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Daily Quiz, August 3, 2026

3 August 2026



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DAILY QUIZ — SOLVED ANSWER KEY

Daily Quiz, August 3, 2026

3 August 2026 · 13 Questions · Answers & Explanations Included

Question 1

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Under Section 151A of the Representation of the People Act, 1951, a casual vacancy must normally be filled within six months. What is the principal exception?

- ☐ A Where the vacancy arises from disqualification rather than death or resignation
- ☒ B Where the remainder of the member's term is less than one year ✓
- ☐ C Where a general election is due within three years
- ☐ D Where the Election Commission certifies that law and order does not permit polling

ANSWER & ANALYSIS

✓ EXPLANATION

FACT: Section 151A requires a casual vacancy in a House to be filled within six months of its occurrence, subject to the proviso that the requirement does not apply where the remainder of the term of the member to be elected would be less than one year. **ANALYSIS:** The proviso exists because holding a full election for a term of a few months imposes substantial administrative and financial cost for negligible representative benefit, and the Election Commission also retains discretion where conditions do not permit a free and fair poll.

📖 CONCEPT NOTE

The three by-elections whose results were declared on 3 August 2026 illustrate different vacancy causes. Datia in Madhya Pradesh fell vacant when sitting Congress MLA Rajendra Bharti was disqualified after conviction and a three-year sentence in a 2015 bank fraud case, operating under Section 8(3) of the Act, which disqualifies a person sentenced to two years or more for the sentence period plus a further six years.

Lily Thomas v. Union of India (2013) struck down Section 8(4), which had allowed sitting legislators to continue pending appeal, making disqualification immediate on conviction.

Q1
 **CONCEPT KIT**
 CROSS-PAPER

GS2 Representation of the People Act, electoral processes, the Election Commission under Article 324.

 MAINS KEYWORDS

casual vacancy, disqualification, criminalisation of politics.

 COMMON MISTAKE

assuming a by-election must be held for every vacancy regardless of remaining term; the one-year proviso is the standard exception tested.

 EXAM TIP

pair Section 8(3), Section 8(4) and Lily Thomas (2013) as a set; UPSC tests the effect of striking down 8(4) directly.

 INTERVIEW

should disqualification on conviction await appellate confirmation, given the risk of an unsafe conviction ending a career irreversibly?

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Question 2

of 13

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The Purchasing Managers' Index fell to 53.5 in July 2026, a five-year low, while manufacturing recorded a 57th consecutive month above 50. What does this combination indicate?

- ☐ A Manufacturing output contracted for the first time in five years
- ☒ B Manufacturing continued to expand, but at the slowest pace in nearly five years ✓
- ☐ C The index is internally inconsistent and one figure must be wrong
- ☐ D Manufacturing output was exactly unchanged from the previous month

ANSWER & ANALYSIS
✓ EXPLANATION

FACT: The PMI is a diffusion index in which 50 is the no-change threshold; a reading of 53.5 means a majority of surveyed firms reported expansion, so output grew, while the fall from 54.2 means fewer firms reported expansion than in the previous month, so growth decelerated. **ANALYSIS:** Both descriptions are therefore accurate simultaneously, and treating a falling reading above 50 as evidence of contraction is the single most common error in reading PMI data.

📌 CONCEPT NOTE

The July 2026 HSBC India Manufacturing PMI, compiled by S&P Global from a panel of about 400 manufacturers, came in at 53.5 against a flash estimate of 53.9 and June's 54.2, the weakest since August 2021. Softer domestic demand dragged on output, new orders and hiring, while export orders strengthened, with demand reported from Canada, Egypt, Indonesia, Kenya, Nepal, South Africa, Thailand and the UAE. Input cost inflation eased to a five-month low.

The PMI is a survey-based leading indicator; the Index of Industrial Production is a volume-based lagging one released with roughly a six-week lag.

