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DAILY QUIZ — SOLVED

# Daily Quiz — May 24, 2026

24 May 2026



CURATED & WRITTEN BY

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## DAILY QUIZ — SOLVED ANSWER KEY

# Daily Quiz — May 24, 2026

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

**Question 1**

of 14

[Source →](#)

The International Day of the Markhor, observed on May 24, was instituted by which United Nations General Assembly resolution?

- A A/RES/77/318 of 2023
- B A/RES/78/278 of 2024 ✓**
- C A/RES/76/210 of 2022
- D A/RES/79/115 of 2025

## ANSWER &amp; ANALYSIS




 **EXPLANATION**

**FACT:** UNGA Resolution A/RES/78/278, adopted on May 2, 2024, designated May 24 as the International Day of the Markhor. **ANALYSIS:** The resolution was sponsored by Pakistan and supported by all six range states. It seeks to mobilise transboundary cooperation for the species across the Hindu Kush, Karakoram and Pir Panjal ranges.

 **CONCEPT NOTE**

The Markhor (*Capra falconeri*) is the national animal of Pakistan since 1975. It is listed as Near Threatened on the IUCN Red List, included in CITES Appendix I, and protected under Schedule I of the Wildlife (Protection) Act, 1972 in India. The Pir Panjal / Kashmiri Markhor (*C. f. cashmiriensis*) survives in Hirpora WLS, Tatakutti WLS and Kazinag NP in J&K.

**Q1**  **CONCEPT KIT**

 <b>CROSS-PAPER</b>	GS3 (Environment), GS2 (Transboundary cooperation).
 <b>MAINS KEYWORDS</b>	community conservation, transboundary species, CITES, IUCN, range-state cooperation.
 <b>COMMON MISTAKE</b>	Confusing IUCN status (Near Threatened) with CITES listing (Appendix I) — they are independent frameworks.
 <b>EXAM TIP</b>	UPSC repeatedly tests CITES appendices vs IUCN categories — keep both in memory for high-profile species.
 <b>INTERVIEW</b>	Should India adopt a Torghar-style community trophy-hunting model for Markhor recovery?

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**Question 2**

of 14

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The Indo-Pacific Maritime Domain Awareness (IPMDA) initiative was launched at which Quad summit?

A Washington Quad Summit, 2021

B Tokyo Quad Summit, May 2022 ✓

C Hiroshima Quad Summit, 2023

D Wilmington Quad Summit, 2024

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**ANSWER & ANALYSIS**


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**✓ EXPLANATION**






**FACT:** IPMDA was launched at the second in-person Quad Leaders Summit in Tokyo on May 24, 2022. **ANALYSIS:** It uses commercial satellite-based radio frequency data to provide near-real-time maritime tracking to partners across the Indo-Pacific, helping detect dark shipping, IUU fishing and grey-zone activity.

**📌 CONCEPT NOTE**

Quad 2.0 was revived in November 2017 on the sidelines of the ASEAN Summit in Manila. The first Quad Leaders Summit (virtual) was held on March 12, 2021.

Other initiatives: Quad Cancer Moonshot (Wilmington, Sept 2024), Quad Fellowship, Critical & Emerging Technology Working Group, and Quad Ports of the Future Partnership. The Indo-Pacific Oceans Initiative (IPOI), often confused with IPMDA, was launched separately by PM Modi at the East Asia Summit in Bangkok on November 4, 2019.

**Q2**  **CONCEPT KIT**

 <b>CROSS-PAPER</b>	GS2 (IR — minilaterals, Indo-Pacific).
 <b>MAINS KEYWORDS</b>	Indo-Pacific, minilateralism, maritime domain awareness, IUU fishing, dark shipping.
 <b>COMMON MISTAKE</b>	Confusing IPMDA (Quad, 2022) with IPOI (India, 2019).
 <b>EXAM TIP</b>	UPSC 2020 asked about Quad in a Prelims MCQ — memorise year-summit-initiative triplets.
 <b>INTERVIEW</b>	Is the Quad evolving from a consultative forum to a security architecture?

