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DAILY QUIZ — SOLVED

Daily Quiz — May 25, 2026

25 May 2026



CURATED & WRITTEN BY

Bharat Choudhary

UPSC Educator & Content Creator

[linkedin.com/in/epicbharat](https://www.linkedin.com/in/epicbharat)

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DAILY QUIZ — SOLVED ANSWER KEY

Daily Quiz — May 25, 2026

25 May 2026 · 14 Questions · Answers & Explanations Included

Question 1

of 14

[Source →](#)

The Quad Critical Minerals Initiative — recently in the news as a likely deliverable of the Quad Foreign Ministers' Meeting in New Delhi — was launched at which Quad gathering?

- A Tokyo Quad Leaders' Summit, May 2022
- B Wilmington Quad Leaders' Summit, September 2024
- C Washington Quad Foreign Ministers' Meeting, July 2025 ✓
- D New York Quad Foreign Ministers' Meeting, September 2019

ANSWER & ANALYSIS

EXPLANATION

FACT: The Quad Critical Minerals Initiative was formally launched at the Quad Foreign Ministers' Meeting hosted by the US in Washington on July 1, 2025, aimed at reducing dependence on China — which processes more than 90 % of global rare earths. **ANALYSIS:** IPMDA was launched at Tokyo (May 24, 2022) and the Quad Cancer Moonshot at Wilmington (Sept 21, 2024); the September 2019 New York meeting was simply the first FM-level Quad meeting, with no critical-minerals initiative.

CONCEPT NOTE

The Quad — India, USA, Japan and Australia — was first proposed by Shinzo Abe in 2007, revived in November 2017 (Manila ASEAN sidelines), elevated to FM-level in September 2019 (UNGA) and to Leaders' Summit level in March 2021 (virtual). India will host the Quad Leaders' Summit in 2026.

India's domestic vehicle for critical minerals is KABIL — a JV of NALCO + HCL + MECL in the 40:30:30 ratio.

Q1  **CONCEPT KIT**

 CROSS-PAPER	GS2 (India–US, Indo-Pacific, minilateralism) and GS3 (supply-chain resilience, rare earths).
 MAINS KEYWORDS	Quad, critical minerals, supply-chain de-risking, KABIL, IPMDA.
 COMMON MISTAKE	Confusing IPMDA (May 2022, Tokyo) with the Critical Minerals Initiative (July 2025, Washington).
 EXAM TIP	UPSC 2023 PYQ asked about Quad; remember 2024 Wilmington = Cancer Moonshot, 2025 Washington = Critical Minerals.
 INTERVIEW	Is the Quad an "Asian NATO"? India's view of minilateralism vs strategic autonomy.

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Question 2

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[Source →](#)

The TRUST initiative — reaffirmed during US Secretary Marco Rubio's May 2026 India visit — was originally launched in which year?

- A January 2023, during operationalisation of iCET
- B February 2025, during the Modi–Trump joint statement ✓
- C September 2024, on the sidelines of the Quad Wilmington Summit
- D December 2016, when India was designated a Major Defence Partner

ANSWER & ANALYSIS

EXPLANATION

FACT: TRUST (Transforming Relationship Utilizing Strategic Technology) was launched in the joint statement issued during PM Modi's Washington visit on February 13, 2025. The same statement set the Mission 500 target — USD 500 billion bilateral trade by 2030.

ANALYSIS: iCET was operationalised on January 31, 2023, but TRUST is its successor framework under the second Trump administration; MDP status was granted on December 8, 2016 — both unrelated to TRUST.

CONCEPT NOTE

India–US milestones in sequence: Strategic Partnership 2005 → 123 Civil Nuclear Agreement 2008 → LEMOA Aug 2016 → MDP Dec 8, 2016 → COMCASA Sept 2018 → STA-1 July 30, 2018 → BECA Oct 2020 → iCET Jan 31, 2023 → TRUST Feb 13, 2025. Current bilateral trade (FY25) ~USD 190 billion; defence trade ~USD 25 billion cumulative since 2008.

