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DAILY QUIZ — SOLVED

Daily Quiz — August 31, 2026

31 August 2026

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DAILY QUIZ — SOLVED ANSWER KEY

Daily Quiz — August 31, 2026

31 August 2026 · 15 Questions · Answers & Explanations Included

Question 1 of 15 📰 Source →

The Shanghai Cooperation Organisation maintains two permanent bodies. Where are they located?

A. Both the Secretariat and the Regional Anti-Terrorist Structure are at Beijing

B. The Secretariat is at Tashkent and the Regional Anti-Terrorist Structure is at Beijing

C. **The Secretariat is at Beijing and the Regional Anti-Terrorist Structure is at Tashkent ✓**

D. The Secretariat is at Astana and the Regional Anti-Terrorist Structure is at Bishkek

ANSWER & ANALYSIS

✅ **EXPLANATION**

FACT: The SCO Secretariat is at Beijing and the Executive Committee of the Regional Anti-Terrorist Structure is at Tashkent. They are two distinct permanent bodies with separate heads: Nurlan Yermekbayev of Kazakhstan is Secretary-General for 2025 to 2027, and Ularbek Sharsheev directs the RATS Executive Committee.

ANALYSIS: The split siting is deliberate. Locating the counter-terrorism arm in Central Asia rather than in China distributed institutional weight at founding, and it is why a question that puts both in one city is always wrong.

📝 **CONCEPT NOTE**

The SCO was founded on 15 June 2001 at Shanghai by China, Russia, Kazakhstan, Kyrgyzstan, Tajikistan and Uzbekistan, building on the Shanghai Five grouping of 1996. Uzbekistan was the member added to the Shanghai Five to create the SCO. India and Pakistan were admitted together in 2017 at the Astana summit, Iran in 2023 and Belarus in 2024, taking membership to ten.

Russian and Chinese are the two official languages. The chairmanship rotates annually and the chair hosts the leaders summit.

The 26th summit met at Bishkek on 31 August and 1 September 2026, in the organisation twenty-fifth year, with Pakistan due to take the rotating chairmanship after it and host in 2027. RATS coordinates member-state action against terrorism, separatism and extremism, the three evils in SCO language, principally through information exchange rather than operational deployment.

Q1 🎯 CONCEPT KIT

🔗 CROSS-PAPER	GS2 regional groupings; GS3 internal security cooperation mechanisms.
✍️ MAINS KEYWORDS	multi-alignment, three evils, Eurasian connectivity, rotating chairmanship.
⚠️ COMMON MISTAKE	treating RATS as a department of the Secretariat rather than a separate permanent body with its own director and its own city.
📌 EXAM TIP	UPSC has asked about SCO membership and about which Indian institution engages RATS; memorise the admission years 2017, 2023 and 2024.
🎤 INTERVIEW	Pakistan chairs the SCO next. Should India attend the 2027 summit at head-of-government level?

📰 Read Full Article →

Question 2 of 15 📰 Source →

India is able to import uranium for its civil nuclear programme despite not being a party to a key treaty. Which statement correctly describes the legal basis?

A India acceded to the Nuclear Non-Proliferation Treaty as a nuclear weapon state in 2008

B India is not a party to the Nuclear Non-Proliferation Treaty; its access rests on the Nuclear Suppliers Group waiver of 2008 ✓

C India is a party to the Nuclear Non-Proliferation Treaty but not to the Comprehensive Test Ban Treaty

D India obtained an exemption from the International Atomic Energy Agency Board of Governors in 2005

ANSWER & ANALYSIS

✅ EXPLANATION

FACT: India has never signed the Nuclear Non-Proliferation Treaty. Civil nuclear commerce became possible through the Nuclear Suppliers Group waiver granted in 2008, preceded by an India-specific safeguards agreement with the IAEA that separated civilian from military facilities.

ANALYSIS: This is why uranium supply is a recurring diplomatic task rather than a market transaction: every supplier relationship is a bilateral arrangement built on that waiver, which is what the India-Uzbekistan framework agreed at Tashkent on 30 August 2026 extends.

📝 CONCEPT NOTE

The NSG is a voluntary export-control cartel formed in 1975 in response to India nuclear test of 1974, so the 2008 waiver was the group setting aside a rule created because of India. India signed the 123 Agreement with the United States in 2008 and has civil nuclear cooperation agreements with several suppliers including Russia, France, Canada, Kazakhstan, Namibia, Mongolia and Argentina.

India has signed but not ratified nothing on the CTBT: it has neither signed nor ratified it. Domestic uranium reserves are limited in grade and quantity relative to programme ambitions, which is the structural reason import diplomacy matters.

