".

India marine turtles (5) — Olive Ridley, Green, Hawksbill, Loggerhead, Leatherback (all WLPA Sch I post-2022). Odisha arribada — Gahirmatha (in Bhitarkanika NP, world's largest), Rushikulya, Devi. Operation Olivia — Indian Coast Guard, since 1980s. Olive Ridley — Vulnerable (IUCN), CITES Appendix I.

 **INTERVIEW**

Should India seek UN designation for an "International Day for Marine Turtles" or remain content with civil-society advocacy?

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Question 9

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The Indian National Space Promotion and Authorisation Centre (IN-SPACe), which is implementing the new Common Technical Facilities at Sriharikota and Sanand, is headquartered at and was established in which year?

- A Bengaluru; established March 2019
- B New Delhi; established April 2023
- C Bopal, Ahmedabad; established June 2020 ✓
- D Sriharikota; established 1969

ANSWER & ANALYSIS

 **EXPLANATION**

FACT: IN-SPACe was established in June 2020 as an autonomous body under the Department of Space, with its headquarters at Bopal, Ahmedabad, Gujarat. Its inaugural Chairman is Dr Pawan Goenka.

ANALYSIS: The May 22-23, 2026 approval of Common Technical Facilities (CTFs) at the Sriharikota Space Manufacturing Cluster (Tamil Nadu) and the Sanand Space Manufacturing Cluster (Gujarat) lowers the entry barrier for India's ~300 space startups by providing shared testing, qualification and validation infrastructure.






 **CONCEPT NOTE**

The Indian Space Policy, 2023 was approved by the Cabinet Committee on Security on April 6, 2023 — it formally separated the roles of ISRO (research/development), NSIL (commercial operations, incorporated March 6, 2019, HQ Bengaluru), and IN-SPACe (regulator-promoter, Bopal Ahmedabad). FDI rules in the space sector were liberalised in February 2024 — up to 100% automatic in satellite components and ground equipment, up to 74% automatic in satellite manufacturing and operation, and up to 49% automatic in launch vehicles and associated systems.

India's space economy target is approximately USD 40 billion by 2030 (from ~USD 8.4 billion currently). ISRO itself was established on August 15, 1969 at Bengaluru (succeeding INCOSPAR, 1962).

Sriharikota hosts SDSC (Satish Dhawan Space Centre) — India's primary launch site. The new CTFs are co-located near these clusters to reduce logistics cost for startups.

Q9  **CONCEPT KIT**

 CROSS-PAPER	GS3 (S&T, space sector, economic reform, FDI), GS2 (governance, single-window regulation).
 MAINS KEYWORDS	IN-SPACE, Indian Space Policy 2023, NSIL, CTFs, Sriharikota, Sanand, FDI in space.
 COMMON MISTAKE	Locating IN-SPACE at Bengaluru (which hosts ISRO and NSIL) — IN-SPACE is at Bopal, Ahmedabad.
 EXAM TIP	IN-SPACE — June 2020, Bopal Ahmedabad (Dr Pawan Goenka, Chairman); ISRO — Aug 15, 1969, Bengaluru; NSIL — March 6, 2019, Bengaluru; Indian Space Policy — April 6, 2023; FDI Feb 2024 — 100% components, 74% satellites, 49% launchers; space economy target USD 40 bn by 2030.
 INTERVIEW	Should IN-SPACE become a statutory regulator (like SEBI/TRAI) or continue as an autonomous body?

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Question 10

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The Rozgar Mela, at whose 19th edition PM Modi distributed over 51,000 appointment letters on May 23, 2026, was launched in which month-year, and the latest PLFS 2023-24 reports India's unemployment rate (15+, CWS) at what level?

- A** Launched October 22, 2022; PLFS 2023-24 UR (CWS) 3.2% ✓
- B** Launched August 15, 2023; PLFS 2023-24 UR (CWS) 6.5%
- C** Launched May 1, 2022; PLFS 2023-24 UR (CWS) 4.1%
- D** Launched January 1, 2023; PLFS 2023-24 UR (CWS) 5.4%

ANSWER & ANALYSIS

 **EXPLANATION**

FACT: Rozgar Mela was launched by PM Narendra Modi on October 22, 2022, as a mission-mode initiative to fast-track recruitment to ~10 lakh vacant Central Government posts. Across 19 editions, approximately 12 lakh young Indians have received appointment letters.