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**Question 3**

of 14

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Which of the following correctly describes the modules of China's Tiangong Space Station?

- A Tianhe (2019), Wentian (2020), Mengtian (2021)
- B Tianhe (April 2021), Wentian (July 2022), Mengtian (October 2022) ✓
- C Tiangong-1 (2011), Tiangong-2 (2016), Tiangong-3 (2022)
- D Tianhe (2022), Wentian (2023), Mengtian (2024)

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**ANSWER & ANALYSIS**


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 **EXPLANATION**

**FACT:** The Tiangong Space Station was assembled in orbit with three modules — the Tianhe core (April 2021), Wentian lab (July 2022) and Mengtian lab (October 2022). **ANALYSIS:** Tiangong is expected to be the only permanently-crewed station once the International Space Station (ISS) is de-orbited around 2030, giving China unique long-duration human spaceflight infrastructure.

 **CONCEPT NOTE**

The first Chinese astronaut in space was Yang Liwei on Shenzhou-5 (October 15, 2003). India's first astronaut was Rakesh Sharma on Soyuz T-11 (1984); the second was Group Captain Shubhanshu Shukla on Axiom-4 (2025). Tiangong-1 and Tiangong-2 were earlier prototype labs; the present Tiangong station is a separate three-module structure. China's Chang'e-6 became the first mission to return samples from the far side of the Moon in May 2024.

**Q3**  **CONCEPT KIT**

 <b>CROSS-PAPER</b>	GS3 (S&T — space).
 <b>MAINS KEYWORDS</b>	human spaceflight, space station, Gaganyaan, BAS, space governance.
 <b>COMMON MISTAKE</b>	Conflating Tiangong-1/2 prototypes with the current three-module Tiangong station.
 <b>EXAM TIP</b>	UPSC commonly tests sequential module launches (just as it tested Cartosat/RISAT series).
 <b>INTERVIEW</b>	Should India deepen civil-space cooperation with China despite border tensions?

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**Question 4**

of 14

[Source →](#)

Consider the Central Bureau of Investigation (CBI). Which of the following statements is/are correct? (1) It was established in 1963. (2) It derives its powers from the Delhi Special Police Establishment Act, 1946. (3) It functions under the Ministry of Home Affairs.

**A** Only 1 and 2 ✓

**B** Only 2 and 3

**C** 1, 2 and 3

**D** Only 1

## ANSWER &amp; ANALYSIS

**EXPLANATION**

**FACT:** CBI was established on April 1, 1963 by a resolution of the Ministry of Home Affairs, and derives its police powers from the Delhi Special Police Establishment (DSPE) Act, 1946. However, it functions administratively under the Department of Personnel and Training (DoPT), NOT the Ministry of Home Affairs.

**ANALYSIS:** Statements 1 and 2 are correct; 3 is incorrect.

**CONCEPT NOTE**

D.P. Kohli served as the first Director of the CBI (1963-1968). Under Section 6 of the DSPE Act, the CBI requires prior consent of a state government to investigate within that state — several states (West Bengal, Tamil Nadu, Punjab, Kerala) have withdrawn general consent in recent years.

The Lokpal & Lokayuktas Act, 2013 created an oversight role for the Lokpal over CBI investigations into Group A officials.

The Indian Cyber Crime Coordination Centre (I4C) was established in 2018 under MHA, with cyber helpline 1930.

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

GS2 (Statutory bodies, federalism), GS3 (Internal security, cyber).

 **MAINS KEYWORDS**

federalism, general consent, DSPE Act, oversight, autonomy.

 **COMMON MISTAKE**

Assuming CBI is under MHA — it is under DoPT, although MHA dealt with its initial constitution.

 **EXAM TIP**

UPSC 2021 asked about the "general consent" withdrawal — know the Section 6 hook.

 **INTERVIEW**

Should the CBI be granted statutory status independent of the DSPE Act?