India had been importing Uzbek uranium under a 2019 contract for 1,100 metric tonnes of natural uranium concentrate running through 2026, and the Tashkent visit produced a framework for a successor arrangement plus a memorandum on mining and geological resources, not a signed supply contract.

Q2 🎯 CONCEPT KIT

🔗 CROSS-PAPER	GS2 international treaties and groupings; GS3 energy security and nuclear technology.
✍️ MAINS KEYWORDS	NSG waiver, India-specific safeguards, strategic autonomy, fuel supply diversification.
⚠️ COMMON MISTAKE	assuming the 2008 waiver made India an NPT member or an NSG member; it is neither.
📌 EXAM TIP	distinguish the IAEA safeguards agreement, the NSG waiver and the bilateral 123 Agreement, which are three separate instruments of the same year.
🎤 INTERVIEW	Should India join the NPT as a non-nuclear weapon state to gain NSG membership?

📰 Read Full Article →

Question 3 of 15 📰 Source →

The Unified Payments Interface is operated by the National Payments Corporation of India. Under which statute does NPCI function?

- **A** The Reserve Bank of India Act, 1934
- **B** The Banking Regulation Act, 1949
- **C** The Information Technology Act, 2000
- **D** **The Payment and Settlement Systems Act, 2007 ✓**

ANSWER & ANALYSIS

✅ **EXPLANATION**

FACT: NPCI is an umbrella organisation for retail payments in India, set up as a not-for-profit company operating under the Payment and Settlement Systems Act, 2007, which is the statute that gives the Reserve Bank authority to regulate and supervise payment systems. NPCI International Payments Limited is the subsidiary that takes UPI to overseas markets.

ANALYSIS: The Tashkent agreement enabling UPI-QR interoperability for merchant payments in Uzbekistan, reported as a first in Central Asia, is therefore an extension of a statutorily supervised Indian public digital good into foreign jurisdictions.

📝 **CONCEPT NOTE**

The Payment and Settlement Systems Act, 2007 designates the RBI as the authority for regulation and supervision of payment systems in India and requires authorisation for operating one. NPCI was incorporated in 2008 as a not-for-profit company promoted by a group of banks with RBI and Indian Banks Association support, and is today a Section 8 company under the Companies Act, 2013.

It runs UPI, RuPay, IMPS, AePS, NACH, FASTag and BHIM. UPI overseas acceptance is not the same thing as rupee internationalisation and not the same as a full domestic UPI deployment in the host country: merchant QR interoperability means an Indian user can pay a foreign merchant using an Indian app. India offers Indians a 30-day visa-free regime in Uzbekistan, with 14 weekly direct flights, four Indian universities operating there and about 16,000 Indian students enrolled.

Q3 🎯 CONCEPT KIT

🔗 CROSS-PAPER	GS3 digital payments and financial inclusion; GS2 economic diplomacy and digital public infrastructure exports.
✍️ MAINS KEYWORDS	digital public infrastructure, NPCI International, payment systems regulation, soft power.
⚠️ COMMON MISTAKE	believing UPI is operated directly by the RBI, or that overseas UPI acceptance means rupee settlement.
📌 EXAM TIP	remember NPCI is a Section 8 not-for-profit company, not a statutory body and not a government department.
🎤 INTERVIEW	Is exporting UPI a public good or an instrument of Indian commercial advantage, and does the distinction matter to recipient states?

📰 Read Full Article →

Question 4 of 15

📰 Source →

The Index of Eight Core Industries carries what weight in the Index of Industrial Production, and which body releases it?

- **A** **40.27 per cent, released by the Office of the Economic Adviser in the DPIIT ✓**
- **B** 40.27 per cent, released by the National Statistics Office under MoSPI
- **C** 27.40 per cent, released by the Office of the Economic Adviser in the DPIIT
- **D** 54.30 per cent, released by the Ministry of Finance

ANSWER & ANALYSIS

✅ **EXPLANATION**

FACT: The eight core industries carry a combined weight of 40.27 per cent in the IIP, and the index is compiled and released by the Office of the Economic Adviser in the Department for Promotion of Industry and Internal Trade, Ministry of Commerce and Industry, with base year 2011-12. ANALYSIS: The IIP itself is released by a different body, the National Statistics Office under MoSPI, which is exactly the discriminator this question tests.
The core index is released earlier and is treated as a leading indicator for industrial output.