Q2 **CONCEPT KIT**

 CROSS-PAPER	GS3 Indian economy, industrial policy, growth indicators.
 MAINS KEYWORDS	diffusion index, leading versus lagging indicator, external dependence.
 COMMON MISTAKE	reading a falling PMI above 50 as contraction; it indicates slower expansion.
 EXAM TIP	remember that a PMI reading cannot be converted into a growth rate, because it measures the breadth of change rather than its magnitude.
 INTERVIEW	if domestic demand is softening while export orders strengthen, what does that imply about the durability of India's manufacturing momentum?

 [Read Full Article →](#)

Question 3

of 13

[Source →](#)

Which statutory provision imposed the zero-Merchant Discount Rate regime on UPI and RuPay debit card transactions from January 2020?

A Section 10A of the Payment and Settlement Systems Act, 2007 ✓

B Section 25 of the Reserve Bank of India Act, 1934

C Section 8 of the Companies Act, 2013

D Section 66A of the Information Technology Act, 2000

ANSWER & ANALYSIS
✓ EXPLANATION

FACT: Section 10A of the Payment and Settlement Systems Act, 2007 imposed a statutory prohibition on charging Merchant Discount Rate for UPI and RuPay debit card transactions, effective from January 2020. **ANALYSIS:** The Finance Ministry's proposal reported on 3 August 2026 would replace this blanket statutory bar with an enabling provision permitting the Centre to notify by executive order which payment modes remain MDR-exempt, reportedly keeping merchants with annual turnover up to Rs 1.5 crore outside any charge and capping large-merchant UPI MDR at not above 0.5 per cent.

📌 CONCEPT NOTE

MDR is the fee a merchant pays to accept a digital payment, shared among the acquiring bank, the issuing bank and the payment network, and it is the revenue that funds fraud systems, dispute resolution, settlement rails and merchant acquisition. Since 2020 those costs have been met through budgetary incentive schemes and bank cross-subsidy rather than through merchant fees.

NPCI, which operates UPI and RuPay, is a not-for-profit company incorporated under Section 8 of the Companies Act; payment systems are regulated by the RBI under the Payment and Settlement Systems Act, 2007.

Q3
 **CONCEPT KIT**

CROSS-PAPER

GS3 digital payments, financial inclusion, government budgeting.


MAINS KEYWORDS

zero-MDR, cross-subsidy, fiscal cost of adoption incentives, turnover threshold.


COMMON MISTAKE

confusing NPCI (operator, a Section 8 not-for-profit company) with the RBI (regulator under the PSS Act).


EXAM TIP

remember Section 10A as the zero-MDR provision and the PSS Act 2007 as the governing statute for payment systems.


INTERVIEW

a turnover threshold creates a cliff-edge that invites structuring to stay below it; how would you design an MDR that scales smoothly instead?


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Question 4

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[Source →](#)

What distinguishes a sterilised foreign exchange intervention from an unsterilised one?

- ☐ A A sterilised intervention is conducted jointly with another country; an unsterilised one is unilateral
- ☒ B A sterilised intervention is offset by open-market operations so the domestic money supply is unchanged ✓
- ☐ C A sterilised intervention uses gold reserves; an unsterilised one uses foreign currency
- ☐ D A sterilised intervention is announced in advance; an unsterilised one is conducted secretly

ANSWER & ANALYSIS

✓ EXPLANATION

FACT: In a sterilised intervention the central bank conducts offsetting open-market operations so that the intervention does not change the domestic money supply, whereas an unsterilised intervention is allowed to alter monetary conditions. **ANALYSIS:** Sterilisation preserves the independence of domestic monetary policy, which is why advanced economies almost always sterilise, but it also makes the exchange-rate effect weaker and shorter-lived, since the underlying interest-rate differential driving the currency is left untouched.

📖 CONCEPT NOTE

The United States and Japan confirmed on 3 August 2026 a coordinated intervention to support the yen, conducted the previous Friday and announced by US Treasury Secretary Scott Bessent and Japanese Finance Minister Satsuki Katayama. It was the first coordinated US-Japan yen-buying operation since 1998.

The yen strengthened over 1 per cent to about 155.20 per dollar, from a 40-year low near 164 in July. Coordination matters because it signals that both governments regard the level as unacceptable, raising the perceived risk of positioning against it; states coordinate rarely, and doing so discloses that unilateral action has stopped working.