 [Read Full Article →](#)

**Question 5**

of 14

[Source →](#)

The Employees' Provident Fund Organisation (EPFO) is a statutory body constituted under which Act?

- A Employees' State Insurance Act, 1948
- B Employees' Provident Funds & Miscellaneous Provisions Act, 1952 ✓
- C Payment of Gratuity Act, 1972
- D Code on Social Security, 2020

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**ANSWER & ANALYSIS**


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**EXPLANATION**

**FACT:** EPFO is a statutory body under the Employees' Provident Funds & Miscellaneous Provisions (EPF & MP) Act, 1952, administered by the Ministry of Labour & Employment. **ANALYSIS:** ESIC (1948) handles medical and disability benefits; the Payment of Gratuity Act, 1972 regulates gratuity; the Code on Social Security, 2020 consolidates nine social-security laws but has not yet superseded the EPF Act in full operation.

**CONCEPT NOTE**

EPFO has around 7 crore active subscribers and a corpus exceeding ₹25 lakh crore. The Universal Account Number (UAN) was launched in October 2014; it is a 12-digit portable identifier.

The EPF interest rate for FY 2025-26 was fixed at 8.25%. The new E-PRAAPTI portal (May 2026) uses Aadhaar-based eKYC to revive ~31.83 lakh inoperative PF accounts.

EPFO 3.0 reforms (June 2025) launched the ATM-card pilot for instant PF withdrawals.

**Q5**  **CONCEPT KIT**

 <b>CROSS-PAPER</b>	GS2 (Social justice — social security), GS3 (Economy — formalisation).
 <b>MAINS KEYWORDS</b>	social security, formal sector, JAM trinity, portability, e-Shram.
 <b>COMMON MISTAKE</b>	Confusing EPFO (1952 Act, Labour Ministry) with ESIC (1948 Act, also Labour Ministry).
 <b>EXAM TIP</b>	Know the four pillars: EPFO + ESIC + APY (Atal Pension Yojana) + PMSYM (informal workers).
 <b>INTERVIEW</b>	Should EPF interest rates be linked to market rates rather than government decisions?

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**Question 6**

of 14

[Source →](#)

The IndiaAI Mission, often referenced in state-level AI policies, was approved by the Union Cabinet with what outlay?

- A ₹7,500 crore over 3 years
- B ₹10,371.92 crore over 5 years ✓
- C ₹15,000 crore over 5 years
- D ₹5,000 crore over 4 years






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

**FACT:** The Union Cabinet approved the IndiaAI Mission on March 7, 2024, with a total outlay of ₹10,371.92 crore to be spent over five years, under the Ministry of Electronics and Information Technology (MeitY). **ANALYSIS:** The mission has seven pillars including IndiaAI Compute Capacity, IndiaAI Innovation Centre, IndiaAI Datasets Platform, IndiaAI Application Development, IndiaAI FutureSkills, IndiaAI Startup Financing and Safe & Trusted AI.

**CONCEPT NOTE**

India joined the Global Partnership on AI (GPAI) in 2020 as a founding member and assumed its chairmanship in 2024. Bhashini, the National Language Translation Mission, was launched in July 2022 under MeitY. The Digital Personal Data Protection (DPDP) Act received presidential assent on August 11, 2023. The EU AI Act (2024) became the world's first comprehensive AI law. Maharashtra's AI Policy 2026 makes it the first Indian state with a separate Ethical AI framework.

**Q6**  **CONCEPT KIT**

 <b>CROSS-PAPER</b>	GS3 (S&T, Economy), GS2 (Governance).
 <b>MAINS KEYWORDS</b>	AI policy, AI governance, ethical AI, GPAI, data protection.
 <b>COMMON MISTAKE</b>	Mixing IndiaAI outlay with the older National AI Strategy by NITI Aayog (2018) — they are different.
 <b>EXAM TIP</b>	UPSC frequently tests exact outlays of flagship schemes — memorise ₹10,371.92 crore.
 <b>INTERVIEW</b>	Should India have a stand-alone AI Act on the lines of the EU AI Act?

