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DAILY QUIZ — SOLVED

# Daily Quiz — August 26, 2026

26 August 2026



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## DAILY QUIZ — SOLVED ANSWER KEY

# Daily Quiz — August 26, 2026

26 August 2026 · 15 Questions · Answers & Explanations Included

### Question 1

of 15

[Source →](#)

A law altering the name of a State amends the First Schedule to the Constitution. Which of the following correctly states the majority required to pass such a law?

- ☐ A A special majority of both Houses plus ratification by at least half the State legislatures
- ☐ B A special majority of both Houses, as required for any schedule amendment
- ☒ C A simple majority, because Article 4 excludes such consequential amendments from Article 368 ✓
- ☐ D A two-thirds majority of members present and voting in the Lok Sabha alone

### ANSWER & ANALYSIS

#### ✓ EXPLANATION

**FACT:** Article 4 provides that laws made under Articles 2 and 3 which make consequential changes to the First and Fourth Schedules shall not be deemed amendments of the Constitution for the purposes of Article 368. A simple majority therefore suffices.

**ANALYSIS:** Candidates routinely assume that anything touching a Schedule needs Article 368 treatment. The First Schedule is expressly carved out; the Eighth Schedule is not, which is why Odisha's renaming took an ordinary law while renaming its language to Odia required the 96th Constitutional Amendment.

#### 📖 CONCEPT NOTE

The Kerala (Alteration of Name) Act, 2026 came into force on 25 August 2026 by a Ministry of Home Affairs commencement notification, so the First Schedule now reads Keralam. Article 3 empowers Parliament to form new States and alter areas, boundaries and names, subject to two safeguards: the Bill may be introduced only on the recommendation of the President, and the President must refer it to the legislature of the affected State, whose views are NOT binding. Article 4 exempts consequential First and Fourth Schedule changes from Article 368. The First Schedule lists States and Union territories; the Fourth Schedule allocates Rajya Sabha seats. Kerala was formed on 1 November 1956 under the States Reorganisation Act, 1956 following the Fazl Ali Commission. Earlier renamings include United Provinces to Uttar Pradesh (1950), Madras to Tamil Nadu (1969), Mysore to Karnataka (1973), Puducherry (2006), Uttarakhand (2007) and Odisha (2011).

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

GS2 Constitution, federal structure, amendment procedure.

 **MAINS KEYWORDS**

indestructible Union of destructible States, linguistic reorganisation, cooperative convention.

 **COMMON MISTAKE**

assuming State consent is required; Article 3 requires consultation, not consent.

 **EXAM TIP**

an Act with a commencement clause takes effect only from the notified date, not from assent.

 **INTERVIEW**

Should Parliament be able to alter a State's name over that State's objection?

 [Read Full Article →](#)

**Question 2**

of 15

[Source →](#)

Which Indian law defines the terms "gig worker" and "platform worker" for the first time?

- A The Code on Social Security, 2020 ✓**
- B The Industrial Relations Code, 2020
- C The Unorganised Workers' Social Security Act, 2008
- D The Code on Wages, 2019

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

**FACT:** The Code on Social Security, 2020 defines "gig worker" at Section 2(35) and "platform worker" at Section 2(61), the first statutory definitions of either term in Indian law. It also provides for aggregator contributions of 1 to 2 per cent of turnover, capped at 5 per cent of payments made to such workers.

**ANALYSIS:** The Industrial Relations Code deals with trade unions, standing orders and industrial disputes, not social security, which is the distinction being tested.

**📄 CONCEPT NOTE**

The e-Shram portal completed five years on 26 August 2026 with 31.89 crore registrations. It was launched on 26 August 2021 by the Ministry of Labour and Employment as India's first National Database of Unorganised Workers, using a 12-digit Universal Account Number seeded to Aadhaar.

Eligibility is restricted to unorganised workers aged 16 to 59 who are not EPFO or ESIC members and not income-tax payers. Women constitute 54.28 per cent of registrants and 55.21 per cent are aged 18 to 40, with Uttar Pradesh registering the most.

Convergence covers PM-SYM, PMJJBY, PMSBY, PM SVANidhi, Ayushman Bharat PM-JAY, the National Career Service and the Skill India Digital Hub. PM-SYM provides ₹3,000 a month after age 60 on a 50:50 subscriber-Government matching basis.

**Q2**
 **CONCEPT KIT**

**CROSS-PAPER**

GS2 welfare schemes for vulnerable sections; GS3 employment and inclusive growth.


**MAINS KEYWORDS**

portable social security, aggregator levy, registration versus entitlement, digital exclusion.


