



UPSC & STATE PCS CURRENT AFFAIRS · UJIYARI.COM

DAILY QUIZ — SOLVED

Daily Quiz — May 26, 2026

26 May 2026



CURATED & WRITTEN BY

Bharat Choudhary

UPSC Educator & Content Creator

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

ALSO FROM THE CREATOR

BharatNotes

Free UPSC notes, MCQs, PYQ analysis. **100% Free.**

bharatnotes.com →

ADVERTISE

Advertise with Ujiyari

Reach thousands of UPSC aspirants daily.

epicbharat@gmail.com

DAILY QUIZ — SOLVED ANSWER KEY

Daily Quiz — May 26, 2026

26 May 2026 · 14 Questions · Answers & Explanations Included

Question 1

of 14

[Source →](#)

The Quad Critical Minerals Initiative Framework, unveiled at the 11th Quad Foreign Ministers' Meeting in New Delhi (May 26, 2026), announced an indicative corpus of:

- A USD 5 billion
- B USD 10 billion
- C USD 20 billion ✓
- D USD 50 billion

ANSWER & ANALYSIS

 **EXPLANATION**

FACT: The Quad Critical Minerals Initiative Framework released at the 11th Quad FMM in New Delhi specified an indicative corpus of USD 20 billion to de-risk supply chains of lithium, cobalt, nickel, rare earths and graphite.

ANALYSIS: This is the largest single economic deliverable of any Quad meeting and signals the shift from a security-only unilateral to a supply-chain compact targeting Chinese dominance over REE processing (85-90% globally).

 **CONCEPT NOTE**

The Quad was revived in November 2017 at the ASEAN sidelines in Manila; the first Leaders' Summit was held virtually on March 12, 2021. The 11th FMM is the first under India's 2026 chairship.

Other outcomes from May 26, 2026 include the Indo-Pacific Energy Security Statement, the Quad Fuel Security Forum (to be hosted by the US later in 2026), and the IPMSC asset-pooling initiative.

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

GS2 (groupings), GS3 (resources).

 **MAINS KEYWORDS**

minilateralism, supply-chain resilience, critical minerals, REE.

 **COMMON MISTAKE**

confusing IPMSC (asset-pooling, 2026) with IPMDA (info-sharing, Tokyo May 24, 2022).

 **EXAM TIP**

UPSC 2022 prelims asked about the Quad — expect a follow-up on critical minerals lists or KABIL.

 **INTERVIEW**

Is the Quad becoming an "Asian NATO"?

 [Read Full Article →](#)

Question 2

of 14

[Source →](#)

IPMDA — the Quad's flagship maritime domain awareness initiative that preceded the new IPMSC — was launched at which Quad Leaders' Summit?

A Washington, September 24, 2021

B Tokyo, May 24, 2022 ✓

C Hiroshima, May 20, 2023

D Wilmington, September 21, 2024

ANSWER & ANALYSIS

 **EXPLANATION**

FACT: The Indo-Pacific Partnership for Maritime Domain Awareness (IPMDA) was launched at the second in-person Quad Leaders' Summit held in Tokyo on May 24, 2022. **ANALYSIS:** IPMDA uses commercial satellite data and dark-vessel tracking to map illegal, unregulated and unreported (IUU) fishing and PLA Navy movements across the Indo-Pacific.

The IPMSC announced in 2026 builds on IPMDA by introducing physical asset-pooling.

 **CONCEPT NOTE**

The first in-person Quad Summit was at Washington on September 24, 2021. Other Summit dates: Hiroshima (sidelines, May 20, 2023), Wilmington (September 21, 2024 — hosted by President Biden in his hometown).

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


GS2 (groupings), GS3 (security).

 **MAINS KEYWORDS**

IUU fishing, maritime domain awareness, grey-zone operations.

 **COMMON MISTAKE**

mixing IPMDA up with the Information Fusion Centre — Indian Ocean Region (IFC-IOR) at Gurugram, which is a separate Indian initiative.

 **EXAM TIP**

Note distinctions between IPMDA, IPMSC, IFC-IOR, and the Combined Maritime Forces (CMF) Bahrain.