📝 **CONCEPT NOTE**

The eight core industries, in the order used by the index, are coal, crude oil, natural gas, refinery products, fertilisers, steel, cement and electricity. The July 2026 data, released on 20 August, showed growth of 5.4 per cent, easing from 6 per cent in June, with cumulative growth of 4.3 per cent over April to July 2026 against 1.5 per cent in the corresponding four months a year earlier.
Cement rose 13.1 per cent and electricity 9 per cent, while crude oil, natural gas and fertilisers contracted. The analytically important habit is to read a single strong month against the cumulative series: a low base in the comparison period flatters the current year, which is exactly why both cumulative figures should be quoted together.

Q4 🎯 CONCEPT KIT

🔗 CROSS-PAPER	GS3 growth and industrial policy; GS3 economic indicators and data systems.
✍️ MAINS KEYWORDS	leading indicator, base effect, restocking, industrial deceleration.
⚠️ COMMON MISTAKE	treating the core sector index as identical to the IIP, or attributing it to MoSPI.
📌 EXAM TIP	memorise the 40.27 per cent weight and the 2011-12 base year; both have appeared in objective questions.
🎤 INTERVIEW	Should India move the IIP base year forward, and what is the cost of a stale base?

📰 Read Full Article →

Question 5 of 15 📰 Source →

In India national accounts, what is the correct relationship between Gross Domestic Product and Gross Value Added?

A GDP equals GVA plus subsidies on products minus taxes on products

B GDP equals GVA minus intermediate consumption

C **GDP equals GVA plus taxes on products minus subsidies on products ✓**

D GDP and GVA are identical measures reported at different price bases

ANSWER & ANALYSIS

✅ **EXPLANATION**

FACT: GDP equals GVA plus taxes on products minus subsidies on products. GVA measures output net of intermediate consumption at the producer level, and adding net product taxes converts producer prices into market prices.

ANALYSIS: The two can diverge noticeably in any quarter where indirect tax collections or subsidy outgo move sharply, which is why a sectoral argument about agriculture or services should cite sectoral GVA rather than headline GDP.

📝 **CONCEPT NOTE**

Quarterly and annual national accounts are compiled by the National Statistics Office under the Ministry of Statistics and Programme Implementation. GDP at constant prices strips out price change and is the series quoted as growth.

The Q1 FY2026-27 estimate, released on 31 August 2026, showed real GDP growth of 7.8 per cent and real GVA growth of 8.2 per cent, beating ICRA's 6.4 to 6.6 per cent forecast and the broad consensus near 7 to 7.2 per cent. The same release measures the year-ago quarter at 6.9 per cent, although it was first estimated at 7.8 per cent in August 2025, a reminder that quarterly estimates are provisional and are revised as fuller data replaces first-pass indicators.

When GVA growth runs above GDP growth, as in this quarter, net product taxes grew slower than output, which is the wedge between the two measures.

Q5 🎯 CONCEPT KIT

🔗 CROSS-PAPER	GS3 national income accounting; GS3 fiscal policy and indirect taxation.
✍️ MAINS KEYWORDS	gross value added, product taxes, deflator, constant prices.
⚠️ COMMON MISTAKE	reversing the sign, adding subsidies and subtracting taxes; and using headline GDP when a sectoral argument requires GVA.
📌 EXAM TIP	the deficit definitions travel with this topic: primary deficit is fiscal deficit minus interest payments, and effective revenue deficit is revenue deficit minus grants for creation of capital assets.
🎤 INTERVIEW	Is GVA or GDP the better headline number for judging economic performance?

📰 Read Full Article →

Question 6 of 15

📰 Source →

The Fair and Remunerative Price for sugarcane is fixed by which authority, and under which instrument?

A By each state government, under its own Sugarcane Purchase Tax Act

B By the Commission for Agricultural Costs and Prices directly, under the Essential Commodities Act, 1955

C By the Food Corporation of India, under the National Food Security Act, 2013

D **By the Central Government on CACP recommendation, under the Sugarcane (Control) Order, 1966 ✓**

ANSWER & ANALYSIS

✅ **EXPLANATION**

FACT: The FRP is fixed by the Central Government on the recommendation of the Commission for Agricultural Costs and Prices, under the Sugarcane (Control) Order, 1966. It stands at Rs 355 per quintal for the 2025-26 season, up from Rs 340.

ANALYSIS: The distinction that carries marks is that CACP only recommends; the Cabinet Committee on Economic Affairs decides. States may separately declare a State Advised Price above the FRP, which is why cane growers in Uttar Pradesh and Punjab are often paid more than the central floor.

📝 **CONCEPT NOTE**

The cane price stack has three layers. The FRP is the central statutory minimum a mill must pay.