**COMMON MISTAKE**

treating registration figures as benefit-delivery figures; the two are separate and the gap is the critique.


**EXAM TIP**

Rajasthan's Platform Based Gig Workers Act, 2023 was the first State law of its kind.


**INTERVIEW**

Should aggregator contributions be mandatory nationally, or left to States to legislate?


[Read Full Article →](#)

**Question 3**

of 15

[Source →](#)

In labour statistics, the NEET indicator used in NITI Aayog's skilling report refers to persons who are:

- ☐ A Newly employed in emerging technologies
- ☒ B Not in Education, Employment or Training ✓
- ☐ C Nationally enrolled in economic training
- ☐ D Not eligible for employment or training

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

**FACT:** NEET means Not in Education, Employment or Training. NITI Aayog's report places 8.7 crore Indians aged 15 to 29 in this category.

**ANALYSIS:** NEET is deliberately broader than the unemployment rate, which counts only those actively seeking work. A young person who has stopped looking leaves the labour force and vanishes from the unemployment rate; NEET captures exactly that group, which is why it is the more honest measure of a wasted demographic dividend.

**📖 CONCEPT NOTE**

NITI Aayog released "Reimagining Skilling for Viksit Bharat@2047" on 25 August 2026. Its headline finding of 8.7 crore NEET youth rests on the NSS 78th Round of FY 2020-21 and should be read as a structural estimate rather than a current-year flow figure; the Government has separately clarified that a NEET count is not an unemployment figure.

The report also finds only about 8.25 per cent of graduates in roles aligned with their qualification, over 7.67 crore persons trained since 2014-15, and fewer than one in twelve secondary schools offering vocational subjects against NEP 2020's target of exposing 50 per cent of learners to vocational education by 2025. NITI Aayog was constituted by a Union Cabinet resolution on 1 January 2015 replacing the Planning Commission, and is neither a constitutional nor a statutory body. NCVET, constituted in 2018, is the single regulator; NSQF has 10 levels.

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

GS2 human resource development and education; GS3 employment and growth.

 **MAINS KEYWORDS**

demographic dividend, horizontal mismatch, credential inflation, outcome-linked funding.

 **COMMON MISTAKE**

treating 7.67 crore trained as evidence the skilling system works; the coexistence of that figure with 8.7 crore NEET youth shows the constraint is demand, not supply.

 **EXAM TIP**

NITI Aayog is an executive body created by resolution, with the Prime Minister as Chairperson.

 **INTERVIEW**

Should skilling funds be disbursed on certification or on wage retention at twelve months?

 [Read Full Article →](#)

**Question 4**

of 15

[Source →](#)

The Eleventh Schedule of the Constitution, which is central to Panchayati Raj devolution, contains how many subjects?

**A** 18 subjects

**B** 12 subjects

**C** 22 subjects

**D** 29 subjects ✓

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

**FACT:** The Eleventh Schedule, inserted by the 73rd Constitutional Amendment Act, 1992, lists 29 subjects that may be devolved to Panchayats. **ANALYSIS:** The frequent confusion is with the Twelfth Schedule, inserted by the 74th Amendment for urban local bodies, which lists 18 subjects.

Remember the pairing: 73rd Amendment goes with Part IX and the Eleventh Schedule (29 subjects, rural); 74th goes with Part IXA and the Twelfth Schedule (18 subjects, urban).

**📌 CONCEPT NOTE**

Mission Samriddh Gaon was launched on 25 August 2026 at Krishi Bhawan, New Delhi by Union Minister Shivraj Singh Chouhan, with pilots in Budni block (Sehore district) and Khategaon block (Dewas district) of Madhya Pradesh. It is a convergence mission rather than a new centrally sponsored scheme, coordinating MGNREGA, DAY-NRLM, PMAY-G, PMGSY, Jal Jeevan Mission, Swachh Bharat Mission-Grameen, DDU-GKY and Lakhpati Didi at the Gram Panchayat level, with the stated aim of ending distress rural-to-urban migration.

The 73rd Amendment came into force on 24 April 1993. Article 243A concerns the Gram Sabha and Article 243ZD the District Planning Committee.

Comparators include SAGY (2014), the Aspirational Districts Programme (2018, 112 districts) and the Aspirational Blocks Programme (2023, 500 blocks).



**Q4**
 **CONCEPT KIT**

**CROSS-PAPER**

GS2 devolution of powers and finances to local levels; GS3 rural development.


**MAINS KEYWORDS**

convergence, the three Fs, untied funds, ranked dashboard accountability.