 [Read Full Article →](#)

Question 3

of 14

[Source →](#)

The India-Australia Economic Cooperation and Trade Agreement (ECTA) came into force on:

A April 2, 2022

B August 1, 2022

C December 29, 2022 ✓

D January 26, 2023

ANSWER & ANALYSIS

EXPLANATION

FACT: The India-Australia ECTA was signed on April 2, 2022 and came into force on December 29, 2022.

ANALYSIS: ECTA is an "early harvest" trade pact — duty-free access for 96% of Indian exports to Australia from day one.

A fuller Comprehensive Economic Cooperation Agreement (CECA) is under negotiation as of 2026.

CONCEPT NOTE

India-Australia ties were elevated to a Comprehensive Strategic Partnership on June 4, 2020 (virtual Modi-Morrison summit). The earlier 2009 partnership was at the "Strategic Partnership" tier.

Australia accounts for ~52% of global lithium supply, central to the Quad Critical Minerals Initiative.

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


GS2 (bilateral), GS3 (trade).

 **MAINS KEYWORDS**

early harvest agreement, comprehensive strategic partnership, supply chain resilience.

 **COMMON MISTAKE**

confusing the signing date (April 2, 2022) with the in-force date (December 29, 2022).

 **EXAM TIP**

Among India's recent FTAs, distinguish ECTA (Australia), CEPA (UAE, May 1, 2022), and the India-EFTA TEPA (signed March 10, 2024).

 [Read Full Article →](#)

Question 4

of 14

[Source →](#)

Among India's strategic partnerships, the highest tier — "Special Strategic and Global Partnership" — has been accorded only to:

A United States

B France

C Japan ✓

D United Kingdom

ANSWER & ANALYSIS
✓ EXPLANATION

FACT: Japan is the only country with which India shares a "Special Strategic and Global Partnership," elevated by PM Modi and PM Shinzo Abe through the Tokyo Declaration in September 2014. **ANALYSIS:** The tiering matters — Japan's "Special" tier sits above the "Comprehensive Global Strategic Partnership" (USA, UK) and the "Comprehensive Strategic Partnership" (Australia, France, UAE, others). It reflects civil-nuclear cooperation, the Shinkansen Bullet Train transfer, and SCRI trilateralism.

📖 CONCEPT NOTE

PM's residence "7, Lok Kalyan Marg" was renamed from 7, Race Course Road in October 2016. The Mumbai-Ahmedabad Bullet Train (₹1.08 lakh crore) uses Japan's Shinkansen E5 technology, financed by JICA on a 0.1% interest, 50-year-tenor soft loan.

SCRI (Supply Chain Resilience Initiative) was formalised by India-Japan-Australia in September 2021.

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

GS2 (bilateral, IR).

 **MAINS KEYWORDS**

strategic partnership tiers, SCRI, Shinkansen, civil nuclear cooperation.

 **COMMON MISTAKE**

ranking USA above Japan — the US tier is "Comprehensive Global Strategic," not "Special."

 **EXAM TIP**

UPSC frequently tests strategic partnership tiers — memorise: Japan (Special), USA/UK (Comprehensive Global), Australia/France/UAE (Comprehensive).

 [Read Full Article →](#)

Question 5

of 14

[Source →](#)

Vaccinium piliferum, rediscovered in Arunachal Pradesh's Namdapha region after 188 years, belongs to which plant family?

A Ericaceae ✓

B Rubiaceae

C Orchidaceae

D Rosaceae

ANSWER & ANALYSIS
EXPLANATION

FACT: Vaccinium piliferum belongs to the family Ericaceae — the "heath family" — which also includes blueberry, cranberry, rhododendron and azalea. **ANALYSIS:** It was first described by British botanist William Griffith in 1836 during his Mishmi Hills expedition and was not seen for 188 years until rediscovered by SFRI Itanagar and CSIR-NEIST researchers in 2026 (only 16 individual plants found, IUCN Endangered).