The State Advised Price is a state declaration above it, with no central statutory backing, which has generated recurring litigation about whether states can mandate it. The minimum selling price of sugar, a floor below which mills may not sell, has been Rs 31 per kg since February 2019 against an industry-estimated production cost near Rs 40 at the current FRP, and ISMA has sought about Rs 41.66.

That frozen spread is the structural reason mills favour ethanol, whose procurement price is administered separately and has moved. Gross production for 2025-26 was revised from about 343.5 lakh tonnes to near 306 to 309.5 lakh tonnes on differing official and industry estimates, on waterlogging in Maharashtra and Karnataka and red rot and top-borer in Uttar Pradesh, with roughly 27.5 to 30 lakh tonnes diverted to ethanol.

Q6 🎯 CONCEPT KIT

🔗 CROSS-PAPER	GS3 agricultural pricing and marketing; GS3 food processing and biofuels.
✍️ MAINS KEYWORDS	administered pricing, cane arrears, State Advised Price, food versus fuel.
⚠️ COMMON MISTAKE	believing CACP fixes prices; it recommends and the CCEA decides.
📌 EXAM TIP	the sugar minimum selling price is a selling floor, not the Minimum Support Price procurement mechanism; the abbreviation is shared but the economics run opposite.
🎤 INTERVIEW	Should the sugar minimum selling price be indexed to the FRP automatically?

📰 Read Full Article →

Question 7 of 15 📰 Source →

The Ethanol Supply Year used in India biofuel programme runs over which period?

- **A November to October ✓**
- B April to March
- C January to December
- D July to June

ANSWER & ANALYSIS

✅ **EXPLANATION**

FACT: The Ethanol Supply Year runs from November to October, aligned to the sugar crushing season rather than to the financial year. The next target cycle, for which the inter-ministerial committee recommends blending targets, begins on 1 November 2026.

ANALYSIS: The alignment is not administrative trivia. Because the supply year tracks the crushing season, a crop failure and the blending obligation it must feed fall inside the same accounting window, which is what makes the food-versus-fuel trade-off visible in a single year rather than smeared across two.

📝 **CONCEPT NOTE**

The Ethanol Blended Petrol Programme operates under the National Policy on Biofuels, 2018, amended in 2022. The E20 target, originally set for 2030, was advanced to 2025 and achieved in 2025.

India is now moving in phased fashion toward E25, E27 and E30, with the Bureau of Indian Standards directed to develop the E27 fuel standard and ARAI tasked by the Ministry of Road Transport and Highways with studying engine modification.

Feedstocks are not interchangeable in their food consequences: cane juice and B-heavy molasses draw directly on sweetener that could have been sugar, C-heavy molasses is a residue further down the chain, surplus grain engages the food system differently again, and second-generation ethanol from agricultural residue barely engages it at all.

That is why a single verdict on ethanol is not analytically available.

Q7 🎯 CONCEPT KIT

🔗 **CROSS-PAPER**	GS3 energy security and renewable energy; GS3 agriculture and food security.
✍️ **MAINS KEYWORDS**	blending mandate, feedstock diversification, second-generation ethanol, food-fuel trade-off.
⚠️ **COMMON MISTAKE**	assuming the Ethanol Supply Year matches the financial year of April to March.
📌 **EXAM TIP**	pair the ESY with the sugar season, also November to October, and with the marketing year definitions for other crops.
🎤 **INTERVIEW**	India met E20 five years early. Was the target too easy, or the policy that effective?

📰 Read Full Article →

Question 8 of 15 📰 Source →

Which provision requires the prior approval of the Reserve Bank of India for the appointment of a managing director or chief executive officer of a banking company?

- A. Section 21 of the Banking Regulation Act, 1949
- B. Section 45 of the Banking Regulation Act, 1949
- C. **Section 35B of the Banking Regulation Act, 1949 ✓**
- D. Section 42 of the Reserve Bank of India Act, 1934

ANSWER & ANALYSIS

✅ EXPLANATION

FACT: Section 35B of the Banking Regulation Act, 1949 requires prior RBI approval for the appointment, reappointment or termination of a chairman, managing director or chief executive officer of a banking company, and for any amendment to the terms of that appointment. ANALYSIS: The consequence is that a private bank board proposes and the regulator disposes.

A board resolution alone does not create a bank chief executive, which is why HDFC Bank succession following Sashidhar Jagdishan decision not to seek reappointment runs through the RBI rather than around it.

📝 CONCEPT NOTE

The RBI circular of 26 April 2021 on corporate governance in banks set the outer limits within which any private bank succession operates. An MD and CEO or whole-time director who is not a promoter or major shareholder may hold the post for a maximum of 15 consecutive years, after which reappointment in the same bank requires a minimum gap of three years.

