

UPSC & STATE PCS CURRENT AFFAIRS · [UJIYARI.COM](https://ujiyari.com)**DAILY QUIZ — SOLVED**

Daily Quiz — August 27, 2026

27 August 2026



CURATED & WRITTEN BY

Bharat Choudhary

UPSC Educator & Content Creator

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 — August 27, 2026

27 August 2026 · 15 Questions · Answers & Explanations Included

Question 1

of 15

[Source →](#)

What is the legal status of the concluding observations issued by a United Nations human rights treaty body such as UNCERD?

- ☐ A They are binding on the State party and enforceable through the Security Council
- ☒ B They are non-binding recommendations which a State party may accept or reject ✓
- ☐ C They are binding only if the State party has ratified the Optional Protocol
- ☐ D They constitute a judgment enforceable before the International Court of Justice

ANSWER & ANALYSIS

✓ EXPLANATION

FACT: Concluding observations are recommendations of a committee of independent experts. They are not judgments, the committee is not a court, and a State party may reject them, as India did.

ANALYSIS: The obligation India accepted on ratifying ICERD is to submit periodic reports and engage with the review, both of which it did by sending a delegation. Accepting the recommendations is a separate question entirely, and conflating the two is the most common error on this topic.

📖 CONCEPT NOTE

UNCERD published its concluding observations on India on 25 August 2026, document symbol CERD/C/IND/CO/20-21, covering India's combined twentieth and twenty-first periodic reports. This was India's 11th periodic review under ICERD, held in Geneva on 11 and 12 August 2026 during the Committee's 118th session (10 to 25 August 2026), with a delegation headed by Solicitor General Tushar Mehta.

On 26 August the Ministry of External Affairs rejected the observations, with Spokesperson Randhir Jaiswal stating that India rejects any politically motivated highly malicious references in the report with all the contempt that it deserves. Note that this is a single continuous phrase qualifying the references in the report, not two separate descriptors.

The same session also adopted a General Recommendation on reparatory justice for colonialism, enslavement and the transatlantic trade in enslaved Africans. ICERD was adopted in 1965 and entered into force in 1969; India signed in 1967 and ratified in 1968.

The Committee comprises 18 independent experts and is the oldest UN human rights treaty body. India has NOT made the declaration under Article 14 of ICERD, so the Committee has no individual-complaints jurisdiction over India.

India's long-standing legal position, maintained including at the 2001 Durban Conference, is that caste-based discrimination does not fall within the definition of racial discrimination in Article 1.

Q1 **CONCEPT KIT**

 CROSS-PAPER	GS2 international institutions and their mandate; fundamental rights and protective mechanisms.
 MAINS KEYWORDS	treaty body review, sovereignty and scrutiny, descent-based discrimination, non-refoulement.
 COMMON MISTAKE	describing concluding observations as binding or as a ruling; they are recommendations of an expert committee.
 EXAM TIP	Article 1 of ICERD defines racial discrimination by race, colour, descent, or national or ethnic origin; the dispute turns on whether "descent" includes caste.
 INTERVIEW	Does a confident democracy gain or lose by engaging with external human rights review?

 [Read Full Article →](#)

Question 2

of 15

[Source →](#)

The official Kailash Mansarovar Yatra organised by the Government of India uses which two routes?

- ☐ A Rasuwagadhi and Tatopani, both through Nepal
- ☐ B Shipki La and Kerung
- ☐ C Bum La and Demchok
- ☒ D Lipulekh in Uttarakhand and Nathu La in Sikkim ✓

ANSWER & ANALYSIS

EXPLANATION

FACT: The Ministry of External Affairs runs the official Kailash Mansarovar Yatra through Lipulekh in Uttarakhand and Nathu La in Sikkim. The Nepal route via Kerung is operated by private tour operators, not by the Government.

ANALYSIS: The distinction is consequential rather than trivia: it determines who regulates the operator, who insures the traveller and what consular machinery applies when a disaster occurs, which is precisely what the Bhote Koshi flood exposed.

CONCEPT NOTE

A flash flood, reported as avalanche-triggered, tore down the Bhote Koshi gorge on Nepal's border with Tibet on 26 August 2026, destroying the Rasuwagadhi border post, bridges, hydropower plants and the only overland road linking Kathmandu to Tibet. Figures moved fast and diverged: Nepal Police confirmed at least 157 killed as of 27 August, with higher counts of around 353 carried in later reporting the same day.

The Ministry of External Affairs said on 27 August that 288 Indian nationals were uncontactable, released state-wise details, opened a control room, and reported 21 Indians rescued, all from Tamil Nadu. Treat every such figure as provisional. Critically, "out of contact" is not a casualty count, since communications and roads were destroyed. Two different Nepali rivers are called the Bhote Koshi, and confusing them is the standard error here.