Q4
 **CONCEPT KIT**
 CROSS-PAPER

GS3 external sector, monetary policy, capital markets; GS2 effect of developed-country policies on India.

 MAINS KEYWORDS

sterilised intervention, impossible trinity, carry trade, managed float.

 COMMON MISTAKE

treating "sterilised" as meaning coordinated or announced; it refers specifically to offsetting the money-supply effect.

 EXAM TIP

learn the impossible trinity alongside intervention, since intervention is where the trilemma becomes operationally visible.

 INTERVIEW

yen-carry unwinding can transmit volatility to Indian markets with no Indian cause; how should the RBI distinguish imported volatility from a domestic signal?

 [Read Full Article →](#)

Question 5

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[Source](#)

A nil manual scavenging survey finding coexists with continuing sewer deaths in India. What principally explains this?

- ☐ A The survey deliberately excluded urban areas
- ☒ B "Manual scavenging" and "hazardous cleaning" are distinct statutory categories, and sewer deaths fall in the second ✓
- ☐ C Sewer deaths are not recorded by any government agency
- ☐ D The 2013 Act applies only to rural districts

ANSWER & ANALYSIS
EXPLANATION

FACT: The Prohibition of Employment as Manual Scavengers and their Rehabilitation Act, 2013 defines manual scavenging as manually handling human excreta from an insanitary latrine, open drain, pit or railway track, while separately prohibiting hazardous cleaning, defined as entering a sewer or septic tank without protective gear and safety precautions. A person who dies of asphyxiation in a septic tank is a victim of hazardous cleaning, not of manual scavenging as statutorily defined.

ANALYSIS: The two findings are therefore not logically contradictory, but the resolution sharpens rather than settles the policy question: if the eliminated category is not the one in which people are still dying, the surviving category needs measuring with equal rigour.

CONCEPT NOTE

Under the NAMASTE Scheme, launched in 2023, 89,915 sewer and septic tank workers have been profiled and validated, 87,037 PPE kits distributed and 753 safety device sets supplied to Emergency Response Sanitation Units. The 2018 survey had identified 44,217 manual scavengers.

NAMASTE marks a shift from identifying and rehabilitating a prohibited occupation toward mechanising and making safer a continuing, lawful but hazardous one. The constitutional anchors are Articles 17, 21 and 23, and *Safai Karamchari Andolan v. Union of India* (2014) directed Rs 10 lakh compensation for families of those who died in sewerage work since 1993, a figure the Supreme Court raised to Rs 30 lakh in *Dr. Balram Singh v. Union of India* (2023).

Q5
 **CONCEPT KIT**
 CROSS-PAPER

GS1 social empowerment and caste; GS2 welfare schemes and their performance; GS4 dignity of labour.

 MAINS KEYWORDS

definitional artefact, hazardous cleaning, mechanisation, Article 17.

 COMMON MISTAKE

treating manual scavenging and sewer cleaning as the same statutory category; the Act treats them separately and the distinction drives the data.

 EXAM TIP

remember the 1993 Act preceded and was superseded by the 2013 Act, and that Safai Karamchari Andolan (2014) supplied the compensation directive.

 INTERVIEW

if a nil count is definitionally correct but experientially misleading, what should the government report instead?

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Question 6

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[Source →](#)

In *K.S. Puttaswamy v. Union of India* (2017), the Supreme Court set a three-part test for any infringement of privacy. What are its three limbs?

A Necessity, urgency and parliamentary approval

B Legality, legitimate aim and proportionality ✓

C Consent, notice and the right to erasure

D Public order, morality and health

ANSWER & ANALYSIS
✓ EXPLANATION

FACT: Puttaswamy established privacy as a fundamental right under Article 21 and held that any infringement must satisfy legality, meaning the existence of a law, a legitimate state aim, and proportionality, meaning the measure must be a suitable and necessary means with a rational nexus to the object, using the least restrictive alternative.