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**Question 7**

of 14

[Source →](#)

Consider the following pairs of digital public infrastructure (DPI) initiatives in India and their launch dates: (1) UPI — April 11, 2016 (2) DigiLocker — July 1, 2015 (3) Ayushman Bharat Digital Mission — September 27, 2021 (4) PMJDY — August 28, 2014. How many pairs are correctly matched?

A Only two pairs

B Only three pairs

C All four pairs ✓

D Only one pair

## ANSWER &amp; ANALYSIS

**EXPLANATION**

**FACT:** All four pairs are correctly matched. UPI was launched by NPCI on April 11, 2016; DigiLocker was launched on July 1, 2015; the Ayushman Bharat Digital Mission was launched on September 27, 2021; PMJDY was launched on August 28, 2014.

**ANALYSIS:** Together with Aadhaar, these constitute the India Stack — recognised as a global benchmark for DPI by an IMF working paper of April 2026.

**CONCEPT NOTE**

UIDAI was established in 2009 and made statutory in 2016 through the Aadhaar Act. The *K.S. Puttaswamy v Union of India* judgment (2017) recognised the right to privacy as a fundamental right and upheld Aadhaar with conditions.

UPI processes 18+ billion transactions per month (early 2026). MOSIP (Modular Open Source Identity Platform), built by IIT Bangalore, is the open-source backbone India exports for foreign DPI deployments.

The G20 New Delhi Declaration (September 9, 2023) explicitly endorsed DPI as a development tool.

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

GS2 (Governance), GS3 (Economy — fintech, financial inclusion).

 **MAINS KEYWORDS**

India Stack, DPI, JAM trinity, financial inclusion, digital sovereignty.

 **COMMON MISTAKE**

Confusing PMJDY (2014) with PMJJBY/PMSBY (both 2015).

 **EXAM TIP**

UPSC has asked about UPI/Aadhaar in multiple Prelims — DPI is high-yield.

 **INTERVIEW**

Can DPI substitute for traditional welfare delivery in low-state-capacity regions abroad?

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**Question 8**

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According to the India Meteorological Department (IMD), the criterion for declaring a "Severe Heatwave" over the plains is:

- A Maximum temperature  $\geq 40^{\circ}\text{C}$  with departure  $\geq 4.5^{\circ}\text{C}$  above normal
- B Maximum temperature  $\geq 45^{\circ}\text{C}$  with no departure threshold
- C Maximum temperature  $\geq 40^{\circ}\text{C}$  with departure  $\geq 6.5^{\circ}\text{C}$  above normal ✓
- D Maximum temperature  $\geq 47^{\circ}\text{C}$  for two consecutive days

## ANSWER &amp; ANALYSIS

 **EXPLANATION**

**FACT:** The IMD declares a "Severe Heatwave" over the plains when the maximum temperature is  $\geq 40^{\circ}\text{C}$  AND the departure from normal is  $\geq 6.5^{\circ}\text{C}$ . A "Heatwave" is declared when the departure is  $\geq 4.5^{\circ}\text{C}$  (and  $< 6.5^{\circ}\text{C}$ ). **ANALYSIS:** For hilly areas the absolute threshold is  $\geq 30^{\circ}\text{C}$ ; for coastal stations  $\geq 37^{\circ}\text{C}$ . Heat-wave can also be declared if the actual maximum reaches  $\geq 45^{\circ}\text{C}$  on two consecutive days regardless of departure.

 **CONCEPT NOTE**

IMD functions under the Ministry of Earth Sciences. The Long Period Average (LPA) rainfall for India (1971-2020 baseline) is approximately 87 cm.

The normal date for the southwest monsoon onset over Kerala is June 1; the IMD on May 24, 2026 forecast onset on May 26 ( $\pm 4$  days). India has only 23 functional Heat Action Plans (HAPs) as of 2025.