**COMMON MISTAKE**

confusing the Eleventh Schedule (29 subjects, Panchayats) with the Twelfth (18 subjects, municipalities).


**EXAM TIP**

MGNREGA guarantees 100 days per rural household per financial year, with unemployment allowance if work is not provided within 15 days.


**INTERVIEW**

Can a convergence mission succeed where the tier being asked to converge lacks untied funds and technical staff?


[Read Full Article →](#)

**Question 5**

of 15

[Source](#) →

The Indian Council of Agricultural Research (ICAR), the parent body of NBAGR, has which of the following legal characters?

- A** A registered society under the Societies Registration Act, 1860 ✓
- B A statutory body created by an Act of Parliament in 1929
- C A constitutional body established under Article 307
- D An attached office of the Ministry of Environment, Forest and Climate Change

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

**FACT:** ICAR is a registered society under the Societies Registration Act, 1860, established on 16 July 1929 as the Imperial Council of Agricultural Research following the Royal Commission on Agriculture (1928). It functions under the Department of Agricultural Research and Education, Ministry of Agriculture and Farmers' Welfare.

**ANALYSIS:** The society-versus-statutory distinction matters because it determines rule-making power and accountability route, and it is a recurring Prelims discriminator across NITI Aayog, ICAR, CSIR and similar bodies.

**📌 CONCEPT NOTE**

ICAR-NBAGR, headquartered at Karnal, Haryana, registered 16 new indigenous livestock and dog breeds, taking India's national total to 262, comprising 258 indigenous and 4 synthetic breeds. The 16 span nine species including cattle, buffalo, sheep, goat, dog, pig, pony, donkey and yak.

New cattle breeds are Umarda, Periyar, Koppal and Mahakaushali. Periyar, locally Periyar Kullam, is a dwarf breed of the Western Ghats fringes in Ernakulam and Thrissur districts, weighing 150 to 200 kg with a yield of 2.5 to 4 litres a day and A2 beta-casein milk; it becomes Kerala's second registered cattle breed after Vechur.

Rashtriya Gokul Mission was launched in December 2014. The Nagoya Protocol (2010, in force 2014) governs access and benefit-sharing under the Convention on Biological Diversity.

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

GS3 conservation, biodiversity, animal husbandry.

**MAINS KEYWORDS**

biopiracy defence, access and benefit-sharing, climate-resilient genetics, in-situ conservation.

**COMMON MISTAKE**

assuming breed registration concerns only cattle; the 16 breeds span nine species including dogs, ponies, donkeys and yaks.

**EXAM TIP**

India holds roughly 11 per cent of world livestock and is the largest milk producer; the 20th Livestock Census (2019) counted about 53.6 crore animals.

**INTERVIEW**

Does registering a breed without a funded conservation plan merely document its extinction?

[Read Full Article →](#)

**Question 6**

of 15

Source →

Under which statute are the Central Insecticides Board and the Registration Committee constituted?

- ☐ A The Environment (Protection) Act, 1986
- ☐ B The Food Safety and Standards Act, 2006
- ☒ C **The Insecticides Act, 1968 ✓**
- ☐ D The Biological Diversity Act, 2002

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**ANSWER & ANALYSIS**


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**EXPLANATION**

**FACT:** The Registration Committee is constituted under Section 5 of the Insecticides Act, 1968, while Section 4 constitutes the Central Insecticides Board, which together with the Insecticides Rules, 1971 governs pesticide regulation in India. Section 27 provides the power to prohibit the sale, distribution or use of an insecticide.

**ANALYSIS:** The Pesticides Management Bill, 2020, which would replace the 1968 Act, was introduced in the Rajya Sabha and remains unenacted, which is why India still regulates pesticides under a statute with no automatic periodic re-registration or sunset review.

**CONCEPT NOTE**

The Ministry of Agriculture and Farmers' Welfare issued a draft order in August 2026 proposing a complete ban on Carbosulfan, open to 30 days of public comment. This is a proposal, not a ban.

The expert committee was constituted on 14 January 2026 and reported on 12 June 2026. Carbosulfan is a carbamate that metabolises rapidly into carbofuran; its mechanism is acetylcholinesterase inhibition, and while atropine manages symptoms there is no specific antidote.

It is used on paddy and cotton across roughly 32 lakh acres with a domestic market of about ₹400 crore. Precedents include the Anupam Verma Committee (2013-15) which reviewed 66 pesticides, the 2020 draft order on 27 pesticides, and endosulfan, banned by Supreme Court order in 2011 and listed under the Stockholm Convention.