ANALYSIS: Applied to the proposed campus drug screening, the legality limb is the immediate difficulty, since a Vision Document and a ministry proposal are executive instruments rather than statute, and health data additionally carries protection as sensitive personal data.

📌 CONCEPT NOTE

The Centre proposed consent-based, anonymised urine drug screening for incoming students, beginning in 2026-27 with IITs, IIMs and one Central University under the NCB Vision Document on Narcotics Control 2026-29, with the Department of Higher Education as nodal agency; later phases target about 170 centrally funded institutions and roughly 10 lakh students. The deeper difficulty is consent under power asymmetry: consent is meaningful only where refusal is costless, and the institution seeking it also controls admission, hostel allotment and academic progression.

Section 64A of the NDPS Act, 1985 grants immunity from prosecution to an addict charged under Section 27 or with a small-quantity offence who volunteers for treatment at a government-maintained or recognised centre, an immunity withdrawable if the treatment is not completed. It is narrower than a general amnesty.

Q6
 **CONCEPT KIT**

CROSS-PAPER

GS2 Fundamental Rights and privacy; GS4 consent, autonomy versus paternalism.


MAINS KEYWORDS

power asymmetry, anonymisation, purpose limitation, proportionality.


COMMON MISTAKE

confusing the Puttaswamy limbs with Article 25's "public order, morality and health" restrictions; they are different tests.


EXAM TIP

Section 64A NDPS is the provision showing Indian law already treats consumers as patients in one respect, which is useful in any drug-policy answer.


INTERVIEW

what design change would make "voluntary" screening genuinely voluntary in an institutional setting?


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Question 7

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[Source →](#)

India-China border trade resumed on 1 August 2026 through three Himalayan passes. Which states or union territories do they lie in?

A Nathu La in Sikkim, Shipki La in Himachal Pradesh, Lipulekh in Uttarakhand ✓

B Nathu La in Arunachal Pradesh, Shipki La in Ladakh, Lipulekh in Sikkim

C All three lie in Uttarakhand

D Nathu La in Sikkim, Shipki La in Uttarakhand, Lipulekh in Himachal Pradesh

ANSWER & ANALYSIS
✓ EXPLANATION

FACT: Nathu La is in Sikkim, Shipki La is in Kinnaur district of Himachal Pradesh, and Lipulekh is in Uttarakhand. Trade through all three was suspended in 2020 and resumed on 1 August 2026.

ANALYSIS: The economic value is marginal, since these are seasonal barter exchanges of limited commodity lists conducted only while the passes are open, but the diplomatic significance is real, because border trade requires functioning local military and administrative coordination, so its operation is itself evidence that those channels work.

📌 CONCEPT NOTE

At Shipki La, sixteen traders from Namgia, Chuppan, Nako and Chango made a 72-hour crossing, moving goods by pickup to the pass and onward by mule. Shipki La lies on the route by which the Sutlej enters India and formed part of the historic trade route to Tibet; Nathu La was reopened for trade in 2006; Lipulekh also lies on the Kailash Mansarovar pilgrimage route, and the Government of India's position is that the territory is Indian and that objections raised regarding the route are rejected.

Q7
 **CONCEPT KIT**

CROSS-PAPER

GS2 India-China relations and confidence-building measures; GS1 Himalayan passes and drainage.


MAINS KEYWORDS

functional cooperation, confidence-building measure, barter trade, boundary question.


COMMON MISTAKE

mixing up pass locations; learn Nathu La and Jelep La (Sikkim), Shipki La (Himachal), Lipulekh, Mana and Niti (Uttarakhand), Zoji La and Khardung La (Ladakh) as a set.


EXAM TIP

Shipki La's association with the Sutlej is a favourite linkage question.


INTERVIEW

does functional cooperation while a boundary dispute remains open build trust, or risk normalising a contested status quo?


[Read Full Article →](#)

Question 8

of 13

[Source →](#)

Prashant Kishor's victory at Bankipur was significant for which combination of reasons?