The Periodic Labour Force Survey (PLFS) Annual Report 2023-24 reports the Unemployment Rate for persons aged 15+ at 3.2% (Current Weekly Status, CWS), Labour Force Participation Rate (LFPR) at 60.1% and Worker Population Ratio (WPR) at 58.2%. **ANALYSIS:** New recruits are simultaneously enrolled in Mission Karmayogi (launched September 2020) — the National Programme for Civil Services Capacity Building — with online learning via the iGOT Karmayogi platform.

 **CONCEPT NOTE**

The PLFS is conducted by NSO (National Statistical Office) under the Ministry of Statistics and Programme Implementation (MoSPI). It uses two reference periods — Usual Status (US, 365 days) and Current Weekly Status (CWS, 7 days) — and reports for both rural and urban India.

The CWS unemployment rate is generally higher than the US rate because it captures more transient unemployment.

Mission Karmayogi was approved by the Union Cabinet on September 2, 2020, and is implemented through Capacity Building Commission (CBC, est 2021) and the iGOT (integrated Government Online Training) Karmayogi platform built on the Aroha learning architecture.

Major Central recruitment bodies are UPSC (Art 315 of the Constitution), Staff Selection Commission (SSC, 1975), Railway Recruitment Board (RRB), and Institute of Banking Personnel Selection (IBPS, 1975).

Q10  **CONCEPT KIT**

 CROSS-PAPER	GS2 (Governance, civil services, welfare), GS3 (Employment, demographic dividend, labour).
 MAINS KEYWORDS	Rozgar Mela, Mission Karmayogi, iGOT, PLFS, Unemployment Rate, LFPR, WPR, CWS.
 COMMON MISTAKE	Confusing the Usual Status (US) UR with the Current Weekly Status (CWS) UR — both are reported by PLFS but capture different reference periods; the CWS measure is the standard short-period indicator.
 EXAM TIP	Rozgar Mela — launched Oct 22, 2022 by PM Modi; ~12 lakh letters across 19 editions; Mission Karmayogi — Sept 2, 2020 + iGOT platform; PLFS 2023-24 — UR (CWS) 3.2%, LFPR 60.1%, WPR 58.2%.
 INTERVIEW	Does Rozgar Mela address structural unemployment, or only the backlog of Central Government vacancies?

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Question 11

of 13

[Source →](#)

Project Tiger — whose 50th anniversary (2023) was the occasion for launching IBCA at Mysuru — was launched in which year and from which national park?

- A 1972; Kanha National Park, Madhya Pradesh
- B April 1, 1973; Jim Corbett National Park, Uttarakhand ✓
- C November 14, 1972; Bandipur National Park, Karnataka
- D October 2, 1973; Ranthambore National Park, Rajasthan

ANSWER & ANALYSIS
✓ EXPLANATION

FACT: Project Tiger was launched on April 1, 1973 at Jim Corbett National Park (then in Uttar Pradesh, now in Uttarakhand) under the chairpersonship of Prime Minister Indira Gandhi, initially with 9 tiger reserves covering ~14,000 sq km. It was the first major species-specific conservation programme of independent India.

ANALYSIS: The 50th anniversary in 2023 was the springboard for IBCA's April 9, 2023 launch at Mysuru by PM Modi — extending the tiger-conservation model to seven big cats globally.

📌 CONCEPT NOTE

Today India has 58 designated tiger reserves (as of 2025) covering ~78,000 sq km, and a wild tiger population of 3,682 per the National Tiger Conservation Authority (NTCA) "Status of Tigers" Report (2022 cycle, released April 9, 2023) — India hosts approximately 70% of the global wild tiger population. The NTCA is a STATUTORY body under the Wild Life (Protection) Act, 1972, established by the WLPA (Amendment) Act, 2006 following recommendations of the Tiger Task Force chaired by Sunita Narain (2005).