The river that flooded is the Bhote Koshi of Rasuwa district, which is the upper reach of the Trishuli, formed where the Kyirong (Gyirong) Tsangpo and the Lhende Khola meet near Rasuwagadhi. It flows into the Narayani (Gandaki) and enters India as the Gandak, so despite its name it is NOT in the Koshi basin.

A different river, the Poiqu or Matsang Tsangpo at the Kodari-Tatopani crossing in Sindhupalchok district, is the one that feeds the Sun Koshi and thence the Koshi, the Sorrow of Bihar. ICIMOD did not classify this event as a GLOF, attributing it instead to a suspected ice-rock avalanche into the Lhende Khola, and the USGS attributed it to a glacial collapse.

Rasuwigadhi to Kerung is one of two main Nepal-China crossings, the other being Tatopani to Zhangmu. ICIMOD, the regional Hindu Kush Himalaya body, is headquartered in Kathmandu.

Mount Kailash and Lake Manasarovar lie in the Tibet Autonomous Region of China. Lipulekh pass is Indian territory in Pithoragarh district, Uttarakhand.

Q2

 CONCEPT KIT

 CROSS-PAPER

GS1 Himalayan geography and drainage; GS3 disaster management; GS2 consular responsibility and India-Nepal relations.

 MAINS KEYWORDS

cascading multi-hazard, transboundary data sharing, single-corridor dependency, carrying capacity.

 COMMON MISTAKE

converting an "out of contact" figure into a death toll; the two measure different things.

 EXAM TIP

GLOF means Glacial Lake Outburst Flood, and not every Himalayan flash flood is one.

 INTERVIEW

Should privately operated pilgrimage to high-risk zones face the same regulation as government-run yatras?

 [Read Full Article →](#)

Question 3

of 15

[Source →](#)

The concept of the "creamy layer" for Other Backward Classes reservation originates in which judgment?

A **Indra Sawhney v. Union of India (1992)** ✓

B State of Punjab v. Davinder Singh (2024)

C M. Nagaraj v. Union of India (2006)

D Jarnail Singh v. Lachhmi Narain Gupta (2018)

ANSWER & ANALYSIS
✓ EXPLANATION

FACT: Indra Sawhney v. Union of India (1992), decided by a nine-judge bench, upheld 27 per cent OBC reservation, mandated exclusion of the creamy layer and capped total reservation at 50 per cent. **ANALYSIS:** The other options concern different questions: Nagaraj and Jarnail Singh deal with reservation in promotion for Scheduled Castes and Scheduled Tribes, and Davinder Singh (2024) permitted sub-classification within Scheduled Castes. Keeping these lines of cases separate is essential.

📖 CONCEPT NOTE

The Union government filed a modification application in the Supreme Court on 24 August 2026 against a judgment of 11 March 2026 by Justices P. S. Narasimha and R. Mahadevan, which held that children of PSU and private sector employees cannot be denied OBC reservation solely on parental salary and that the status and category of the parent's post must be considered. The Centre seeks two years to frame a uniform equivalence policy, prospective application only, and carve-outs where rights are settled.

It cites ramifications for nearly 100 OBC candidates selected through the Civil Services Examination since 2016. The creamy layer was operationalised by the DoPT Office Memorandum of 8 September 1993 based on the Justice R. N. Prasad Committee criteria.

The current income ceiling is Rs 8 lakh per annum, EXCLUDING salary and agricultural income, which is precisely the source of the present anomaly.

Q3
 **CONCEPT KIT**

CROSS-PAPER

GS2 mechanisms for the protection of vulnerable sections; judiciary and landmark judgments.


MAINS KEYWORDS

substantive equality, elite capture, equivalence of posts, prospective overruling.


COMMON MISTAKE

applying the creamy layer to SC/ST for initial appointment; it does not apply there, though Jarnail Singh extended it to promotions in a separate line of cases.


EXAM TIP

the Rs 8 lakh ceiling excludes salary and agricultural income, so a salaried family can exceed it and remain non-creamy-layer.


INTERVIEW

Can income ever be a satisfactory proxy for social backwardness?


[Read Full Article →](#)

Question 4

of 15

[Source →](#)

Land Degradation Neutrality, the central objective of the UNCCD, corresponds to which Sustainable Development Goal target?

- ☐ A SDG target 6.6
- ☐ B SDG target 13.2
- ☒ C **SDG target 15.3 ✓**
- ☐ D SDG target 2.4

ANSWER & ANALYSIS
✓ EXPLANATION

FACT: Land Degradation Neutrality is SDG target 15.3, under Goal 15 on life on land. **ANALYSIS:** The adjacent options are all plausible to a candidate who half-knows the framework: 6.6 concerns water-related ecosystems, 13.2 concerns integrating climate measures into policy, and 2.4 concerns sustainable food production. Precision on which goal houses which target is exactly what the question tests.