Q2  **CONCEPT KIT**

 CROSS-PAPER	GS2 (India–US, strategic autonomy) and GS3 (defence trade, tariffs, semiconductors).
 MAINS KEYWORDS	Mission 500, TRUST, iCET, MDP, foundational agreements.
 COMMON MISTAKE	Confusing iCET (Jan 2023) with TRUST (Feb 2025) — they are sequential, not the same.
 EXAM TIP	UPSC frequently tests dates of foundational defence agreements (LEMOA, COMCASA, BECA).
 INTERVIEW	Can India sustain "multi-alignment" amid Trump tariffs and Russian-oil penalty?

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Question 3

of 14

[Source →](#)

The "Planetary Boundaries" framework — central to the CSE State of India's Environment 2026 report — was first proposed by:

- A IPCC, Sixth Assessment Report, 2021
- B Johan Rockström and colleagues at the Stockholm Resilience Centre, 2009 ✓
- C IPBES Global Assessment, 2019
- D UNEP Emissions Gap Report, 2010

ANSWER & ANALYSIS
✓ EXPLANATION

FACT: The Planetary Boundaries framework was proposed by Swedish scientist Johan Rockström along with 28 colleagues at the Stockholm Resilience Centre in 2009, published in the journal Nature. It identifies 9 boundaries; the 2025 update finds 7 already breached, with ocean acidification newly crossed.

ANALYSIS: IPCC focuses on climate; IPBES on biodiversity & ecosystem services; UNEP's Emissions Gap addresses NDC shortfalls — none is the source of the Planetary Boundaries framework.

📖 CONCEPT NOTE

The 9 planetary boundaries: climate change, biosphere integrity, land-system change, freshwater use, biogeochemical flows (N & P), ocean acidification, atmospheric aerosol loading, stratospheric ozone depletion and novel entities (chemicals/plastics). CSE — founded by Anil Agarwal in 1980; Director-General Sunita Narain — has published the State of India's Environment report since 1982.

Q3

 CONCEPT KIT **CROSS-PAPER**


GS3 (Environment, climate, biodiversity) and GS1 (Geography, resource depletion).

 **MAINS KEYWORDS**

planetary boundaries, safe operating space, novel entities, ocean acidification.

 **COMMON MISTAKE**

Attributing the framework to IPCC or UNEP — it is a Stockholm Resilience Centre framework.

 **EXAM TIP**

UPSC 2021 Prelims tested "ecological footprint" — planetary boundaries is the next logical concept.

 **INTERVIEW**

Should India accept binding "boundary" targets given its development imperatives?

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Question 4

of 14

[Source →](#)

With respect to India in the IMF's April 2026 World Economic Outlook, which of the following is correct?

- A India is ranked 4th in nominal GDP and 2nd in PPP
- B India is ranked 6th in nominal GDP and 3rd in PPP ✓
- C India is ranked 5th in nominal GDP and 4th in PPP
- D India is ranked 3rd in both nominal GDP and PPP

ANSWER & ANALYSIS

EXPLANATION






FACT: The IMF April 2026 WEO places India 6th in nominal GDP (USD 4.15 trillion), behind UK and Japan, while India remains 3rd in PPP (~USD 15 trillion) behind China and the USA. **ANALYSIS:** India had briefly become the 4th-largest economy in early-2026 estimates but slipped after rupee depreciation (₹84.6 → ₹88.5/USD) and the MoSPI GDP base-year revision (2011-12 → 2022-23, Feb 2026); IMF projects re-entry into top-4 by 2027 and overtaking Japan by 2028.

CONCEPT NOTE

The IMF WEO is published twice a year (April and October) with two updates (January and July). The IMF was established in 1944 at Bretton Woods and currently has 191 members; the Managing Director is Kristalina Georgieva (since 1 October 2019, second term from 2024).

India's base-year revision aligns with SNA-2008/SNA-2025 international standards.

Q4  **CONCEPT KIT**

 CROSS-PAPER	GS3 (Economy — GDP measurement, NSO/MoSPI).
 MAINS KEYWORDS	nominal GDP, PPP, base year revision, WEO, statistical system.
 COMMON MISTAKE	Confusing nominal with PPP rank — they are different. Also, the rank fluctuates with exchange-rate movements within a quarter.
 EXAM TIP	UPSC 2018 PYQ tested PPP concept; revise nominal vs PPP and base-year revision history (2004-05 → 2011-12 → 2022-23).
 INTERVIEW	Does the obsession with GDP rank distract from per-capita income reality?