**Q6**
 **CONCEPT KIT**

**CROSS-PAPER**

GS3 agriculture and environmental degradation; GS2 health.


**MAINS KEYWORDS**

periodic re-registration, resistance management, integrated pest management, export-domestic asymmetry.


**COMMON MISTAKE**

writing that India has banned Carbosulfan; it is a draft order in a comment window.


**EXAM TIP**

the Rotterdam Convention operates the Prior Informed Consent procedure for hazardous chemicals in international trade.


**INTERVIEW**

Is it defensible to manufacture for export a pesticide judged too dangerous for domestic farmers?


[Read Full Article →](#)

**Question 7**

of 15

[Source →](#)

Which of the following correctly describes the appellate route against an order of the Securities and Exchange Board of India?

- ☐ A Appeal lies directly to the High Court having territorial jurisdiction
- ☒ B Appeal lies to the Securities Appellate Tribunal, and thereafter to the Supreme Court on a question of law ✓
- ☐ C Appeal lies to the National Company Law Appellate Tribunal
- ☐ D Appeal lies to the Union Ministry of Finance, whose decision is final

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

**FACT:** Appeals from SEBI orders lie to the Securities Appellate Tribunal (SAT), and from SAT to the Supreme Court on a question of law. **ANALYSIS:** NCLAT in option C hears appeals from the NCLT under company and insolvency law, a different jurisdiction entirely.

SEBI is quasi-legislative, quasi-executive and quasi-judicial, which is why an appellate tribunal exists at all.

**📖 CONCEPT NOTE**

SEBI issued a circular on 24 August 2026 introducing an IT Resilience Index (ITRI) for Market Infrastructure Institutions, which comprise stock exchanges, depositories and clearing corporations. India has two depositories, NSDL and CDSL. ITRI uses nine parameters, with Availability and Security weighted highest at 20 per cent each and Integrity, Governance, Reliability, Monitoring, Business Continuity, Modularity and Flexibility at 10 per cent each.

In the same batch SEBI aligned its Incident Reporting Portal with the Financial Stability Board's FIRE format, meaning Format for Incident Reporting Exchange. The FSB was established in 2009 at the London G20 Summit, succeeding the Financial Stability Forum of 1999, and is headquartered in Basel.

SEBI was constituted in 1988 and became statutory on 12 April 1992.

**Q7**
 **CONCEPT KIT**

**CROSS-PAPER**

GS3 financial markets and regulators, cyber security; GS2 statutory and quasi-judicial bodies.


**MAINS KEYWORDS**

operational resilience, systemic concentration, gaming the indicator, interoperability.


**COMMON MISTAKE**

confusing SAT (securities) with NCLAT (company and insolvency).


**EXAM TIP**

CERT-In's 2022 directions require reporting of specified cyber incidents within six hours.


**INTERVIEW**

Could publishing a resilience index cause institutions to optimise for uptime at the expense of necessary upgrades?


[Read Full Article →](#)

**Question 8**

of 15

[Source →](#)

The India Meteorological Department classifies a monsoon season as "normal" when rainfall falls within which range of the Long Period Average?

- ☐ A 90 to 110 per cent
- ☐ B 95 to 105 per cent
- ☐ C 98 to 102 per cent
- ☒ D 96 to 104 per cent ✓

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

**FACT:** A normal monsoon is defined as 96 to 104 per cent of the Long Period Average, with the June-September LPA at about 87 cm. **ANALYSIS:** The RBI Bulletin illustrates why the seasonal total can mislead: rainfall swung from a 35.4 per cent deficit at end-June to a 1 per cent surplus by end-July, which is a normal-looking season that nearly destroyed the sowing window.

Seasonal aggregates conceal intra-seasonal distribution, and it is distribution that determines yield.

**📌 CONCEPT NOTE**

The RBI released its August 2026 Bulletin on 25 August 2026. The kharif sowing deficit narrowed from about 23 per cent to about 2.9 per cent as the monsoon revived.

Agency forecasts compiled in the Bulletin point to Q1 FY27 growth of about 7.2 per cent, a four-quarter low against 7.8 per cent in Q4 FY26, but this is a compilation of external forecasts and not an RBI estimate or an actual print, since the NSO release falls at the end of August. RBI raised its FY27 GDP forecast marginally to 6.7 per cent.

The RBI was established on 1 April 1935 under the RBI Act, 1934 on the Hilton Young Commission's recommendation and nationalised on 1 January 1949. The MPC has six members with the Governor as ex-officio Chairperson holding a casting vote, and targets 4 per cent CPI inflation with a plus or minus 2 per cent band under Section 45ZA.