📖 CONCEPT NOTE

At UNCCD COP17 in Ulaanbaatar, Mongolia, Union Environment Minister Bhupender Yadav urged science-based, community-led rangeland restoration recognising pastoralists as custodians rather than beneficiaries, and a USD 1.3 billion package for restoring the world's rangelands was launched. UNCCD is one of the three Rio Conventions with the UNFCCC and the CBD, adopted in 1994, in force from 1996, with its secretariat at Bonn.

It is the only legally binding international agreement linking environment and development to sustainable land management. India hosted COP14 at New Delhi in 2019, where it raised its land restoration pledge to 26 million hectares by 2030.

India cited its roughly 10 million hectares of permanent pastures, the cheetah reintroduction, and Banni in Kachchh, Gujarat, which is Asia's largest tropical grassland where Maldhari pastoralists hold community forest rights. 2026 is the UN International Year of Rangelands and Pastoralists.

Q4
 **CONCEPT KIT**
 CROSS-PAPER

GS3 conservation and international environmental conventions; GS2 India's positions in global negotiations.

 MAINS KEYWORDS

wasteland classification, pastoral mobility, community forest resource rights, grant-based finance.

 COMMON MISTAKE

treating grasslands as degraded forest awaiting afforestation; planting trees on intact grassland is recorded as a gain and is an ecological loss.

 EXAM TIP

grassland specialists include the Great Indian Bustard, lesser florican, Indian wolf, caracal and blackbuck.

 INTERVIEW

Should India reclassify grasslands out of the revenue category of "wasteland", and what would change if it did?

 [Read Full Article →](#)

Question 5

of 15

[Source](#) →

In the Panchayatan system of worship associated with Adi Shankaracharya, which five deities are enshrined?

- ☐ A Shiva, Vishnu, Brahma, Indra and Agni
- ☒ B Shiva, Vishnu, Surya, Ganesha and Shakti ✓
- ☐ C Vishnu, Lakshmi, Saraswati, Ganesha and Kartikeya
- ☐ D Brahma, Vishnu, Shiva, Surya and Shakti

ANSWER & ANALYSIS
✓ EXPLANATION

FACT: The Panchayatan enshrines Shiva, Vishnu, Surya, Ganesha and Shakti, harmonising the Shaiva, Vaishnava, Saura, Ganapatya and Shakta traditions respectively. **ANALYSIS:** The theological point is Advaitic.

The five are treated as manifestations of one supreme reality, so the arrangement resolves sectarian rivalry architecturally rather than doctrinally, by placing all five in one structure with any one as the principal deity according to the worshipper.

📖 CONCEPT NOTE

Madhya Pradesh Chief Minister Dr Mohan Yadav performed the shila-pujan of 45 sacred stones and laid the foundation of a Panchayatan-style temple at Ekatma Dham, Omkareshwar, Khandwa district, on 27 August 2026. The temple is in Nagara style, with a 26-foot-diameter dome over the main mandapa, 100 carved pillars, 121 kalashas and about 80,000 cubic feet of pink sandstone from Bansi Paharpur, Rajasthan, on a 16-foot jagati platform.

The traceable cabinet-approved outlay of Rs 2,195 crore relates to the Ekatma Dham and Advaita Lok Sangrahalaya project as a whole, not to the temple alone. Ekatma Dham already hosts the 108-foot Statue of Oneness of Adi Shankaracharya as a twelve-year-old, unveiled on 21 September 2023.

Tradition holds that Shankaracharya received initiation from Govindapada at Omkareshwar, which is one of the twelve Jyotirlingas, on Mandhata island in the Narmada. His four mathas are at Sringeri, Dwarka, Puri and Jyotirmath.

Q5
 **CONCEPT KIT**

CROSS-PAPER

GS1 Indian art, architecture and philosophy; GS2 public expenditure and secularism.


MAINS KEYWORDS

Advaita Vedanta, religious integration, heritage tourism economics, craft livelihoods.


COMMON MISTAKE

confusing Nagara with Dravida; Nagara has a curvilinear shikhara with amalaka and kalasha, Dravida a pyramidal vimana, and Vesara is the Deccan hybrid.


EXAM TIP

Article 27 bars taxes for the promotion of any particular religion, while Article 290A provides for the Travancore and Cochin Devaswom Funds.


INTERVIEW

Where is the constitutional line between funding religious heritage and promoting religion?