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Question 5

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India's National Iodine Deficiency Disorders Control Programme (NIDDCP) — relevant on World Thyroid Day — was renamed from which earlier programme and in which year?

- A** National Goitre Control Programme (1962), renamed in 1992 ✓
- B** National Salt Iodisation Programme (1985), renamed in 1997
- C** National Nutritional Anaemia Prophylaxis Programme (1970), renamed in 1992
- D** National Programme for Prevention of Deafness (1986), renamed in 2000

ANSWER & ANALYSIS
EXPLANATION

FACT: NIDDCP was launched in 1992 as a rebranding of the National Goitre Control Programme (NGCP), which had originally been launched in 1962 to address endemic goitre, especially in the sub-Himalayan "goitre belt". **ANALYSIS:** The other options are real Indian programmes but are unrelated to iodine-deficiency control.






CONCEPT NOTE

World Thyroid Day is observed every May 25 — commemorating the founding of the European Thyroid Association on May 25, 1965 — and has been observed globally since 2007 by Thyroid Federation International. Universal Salt Iodisation was made mandatory in India in 1997; iodised salt must contain a minimum of 15 ppm iodine at consumer level.

NFHS-5 puts household consumption of adequately iodised salt at ~94 %. India has an estimated ~42 million thyroid-disorder patients, hypothyroidism prevalence ~11 %, with women 3–5x more affected.

Treatment for hypothyroidism is levothyroxine.

Q5  **CONCEPT KIT**

 CROSS-PAPER	GS2 (Health — NCDs, micronutrient deficiency) and GS3 (Public health nutrition).
 MAINS KEYWORDS	NIDDCP, USI, micronutrient deficiency, goitre belt.
 COMMON MISTAKE	Treating NIDDCP and NGCP as separate programmes — NIDDCP is the renamed avatar.
 EXAM TIP	UPSC has tested similar lineage (e.g., Mid-Day Meal Scheme renamed PM POSHAN).
 INTERVIEW	Why do hypothyroidism rates remain high despite 94 % USI coverage?

 [Read Full Article →](#)

Question 6

of 14

[Source →](#)

The Indian government's digital portal "TrackChild" — relevant on International Missing Children's Day (May 25) — was launched in which year and by which ministry?

- A 2009, Ministry of Home Affairs
- B 2012, Ministry of Women & Child Development ✓
- C 2015, Ministry of Electronics & IT
- D 2007, Ministry of Social Justice & Empowerment

ANSWER & ANALYSIS
EXPLANATION






FACT: TrackChild was launched in 2012 by the Ministry of Women & Child Development as a digital tracking system for missing and found children, linking child-care institutions, police, NCPCR and citizens. **ANALYSIS:** CCTNS (2009) is the MHA flagship police network; Khoya-Paya (June 2015) is a separate citizens' portal launched jointly by MoWCD and MeitY; neither is TrackChild.

CONCEPT NOTE

International Missing Children's Day (May 25) originated after the May 25, 1979 disappearance of Etan Patz in New York City; observed in the US since 1983 and globally from 2001 through ICMEC. The forget-me-not flower is the symbol. India's ecosystem includes TrackChild (2012), Khoya-Paya (June 2015), CCTNS (2009), ZIPNET, Operation Muskaan/Smile (January 2015) and Childline 1098.

NCRB Crime in India 2022 recorded ~83,350 children missing (~60 % girls). NCPCR is a statutory body under the CPC Act, 2005, established in March 2007; Mission Vatsalya (restructured from ICPS in 2022) is the umbrella child-protection scheme.

Q6  **CONCEPT KIT**

 CROSS-PAPER	GS1 (Society — children, trafficking) and GS2 (Polity — NCPCR, child-rights legislation).
 MAINS KEYWORDS	TrackChild, Khoya-Paya, Mission Vatsalya, NCPCR, UNCRC.
 COMMON MISTAKE	Mixing TrackChild (2012, WCD) with Khoya-Paya (2015, WCD + MeitY) or CCTNS (2009, MHA).
 EXAM TIP	UPSC has repeatedly tested child-rights bodies (NCPCR, JJ Act 2015) and India's ratification of UNCRC (Dec 11, 1992).
 INTERVIEW	Why does ~60 % of missing-children data still skew female despite legislative reforms?

 [Read Full Article →](#)

Question 7

of 14

[Source →](#)

Consider the IUCN Red List as it stands after the May 2026 update. The categories from most to least extinction risk are correctly arranged in which option?