CONCEPT NOTE

Rhododendron — the most familiar member of Ericaceae in India — is the state flower of Himachal Pradesh and Nagaland, and the national flower of Nepal. Namdapha National Park (1,985 km², notified 1983) is the only protected area in the world that hosts all four big cats: Bengal tiger, common leopard, snow leopard and clouded leopard.

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

GS3 (biodiversity).

 **MAINS KEYWORDS**

Lazarus taxa, Eastern Himalaya hotspot, endemism.

 **COMMON MISTAKE**

confusing Vaccinium (blueberry genus, Ericaceae) with Coffea (Rubiaceae).

 **EXAM TIP**

UPSC has asked about Ericaceae before (rhododendron PYQ); remember India has 4 of 36 global biodiversity hotspots — Himalayas, Indo-Burma, Western Ghats-Sri Lanka, Sundaland.

 [Read Full Article →](#)

Question 6

of 14

[Source →](#)

Which of the following is correctly matched as the world's only floating national park?

A Namdapha National Park — Arunachal Pradesh

B Keibul Lamjao National Park — Manipur ✓

C Kaziranga National Park — Assam

D Manas National Park — Assam

ANSWER & ANALYSIS

✓ EXPLANATION

FACT: Keibul Lamjao National Park (notified 1977), located on the southern fringes of Loktak Lake in Manipur, is the only floating national park in the world — built on floating biomass islands called "phumdis." **ANALYSIS:** It is the sole natural habitat of the critically endangered Sangai (*Cervus eldii eldii*), Manipur's state animal, with around 260 individuals as per the 2016 census.

📖 CONCEPT NOTE

Loktak Lake itself is the largest freshwater lake in North-East India and a Ramsar site since March 23, 1990. The "Loktak Protocluster" — a 12.6-billion-year-old galaxy cluster discovered by Dr. Ronaldo Laishram of NAOJ using the 8.2-m Subaru Telescope on Mauna Kea, Hawaii — was named after this lake.

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

GS1 (geography), GS3 (biodiversity).

 **MAINS KEYWORDS**

phumdis, Sangai, Ramsar Convention.

 **COMMON MISTAKE**

Namdapha hosts all 4 big cats but is NOT floating; Kaziranga is famed for one-horned rhino, not floating.

 **EXAM TIP**

UPSC 2014 prelims asked about Keibul Lamjao's connection to brow-antlered deer.

 [Read Full Article →](#)

Question 7

of 14

[Source →](#)

The Subaru Telescope, used to discover the newly named Loktak Protocluster, is located in:

A La Palma, Canary Islands

B Mauna Kea, Hawaii ✓

C Atacama Desert, Chile

D Hanle, Ladakh

ANSWER & ANALYSIS
 **EXPLANATION**

FACT: The Subaru Telescope is an 8.2-metre optical-infrared telescope operated by the National Astronomical Observatory of Japan (NAOJ) at the summit of Mauna Kea, Hawaii (4,139 m altitude). **ANALYSIS:** Mauna Kea hosts a dozen world-class telescopes including Keck I/II (10-m), Gemini North, IRTF, and the CFHT. The dry, high-altitude site provides exceptional seeing conditions, making it the world's premier ground-based astronomy hub alongside Cerro Paranal in Chile.

 **CONCEPT NOTE**

India's ground-based observational assets include: the Giant Metrewave Radio Telescope (GMRT) at Khodad near Pune, operated by NCRA-TIFR; the Indian Astronomical Observatory at Hanle, Ladakh (Asia's highest); and India became a full member of the SKA Observatory in 2024.

Q7

 CONCEPT KIT **CROSS-PAPER**


GS3 (S&T).

 **MAINS KEYWORDS**

cosmic noon, protocluster, radio interferometry.

 **COMMON MISTAKE**

confusing Subaru (8.2-m optical, Hawaii) with VLT (8.2-m optical, Chile) and Keck (10-m, Hawaii).

 **EXAM TIP**

Remember GMRT's significance — among the world's largest low-frequency radio arrays.