[Read Full Article →](#)

Question 6

of 15

[Source](#) →

The New Development Bank, established by the BRICS grouping, is headquartered in which city?

A Shanghai ✓

B Moscow

C New Delhi

D Johannesburg

ANSWER & ANALYSIS
EXPLANATION

FACT: The New Development Bank is headquartered in Shanghai. **ANALYSIS:** A useful companion fact is the Contingent Reserve Arrangement, the grouping's currency-swap safety net with a corpus of USD 100 billion. The NDB is the grouping's principal institutional achievement, and its growing share of local-currency lending matters because it removes exchange-rate risk from borrowing countries.

CONCEPT NOTE

India announced on 27 August 2026 that the 18th BRICS Summit will be held at Bharat Mandapam, New Delhi on 12 and 13 September 2026. The summit is scheduled and has not yet taken place.

India assumed its fourth BRICS chairship on 1 January 2026 under the theme "Building for Resilience, Innovation, Cooperation and Sustainability", with a people-centric "Humanity First" framing, and 2026 marks twenty years since BRICS was established. The sequence matters: the term BRIC was coined in 2001 as an investment thesis, the first BRIC foreign ministers' meeting was held in 2006 on the UN General Assembly sidelines, the first standalone summit was at Yekaterinburg in 2009, and South Africa joined in 2010.

India previously hosted in 2012 at New Delhi, 2016 at Goa and 2021 virtually.

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

GS2 bilateral, regional and global groupings; important international institutions.

**MAINS KEYWORDS**

multi-alignment, strategic autonomy, de-dollarisation, coherence after expansion.

**COMMON MISTAKE**

dating BRICS to the 2001 coinage; the grouping dates from the 2006 foreign ministers' meeting.

**EXAM TIP**

India is simultaneously in BRICS and the Quad, which India treats as leverage rather than contradiction.

**INTERVIEW**

Does an expanded BRICS gain weight at the cost of the coherence needed to act?

[Read Full Article →](#)

Question 7

of 15

[Source →](#)

The Anusandhan National Research Foundation (ANRF), created in 2023, subsumed which existing body?

- ☐ A The Council of Scientific and Industrial Research
- ☐ B The Indian Council of Medical Research
- ☐ C The Department of Science and Technology
- ☒ D The Science and Engineering Research Board ✓

ANSWER & ANALYSIS

✓ EXPLANATION

FACT: ANRF was created by the ANRF Act, 2023 and subsumed the Science and Engineering Research Board (SERB). The Prime Minister is its ex-officio President.

ANALYSIS: The design intent is visible in its funding structure. Of a corpus of Rs 50,000 crore for 2023-28, about Rs 36,000 crore is expected from non-government sources, which is an explicit attempt to correct India's unusual reliance on government rather than business enterprise to fund research.

📖 CONCEPT NOTE

A NITI Aayog report on Ease of Doing Research and Development in India maps obstacles across funding, human resources, institutional processes, translational capacity, access to resources, regional disparities and governance, and recommends raising Gross Expenditure on Research and Development from about 0.6 per cent to 2 per cent of GDP within five years. India's GERD stands at roughly 0.64 to 0.7 per cent, against above 4 per cent for Israel and South Korea and above 2 per cent for the United States and China.

In most advanced economies business enterprise funds the majority of R&D, whereas in India the government share is larger. Related instruments include the RDI scheme with a Rs 1 lakh crore corpus for private-sector-led research, NEP 2020's recommendation of a National Research Foundation, and Vigyan Dhara, the consolidated DST scheme.

NITI Aayog itself was constituted by Cabinet resolution on 1 January 2015 and is neither constitutional nor statutory.

Q7
 **CONCEPT KIT**

CROSS-PAPER

GS3 science and technology, indigenisation; GS2 human resource development.


MAINS KEYWORDS

GERD composition, translational capacity, postdoctoral pipeline, demand-side procurement.


COMMON MISTAKE

treating the R&D problem as purely fiscal; the composition of funding and the rigidity of grant administration bind independently of budget size.


EXAM TIP

GERD stands for Gross Expenditure on Research and Development, measured as a share of GDP.


INTERVIEW

Would simplifying grant administration deliver more research output per rupee than increasing the research budget?


[Read Full Article →](#)

Question 8

of 15

[Source →](#)

Under Indian power sector monitoring, a thermal plant's coal stock is classified as "critical" when it falls below which threshold?

- ☐ A Below 50 per cent of required inventory, or under seven days of generation
- ☐ B Below 10 per cent of required inventory, or under one day of generation
- ☒ C **Below 25 per cent of required inventory, or under three days of generation ✓**
- ☐ D Below 40 per cent of required inventory, or under five days of generation

ANSWER & ANALYSIS
✓ EXPLANATION

FACT: A plant is at critical stock when inventory falls below 25 per cent of the required level, or when it holds under three days of generation. **ANALYSIS:** The Central Electricity Authority publishes the daily coal-stock monitoring on which such assessments rest, which is itself a useful institutional fact, since candidates frequently attribute this to the Ministry of Coal or to Coal India.