- A** CR > EN > VU > NT > LC > DD > NE > EX > EW
- B** EX > EW > CR > EN > VU > NT > LC > DD > NE ✓
- C** EX > EW > CR > VU > EN > LC > NT > DD > NE
- D** EW > EX > CR > EN > VU > NT > DD > LC > NE

ANSWER & ANALYSIS
EXPLANATION

FACT: The standard IUCN Red List ordering by extinction risk is Extinct (EX) > Extinct in the Wild (EW) > Critically Endangered (CR) > Endangered (EN) > Vulnerable (VU) > Near Threatened (NT) > Least Concern (LC); plus Data Deficient (DD) and Not Evaluated (NE). **ANALYSIS:** Option 1 omits EX/EW; option 3 swaps VU and EN; option 4 places EW before EX and disrupts the threat ranking.

CONCEPT NOTE

The IUCN was founded in 1948 at Fontainebleau, France — the world's first global environmental union — and is headquartered in Gland, Switzerland. The IUCN Red List was established in 1964.

The May 2026 update reassessed 12 Indian species (4 uplisted, 8 downlisted); the uplisted set is dominated by Open Natural Ecosystem birds — Great Indian Bustard (CR, <150 in the wild, state bird of Rajasthan), Bengal Florican (CR) and Lesser Florican (CR, <750). All three are in Schedule I of the Wildlife (Protection) Act, 1972.

Project Great Indian Bustard was launched in 2013, executed by WII Dehradun; the conservation breeding centre is at Sam, Jaisalmer, where the first GIB chick was hatched in June 2019.

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


GS3 (Environment & Biodiversity) and GS1 (Geography — grasslands/ONEs).

 **MAINS KEYWORDS**

IUCN, Red List, Open Natural Ecosystems, Great Indian Bustard, Schedule I.

 **COMMON MISTAKE**

Reversing EN and VU; forgetting DD/NE are non-ranked categories.

 **EXAM TIP**

UPSC 2013/2018 PYQs tested Red List categories — memorise the 9-tier list.

 **INTERVIEW**

Should ONEs (~10 % of India's land area) be moved out of the "wasteland" classification?

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Question 8

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[Source →](#)

According to the India Meteorological Department, what is the normal date for the onset of the Southwest Monsoon over Kerala, against which the 2026 forecast of May 26 is being compared?

A May 20

B May 25

C June 1 ✓

D June 5

ANSWER & ANALYSIS
✓ EXPLANATION

FACT: The IMD's long-period normal onset date of the Southwest Monsoon over Kerala is June 1. The 2026 forecast of May 26 (± 4 days) is therefore about five days ahead of normal.

ANALYSIS: May 20 is the normal onset over the Andaman & Nicobar Islands; the SWM does not normally reach Kerala before June 1, and June 5 corresponds to onset over much of southern peninsular India.

📖 CONCEPT NOTE

The IMD — founded in 1875 — functions under the Ministry of Earth Sciences. The current Long Period Average (LPA) for June–September rainfall is ~87 cm, computed on the 1971–2020 baseline (revised in 2022 from the earlier 88.6 cm 1961–2010 baseline).

The IMD's 2026 seasonal forecast is 92 % of LPA — "below normal". The "severe heatwave" threshold over the plains is a T_{max} departure of ≥ 6.5 °C from normal.

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

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

 **MAINS KEYWORDS**

SWM, LPA, ITCZ, ENSO, IOD.

 **COMMON MISTAKE**

Stating onset over Kerala as May 20 (that is Andaman) or "early June" (vague).

 **EXAM TIP**

UPSC 2017 PYQ tested ITCZ; UPSC 2024 asked about IOD. Memorise IOD discovery (Saji et al., 1999).

 **INTERVIEW**

How is climate change altering the onset, withdrawal and intensity of the Indian monsoon?

 [Read Full Article →](#)

Question 9

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[Source →](#)

With respect to the National Testing Agency (NTA) — in news for the NEET-UG 2026 re-exam — which of the following is correct?