A promoter or major-shareholder MD and CEO is capped at 12 years, extendable to 15 at the sole discretion of the RBI in extraordinary circumstances. No person may continue beyond the age of 70.

Banks had until 1 October 2021 to comply. Jagdishan announced on 29 August 2026 that he would not seek reappointment and would retire on 26 October 2026; he had taken office in October 2020, succeeding Aditya Puri, who led the bank from 1994.

Q8 🎯 CONCEPT KIT

🔗 CROSS-PAPER	GS2 statutory and regulatory bodies; GS3 banking sector reform and financial stability.
✍️ MAINS KEYWORDS	fit and proper criteria, regulatory approval, board autonomy, key person risk.
⚠️ COMMON MISTAKE	attributing the approval power to the Companies Act or to SEBI rather than to the Banking Regulation Act.
📌 EXAM TIP	Section 35B pairs with Section 10B on management and Section 45 on amalgamation and moratorium; these three are the commonly tested trio.
🎤 INTERVIEW	Does regulatory approval of a bank chief executive strengthen stability, or blur accountability by giving the supervisor a stake in the appointment it must later supervise?

📰 Read Full Article →

Question 9 of 15

📰 Source →

Which statement about systemically important banks is correct?

A Both D-SIBs and G-SIBs are identified by the Reserve Bank of India for Indian banks

B D-SIBs are identified by the Financial Stability Board and G-SIBs by the Bank for International Settlements

C D-SIBs are identified by the Reserve Bank of India, while G-SIBs are identified by the Financial Stability Board ✓

D D-SIB designation removes the capital conservation buffer requirement for the designated bank

ANSWER & ANALYSIS

✅ **EXPLANATION**

FACT: Domestic systemically important banks are identified by the Reserve Bank of India under a framework introduced in 2014 and updated in 2023. Globally systemically important banks are identified by the Financial Stability Board.

ANALYSIS: D-SIB designation adds an additional Common Equity Tier 1 requirement on top of the normal capital conservation buffer rather than replacing it, because the buffer is the price of the implicit expectation of support that too-big-to-fail status creates.

📝 **CONCEPT NOTE**

The RBI 2025 D-SIB list, based on data as of 31 March 2025, retained State Bank of India in bucket 4 with an additional CET1 requirement of 0.80 per cent of risk-weighted assets, HDFC Bank in bucket 2 at 0.40 per cent, and ICICI Bank in bucket 1 at 0.20 per cent, unchanged from the 2024 bucketing. The capital requirements take effect from 1 April 2027. Banks are placed in buckets by a systemic importance score built from size, interconnectedness, substitutability and complexity. No Indian bank currently appears on the FSB list of globally systemically important banks.

HDFC Limited merged into HDFC Bank with effect from 1 July 2023, a reverse merger that left the bank with a large book of long-tenure mortgages to be funded by deposits.

Q9 🎯 CONCEPT KIT

🔗 CROSS-PAPER	GS3 banking regulation and financial stability; GS2 regulatory institutions.
✍️ MAINS KEYWORDS	too big to fail, systemic risk, capital buffers, moral hazard.
⚠️ COMMON MISTAKE	assuming the RBI designates G-SIBs, or that an Indian bank is on the global list.
📌 EXAM TIP	learn the three Indian D-SIBs with their buckets, since the bucket ordering itself has been asked.
🎤 INTERVIEW	Does designating a bank as systemically important reduce risk by forcing extra capital, or increase it by confirming the market expectation of a rescue?

📰 Read Full Article →

Question 10 of 15 📰 Source →

A geostationary Earth-observation satellite such as EOS-05 differs from a satellite in sun-synchronous low Earth orbit principally because it:

- **A** Offers higher spatial resolution at the cost of longer revisit intervals
- **B** **Offers far higher temporal resolution at the cost of coarser spatial resolution ✓**
- **C** Can image the entire globe including both polar regions in a single pass
- **D** Requires no station-keeping propellant because its orbit is inherently stable

ANSWER & ANALYSIS

✅ EXPLANATION

FACT: A geostationary satellite orbits at the Earth rotation rate about 36,000 km above the equator, so it appears fixed over one longitude and stares continuously at the same hemisphere. That gives very high temporal resolution, at coarser spatial resolution than a low Earth orbit platform a few hundred kilometres up.

ANALYSIS: This is why EOS-05 headline capability is quoted as roughly 30-minute imaging of the Indian subcontinent with about a 5-minute revisit for priority targets, rather than as metres per pixel.