Heatwave is a notified disaster in many state SDMA frameworks but not in the central NDMA Act, 2005 list.

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

GS1 (Geography — monsoon), GS3 (Disaster management).

**MAINS KEYWORDS**

heatwave, monsoon onset, LPA, El Niño, Heat Action Plan.

**COMMON MISTAKE**

Mixing departure thresholds 4.5°C and 6.5°C.

**EXAM TIP**

UPSC 2017 asked about monsoon — memorise IMD definitions.

**INTERVIEW**

Should heatwave be added to the NDMA's list of notified disasters?

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**Question 9**

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[Source →](#)

India was designated a "Major Defence Partner" of the United States in which year?

**A** 2008

**B** 2016 ✓

**C** 2018

**D** 2020

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**ANSWER & ANALYSIS**


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✓ **EXPLANATION**

**FACT:** India was designated a Major Defence Partner (MDP) of the United States in 2016, a status unique to India.

**ANALYSIS:** This designation eases the export of defence technology and dual-use items.

It was followed by Strategic Trade Authorisation Tier-1 (STA-1) status in 2018, placing India on par with NATO allies, Japan and South Korea for licensing purposes.

 **CONCEPT NOTE**

India and the US have signed four foundational defence agreements: GSOMIA (2002), LEMOA (2016), COMCASA (2018) and BECA (2020). The Initiative on Critical and Emerging Technologies (iCET) was launched in May 2022; the Transforming the Relationship Utilising Strategic Technology (TRUST) initiative was launched on February 13, 2025 during Modi-Trump talks.

The 10-year US-India Defence Framework was renewed in 2025. India-US bilateral trade stood at ~\$190 billion in FY25, and defence trade since 2008 has crossed ~\$25 billion.

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


GS2 (IR — bilateral).

 **MAINS KEYWORDS**

strategic partnership, defence co-production, technology transfer, critical technologies, multi-alignment.

 **COMMON MISTAKE**

Confusing MDP (2016) with STA-1 (2018).

 **EXAM TIP**

UPSC has asked about LEMOA — memorise the four foundational agreements with years.

 **INTERVIEW**

Has India's multi-alignment policy been strained by deepening US ties?

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**Question 10**

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With reference to the Wildlife (Protection) Act, 1972, the Markhor is listed in:

**A** Schedule II

**B** Schedule III

**C** Schedule I ✓

**D** Schedule IV

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**ANSWER & ANALYSIS**


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**EXPLANATION**






**FACT:** The Markhor is listed in Schedule I of the Wildlife (Protection) Act, 1972, which provides the highest level of protection in India. **ANALYSIS:** After the WPA Amendment Act, 2022, the schedules were reorganised — there are now only four schedules.

Schedule I now includes species with absolute protection (formerly Schedules I and II combined), Schedule II covers other protected fauna, Schedule III covers protected flora, and Schedule IV deals with CITES-listed species.

**CONCEPT NOTE**

The Markhor (*Capra falconeri*) is listed on the IUCN Red List as Near Threatened and is in CITES Appendix I, restricting international trade. In India, the Pir Panjal Markhor (*C. f. cashmiriensis*) is found only in J&K — Hirpora WLS, Tatakutti WLS and Kazinag NP. Pakistan's Torghar Conservancy is a celebrated community-based conservation success story, recovering Markhor numbers from <50 to 1,500+ via regulated trophy hunting.

**Q10**  **CONCEPT KIT**

 <b>CROSS-PAPER</b>	GS3 (Environment).
 <b>MAINS KEYWORDS</b>	Schedule I species, community conservation, transboundary, CITES, IUCN.
 <b>COMMON MISTAKE</b>	Quoting old (pre-2022) WPA schedule numbers — UPSC now expects post-amendment structure.
 <b>EXAM TIP</b>	UPSC repeatedly tests Schedule I species (Snow Leopard, Gangetic Dolphin, Markhor, Lion).
 <b>INTERVIEW</b>	Does WPA's strict prohibition limit community-based conservation models?