- A It is a statutory body under the National Medical Commission Act, 2019
- B It is an autonomous body under the Ministry of Education, set up in 2017 ✓
- C It is a constitutional body created by the 86th Amendment, 2002
- D It is a registered society under the UGC Act, 1956

ANSWER & ANALYSIS
✓ EXPLANATION

FACT: The NTA was set up in November 2017 as an autonomous body under the then Ministry of Human Resource Development (now Ministry of Education) — registered under the Societies Registration Act, 1860 — to conduct national entrance examinations (NEET, JEE, CUET, UGC-NET, etc.). **ANALYSIS:** The NMC Act 2019 created the NMC, not NTA. The 86th Amendment inserted Article 21A on Right to Education and did not create the NTA. The UGC is created by the UGC Act 1956, but NTA is separate.

📌 CONCEPT NOTE

NEET-UG 2026 was conducted on May 3, 2026 and cancelled on May 12 amid paper-leak allegations; Education Minister Dharmendra Pradhan announced a re-exam on June 21, 2026 with 15 extra minutes and a full shift to Computer-Based Testing from 2027. The Public Examinations (Prevention of Unfair Means) Act, 2024 — operational from February 2024 — provides 3–10 years jail and ₹10 lakh–₹1 crore fine for paper leaks and impersonation. The NMC Act, 2019 replaced the Medical Council of India (1934) in September 2020.

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

GS2 (Governance — examination integrity, statutory vs autonomous bodies) and GS4 (Ethics — examination malpractice).

 **MAINS KEYWORDS**

NTA, NEET, CBT, Public Examinations Act 2024, NMC.

 **COMMON MISTAKE**

Calling NTA a "statutory body" — it is autonomous, not statutory.

 **EXAM TIP**

UPSC frequently tests "statutory vs constitutional vs autonomous"; remember NTA = autonomous society.

 **INTERVIEW**

Will CBT truly solve paper leaks, or shift the vulnerability to cyber-attacks?

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Question 10

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[Source →](#)

The currently accepted height of Mount Everest, jointly announced in December 2020, is:

- A 8,848.13 m (Survey of India, 1955)
- B 8,848.86 m (Nepal–China joint announcement, December 8, 2020) ✓
- C 8,850.00 m (US National Geographic Society, 1999)
- D 8,844.43 m (Chinese State Bureau of Surveying, 2005)

ANSWER & ANALYSIS

 **EXPLANATION**

FACT: On December 8, 2020, Nepal and China jointly announced the new official height of Mount Everest as 8,848.86 m, finally reconciling decades of differing measurements. **ANALYSIS:** 8,848.13 m was the 1955 Survey of India figure; the 1999 NGS figure was 8,850 m (using GPS); China's 2005 measurement was 8,844.43 m (rock height excluding snow cap).

The 2020 joint announcement supersedes all earlier figures.

 **CONCEPT NOTE**

Everest is in the Mahalangur Himal of the Great Himalayas, on the Nepal–China (Tibet) border. It was first summited by Tenzing Norgay and Edmund Hillary on May 29, 1953 via the South Col route.

The Hillary Step (~12 m rock face at ~8,790 m) partially collapsed in the 2015 Gorkha earthquake. In the 2026 climbing season Nepal issued 478 permits earning ~USD 5 million; India had 61 permits — the third-largest contingent.

The permit fee is USD 11,000 — being raised to USD 15,000 from September 2025. Veteran Sherpa Kami Rita made his 32nd Everest summit in May 2026 — a world record.

The "death zone" begins above 8,000 m.

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

GS1 (Geography — Himalayan ranges) and GS3 (Environment — climate impact on mountaineering).

 **MAINS KEYWORDS**

Mahalangur, Hillary Step, death zone, climate-change risk.

 **COMMON MISTAKE**

Quoting the old 8,848 m or NGS 8,850 m — the joint Nepal-China figure from December 2020 is now the standard.

 **EXAM TIP**

UPSC often tests Himalayan peaks (Kangchenjunga 8,586 m, Nanda Devi 7,816 m, K2 8,611 m).

 **INTERVIEW**

Should Nepal cap Everest permits to address overcrowding and waste?

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Question 11

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[Source →](#)

Consider the following Quad initiatives and their launch venues. Which one is correctly matched?