📝 CONCEPT NOTE

EOS-05, also designated GISAT-1A, is scheduled for launch on 4 September 2026 on GSLV-F17 from the Second Launch Pad at the Satish Dhawan Space Centre, Sriharikota. It has a mass of 2,367 kg and is injected into a Sub-Geosynchronous Transfer Orbit before raising to geostationary altitude.

It replaces EOS-03, also called GISAT-1, lost in a launch failure in 2021, and the mission ends an ISRO launch pause of close to seven months. A geostationary satellite cannot usefully image the poles, because at 36,000 km over the equator the polar regions are seen at extreme oblique angles or not at all, which is precisely why polar-orbiting sun-synchronous platforms remain necessary.

Geostationary orbits also require regular station-keeping against lunar and solar perturbations and the Earth equatorial bulge.

Q10 🎯 CONCEPT KIT

🔗 CROSS-PAPER	GS3 space technology and applications; GS3 disaster management and early warning.
✍️ MAINS KEYWORDS	temporal resolution, revisit time, geostationary imaging, disaster monitoring.
⚠️ COMMON MISTAKE	believing geostationary satellites see the whole globe including the poles, or that geostationary orbit needs no station-keeping.
📌 EXAM TIP	pair the approximate geostationary altitude of 36,000 km with the sun-synchronous altitude range of a few hundred kilometres, and know which is used for cartography versus for weather.
🎤 INTERVIEW	For Himalayan flash floods, is a geostationary imager or a dense ground sensor network the better investment?

📰 Read Full Article →

Question 11 of 15 📰 Source →

India signed a Letter of Offer and Acceptance with the United States for the Javelin missile in August 2026. The Foreign Military Sales route is best described as:

- **A** **A government-to-government sale channel administered by the United States government ✓**
- **B** A direct commercial contract between the Indian Ministry of Defence and the manufacturer
- **C** A leasing arrangement under which title remains with the supplier government
- **D** A technology transfer agreement requiring mandatory local manufacture from the first unit

ANSWER & ANALYSIS

✅ **EXPLANATION**

FACT: Foreign Military Sales is a government-to-government channel administered by the United States government, under which the purchasing state contracts with Washington rather than directly with the manufacturer, and the Letter of Offer and Acceptance is the instrument that concludes it. ANALYSIS: This is distinct from a Direct Commercial Sale, in which the buyer contracts with the company.

The distinction matters for pricing, for liability and for the political visibility of the transaction.

📝 **CONCEPT NOTE**

India signed the Javelin LOA on 28 August 2026, valued at about 45.7 million United States dollars, covering 100 Javelin rounds, one missile for fly-to-buy evaluation, and 25 Javelin Lightweight Command Launch Units, along with training equipment, simulation rounds, a battery coolant unit, technical manuals, lifecycle support, spares and systems integration.

The FGM-148 Javelin is a man-portable, fire-and-forget anti-tank guided missile built by the Javelin Joint Venture of Lockheed Martin and Raytheon, using an imaging infrared seeker so the missile guides itself after launch and the operator can displace immediately.

In February 2026 Bharat Dynamics Limited and the Javelin Joint Venture agreed to explore manufacturing the missile in India. A hundred rounds is an evaluation-scale buy, so the strategically consequential element is the co-production track rather than the purchase itself.

Q11 🎯 CONCEPT KIT

🔗 CROSS-PAPER	GS3 defence procurement and indigenisation; GS2 India-United States relations.
✍ MAINS KEYWORDS	fire-and-forget, Foreign Military Sales, co-production, offsets, strategic autonomy.
⚠️ COMMON MISTAKE	treating FMS and Direct Commercial Sale as interchangeable, or reading an evaluation buy as an operational induction.
📌 EXAM TIP	know the difference between fire-and-forget seekers and wire-guided or beam-riding systems, which has been the basis of objective questions on ATGMs.
🎤 INTERVIEW	Does buying an American ATGM while producing the indigenous Nag family strengthen or dilute India defence industrial strategy?

📰 Read Full Article →

Question 12 of 15 📰 Source →

Superintendence, direction and control of elections to municipalities is vested in which authority, and by which Article?

A The Election Commission of India, by Article 324

B The State Government, by Article 243W

C The State Election Commission, by Article 243ZA ✓

D The Governor of the State, by Article 243Q

ANSWER & ANALYSIS

✅ **EXPLANATION**

FACT: Article 243ZA vests the superintendence, direction and control of the preparation of electoral rolls and the conduct of all elections to municipalities in the State Election Commission. Article 243K does the same for panchayats.