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**Question 11**

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[Source →](#)

Which institution is the developer of MOSIP (Modular Open Source Identity Platform), often cited as India's exportable DPI good?

- A IIT Madras
- B IIIT Bangalore ✓
- C C-DAC Pune
- D NIC, New Delhi

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

**FACT:** MOSIP — the Modular Open Source Identity Platform — was developed by the International Institute of Information Technology Bangalore (IIIT-B). **ANALYSIS:** MOSIP is an open-source foundational identity platform that countries can adopt and customise to build their own digital ID systems, without needing to license Aadhaar technology.

It has been adopted by the Philippines (PhilSys), Morocco, Ethiopia, Sri Lanka, Togo and others.

**📌 CONCEPT NOTE**

India's broader DPI export strategy is coordinated through the MEA and MeitY. MoUs on DPI cooperation have been signed with 24 countries, including under G20 platforms. The G20 New Delhi Declaration (September 9, 2023) endorsed a Global DPI Repository and the "One Future Alliance".

The IMF working paper of April 2026 cited India as the "leading example of digital public infrastructure". Aadhaar enrolments crossed 144 crore in March 2026.

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

GS3 (S&T, Economy), GS2 (External relations, governance).

 **MAINS KEYWORDS**

DPI export, India Stack, open-source identity, soft power, MOSIP.

 **COMMON MISTAKE**

Attributing MOSIP to UIDAI — it is a separate IIIT-B project, although philosophically inspired by Aadhaar.

 **EXAM TIP**

UPSC 2023 asked about the India Stack — MOSIP is a logical follow-up question.

 **INTERVIEW**

Should DPI export be considered an instrument of India's soft-power and strategic diplomacy?

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**Question 12**

of 14

[Source →](#)

Section 6 of the Delhi Special Police Establishment (DSPE) Act, 1946 deals with:

- A Appointment of the CBI Director
- B Powers of arrest by CBI officers
- C Requirement of prior state government consent for CBI to investigate within a state ✓
- D Jurisdiction of CBI in Union Territories

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**ANSWER & ANALYSIS**


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 **EXPLANATION**

**FACT:** Section 6 of the DSPE Act, 1946 requires the prior consent of a state government before the CBI can exercise its powers and jurisdiction within that state. **ANALYSIS:** Several states — West Bengal, Tamil Nadu, Kerala, Punjab, Rajasthan, Maharashtra and others — have withdrawn their "general consent" in recent years, requiring case-specific consent for each new CBI investigation.






This raises significant federalism and rule-of-law concerns.

 **CONCEPT NOTE**

The Supreme Court has clarified that the withdrawal of general consent does not affect CBI's power to investigate matters that originate in Union Territories or that involve central government employees. The appointment of the CBI Director is governed by the Lokpal & Lokayuktas Act, 2013 (Section 4A) via a committee of the PM, LoP and CJI. The first CBI Director was D.P. Kohli (1963-1968).

The current Director is Praveen Sood. The CBI was launched as a citizen-facing AI authentication tool ABHAY on May 15, 2026.

**Q12**  **CONCEPT KIT**

 <b>CROSS-PAPER</b>	GS2 (Federalism, statutory bodies).
 <b>MAINS KEYWORDS</b>	federalism, general consent, statutory autonomy, rule of law, investigative federalism.
 <b>COMMON MISTAKE</b>	Treating CBI as if it has uniform jurisdiction like the NIA — NIA Act, 2008 allows suo motu nationwide investigation; CBI cannot.
 <b>EXAM TIP</b>	UPSC Mains has asked about CBI autonomy — Section 6 is the key.
 <b>INTERVIEW</b>	Should the CBI be given suo motu power similar to NIA in all states?

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**Question 13**

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[Source →](#)

The first Indian citizen to travel to space was Rakesh Sharma in 1984. Aboard which spacecraft did he travel?