📖 CONCEPT NOTE

Government data as of 25 August 2026 showed 45 coal-fired power plants at critically low stocks, up from 31 at end-July, of which 40 are domestic-coal-fired. Aggregate stock stood at 30.95 million tonnes, about 10 days of requirement, down from 12 days in July, a drawdown of about 19 per cent.

The cause was heavy rainfall in Odisha, Jharkhand and Chhattisgarh disrupting both mining and rail evacuation, alongside elevated demand. Coal accounts for roughly three-quarters of India's electricity generation.

Coal India Limited is a Maharatna CPSE under the Ministry of Coal and the world's largest coal producer. Policy instruments include SHAKTI, the Scheme for Harnessing and Allocating Koyala Transparently in India, commercial coal mining opened to auction in 2020, the Coal Bearing Areas (Acquisition and Development) Act, 1957, and Section 11 of the Electricity Act, 2003, which empowers the Government to direct generating companies in extraordinary circumstances.

Q8
 **CONCEPT KIT**

CROSS-PAPER

GS3 infrastructure and energy; environment and the energy transition.


MAINS KEYWORDS

evacuation constraint, pre-monsoon stocking, capacity versus generation, storage and flexibility.


COMMON MISTAKE

treating India's non-fossil capacity milestone as a generation milestone; capacity share and generation share differ because of capacity utilisation factors.


EXAM TIP

the constraint is logistics rather than reserves, since India holds very large coal reserves and still runs short at plants.


INTERVIEW

Should thermal plants be legally obliged to hold audited pre-monsoon stock, given that the shortage is seasonal and foreseeable?


[Read Full Article →](#)

Question 9

of 15

[Source →](#)

World Lake Day, observed on August 27, commemorates which event?

- ☐ A The adoption of the Ramsar Convention in 1971
- ☒ B **The first World Lake Conference, held in 1984 ✓**
- ☐ C The founding of the International Lake Environment Committee
- ☐ D The adoption of the Convention on Biological Diversity in 1992

ANSWER & ANALYSIS

✓ EXPLANATION

FACT: World Lake Day was designated by UN General Assembly resolution A/RES/79/142, adopted on 12 December 2024, and the date of 27 August marks the first World Lake Conference, held in 1984. It was first observed in 2025, so 2026 is only the second annual observance.

ANALYSIS: The Ramsar Convention in option A is a genuine and closely related instrument, which is what makes it the plausible distractor, but it is a separate treaty adopted in 1971 at Ramsar, Iran.

📖 CONCEPT NOTE

India has the largest network of Ramsar sites in Asia. The domestic framework includes the Wetlands (Conservation and Management) Rules, 2017, the National Plan for Conservation of Aquatic Ecosystems, and the Amrit Sarovar Mission for village water bodies.

The recurring failure mode in Indian urban lake management is that interventions treat the symptom, meaning algal bloom, froth and visible encroachment, while leaving untreated sewage inflow and catchment encroachment untouched.

Eutrophication is the underlying process: nutrient enrichment, principally from sewage, drives algal growth whose decomposition depletes dissolved oxygen.

Bellandur in Bengaluru, Hussain Sagar in Hyderabad and Dal in Srinagar are the standard case studies. Note that a lake and a notified wetland are not the same legal category; the Wetlands Rules apply to notified wetlands and exclude certain categories, so many urban lakes have weaker protection than assumed.

Q9 **CONCEPT KIT**

 CROSS-PAPER	GS3 conservation and environmental degradation; GS1 urbanisation.
 MAINS KEYWORDS	catchment management, eutrophication, stock versus flow interventions, lake protection committees.
 COMMON MISTAKE	assuming every urban lake is a protected wetland under the 2017 Rules; most are not notified.
 EXAM TIP	the Ramsar Convention was signed in 1971 at Ramsar, Iran, and is distinct from World Lake Day.
 INTERVIEW	Should municipal restoration budgets be assessed by works completed or by measured inflow quality?

 [Read Full Article →](#)

Question 10

of 15

[Source →](#)

What is the shareholding pattern of a Regional Rural Bank in India?