**Q8**
 **CONCEPT KIT**

**CROSS-PAPER**

GS3 Indian economy, agriculture, monetary policy; GS1 geography of monsoon.


**MAINS KEYWORDS**

intra-seasonal distribution, sowing-window risk, block-level forecasting, private capex lag.


**COMMON MISTAKE**

reporting the 7.2 per cent figure as actual growth; it is a forecast compilation.


**EXAM TIP**

MPC failure is defined as inflation outside the band for three consecutive quarters.


**INTERVIEW**

Should India's crop insurance trigger on rainfall distribution rather than seasonal totals?


[Read Full Article →](#)

**Question 9**

of 15

[Source →](#)

Which statute currently governs the functioning of India Post?

- A The Post Office Act, 2023 ✓**
- B The Indian Post Office Act, 1898
- C The Indian Telegraph Act, 1885
- D The Information Technology Act, 2000

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

**FACT:** The Post Office Act, 2023 governs India Post, having repealed the colonial Indian Post Office Act, 1898.

**ANALYSIS:** The Indian Telegraph Act, 1885 in option C was itself repealed by the Telecommunications Act, 2023, so both colonial-era communications statutes were replaced in the same year, a useful pairing to remember.

**📄 CONCEPT NOTE**

India Post launched upgraded Dak Sewa and Dak MITRA applications on 24 August 2026, alongside 14 renovated post office buildings. Dak Sewa is citizen-facing, offering doorstep booking of speed post, parcel and money order services in 23 Indian languages through BHASHINI, with UPI and card payment.

Dak MITRA is workforce-facing and operates across 1.4 lakh branch post offices. India Post functions under the Department of Posts, Ministry of Communications, and operates the world's largest postal network with about 1.65 lakh post offices, roughly 90 per cent of them rural.

PIN codes were introduced in 1972 by Shriram Bhikaji Velankar; a PIN has six digits and India has nine PIN zones, with zone 9 reserved for the Army Postal Service. India Post Payments Bank was launched on 1 September 2018 and is wholly Government owned.

**Q9**  **CONCEPT KIT**

|                                                                                                         |                                                                                                                                                          |
|---------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|----------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
|  <b>CROSS-PAPER</b>    | GS2 e-governance applications, models and limitations; GS3 infrastructure and last-mile delivery.                                                        |
|  <b>MAINS KEYWORDS</b> | frontline tooling, universal service obligation, language access, commercial viability.                                                                  |
|  <b>COMMON MISTAKE</b> | assuming a citizen-facing app alone delivers e-governance; the dual-app design exists because frontline staff left on paper are the usual failure point. |
|  <b>EXAM TIP</b>       | the Post Office Act, 2023 and the Telecommunications Act, 2023 replaced the 1898 and 1885 colonial statutes respectively.                                |
|  <b>INTERVIEW</b>      | Should India Post be run as a commercial logistics business or as a universal service obligation?                                                        |

 [Read Full Article →](#)

**Question 10**

of 15

[Source](#)

The Automotive Industry Standards (AIS) applied by ICAT in certifying vehicles derive their legal force from which framework?

- ☐ A The Bureau of Indian Standards Act, 2016, as mandatory Indian Standards
- ☐ B The Factories Act, 1948, through industrial safety rules
- ☒ C **The Central Motor Vehicles Rules, 1989, framed under the Motor Vehicles Act, 1988 ✓**
- ☐ D The Environment (Protection) Act, 1986, through emission notifications

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

**FACT:** AIS standards are given effect through the Central Motor Vehicles Rules, 1989, framed under the Motor Vehicles Act, 1988. They are drafted by ARAI for the Automotive Industry Standards Committee and notified by the Ministry of Road Transport and Highways.

**ANALYSIS:** Understanding this chain matters because it explains why a testing agency's certification has legal consequence: without a rule under the parent Act, a technical standard is only advisory.

**📌 CONCEPT NOTE**

ICAT issued India's first compliance certificate for a 15-metre multi-axle sleeper bus on 26 August 2026, to Synaty Automotive for its LaVie+ coach, under standards AIS-119 and AIS-153. Configurations are 42 berths fully sleeper, or 21 berths plus 42 seats hybrid.

ICAT is located at Manesar, Haryana and is a division of NATRiP, the National Automotive Testing and R&D Infrastructure Project, under the Ministry of Heavy Industries. At 15 metres the vehicle exceeds the conventional maximum length for a rigid two-axle bus, requiring a multi-axle configuration and a distinct compliance pathway, which effectively creates a new intercity coach category.