The Wildlife Crime Control Bureau (WCCB) is the corresponding enforcement agency. Project Elephant was launched in 1992; Project Lion was announced for Gir/Barda; Project Cheetah began in September 2022 at Kuno NP (Madhya Pradesh) with cheetahs translocated from Namibia and South Africa.

Jim Corbett was India's first national park (established 1936 as Hailey National Park, renamed Corbett in 1957). Kanha (1955), Bandipur (1974, but originally Venugopala WLS 1931) and Ranthambore (1980, originally Sawai Madhopur WLS 1955) were not Project Tiger's launch venue.

Q11  **CONCEPT KIT**

 CROSS-PAPER	GS3 (Environment, biodiversity), GS1 (Geography — protected areas).
 MAINS KEYWORDS	Project Tiger, NTCA, WLPA 1972, tiger reserves, Project Cheetah, IBCA.
 COMMON MISTAKE	Citing Kanha or Bandipur as the launch park — Project Tiger was launched at Jim Corbett NP on April 1, 1973, even though all three are now flagship reserves.
 EXAM TIP	Project Tiger — April 1, 1973, Jim Corbett NP, PM Indira Gandhi, 9 initial reserves; today 58 reserves (2025), 3,682 tigers (NTCA 2022, released April 9, 2023); NTCA — statutory under WLPA 1972 (Amendment Act 2006); Project Cheetah — Sept 2022, Kuno NP, MP.
 INTERVIEW	Has India's tiger-centric conservation crowded out attention to less charismatic but ecologically critical species like the Great Indian Bustard?

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Question 12

of 13

[Source →](#)

India's declared nuclear doctrine, formally adopted in January 2003 and last reiterated at the political level in 2018, rests on which three core principles?

- A First Use, Counterforce Targeting, Limited War
- B No First Use, Credible Minimum Deterrent, Massive Retaliation ✓
- C Pre-emption, Maximum Deterrent, Tactical Use
- D Launch on Warning, Full Spectrum Deterrent, Graduated Response

ANSWER & ANALYSIS
✓ EXPLANATION

FACT: India's official nuclear doctrine, adopted by the Cabinet Committee on Security (CCS) on January 4, 2003, rests on three core principles: (i) No First Use (NFU) — India will not be the first to use nuclear weapons, but will respond with retaliation against any nuclear attack on Indian territory or Indian forces anywhere; (ii) Credible Minimum Deterrent — India will maintain only the minimum capability necessary to deter use of nuclear weapons against it; (iii) Massive Retaliation — any nuclear first strike on India will be met with massive retaliation designed to inflict unacceptable damage. The doctrine also commits to non-use against non-nuclear-weapon states (negative security assurance) and civilian political control through the Nuclear Command Authority (NCA), chaired by the Prime Minister.

ANALYSIS: This doctrine has framed every Agni-series test — including the May 22, 2026 Agni-1 user trial — as a credibility-of-deterrent exercise, not a war-fighting validation.


📖 CONCEPT NOTE

The NCA has two councils — a Political Council (final authority on nuclear release, chaired by the PM) and an Executive Council (chaired by the National Security Adviser). The operational arm is the Strategic Forces Command (SFC), established on January 4, 2003 — the same day the doctrine was officially declared.

India's nuclear weapons programme traces to Operation Smiling Buddha (May 18, 1974, Pokhran-I) and Operation Shakti (May 11-13, 1998, Pokhran-II), after which PM Atal Bihari Vajpayee declared India a nuclear weapon state. India is NOT a signatory to the NPT (1968/1970) or CTBT, but maintains a unilateral moratorium on testing.

India is a member of the MTCR (2016), Wassenaar Arrangement (2017) and Australia Group (2018) but NOT the NSG due to China's opposition. Mission Divyastra (March 11, 2024) was the first flight test of Agni-5 with MIRV technology.