A Central Government 50 per cent, sponsor bank 35 per cent, State Government 15 per cent ✓

B Central Government 60 per cent, sponsor bank 25 per cent, State Government 15 per cent

C Sponsor bank 50 per cent, Central Government 35 per cent, State Government 15 per cent

D Central Government 40 per cent, sponsor bank 40 per cent, State Government 20 per cent

ANSWER & ANALYSIS
EXPLANATION

FACT: RRB shareholding is fixed at Central Government 50 per cent, sponsor bank 35 per cent and State Government 15 per cent. **ANALYSIS:** The tripartite structure is the institutional point: it makes an RRB simultaneously answerable to a commercial sponsor and to two levels of government, which is the source of both its reach and its governance complexity.

CONCEPT NOTE

At an annual review meeting on 25 August 2026 chaired by the Secretary, Department of Financial Services, consolidated RRB net profit was reported at an all-time high of Rs 10,176 crore in FY 2025-26, up from Rs 6,820 crore in FY 2024-25, with total business crossing Rs 13.5 lakh crore. Gross NPA fell to 5.3 per cent and net NPA to 2.1 per cent, both all-time lows, and RRBs added about 54.98 lakh new PMJDY accounts.

RRBs were established under the Regional Rural Banks Act, 1976, following the Narasimham Working Group of 1975. The first RRB, Prathama Bank, opened on 2 October 1975, which is before the Act, a detail that catches candidates out.

RRBs are regulated by the RBI and supervised by NABARD. The One State, One RRB consolidation reduced their number to 28, effective 1 May 2025.

Q10 **CONCEPT KIT**

 CROSS-PAPER	GS3 banking, financial inclusion and rural credit; GS2 institutions for vulnerable sections.
 MAINS KEYWORDS	local-area mandate, consolidation trade-off, sponsor-bank recapitalisation, last-mile credit.
 COMMON MISTAKE	assuming NABARD regulates RRBs; NABARD supervises them while the RBI regulates.
 EXAM TIP	Prathama Bank opened on 2 October 1975, a year before the RRB Act of 1976.
 INTERVIEW	Does One State One RRB strengthen viability or dilute the local-area mandate RRBs were created for?

 [Read Full Article →](#)

Question 11

of 15

[Source →](#)

Under the RFCTLARR Act, 2013, what are the consent thresholds for land acquisition for public-private partnership projects and for private companies respectively?

- ☐ A 50 per cent and 60 per cent
- ☐ B 60 per cent and 75 per cent
- ☒ C 70 per cent and 80 per cent ✓
- ☐ D 75 per cent and 90 per cent

ANSWER & ANALYSIS
✓ EXPLANATION

FACT: The Right to Fair Compensation and Transparency in Land Acquisition, Rehabilitation and Resettlement Act, 2013 requires the consent of 70 per cent of affected families for PPP projects and 80 per cent for private companies.

ANALYSIS: No consent requirement applies where the Government acquires land for its own use, which is the asymmetry that shapes how projects are structured, since the consent obligation depends on who ultimately holds the land.

📌 CONCEPT NOTE

Tamil Nadu Chief Minister C. Joseph Vijay announced in the Assembly on 24 August 2026 the cancellation of the Parandur greenfield airport, selected in 2022 at an estimated Rs 27,000 crore over roughly 5,369 acres, citing public opposition and protection of agricultural land. Note the standing correction: Tamil Nadu's Chief Minister is C. Joseph Vijay of TVK, sworn in on 10 May 2026 after TVK won 108 of 234 seats; any reference to M. K. Stalin as incumbent is out of date.

The CM also announced Annapoorani Super 6, giving three free LPG cylinders a year to women heads of households earning under Rs 2.5 lakh from Pongal 2027, covering about 1.30 crore families at about Rs 4,000 crore a year, and an expansion of Vetri Payanam free bus travel from 2 October 2026 with no income ceiling and no trip limit at about Rs 6,000 crore a year. Greenfield airports additionally require site clearance under the Greenfield Airports Policy, 2008.

Q11
 **CONCEPT KIT**

CROSS-PAPER

GS2 government policies and welfare targeting; GS3 infrastructure and land acquisition.


MAINS KEYWORDS

Social Impact Assessment, multi-cropped land safeguard, policy discontinuity, universal versus targeted transfer.


COMMON MISTAKE

applying consent thresholds to government acquisition for its own use, where none apply.


EXAM TIP

the two schemes announced are a contrast in design, since Annapoorani is means-tested while Vetri Payanam is universal.


INTERVIEW

How should a State weigh an electoral mandate to cancel a project against the investor confidence cost of policy reversal?


[Read Full Article →](#)

Question 12

of 15

[Source →](#)

In boundary negotiations, what is the distinction between delimitation and demarcation?