A It was the Jan Suraj Party's first assembly seat and ended a BJP hold running since 1995 ✓

B It was the first time a by-election was held in Bihar since 2020

C It gave the Jan Suraj Party a majority in the Bihar assembly

D It was the highest-turnout by-election in Indian history

ANSWER & ANALYSIS
✓ EXPLANATION

FACT: Prashant Kishor won Bankipur with 64,151 votes against the BJP's Neeraj Kumar Sinha on 44,827, a margin of 19,324, giving the Jan Suraj Party its first-ever MLA after it contested the 2025 Bihar assembly election without winning a seat, and ending a BJP hold on the constituency running since 1995. **ANALYSIS:** The result should nonetheless be read carefully, since Bankipur recorded roughly 34.3 per cent turnout, among the lowest in Bihar, so a win on about a third of the electorate demonstrates organisational capacity to mobilise committed supporters rather than establishing broad-based statewide appeal.

📌 CONCEPT NOTE

The other two results declared on 3 August 2026 were Datia in Madhya Pradesh, won by the Congress's Ghanshyam Singh with 66,757 votes against the BJP's Ashutosh Tiwari on 60,741, a margin of 6,016; and Manjalpur in Gujarat, retained by the BJP's Satish Govindbhai Patel with 55,481 against the Congress's Bhikha Rabari on 24,851, a margin of 30,630. Datia recorded much the highest turnout of the three at 71.44 per cent. Some outlets published a Bankipur margin of 18,953, taken from an incomplete count; the Election Commission final totals give 19,324.

Q8
 **CONCEPT KIT**

CROSS-PAPER

GS2 electoral processes, party systems, first-past-the-post.


MAINS KEYWORDS

by-election turnout, new political formations, entry barriers, predictive value.


COMMON MISTAKE

treating by-election results as reliable predictors of general elections; the turnout profile alone makes them structurally unrepresentative.


EXAM TIP

note that by-elections carry no government-formation stake, which changes voter calculus relative to a general election.


INTERVIEW

what structural barriers does first-past-the-post place before a new party, and does a single by-election win meaningfully lower them?


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Question 9

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A NITI Aayog report covered on 3 August 2026 found roughly how many government schools closed over the past decade?

- ☐ A About 24,000
- ☒ B About 94,000 ✓
- ☐ C About 1.5 lakh
- ☐ D About 5,000

ANSWER & ANALYSIS
✓ EXPLANATION

FACT: The report found roughly 94,000 government schools closed over the past decade, about 25 a day, with government schools falling from 11.07 lakh in 2014-15 to 10.13 lakh in 2024-25, alongside a decline of 2.26 crore in enrolment. **ANALYSIS:** The government attributes this to falling birth rates and the deliberate consolidation of low-enrolment schools, while critics read it as a retreat from public provision; both readings can be partly correct, and the distinguishing evidence is what happens to enrolment among the specific groups most sensitive to distance.

📌 CONCEPT NOTE

The relevant framework is the Right of Children to Free and Compulsory Education Act, 2009, which established a neighbourhood-school norm, alongside Article 21A, which makes free and compulsory education for children aged six to fourteen a fundamental right. NEP 2020 proposes the school-complex model, grouping schools to share resources such as subject teachers, laboratories and libraries, which is the policy answer offered to consolidation's critics. The distance-to-school effect falls hardest on girls and on SC and ST enrolment, which is the measurable test of whether consolidation is efficiency or retreat.

Q9
 **CONCEPT KIT**

CROSS-PAPER

GS2 education policy, RTE Act, Article 21A; GS1 demographic transition.


MAINS KEYWORDS

school consolidation, neighbourhood norm, school complexes, distance-to-school effect.


COMMON MISTAKE

treating falling school numbers as automatically indicating declining provision, without checking whether enrolment per school and travel distance moved together.


EXAM TIP

Article 21A was inserted by the 86th Constitutional Amendment, 2002, and the RTE Act operationalised it from 2010.


INTERVIEW

if consolidation is genuinely driven by demographic decline, what evidence would distinguish it from a withdrawal of public provision?


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Question 10

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[Source →](#)

The collegium system for appointing judges to the higher judiciary derives from which judgments?