Q12  **CONCEPT KIT**

 CROSS-PAPER	GS3 (Security, defence, technology), GS2 (Disarmament diplomacy, NPT/CTBT debate).
 MAINS KEYWORDS	Nuclear doctrine 2003, NFU, Credible Minimum Deterrent, Massive Retaliation, NCA, SFC, MIRV, Mission Divyastra.
 COMMON MISTAKE	Confusing "Credible Minimum Deterrent" (India) with "Full Spectrum Deterrent" (Pakistan's doctrinal posture, which includes tactical nuclear weapons against conventional attack).
 EXAM TIP	India nuclear doctrine (Jan 4, 2003): NFU + Credible Minimum Deterrent + Massive Retaliation; non-use against NNWS; civilian political control; NCA (PM-chair) + SFC (Jan 4, 2003); Pokhran-I (May 18, 1974), Pokhran-II (May 11-13, 1998); MTCR 2016, Wassenaar 2017, Australia Group 2018; NOT NSG, NOT NPT/CTBT signatory.
 INTERVIEW	With China-Pakistan nuclear-conventional asymmetry, is India's NFU still strategically credible, or does it require formal revision?

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Question 13

of 13

[Source →](#)

The 2022 amendment to the Wild Life (Protection) Act, 1972 — relevant to the protection of Olive Ridley turtles and big cats — restructured the WLPA schedules. After the amendment, the highest protection category for animals is which schedule?

A Schedule I (animals) ✓

B Schedule II

C Schedule IV

D Schedule VI

ANSWER & ANALYSIS

EXPLANATION

FACT: The Wild Life (Protection) Amendment Act, 2022 — which came into effect on April 1, 2023 — restructured the WLPA schedules, reducing them in number and rationalising the categories. After the amendment, Schedule I provides the HIGHEST level of protection for animals (with the most stringent penalties for offences) — covering species such as tigers, lions, leopards, snow leopards, the five marine turtle species (Olive Ridley, Green, Hawksbill, Loggerhead, Leatherback), and other "Specially Protected" species.

ANALYSIS: The amendment also added a new Schedule to align the Act with CITES (Convention on International Trade in Endangered Species), and brought all CITES-listed species under domestic regulation.

CONCEPT NOTE

The Wild Life (Protection) Act, 1972 was originally enacted on September 9, 1972 under Article 252 of the Constitution at the request of 11 State legislatures (subject "wildlife" was then in the State List; later moved to the Concurrent List by the 42nd Amendment, 1976). The Act has been amended multiple times — major amendments in 1986, 1991, 1993, 2002 and 2022.

Pre-2022, there were six schedules; post-2022, the structure was simplified. The National Tiger Conservation Authority (NTCA) is a statutory body under WLPA (inserted by the 2006 amendment following Sunita Narain's Tiger Task Force, 2005).

Olive Ridley sea turtles are also listed on CITES Appendix I (highest protection — no commercial trade allowed) and IUCN Red List status is Vulnerable. The Indian Star Tortoise (*Geochelone elegans*) was moved from CITES Appendix II to Appendix I at CoP18 in Geneva (2019).

Q13  **CONCEPT KIT**

 CROSS-PAPER	GS3 (Environment, wildlife law, biodiversity).
 MAINS KEYWORDS	WLPA 1972, 2022 amendment, Schedule I, CITES, NTCA, marine turtles, Olive Ridley.
 COMMON MISTAKE	Citing Schedule VI as the highest — Schedule VI in the pre-2022 WLPA covered "specified plants", NOT animals; for animals, the highest protection has always been Schedule I (and the 2022 amendment retained Schedule I as the top tier).
 EXAM TIP	WLPA — enacted Sept 9, 1972 (Art 252 of Constitution); 2022 amendment in force April 1, 2023 — restructured schedules; Schedule I = highest protection for animals; aligned with CITES; NTCA = statutory body under WLPA since 2006 amendment.
 INTERVIEW	Should the 2022 WLPA amendment have created a separate dedicated schedule for migratory species under CMS?

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“Arise, awake and stop not till the goal is reached.”

— Swami Vivekananda