 [Read Full Article →](#)

Question 8

of 14

[Source →](#)

With South Korea's announcement of the Jangbogo-N project, the number of countries operating nuclear-powered submarines (existing operators) currently stands at:

A Four

B Five

C Six ✓

D Eight

ANSWER & ANALYSIS
✓ EXPLANATION

FACT: Six nations currently operate nuclear-powered submarines — the United States, Russia, the United Kingdom, France, China and India. **ANALYSIS:** South Korea will become the 7th when Jangbogo-N commissions in the late 2030s; Australia will follow via the AUKUS pact (signed September 15, 2021).






India's SSBN fleet — INS Arihant (commissioned August 2016), INS Arighaat (August 29, 2024), and INS Aridhaman (fitting-out) — places it firmly in this elite club.

📖 CONCEPT NOTE

The first nuclear submarine was the USS Nautilus, commissioned by the US on September 30, 1954. India's nuclear-powered attack submarine (SSN) programme was approved by the Cabinet Committee on Security (CCS) in October 2024 — 2 hulls at ₹40,000 crore.

The US-ROK 123 Agreement, renewed in 2015, had restricted Korean uranium enrichment, but the US lifted those restrictions in October 2025.

Q8  **CONCEPT KIT**

 CROSS-PAPER	GS2 (IR), GS3 (defence tech).
 MAINS KEYWORDS	SSBN vs SSN, nuclear triad, No First Use.
 COMMON MISTAKE	confusing SSN (nuclear-powered, conventionally armed) with SSBN (nuclear-powered, nuclear-armed).
 EXAM TIP	India's nuclear doctrine — NFU, Credible Minimum Deterrence, massive retaliation — was formalised on January 4, 2003.
 INTERVIEW	Should India revisit NFU?

 [Read Full Article →](#)

Question 9

of 14

[Source →](#)

The Forward Markets Commission (FMC), which regulated commodity derivatives, was merged with SEBI on:

A April 1, 2014

B September 28, 2015 ✓

C April 1, 2017

D February 1, 2020

ANSWER & ANALYSIS

✓ EXPLANATION

FACT: The Forward Markets Commission (FMC), set up in 1953 under the Forward Contracts (Regulation) Act 1952, was merged with SEBI on September 28, 2015. **ANALYSIS:** The merger followed the NSEL crisis of 2013 and rationalised regulation by bringing commodity derivatives under SEBI's securities-market oversight — a single unified capital and commodity markets regulator.

📖 CONCEPT NOTE

SEBI was set up non-statutorily on April 12, 1988 and was given statutory backing by the SEBI Act, 1992. The underlying market legislation is the Securities Contracts (Regulation) Act, 1956.

SEBI Chairman Tuhin Kanta Pandey (in office since March 1, 2025) announced on May 26, 2026 the expansion of bond ETFs, first-of-kind corporate bond index derivatives, and a DLT tokenisation pilot.

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


GS3 (economy, regulators).

 **MAINS KEYWORDS**

unified regulator, commodity derivatives, market deepening.

 **COMMON MISTAKE**

assuming FMC merger followed the SEBI Act — it came 23 years after the SEBI Act.

 **EXAM TIP**

UPSC tests regulator timelines — SEBI (1992 statutory), IRDAI (1999), PFRDA (2013 statutory), RBI (1935).

 [Read Full Article →](#)

Question 10

of 14

[Source →](#)

India's corporate bond market depth — a structural concern flagged by SEBI's May 2026 reform package — currently stands at approximately what share of GDP?

A About 6% of GDP

B About 18% of GDP ✓

C About 45% of GDP

D About 80% of GDP

ANSWER & ANALYSIS
✓ EXPLANATION

FACT: India's corporate bond market is approximately 18% of GDP, compared with around 120% in the United States and 80% in South Korea. **ANALYSIS:** This shallowness pushes infrastructure financing onto bank balance sheets, creating asset-liability mismatches.

SEBI's May 26, 2026 measures — expanded bond ETFs, corporate bond index derivatives (first-ever in India), and a DLT tokenisation pilot — aim to deepen this market and finance the ₹111 lakh crore National Infrastructure Pipeline.