**A** Soyuz T-10

**B** Soyuz T-11 ✓

**C** Soyuz T-12

**D** Salyut 7

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**ANSWER & ANALYSIS**


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**✓ EXPLANATION**

**FACT:** Rakesh Sharma travelled aboard the Soviet spacecraft Soyuz T-11, launched on April 3, 1984, and spent about 7 days, 21 hours on the Salyut 7 space station. **ANALYSIS:** He was the 138th human being in space and the first Indian.






Salyut 7 was the space station he visited — it was not the spacecraft.

**📖 CONCEPT NOTE**

India's second astronaut, Group Captain Shubhanshu Shukla, flew to the ISS aboard Axiom Mission 4 (Axiom-4) in 2025 — the first Indian on the ISS. ISRO's human spaceflight programme, Gaganyaan, is scheduled to launch in 2027 from Sriharikota. The Bharatiya Antariksh Station (BAS), India's indigenous space station, is targeted for 2035.

China launched Shenzhou-23 with the first Hong Kong astronaut, Lai Ka-ying, on May 24, 2026, from Jiuquan SLC.

**Q13**  **CONCEPT KIT**

 <b>CROSS-PAPER</b>	GS3 (S&T — space), GS1 (Modern history of S&T).
 <b>MAINS KEYWORDS</b>	human spaceflight, Gaganyaan, BAS, space diplomacy.
 <b>COMMON MISTAKE</b>	Confusing Salyut 7 (station) with Soyuz T-11 (spacecraft).
 <b>EXAM TIP</b>	UPSC 2014 and 2018 have asked about ISRO milestones — keep Soyuz T-11, Gaganyaan, Mangalyaan (2014), Chandrayaan-3 (2023) ready.
 <b>INTERVIEW</b>	Should India accelerate Gaganyaan to keep pace with China's year-long Tiangong missions?

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**Question 14**

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[Source →](#)

The India Meteorological Department (IMD) functions under which Union Ministry?

**A** Ministry of Environment, Forest & Climate Change

**B** Ministry of Science & Technology

**C** Ministry of Earth Sciences ✓

**D** Ministry of Agriculture & Farmers' Welfare

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**ANSWER & ANALYSIS**


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**EXPLANATION**






**FACT:** The India Meteorological Department (IMD), established in 1875 and headquartered in New Delhi, functions under the Ministry of Earth Sciences (MoES). **ANALYSIS:** MoES also administers the National Centre for Medium-Range Weather Forecasting (NCMRWF), the Indian National Centre for Ocean Information Services (INCOIS), the National Institute of Ocean Technology (NIOT) and the Indian Institute of Tropical Meteorology (IITM).

**CONCEPT NOTE**

The Long Period Average (LPA) rainfall for India (1971-2020 baseline) is approximately 87 cm. The normal date for the southwest monsoon onset over Kerala is June 1; on May 24, 2026 IMD forecast the 2026 onset for May 26 ( $\pm 4$  days), about 5 days ahead of normal.

The 2026 seasonal forecast is 92% of LPA  $\pm 5\%$  — below normal. IMD criteria: Heatwave =  $T_{max} \geq 40^\circ\text{C}$  in plains with departure  $\geq 4.5^\circ\text{C}$ ; Severe Heatwave = departure  $\geq 6.5^\circ\text{C}$ .

**Q14**  **CONCEPT KIT**

 <b>CROSS-PAPER</b>	GS1 (Geography), GS3 (Disaster management, Agriculture).
 <b>MAINS KEYWORDS</b>	monsoon, LPA, El Niño/La Niña, IOD, climate services.
 <b>COMMON MISTAKE</b>	Assuming IMD is under MoEFCC — it is under MoES.
 <b>EXAM TIP</b>	UPSC 2020 asked about ENSO and IOD — link IMD forecasts with these phenomena.
 <b>INTERVIEW</b>	Should agro-met advisory services be a separate ministry given their importance for farmer livelihoods?

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