- ☐ A They are synonyms used interchangeably in international practice
- ☐ B Delimitation applies to maritime boundaries and demarcation to land boundaries
- ☐ C Delimitation is carried out by the United Nations and demarcation by the States concerned
- ☒ D Delimitation fixes the boundary line by agreement, while demarcation physically marks it on the ground ✓

ANSWER & ANALYSIS

✓ EXPLANATION

FACT: Delimitation is the agreement fixing where the boundary line runs, usually described in text and on maps.

Demarcation is the physical marking of that agreed line on the ground with pillars and markers.

ANALYSIS: The distinction matters here because the eight-point consensus refers to delimitation, meaning a decision about territory, which is a categorically different commitment from the confidence-building measures alongside it.

📖 CONCEPT NOTE

The Hindu's editorial page of 27 August 2026 welcomed the confidence-building content of the eight-point consensus reached at the 25th Special Representatives meeting in Beijing on 25 August 2026, including expert-level meetings on trans-border rivers with hydrological data sharing, two additional military commander meeting points, and hotlines for the Eastern and Middle Sectors, while objecting that both sides committed to an early and substantial harvest of boundary delimitation without stating which sectors are in play or what framework applies. The SR mechanism was created in 2003 with Brajesh Mishra and Dai Bingguo as the first Special Representatives, and operates under the 2005 Agreement on Political Parameters and Guiding Principles, whose three-stage process has completed only the first stage.

Article VII of that Agreement safeguards settled populations in border areas. The Brahmaputra is called the Yarlung Tsangpo in Tibet.

Q12 **CONCEPT KIT**

 CROSS-PAPER	GS2 India and its neighbourhood; parliamentary oversight of foreign policy.
 MAINS KEYWORDS	confidence-building measures, framework versus position disclosure, hydrological data sharing, political ratification.
 COMMON MISTAKE	treating disengagement as de-escalation; disengagement separates troops at friction points while de-escalation reduces force levels in the theatre.
 EXAM TIP	only the first of the 2005 Agreement's three stages is complete after twenty-five rounds.
 INTERVIEW	Should Parliament be briefed on boundary negotiations under confidentiality, and would that strengthen or weaken India's negotiating position?

[Read Full Article →](#)

Question 13

of 15

[Source →](#)

Which body recommends the Minimum Support Price for crops in India, and who announces it?

- A** The Food Corporation of India recommends and the Ministry of Agriculture announces
- B** The Commission for Agricultural Costs and Prices recommends and the Cabinet Committee on Economic Affairs announces ✓
- C** NITI Aayog recommends and the Ministry of Finance announces
- D** The Reserve Bank of India recommends and the Cabinet announces

ANSWER & ANALYSIS
✓ EXPLANATION

FACT: The Commission for Agricultural Costs and Prices recommends MSP, and the Cabinet Committee on Economic Affairs announces it. The Food Corporation of India, in option A, is the procurement agency, not the price-setting one.

ANALYSIS: MSP is a policy instrument rather than a statutory right, and although it is declared for 23 crops, effective procurement at scale is concentrated in rice and wheat, which is the gap that shapes cropping patterns.

📖 CONCEPT NOTE

The Hindu's opinion lead of 27 August 2026, by Elisabeth Faure of the World Food Programme India and Purvi Mehta, argued that India's Green Revolution-era food security architecture was built for production adequacy and now needs retrofitting for climate resilience, through wider MSP procurement of water-efficient millets and pulses, integration of IMD forecasts into buffer-stock policy, and treating climate risk as a foundational design principle. The National Food Security Act, 2013 covers up to 75 per cent of the rural and 50 per cent of the urban population. The Food Corporation of India was established in 1965 under the Food Corporations Act, 1964. 2023 was the International Year of Millets, proposed by India, and millets are designated Shree Anna. The core critique is that assured procurement concentrated on rice and wheat locks in water-intensive cropping precisely where groundwater is most depleted.

Q13 **CONCEPT KIT**

 CROSS-PAPER	GS3 food security, buffer stocks and cropping patterns; GS2 welfare and hunger.
 MAINS KEYWORDS	procurement assurance, groundwater depletion, decentralised procurement, forecast-linked buffers.
 COMMON MISTAKE	equating MSP coverage for 23 crops with procurement assurance; procurement at scale occurs mainly for rice and wheat.
 EXAM TIP	MSP is a policy instrument, not a statutory right.
 INTERVIEW	Is it defensible to sustain present food security through groundwater extraction that forecloses future food security in the same region?

 [Read Full Article →](#)

Question 14

of 15

Source →

The Fair and Remunerative Price (FRP) for sugarcane is fixed by which authority, and under which order?