Related agencies include ARAI Pune, CIRT Pune, NATRAX Indore with Asia's longest high-speed test track, and GARC Chennai. Bharat NCAP was launched in 2023 and India adopted BS-VI nationwide from 1 April 2020.

**Q10**  **CONCEPT KIT**

|                                                                                                         |                                                                                                                     |
|---------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|---------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
|  <b>CROSS-PAPER</b>    | GS3 infrastructure and transport technology; GS2 regulatory bodies.                                                 |
|  <b>MAINS KEYWORDS</b> | type approval versus in-use compliance, bus body code, egress geometry, modal competition.                          |
|  <b>COMMON MISTAKE</b> | treating certification as a formality; a vehicle category exists legally only once a testing agency can certify it. |
|  <b>EXAM TIP</b>       | India skipped BS-V, moving from BS-IV to BS-VI in April 2020.                                                       |
|  <b>INTERVIEW</b>      | Should sleeper coaches face stricter fire-suppression mandates than seated coaches, given slower evacuation?        |

 [Read Full Article →](#)

**Question 11**

of 15

[Source](#) →

A Deep Submergence Rescue Vehicle (DSRV), for which DSV Nipun will serve as mother ship, is used primarily for which purpose?

**A** Deep-sea mineral prospecting in the exclusive economic zone

**B** Rescue of personnel from a disabled submarine ✓

**C** Laying and repairing undersea communication cables

**D** Hydrographic survey and seabed mapping

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**ANSWER & ANALYSIS**


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**✓ EXPLANATION**

**FACT:** A DSRV is used to rescue crew from a disabled submarine resting on the seabed. India inducted two DSRVs in 2018 and 2019, based at Mumbai and Visakhapatnam, placing it among a small group of nations with operational submarine rescue capability.

**ANALYSIS:** Submarine rescue is governed by a survivability clock measured in days, so the capability is meaningful only if a mother ship can deliver the DSRV to the site quickly, which is precisely the gap Nipun addresses.

**📌 CONCEPT NOTE**

The Indian Navy announced on 25 August 2026 that DSV Nipun, the second Nistar-class Diving Support Vessel, will be commissioned on 31 August 2026 at Naval Dockyard, Mumbai. It is important to note that the vessel was delivered on 30 July 2026 and is not yet commissioned; it is correctly DSV Nipun until commissioning, becoming INS Nipun thereafter. It was indigenously designed and built by Hindustan Shipyard Limited, Visakhapatnam, with about 75 per cent indigenous content, for deep-sea saturation diving, submarine rescue and underwater salvage. The original INS Nistar was a Soviet-origin submarine rescue vessel commissioned in 1971 which participated in the salvage of INS Khukri. Naval DPSU shipyards include MDL Mumbai, GRSE Kolkata, Goa Shipyard, Cochin Shipyard and HSL Visakhapatnam.

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

GS3 defence indigenisation and security; GS2 Indian Ocean Region diplomacy.

**MAINS KEYWORDS**

submarine escape and rescue, regional public good, saturation diving, indigenous shipbuilding.

**COMMON MISTAKE**

writing that Nipun has been commissioned; as of the edition date it was delivered and announced only.

**EXAM TIP**

SAGAR was articulated in 2015; MAHASAGAR is its 2025 successor formulation.

**INTERVIEW**

Should India offer submarine rescue services to Indian Ocean navies as a treaty commitment rather than case by case?

[Read Full Article →](#)

**Question 12**

of 15

[Source](#)

Which Article of the Constitution contains the Directive Principle requiring the State to promote with special care the educational and economic interests of Scheduled Castes, Scheduled Tribes and weaker sections?

- ☐ A Article 39
- ☐ B Article 41
- ☐ C Article 44
- ☒ D Article 46 ✓

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

**FACT:** Article 46 is the Directive Principle requiring the State to promote with special care the educational and economic interests of the weaker sections, particularly Scheduled Castes and Scheduled Tribes, and to protect them from social injustice and all forms of exploitation. **ANALYSIS:** Article 44 in option C is the Uniform Civil Code directive and Article 41 concerns the right to work, education and public assistance, both frequently confused with Article 46 in questions on SC and ST welfare.

**📌 CONCEPT NOTE**

The Government of Odisha launched Bidesh Sikhyabruti on 23 August 2026, an overseas scholarship for SC and ST students pursuing postgraduate study or a PhD abroad. It provides up to ₹25 lakh per annum to 50 students annually, restricted to institutions in the QS World University Rankings Top 200, with a family income ceiling of ₹12 lakh, tenable once.