📖 CONCEPT NOTE

Bharat Bond ETF was launched in December 2019 as India's first corporate-bond ETF (Edelweiss AMC). The minimum ticket for privately placed bonds was reduced from ₹1 lakh to ₹10,000 in October 2024 to enable retail participation. Successive committees — Patil (2005), Khan and HR Khan (2016) — recommended bond-market deepening.

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

GS3 (economy).

 **MAINS KEYWORDS**

financial deepening, ALM mismatch, NIP financing.

 **COMMON MISTAKE**

confusing G-Sec market (large, ~80% GDP) with corporate bond market (shallow, ~18%).

 **EXAM TIP**

UPSC Mains 2019 GS3 asked about deepening corporate bond markets — quote NIP and tokenisation as solutions.

 [Read Full Article →](#)

Question 11

of 14

[Source →](#)

The Central Vigilance Commission (CVC) — India's apex integrity institution — was established in 1964 on the recommendation of which committee?

- A Sarkaria Commission
- B Santhanam Committee ✓
- C Punchhi Commission
- D Hota Committee

ANSWER & ANALYSIS
✓ EXPLANATION

FACT: The CVC was set up in 1964 on the recommendation of the Santhanam Committee on Prevention of Corruption (1962). **ANALYSIS:** It was initially an executive body created by a government resolution and was given statutory status only in 2003 through the CVC Act.

The Supreme Court's Vineet Narain judgment (1997) had earlier sought to grant it statutory backing.

📖 CONCEPT NOTE

Other anchors of India's anti-corruption architecture: Prevention of Corruption Act 1988 (amended 2018 to criminalise bribe-giving under Section 8); Lokpal and Lokayuktas Act 2013; CBI established 1963 (Delhi Special Police Establishment Act 1946). India's CPI 2024 rank is 96 of 180 (score 38/100).

Kerala's Project Zero (announced May 26, 2026) offers citizens ₹5,000 for verified bribery video evidence.

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


GS2 (statutory bodies, governance).

 **MAINS KEYWORDS**

integrity institutions, Vineet Narain judgment, crowd-sourced vigilance.

 **COMMON MISTAKE**

confusing Santhanam Committee (CVC, 1962) with Sarkaria Commission (Centre-State, 1983).

 **EXAM TIP**

UPSC Mains 2020 GS2 asked about Lokpal and integrity institutions — link CVC, CBI, Lokpal.

 [Read Full Article →](#)

Question 12

of 14

[Source →](#)

Khanij Bidesh India Ltd (KABIL), India's public-sector vehicle for acquiring overseas critical-mineral assets, is a joint venture of which three Central Public Sector Enterprises?

A NALCO + HCL + MECL ✓

B SAIL + Coal India + ONGC

C NMDC + GAIL + NLC India

D NTPC + REC + PFC

ANSWER & ANALYSIS
✓ EXPLANATION

FACT: KABIL is a joint venture of three CPSEs — National Aluminium Company Limited (NALCO), Hindustan Copper Limited (HCL) and Mineral Exploration Corporation Limited (MECL). **ANALYSIS:** Incorporated in August 2019, KABIL has signed exploration MoUs with Argentina (lithium) and is pursuing assets in Australia and Africa. It dovetails with the Quad Critical Minerals Initiative (USD 20 billion, May 26, 2026) and India's National Critical Mineral Mission.

📖 CONCEPT NOTE

India's National Critical Mineral Mission was launched in January 2025 with an outlay of ₹16,300 crore. The Ministry of Mines released India's first Critical Minerals List of 30 minerals in 2023. Inferred lithium reserves at Reasi, Jammu & Kashmir, stand at 5.9 million tonnes (GSI 2023). China processes 85-90% of global rare earth elements.

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

GS3 (resources, energy security).

 **MAINS KEYWORDS**

critical minerals, REE supply chain, Friend-shoring.

 **COMMON MISTAKE**

assuming KABIL includes NMDC — it does not.

 **EXAM TIP**

Memorise the 30-mineral Critical List's flagship entries — lithium, cobalt, nickel, niobium, beryllium, and the full REE basket.