ANALYSIS: The Election Commission of India, acting under Article 324, has no role in local body elections at all, which is why Rajasthan civic polls of 9 and 11 September 2026 are conducted by the state body.

📝 **CONCEPT NOTE**

The 74th Constitutional Amendment Act, 1992 inserted Part IXA and the Twelfth Schedule, which lists 18 functions of urban local bodies. Article 243Q provides three categories: a Nagar Panchayat for a transitional area, a Municipal Council for a smaller urban area and a Municipal Corporation for a larger urban area.

Article 243U gives a municipality a term of five years from the date appointed for its first meeting and requires elections to be completed before that term expires, which is the provision courts invoke against states that delay local polls. Articles 243T and 243D reserve seats for Scheduled Castes and Scheduled Tribes in proportion to population and reserve not less than one-third of seats for women, while leaving backward class reservation to the state legislature.

Rajasthan polls cover 10,245 councillor seats across 309 urban local bodies, on a schedule released on 19 August 2026.

Q12 🎯 CONCEPT KIT

🔗 CROSS-PAPER	GS2 devolution of powers to local levels; GS2 constitutional bodies and elections.
✍️ MAINS KEYWORDS	74th Amendment, Twelfth Schedule, State Election Commission, triple test.
⚠️ COMMON MISTAKE	assuming the Election Commission of India supervises municipal polls, and confusing Article 243K for panchayats with 243ZA for municipalities.
📌 EXAM TIP	UPSC has repeatedly tested the Eleventh and Twelfth Schedules; the Eleventh has 29 subjects for panchayats and the Twelfth has 18 for municipalities.
🎤 INTERVIEW	Should delayed local body elections attract an automatic constitutional consequence rather than requiring litigation?

📰 Read Full Article →

Question 13 of 15 📰 Source →

A flash flood caused when an ice avalanche blocks a river channel and the impounded water is then suddenly released is most accurately classified as:

- **A** A glacial lake outburst flood, since the blockage is composed of ice
- **B** **A landslide-dammed or blockage-induced outburst flood, distinct from a glacial lake outburst flood ✓**
- **C** A cloudburst-induced flash flood
- **D** A seiche generated in a confined mountain valley

ANSWER & ANALYSIS

✅ EXPLANATION

FACT: A glacial lake outburst flood releases water impounded behind a moraine or ice dam that forms a standing glacial lake. A blockage-induced or landslide-dammed outburst releases water impounded behind debris or ice that has blocked a river channel.

The August 2026 Bhote Koshi event was attributed to an ice avalanche blocking the Lhende river, which is the second mechanism. ANALYSIS: The distinction governs the mitigation strategy: a GLOF is addressed by monitoring and lowering known glacial lakes, while a blockage-induced flood requires rapid detection of a newly formed dam, for which there may be only hours of warning.

📝 CONCEPT NOTE

The Himalaya are an active collisional belt where the Indian plate continues to converge with Eurasia, accommodated on the Main Central Thrust, Main Boundary Thrust and Main Frontal Thrust, which is why much of the belt falls in seismic zones IV and V. Mean temperature over the Hindu Kush Himalaya rose about 0.28 degrees Celsius per decade between 1951 and 2020, with amplified warming above four kilometres at roughly 0.34 degrees per decade, and sustained glacier retreat has increased both the number and volume of glacial lakes. ICIMOD, the International Centre for Integrated Mountain Development based at Kathmandu, warned in its Hindu Kush Himalaya Monsoon Outlook 2026 of a hotter, drier season with long dry spells and sudden cloudbursts.

India disaster architecture rests on the Disaster Management Act, 2005, with the National Disaster Management Authority chaired by the Prime Minister.

Q13 🎯 CONCEPT KIT

🔗 CROSS-PAPER	GS1 physical geography and geomorphic hazards; GS3 disaster management.
✍️ MAINS KEYWORDS	GLOF, moraine dam, cascading hazard, early warning, lead time.
⚠️ COMMON MISTAKE	calling every Himalayan flash flood a GLOF; the mechanisms and the mitigation strategies are different.
📌 EXAM TIP	pair this with the 2013 Kedarnath and 2021 Chamoli events, which involved different triggering mechanisms and are frequently contrasted.
🎤 INTERVIEW	With minutes rather than hours of lead time in a Himalayan valley, is early warning a technology problem or an institutional one?