The Centre's comparator is the National Overseas Scholarship of the Ministry of Social Justice and Empowerment. Odisha has 62 Scheduled Tribes and 13 Particularly Vulnerable Tribal Groups, the highest PVTG count of any State, with STs about 22.85 per cent of its population per Census 2011.

Article 338A creating the National Commission for Scheduled Tribes was inserted by the 89th Amendment Act, 2003, and Article 275(1) provides grants-in-aid for tribal welfare.



**Q12**  **CONCEPT KIT**

|                                                                                                         |                                                                                                       |
|---------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|-------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
|  <b>CROSS-PAPER</b>    | GS2 welfare schemes and mechanisms for vulnerable sections; GS1 social empowerment.                   |
|  <b>MAINS KEYWORDS</b> | elite-tier versus base-tier intervention, creamy layer, brain circulation, preparatory pipeline.      |
|  <b>COMMON MISTAKE</b> | confusing Article 46 (SC/ST educational and economic interests) with Article 44 (Uniform Civil Code). |
|  <b>EXAM TIP</b>       | State of Punjab v. Davinder Singh (2024) permitted sub-classification within Scheduled Castes.        |
|  <b>INTERVIEW</b>      | Should a publicly funded overseas scholarship carry a return-and-serve obligation?                    |

 [Read Full Article →](#)

**Question 13**

of 15

[Source →](#)

The collegium system for appointment of judges to the higher judiciary derives from which source?

- A** Judicial interpretation of Articles 124 and 217 through the Judges Cases ✓
- B** An express provision inserted by the 99th Constitutional Amendment Act
- C** The Memorandum of Procedure enacted as a statute by Parliament
- D** Article 312, which provides for All India Services

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**ANSWER & ANALYSIS**


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**✓ EXPLANATION**

**FACT:** The collegium system is not written into the Constitution. It emerged from judicial interpretation of Articles 124 and 217 in the Second Judges Case (1993) and the Third Judges Case (1998), which read "consultation" with the Chief Justice of India as requiring primacy for a collegium of senior judges.

**ANALYSIS:** The 99th Amendment in option B did the opposite, creating the National Judicial Appointments Commission, which the Supreme Court struck down in 2015 in the Fourth Judges Case, restoring the collegium.

**📄 CONCEPT NOTE**

The Hindu's lead article of 26 August 2026 argued for ending secrecy in judicial appointments, noting that collegium resolutions have ceased to name participating judges or give reasons since 28 November 2024. The argument is that transparency and judicial independence are complements rather than opposites, and that the collegium's retreat from disclosure erodes public confidence in merit-based selection.

The proposals were published vacancies, objective eligibility criteria and reasoned recommendations, while keeping integrity-related material confidential. Constitutionally, Article 124 governs Supreme Court appointments and Article 217 High Court appointments; the Memorandum of Procedure, which operationalises the process, has been in impasse since 2015, the Supreme Court treating it as finalised while the Government maintains that finalisation is pending.

**Q13**  **CONCEPT KIT**

|                                                                                                         |                                                                                                          |
|---------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|----------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
|  <b>CROSS-PAPER</b>    | GS2 structure and functioning of the judiciary, separation of powers, transparency and accountability.   |
|  <b>MAINS KEYWORDS</b> | judicial primacy, Memorandum of Procedure, institutional opacity, NJAC.                                  |
|  <b>COMMON MISTAKE</b> | describing the collegium as a constitutional provision; it is a judicially evolved convention.           |
|  <b>EXAM TIP</b>       | the Judges Cases are 1981 (First), 1993 (Second), 1998 (Third) and 2015 (Fourth, NJAC struck down).      |
|  <b>INTERVIEW</b>      | Can an appointment process be simultaneously independent of the executive and accountable to the public? |

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**Question 14**

of 15

[Source →](#)

In climate science, the ocean's role as a buffer against global warming refers principally to the fact that oceans have:

- ☐ A Reflected most incoming solar radiation through surface albedo
- ☐ B Converted dissolved carbon dioxide into atmospheric oxygen
- ☒ C Absorbed over 90 per cent of the excess heat trapped by greenhouse gases ✓
- ☐ D Reduced atmospheric water vapour through evaporative cooling

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

**FACT:** Oceans have absorbed over 90 per cent of the excess heat trapped in the climate system by greenhouse gases, which is why observed atmospheric warming has been far smaller than total energy accumulation would otherwise imply. **ANALYSIS:** The editorial's argument is that this buffering is now failing, showing up as marine heatwaves, erratic monsoon behaviour and sea-level rise, which shifts the policy emphasis from mitigation alone toward adaptation.