 [Read Full Article →](#)

Question 13

of 14

[Source →](#)

Bharat Dynamics Limited (BDL), the DPSU producing the DRDO's ULPGM-V3 missile that cleared mass-production trials at Kurnool, is headquartered in:

- A Bengaluru
- B Pune
- C Hyderabad ✓
- D Chennai

ANSWER & ANALYSIS
✓ EXPLANATION

FACT: Bharat Dynamics Limited (BDL) is a Defence Public Sector Undertaking under the Ministry of Defence, headquartered in Hyderabad, Telangana. **ANALYSIS:** BDL was founded in 1970 and produces the Akash SAM, Astra BVRAAM, MILAN-2T ATGM and now the ULPGM-V3.

It is partnered by Adani Defence & Aerospace for ULPGM-V3 production, with Newspace Research (Bengaluru) as the UAV integrator.

📌 CONCEPT NOTE

DRDO was founded in 1958. The ULPGM-V3 procurement falls under the "Buy {Indian-IDDMM}" category — the highest priority slot under Defence Acquisition Procedure (DAP) 2020.

The iDEX (Innovations for Defence Excellence) ecosystem was launched in April 2018 to fund defence start-ups.

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

GS3 (defence, S&T).

 **MAINS KEYWORDS**

Aatmanirbhar Bharat, IDDM, defence indigenisation.

 **COMMON MISTAKE**

confusing BDL (Hyderabad) with HAL (Bengaluru) or BEL (Bengaluru).

 **EXAM TIP**

DPSU headquarters — BDL Hyderabad, HAL Bengaluru, BEL Bengaluru, BEML Bengaluru, MIDHANI Hyderabad, GRSE Kolkata.

 [Read Full Article →](#)

Question 14

of 14

[Source →](#)

Fast Radio Bursts (FRBs) — the class of phenomena to which FRB 20240304B (the most distant ever detected) belongs — were first discovered in which year?

A 2001

B 2007 ✓

C 2013

D 2017

ANSWER & ANALYSIS
✓ EXPLANATION

FACT: Fast Radio Bursts were first detected in 2007 by Duncan Lorimer and colleagues using archival data from the Parkes Radio Telescope in Australia — known as the "Lorimer Burst." **ANALYSIS:** FRB 20240304B, announced May 2026, was detected using South Africa's MeerKAT array; its light travelled ~10 billion years (redshift $z \approx 2.148$), placing its origin near "cosmic noon" when the universe was only ~3 billion years old. Magnetars are the leading candidate for FRB progenitors.

📖 CONCEPT NOTE

India became a full member of the SKA (Square Kilometre Array) Observatory in 2024. MeerKAT (Karoo desert, South Africa) is an SKA precursor with 64 dishes.

India operates the Giant Metrewave Radio Telescope (GMRT) at Khodad, near Pune, run by the National Centre for Radio Astrophysics (NCRA-TIFR) — among the world's largest low-frequency radio arrays.

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

GS3 (S&T, space).

 **MAINS KEYWORDS**

FRBs, SKA, cosmic noon, magnetar.

 **COMMON MISTAKE**

placing FRB discovery in 2001 (first pulsar planet) or 2017 (first gravitational wave from a kilonova).

 **EXAM TIP**

Distinguish FRBs (millisecond radio bursts), GRBs (gamma-ray bursts) and pulsars (rotating neutron stars) — all are UPSC favourites under "space awareness."

 [Read Full Article →](#)



CURATED & WRITTEN BY

Bharat Choudhary

UPSC Educator & Content Creator

[LinkedIn](#)[Read Full Edition](#)**ALSO FROM THE CREATOR**

BharatNotes

Free UPSC study platform — notes across all 4 GS papers, MCQs, PYQ analysis & progress tracking. **100% Free.**

bharatnotes.com →**ADVERTISE WITH UJJARI**

Reach **thousands of UPSC & State PCS aspirants** daily through our PDFs, website & social channels.

Coaching • EdTech • Publishers • Exam apps

[✉ epicbharat@gmail.com](mailto:epicbharat@gmail.com)

“The only limit to our realization of tomorrow will be our doubts of today.”

— Franklin D. Roosevelt