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Question 14 of 15 📰 Source →

The Committee on the Elimination of Racial Discrimination, before which India appeared in August 2026, is best described as:

- A — A Charter body of the United Nations composed of member state representatives
- B — **A treaty body of independent experts whose concluding observations are recommendations ✓**
- C — A subsidiary organ of the Security Council with binding enforcement powers
- D — The body that conducts the Universal Periodic Review of all UN member states

ANSWER & ANALYSIS

✅ EXPLANATION

FACT: CERD is a treaty body of eighteen independent experts established under the International Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Racial Discrimination, adopted in 1965 and in force from 1969. Its concluding observations are recommendations and create no binding legal obligation.

ANALYSIS: That is precisely why India rejection of the 2026 observations as politically motivated costs nothing legally but forfeits the evidentiary record: engagement would have placed India own account of prosecutions and remedies before the same audience.

📝 CONCEPT NOTE

India ratified ICERD in 1968 and appeared before CERD on 11 and 12 August 2026, its first review since 2007, on its combined twelfth to twenty-first periodic reports submitted in 2023, with an inter-ministerial delegation led by Solicitor General Tushar Mehta. Article 1(1) of the Convention defines racial discrimination by reference to race, colour, descent, or national or ethnic origin.

The single contested word is descent: India has argued since the 2001 Durban conference that caste is social stratification rather than descent within the Convention meaning, while the committee General Recommendation of 2002 held that descent includes caste and analogous systems of inherited status. The Universal Periodic Review is a separate mechanism conducted by the Human Rights Council, an inter-governmental body of member states, not by a treaty body of experts.

Q14 🎯 CONCEPT KIT

🔗 CROSS-PAPER	GS2 international institutions and treaties; GS2 mechanisms for protection of vulnerable sections.
✍️ MAINS KEYWORDS	treaty body, concluding observations, descent, Universal Periodic Review, Global South.
⚠️ COMMON MISTAKE	conflating CERD with the Human Rights Council, or treating concluding observations as binding.
📌 EXAM TIP	learn the distinction between Charter bodies such as the Human Rights Council and treaty bodies such as CERD, CEDAW and the Human Rights Committee.
🎤 INTERVIEW	If India is legally right that the Convention does not reach caste, does blanket rejection still serve India interest better than a reasoned rebuttal on the record?

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Question 15 of 15

📰 Source →

Which statement correctly distinguishes the minimum selling price of sugar from the Minimum Support Price of foodgrains?

A. Both are procurement prices at which a government agency buys from producers

B. Both are ceilings above which the commodity may not be sold in the open market

C. The sugar minimum selling price is a procurement price, while the MSP of foodgrains is a selling floor

D. **The sugar minimum selling price is a floor below which mills may not sell, while the MSP of foodgrains is a procurement price paid to farmers ✓**

ANSWER & ANALYSIS

✅ **EXPLANATION**

FACT: The minimum selling price of sugar is a floor below which mills are not permitted to sell, fixed at Rs 31 per kg since February 2019. The Minimum Support Price for foodgrains is a procurement price at which government agencies buy from farmers.

ANALYSIS: The two share an abbreviation and run in opposite directions: one restrains a seller, the other guarantees a producer. Writing that the government procures sugar at MSP is a factual error and a common one.

📝 **CONCEPT NOTE**

The frozen sugar selling floor is the structural fact behind the 2026 ethanol argument. The Fair and Remunerative Price for cane has risen to Rs 355 per quintal for 2025-26 while the sugar minimum selling price has not moved since February 2019, against an industry-estimated production cost near Rs 40 per kg, and ISMA has sought about Rs 41.66.

Ethanol procurement prices are administered separately and have moved. Writing in the Indian Express, Ashok Gulati and Tanmoy Adhikari of ICRIER argued that the August 2026 sugar spike exposes structural faults in the ethanol programme and recommended cutting the refined sugar import duty from 100 per cent to between 0 and 5 per cent temporarily.

The government, ISMA and the distillers association reply that ethanol share of the crop actually fell while gross output collapsed for weather and pest reasons. Both are correct, because they answer different questions: the criticism is about the loss of buffer, not about causation.

Q15 🎯 CONCEPT KIT

🔗 CROSS-PAPER	GS3 agricultural pricing; GS3 biofuels and energy policy.
✍️ MAINS KEYWORDS	administered price spread, buffer stock, food versus fuel, policy latency.
⚠️ COMMON MISTAKE	treating the two MSPs as the same instrument because the abbreviation is shared.
📌 EXAM TIP	the Essential Commodities Act, 1955 is the statutory basis for stock limits on sugar; pair it with the Sugarcane (Control) Order, 1966 for the FRP.
🎤 INTERVIEW	Should a blending mandate be suspended automatically in a year when the crop falls below a defined threshold?

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“The beautiful thing about learning is that no one can take it away from you.”

— B.B. King