**📖 CONCEPT NOTE**

The Indian Express Express View of 26 August 2026 argued that warming oceans are sounding a warning, citing Europe's heatwave, erratic Indian monsoon flooding and 11 cm of sea-level rise since 1993. It contended that while mitigation remains essential, adaptation has historically played second fiddle in climate policy and must now be put on a stronger footing, particularly for India's coastline, remeasured to 11,098.81 km in April 2025.

Relevant institutional context includes the IPCC, established in 1988 by the WMO and UNEP; the UNFCCC of 1992; the Paris Agreement of 2015 with its well-below-2-degree goal; India's National Action Plan on Climate Change of 2008 with its eight missions, including the National Mission on Sustainable Habitat and the National Mission for a Green India; and the Coastal Regulation Zone notifications under the Environment (Protection) Act, 1986.

**Q14**  **CONCEPT KIT**

|                                                                                                         |                                                                                                                                                    |
|---------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|----------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
|  <b>CROSS-PAPER</b>    | GS3 environment, climate change and disaster management; GS1 geography of oceans and monsoon.                                                      |
|  <b>MAINS KEYWORDS</b> | ocean heat content, adaptation finance, marine heatwave, coastal vulnerability.                                                                    |
|  <b>COMMON MISTAKE</b> | treating adaptation as an admission of mitigation failure; the two are complements, and adaptation addresses warming already locked in.            |
|  <b>EXAM TIP</b>       | India's coastline was remeasured to 11,098.81 km in April 2025 from the long-cited 7,516.6 km, a methodology change rather than a territorial one. |
|  <b>INTERVIEW</b>      | Should India's climate finance demands emphasise adaptation over mitigation, given its exposure profile?                                           |

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**Question 15**

of 15

[Source](#) →

Graduation of a country from the United Nations category of Least Developed Countries is determined by a review conducted by which body?

- ☐ A The United Nations Security Council, on the recommendation of the Secretary-General
- ☒ B **The Committee for Development Policy, through its triennial review ✓**
- ☐ C The World Trade Organization Ministerial Conference
- ☐ D The International Monetary Fund, through Article IV consultations

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**ANSWER & ANALYSIS**


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**✓ EXPLANATION**

**FACT:** LDC status and graduation are determined by the Committee for Development Policy (CDP), a subsidiary body of the UN Economic and Social Council, through a triennial review using three criteria: income, the Human Assets Index, and the Economic and Environmental Vulnerability Index. **ANALYSIS:** Graduation is a development milestone that carries an economic cost, because it removes preferential market access and concessional finance, which is precisely the tension the editorial examines in Nepal's case.

**📌 CONCEPT NOTE**

The Indian Express column of 26 August 2026 argued for a two-hands strategy to repair ties with Nepal, noting that Nepal loses LDC status on 24 November 2026, with a deferral to 2029 being sought. Graduation threatens garments, textiles and carpets with a apparel tariff rise of roughly 9 percentage points where duty-free access lapses, and an overall export loss of about 4.3 per cent, while Nepal's deeper problem is low investment despite remittances of about USD 15 billion and foreign exchange reserves covering about 18.2 months of imports.

The argument is that India should offer an economics-and-technology strategy that widens Nepal's choices and its hedge away from dependence on the Belt and Road Initiative, while assuring India that deeper integration creates no new security vulnerabilities. India-Nepal ties rest on the Treaty of Peace and Friendship of 1950, with the Eminent Persons Group report remaining unsubmitted.

**Q15**  **CONCEPT KIT**

|                                                                                                         |                                                                                                                                    |
|---------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
|  <b>CROSS-PAPER</b>    | GS2 India and its neighbourhood, bilateral agreements; GS3 international trade and development economics.                          |
|  <b>MAINS KEYWORDS</b> | LDC graduation, preference erosion, connectivity diplomacy, strategic hedging.                                                     |
|  <b>COMMON MISTAKE</b> | assuming LDC graduation is unambiguously good news; it removes preferential access and concessional finance simultaneously.        |
|  <b>EXAM TIP</b>       | the CDP uses three criteria, income, Human Assets Index and Economic and Environmental Vulnerability Index, in a triennial review. |
|  <b>INTERVIEW</b>      | Should India offer Nepal preferential market access that survives its LDC graduation?                                              |

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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