- A IPMDA — Washington, September 2021
- B Quad Cancer Moonshot — Tokyo, May 2022
- C Quad Critical Minerals Initiative — Wilmington, September 2024
- D Quad Fellowship — Washington, September 2021 ✓

ANSWER & ANALYSIS

 **EXPLANATION**

FACT: The Quad Fellowship — a scholarship programme for 100 STEM graduate students annually (25 from each Quad country) — was announced at the first in-person Quad Leaders' Summit in Washington, September 24, 2021.

ANALYSIS: IPMDA was launched at the Tokyo Summit (May 24, 2022), not Washington.

The Cancer Moonshot was launched at Wilmington (Sept 21, 2024), not Tokyo. The Critical Minerals Initiative was launched at the Washington Quad FM Meeting (July 1, 2025), not at Wilmington.

 **CONCEPT NOTE**

Quad chronology: Proposed by Shinzo Abe in 2007 → revived November 2017 (Manila ASEAN sidelines) → first FM-level meeting September 2019 (New York UNGA) → first virtual Leaders' Summit March 12, 2021 → first in-person Summit Washington September 24, 2021 (Quad Fellowship launched here) → Tokyo Summit May 24, 2022 (IPMDA) → Hiroshima Summit May 20, 2023 → Wilmington Summit September 21, 2024 (Cancer Moonshot) → Washington FM Meeting July 1, 2025 (Critical Minerals Initiative) → India to host Leaders' Summit 2026.

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

GS2 (IR — Indo-Pacific minilaterals).

 **MAINS KEYWORDS**

Quad Fellowship, IPMDA, Cancer Moonshot, Critical Minerals.

 **COMMON MISTAKE**

Confusing Tokyo (May 2022, IPMDA) with Wilmington (Sept 2024, Cancer Moonshot) — both are commonly mismatched.

 **EXAM TIP**

UPSC 2023 tested Quad — make a tabular timeline of every Quad summit and its flagship initiative.

 **INTERVIEW**

Are Quad working-group deliverables more impactful than Quad joint military exercises (Malabar)?

 [Read Full Article →](#)

Question 12

of 14

[Source →](#)

India's Mission 500 with the United States — reaffirmed during Marco Rubio's May 2026 visit — has which of the following as its specific target?

- A USD 500 billion in bilateral defence trade by 2035
- B USD 500 billion in bilateral goods-plus-services trade by 2030 ✓
- C 500 GW of joint clean-energy capacity by 2030
- D USD 500 billion in US FDI into India by 2030

ANSWER & ANALYSIS
✓ EXPLANATION

FACT: Mission 500, announced in the Modi–Trump joint statement of February 13, 2025, sets a target of USD 500 billion in bilateral goods-plus-services trade by 2030 — roughly 2.5x the current ~USD 190 billion (FY25). **ANALYSIS:** The USD 500 bn figure is not for defence trade alone; not for clean energy (which is the 500 GW domestic non-fossil target by 2030); and not for FDI.

📖 CONCEPT NOTE

India–US bilateral trade was ~USD 190 billion in FY25, with services accounting for ~30 %. Defence trade has crossed ~USD 25 billion cumulatively since 2008.

The US is currently India's largest trading partner. Negotiations on a bilateral Trade Agreement (BTA) are ongoing amid Trump 2.0's reciprocal tariffs — framework announced April 2, 2025, with the 25 % reciprocal duty on India effective August 7, 2025 and an additional 25 % Russian-oil penalty (EO Aug 6, 2025) effective August 27, 2025, stacking the cumulative duty to 50 %.

The GE F-414 engine deal envisages 80 % Transfer of Technology for the indigenous Tejas Mk-2.

Q12  **CONCEPT KIT**

 CROSS-PAPER	GS2 (India–US strategic partnership) and GS3 (Trade economics, WTO compatibility).
 MAINS KEYWORDS	Mission 500, BTA, reciprocal tariffs, defence trade.
 COMMON MISTAKE	Conflating Mission 500 (USD trade) with India's domestic 500 GW non-fossil energy target by 2030 (Panchamrit, COP-26).
 EXAM TIP	UPSC 2023 tested India's trade composition with the US — revise top exports (smartphones, generics, gems) and imports (crude, gas, aircraft).
 INTERVIEW	Is Mission 500 realistic if Trump tariffs persist on Indian exports?