- ☐ A Kesavananda Bharati (1973) and Minerva Mills (1980)
- ☒ B The Second Judges Case (1993) and the Third Judges Case (1998) ✓
- ☐ C S.R. Bommai (1994) and Indra Sawhney (1992)
- ☐ D Maneka Gandhi (1978) and Puttaswamy (2017)

ANSWER & ANALYSIS

✓ EXPLANATION

FACT: The collegium system rests on the Second Judges Case (1993), which established the primacy of the Chief Justice of India's opinion in judicial appointments, and the Third Judges Case (1998), which clarified that this opinion must be formed in consultation with a plurality of senior judges. **ANALYSIS:** Justice Ujjal Bhuyan's remarks on 1 August 2026 criticised the collegium for ceasing to publish reasons for its recommendations, which is significant because reasoned resolutions were the principal transparency mechanism the collegium had adopted voluntarily, without any statutory obligation.

📌 CONCEPT NOTE

The National Judicial Appointments Commission and the 99th Constitutional Amendment, which would have replaced the collegium, were struck down by the Supreme Court in 2015 as violating the basic structure through their effect on judicial independence. The Memorandum of Procedure governing appointments has remained unfinalised since that judgment, leaving the process operating on convention rather than on an agreed written framework.

Note that Justice Bhuyan's statement was a public remark at an event, not a judicial order.

Q10 **CONCEPT KIT**

 CROSS-PAPER	GS2 judiciary, judicial appointments, separation of powers.
 MAINS KEYWORDS	collegium, NJAC, Memorandum of Procedure, judicial independence versus accountability.
 COMMON MISTAKE	citing the First Judges Case (1981) as the origin of the collegium; it actually held the opposite, giving primacy to the executive, and was overruled in 1993.
 EXAM TIP	learn the three Judges Cases in sequence with their years and their effect on CJI primacy.
 INTERVIEW	are judicial independence and judicial accountability genuinely in tension, or is that framing a false dichotomy?

 [Read Full Article →](#)

Question 11

of 13

[Source](#) →

Pax Silica, which the United States invited Bangladesh to join, is an initiative concerning what?

- ☐ A Maritime security in the Bay of Bengal
- ☒ B Secure supply chains in critical minerals, semiconductors, electronics and AI ✓
- ☐ C Climate finance for South Asian least developed countries
- ☐ D Counter-terrorism intelligence sharing

ANSWER & ANALYSIS

✓ EXPLANATION

FACT: Pax Silica is a United States Department of State-led initiative on secure supply chains spanning critical minerals, semiconductor manufacturing, electronics, AI infrastructure and related software and network infrastructure, launched in December 2025. **ANALYSIS:** India joined in February 2026 at the India AI Impact Summit in New Delhi, having been outside the founding group, so the extension of an invitation to Bangladesh brings the grouping into India's immediate neighbourhood, with consequences Delhi will read carefully.

📖 CONCEPT NOTE

The proposal was made by US Special Envoy Sergio Gor to Bangladesh Prime Minister Tarique Rahman in Dhaka on 1 August 2026. Bangladesh has not joined; this was an invitation only. The initiative is explicitly framed around reducing dependence on Chinese dominance across the technology supply chain, which is why its geographic expansion is read in strategic rather than purely commercial terms.

Q11 **CONCEPT KIT**
 CROSS-PAPER

GS2 India's neighbourhood, minilateral groupings; GS3 semiconductors, critical minerals, economic security.

 MAINS KEYWORDS

supply chain resilience, minilateralism, technology geopolitics, de-risking.

 COMMON MISTAKE

assuming an invitation equals membership; Bangladesh had not joined at the time of reporting.

 EXAM TIP

track which technology minilaterals India has joined and when, since membership dates are directly testable.

 INTERVIEW

does a US-anchored technology bloc expanding into South Asia strengthen India's regional position or introduce a competing axis?

 [Read Full Article →](#)

Question 12

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[Source →](#)

A study published in Science on 30 July 2026 recovered ancient variola virus genomes from the Americas. What did it establish?