- A The Central Government on CACP advice, under the Sugarcane (Control) Order, 1966 ✓**
- B The State Government concerned, under its own Sugarcane Act
- C The Directorate of Sugar, under the Essential Commodities Act, 1955
- D The Indian Sugar Mills Association, under a voluntary industry code

ANSWER & ANALYSIS
EXPLANATION

FACT: The Fair and Remunerative Price is fixed by the Central Government on the advice of the Commission for Agricultural Costs and Prices, under the Sugarcane (Control) Order, 1966. **ANALYSIS:** Some States, notably Uttar Pradesh, additionally declare a higher State Advised Price.

Where SAP exceeds FRP, mills must pay the higher amount, which is a standing source of cane payment arrears because mills are obliged to pay a price the sugar market may not support.

CONCEPT NOTE

Business Standard's editorial of 27 August 2026 argued that with retail sugar rising about 16 per cent in a month, from about Rs 48.18 per kg on 20 July to Rs 55.70 on 20 August, and output falling to roughly 30.6 million tonnes against an initial estimate of about 34.3 million tonnes, the Centre's duty-free import window for one million tonnes of raw sugar until 31 October, backed by stock limits, is the right corrective. It cautioned that falling ex-mill prices may mean only about half the permitted quantity is imported, and argued that blaming ethanol diversion alone is misplaced given its declining share of sugar use and the faster payment it delivers to mills and thence to farmers.

The shortfall had identified agronomic causes: excess rain and waterlogging in Maharashtra and Karnataka, and red rot, caused by *Colletotrichum falcatum*, together with top-borer in Uttar Pradesh. A separate Minimum Selling Price sets an ex-mill floor for sugar.

Q14 **CONCEPT KIT**

 CROSS-PAPER	GS3 agriculture, food processing and energy policy.
 MAINS KEYWORDS	food versus fuel, formula-linked diversion, ex-mill price, cane arrears.
 COMMON MISTAKE	confusing the Minimum Selling Price of sugar, an ex-mill floor, with crop MSP or with the cane FRP; three different instruments.
 EXAM TIP	India met its 20 per cent ethanol blending target ahead of schedule, and feedstock has broadened toward maize and damaged foodgrain.
 INTERVIEW	In a deficit year, should the ethanol target or the consumer price take precedence?

 [Read Full Article →](#)

Question 15

of 15

[Source](#)

Which of the following correctly distinguishes a Glacial Lake Outburst Flood (GLOF) from a rock-ice avalanche-triggered flood?

- ☐ A A GLOF occurs only in winter, while rock-ice avalanches occur only in summer
- ☐ B A GLOF is caused by rainfall, while a rock-ice avalanche is caused by an earthquake
- ☒ C A GLOF involves the breach of a glacial lake, while a rock-ice avalanche flood need involve no lake at all ✓
- ☐ D A GLOF affects only the Himalaya, while rock-ice avalanches occur in all mountain ranges

ANSWER & ANALYSIS
✓ EXPLANATION

FACT: A GLOF is specifically the breach of a moraine-dammed glacial lake. A rock-ice avalanche can generate a flood wave directly, by displacing water and mobilising sediment, without any lake being involved.

ANALYSIS: The distinction matters operationally because each has a different precursor and therefore requires a different detection method. Reporting routinely labels every Himalayan flash flood a GLOF, which obscures exactly the mechanism a question is testing.

📖 CONCEPT NOTE

Down To Earth's piece of 27 August 2026 by Jay Singh Rawat argued that the Nepal, Rishiganga and Dharali disasters share a mechanism conventional flood science does not anticipate: catastrophic floods triggered by collapsing rock-ice masses rather than by rainfall alone. The sequence runs from permafrost thaw weakening the ice that binds rock masses, to detachment of a rock-ice mass into a steep confined valley, to either a direct flood wave or a temporary landslide dam whose breach releases a larger one.

None of these steps requires rainfall, which is why a warning system keyed to precipitation thresholds never activates. This is a detection failure rather than a forecasting failure.

ICIMOD, headquartered in Kathmandu, is the regional Hindu Kush Himalaya body; NDMA operates under the Disaster Management Act, 2005 and is chaired by the Prime Minister; the Central Water Commission handles flood forecasting while the IMD handles rainfall.

Q15
 **CONCEPT KIT**

CROSS-PAPER

GS1 Himalayan geomorphology; GS3 disaster management and climate change.


MAINS KEYWORDS

cascading multi-hazard, permafrost thaw, detection versus forecasting, basin-level data sharing.


COMMON MISTAKE

labelling every Himalayan flash flood a GLOF; LLOF and rock-ice avalanche floods are distinct categories with distinct precursors.


EXAM TIP

design standards derived from historical return periods understate risk when the physical driver of a hazard is itself changing.


INTERVIEW

Should a country share real-time hydrological data with a downstream neighbour it has an unresolved boundary dispute with?


[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 UJIYARI

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