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Question 13

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[Source →](#)

Project Great Indian Bustard — relevant to the IUCN Red List 2026 update — was launched in 2013 and is implemented primarily by:

- A Bombay Natural History Society (BNHS), Mumbai
- B Wildlife Institute of India (WII), Dehradun ✓
- C Zoological Survey of India (ZSI), Kolkata
- D National Centre for Biological Sciences (NCBS), Bengaluru

ANSWER & ANALYSIS
✓ EXPLANATION

FACT: Project Great Indian Bustard was launched in 2013 with the Wildlife Institute of India (WII), Dehradun as the implementing agency, in partnership with the Government of Rajasthan and MoEFCC. The conservation breeding centre is at Sam, Jaisalmer, where the first GIB chick was hatched in June 2019. **ANALYSIS:** BNHS, ZSI and NCBS are reputed institutions but were not designated as the lead implementing agency for Project GIB.

📖 CONCEPT NOTE

The Great Indian Bustard (*Ardeotis nigriceps*) is Critically Endangered (IUCN); fewer than 150 birds survive in the wild — mostly in Rajasthan's Desert National Park (Jaisalmer) and Kutch (Gujarat). It is the State Bird of Rajasthan and is listed in Schedule I of the Wildlife (Protection) Act, 1972 and Appendix I of CITES. The Supreme Court (April 19, 2021) had mandated undergrounding of power lines in GIB habitat — relaxed and re-structured by an order of March 21, 2024. Bengal Florican and Lesser Florican (both CR) share the bird's Open Natural Ecosystem habitat.

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

GS3 (Environment — species conservation, ONEs) and GS2 (Polity — judicial intervention in environmental policy).

 **MAINS KEYWORDS**

GIB, ONEs, Schedule I, conservation breeding, power-line collisions.

 **COMMON MISTAKE**

Crediting BNHS (which does vulture conservation) with GIB conservation.

 **EXAM TIP**

UPSC 2020 tested GIB; remember WII Dehradun = umbrella research body (PG diploma in Wildlife).

 **INTERVIEW**

Can conservation breeding alone save GIB when 70 % of mortality is from power-line strikes?

 [Read Full Article →](#)

Question 14

of 14

[Source →](#)

NIDDCP and Universal Salt Iodisation in India — relevant on World Thyroid Day — share which of the following correct combinations?

- A Iodised salt minimum 10 ppm; USI mandatory since 1992
- B Iodised salt minimum 15 ppm; USI mandatory since 1997 ✓
- C Iodised salt minimum 20 ppm; USI mandatory since 2005
- D Iodised salt minimum 30 ppm; USI mandatory since 2000

ANSWER & ANALYSIS

✓ EXPLANATION

FACT: Under Indian regulations, iodised salt must contain a minimum of 15 ppm iodine at consumer level (and 30 ppm at production level to allow for losses). Universal Salt Iodisation was made mandatory in India in 1997, briefly de-notified in 2000, and re-notified in 2005.






ANALYSIS: 10 ppm and 20 ppm are common distractors; the 30-ppm figure refers to production-level iodine content, not consumer minimum.

📖 CONCEPT NOTE

India's National Iodine Deficiency Disorders Control Programme (NIDDCP), launched 1992 (renamed from National Goitre Control Programme of 1962), targets the "goitre belt" — sub-Himalayan, Northeast and tribal districts historically high in IDD. NFHS-5 (2019-21) reports household consumption of adequately iodised salt at ~94 %. India has ~42 million thyroid-disorder patients; hypothyroidism prevalence ~11 %, with women 3–5x more affected than men.

Iodine's recommended daily intake: 100–150 µg (adults), 200 µg (pregnant women).

Q14  **CONCEPT KIT**

 CROSS-PAPER	GS2 (Health — micronutrient deficiency) and GS3 (Public health nutrition).
 MAINS KEYWORDS	NIDDCP, USI, micronutrient deficiency, iodised salt.
 COMMON MISTAKE	Misremembering the 15 ppm consumer minimum vs 30 ppm production figure.
 EXAM TIP	UPSC has tested fortification programmes (e.g., double-fortified salt, fortified rice scheme 2024).
 INTERVIEW	Why has hypothyroidism continued to rise even after 94 % USI coverage — is salt iodisation enough?

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CURATED & WRITTEN BY

Bharat Choudhary

UPSC Educator & Content Creator

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“You must not lose faith in humanity. Humanity is an ocean; if a few drops are dirty, the ocean does not become dirty.”

— Mahatma Gandhi