- ☐ A Smallpox existed in the Americas long before European contact
- ☒ B Smallpox arrived in the Americas with European colonisation, confirmed by an extinct lineage diverging from medieval European strains ✓
- ☐ C Smallpox originated in South America and spread to Europe
- ☐ D The variola virus never reached South America

ANSWER & ANALYSIS

✓ EXPLANATION

FACT: Researchers led by Trinity College Dublin sequenced the first ancient variola virus genomes from the Americas, from two individuals buried in northern Chile between the late 15th and early 17th centuries, and found they belong to an extinct lineage designated CAM9 that diverged from medieval European strains, providing direct genetic evidence that smallpox arrived with European colonisation rather than pre-dating it. **ANALYSIS:** This settles with genetic evidence a question that documentary sources alone could not, and it matters historically because smallpox was a principal driver of the demographic collapse of indigenous American populations after contact.

📌 CONCEPT NOTE

Smallpox remains the only human disease to have been eradicated, declared by the World Health Organization in 1980 following a global vaccination campaign. The study also found that variola evolutionary rates were steady until the sixteenth century, slowed for about two hundred years during colonial expansion, and accelerated again with nineteenth-century vaccination, which illustrates how human intervention shapes pathogen evolution.

Q12 **CONCEPT KIT**

 CROSS-PAPER	GS1 colonialism and world history; GS3 palaeogenomics, pathogen evolution, disease eradication.
 MAINS KEYWORDS	ancient DNA, demographic collapse, disease as an instrument of empire.
 COMMON MISTAKE	confusing smallpox eradication (1980, the only human disease eradicated) with polio, which is targeted but not yet eradicated globally.
 EXAM TIP	rinderpest is the only other disease eradicated, and it is an animal disease, declared in 2011; UPSC has used this pairing.
 INTERVIEW	how does genetic evidence change historical narratives that written sources had left contested?

 [Read Full Article →](#)

Question 13

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[Source →](#)

Maithili Sharan Gupt, whose 140th birth anniversary fell on 3 August 2026, is significant in Hindi literary history principally for what?

- ☐ A Founding the Chhayavaad movement in Hindi poetry
- ☒ B Popularising Khari Boli as the vehicle of modern Hindi poetry, displacing Braj Bhasha ✓
- ☐ C Writing the first Hindi novel
- ☐ D Translating the complete works of Kalidasa into Hindi

ANSWER & ANALYSIS
✓ EXPLANATION

FACT: Maithili Sharan Gupt, born 3 August 1886 at Chirgaon in Jhansi, established Khari Boli rather than Braj Bhasha as the principal medium of modern Hindi poetry, a shift of lasting consequence for the language's literary development. **ANALYSIS:** He was titled "Rashtrakavi" by Mahatma Gandhi for Bharat-Bharati (1912), a work that shaped a cultural self-image and sense of national loss and revival well before mass political mobilisation took hold, illustrating literature's role as a precursor to organised nationalism.

📖 CONCEPT NOTE

His major works include Saket, which retells the Ramayana from the perspective of Urmila, Lakshmana's wife, a deliberate shift of focus to a neglected figure; along with Yashodhara, Panchavati and Jayadrath Vadh. He received the Padma Bhushan.

Khari Boli is the dialect base from which both modern standard Hindi and Urdu developed, so his choice of it as a poetic medium aligned literary Hindi with the emerging standard spoken language rather than with the older Braj literary tradition.

Q13 **CONCEPT KIT**

 CROSS-PAPER	GS1 modern Indian literature, the national movement, language and identity.
 MAINS KEYWORDS	Khari Boli, Braj Bhasha, Rashtrakavi, cultural nationalism.
 COMMON MISTAKE	associating Gupt with Chhayavaad; that movement is associated with Jaishankar Prasad, Suryakant Tripathi Nirala, Sumitranandan Pant and Mahadevi Verma.
 EXAM TIP	remember the Gandhi-conferred "Rashtrakavi" title and Bharat-Bharati (1912) as the paired fact.
 INTERVIEW	what does it tell us about the national movement that its cultural self-definition preceded its mass political organisation?

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— Albert Einstein