

# Current Affairs MCQs

## February 2026

Comprehensive Practice Set for UPSC · SSC · Banking · Railways · State PCS

200

QUESTIONS

300

MINUTES

February 2026

UPSC · SSC · Banking · Railways · State PCS

v1.0

### Instructions

- Each question carries **4 options** — only **one is correct**.
- Correct answers are highlighted in **green ✓** with detailed explanations.
- A **Detailed Answer Key** is provided at the end for quick revision.
- Recommended time: **300 minutes** for all 200 questions.

TOTAL ATTEMPTED

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CORRECT

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INCORRECT

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SCORE %

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Questions 1 – 20

1

Which police force was awarded the President's Colour in April 2026?

A Maharashtra Police

B Odisha Police

C Kerala Police

D Punjab Police

✓ Ans: B

**Explanation:** The President's Colour is the highest honour bestowed on a military or police unit, signifying exceptional service to the nation over a sustained period. Odisha Police received it in recognition of its performance in maintaining law and order, combating Naxalism, and disaster response during cyclones along Odisha's coast.

2

Who was appointed Vice Chief of the Indian Army (VCOAS) effective April 1 2026?

A Lt Gen Manoj Pande

B Lt Gen Dhiraj Seth

C Lt Gen Upendra Dwivedi

D Lt Gen Anil Chauhan

✓ Ans: B

**Explanation:** The VCOAS is the second-highest position in the Indian Army, assisting the COAS in all operational and administrative matters. Lt Gen Dhiraj Seth took charge on April 1 2026. The VCOAS also acts as officiating Army Chief during the COAS's absence.

3

Which Indian author won the National Book Critics Circle Award 2025 for Autobiography?

A Jhumpa Lahiri

B Kiran Desai

C Arundhati Roy

D Anita Desai

✓ Ans: C

**Explanation:** The National Book Critics Circle Award is one of the most prestigious US literary prizes. Arundhati Roy won in the Autobiography category. She is best known for 'The God of Small Things' (1997) which won the Booker Prize, making her the first Indian woman to win it. She is also a prominent political activist.

4

Who was named the new CEO of IndiGo (InterGlobe Aviation) in 2026?

A Alan Joyce

B Willie Walsh

C Tim Clark

D Ronojoy Dutta

✓ Ans: B

**Explanation:** Willie Walsh is a veteran aviation executive, former CEO of Aer Lingus and British Airways, and later Director General of IATA. His appointment as CEO of IndiGo — India's largest airline with over 60% domestic market share — signals its ambitions to professionalise global operations and accelerate international route expansion.

5

India leads globally in issuing IRCCs under which international protocol?

A Kyoto Protocol

B Paris Agreement

C Nagoya Protocol

D Montreal Protocol

✓ Ans: C

**Explanation:** The Nagoya Protocol (2010) governs fair Access and Benefit Sharing (ABS) of genetic resources under the Convention on Biological Diversity. IRCCs certify that genetic resources were accessed legally. India leads globally in their issuance, reflecting proactive compliance and its status as one of 17 mega-diverse countries.

6

On which river bank is Amaravati — the sole capital of Andhra Pradesh — located?

A Godavari

B Krishna

C Tungabhadra

D Mahanadi

✓ Ans: B

**Explanation:** Amaravati is a planned greenfield capital city on the southern bank of the Krishna river in Guntur district, Andhra Pradesh. After years of political dispute between TDP's Amaravati plan and YSRCP's three-capital proposal, the Supreme Court and subsequent political changes confirmed Amaravati as AP's sole capital in 2026.

7

Which organisation received the survey vessel 'Sanshodhak' in April 2026?

A Indian Army

B Indian Navy

C Indian Air Force

D Coast Guard

✓ Ans: B

**Explanation:** INS Sanshodhak is a hydrographic survey vessel added to the Indian Navy. Hydrographic survey ships map the ocean floor, measure water depth, tidal patterns and seabed composition — data essential for safe navigation, submarine warfare planning and understanding India's Exclusive Economic Zone spanning 2.37 million sq km.

8

North India's first Glass Bridge is being constructed in which Punjab city?

A Pathankot

B Nangal

C Amritsar

D Ludhiana

✓ Ans: B

**Explanation:** Nangal in Punjab will host North India's first Glass Bridge — a transparent structure suspended at height over a gorge or river. Such bridges were popularised in China and attract adventure tourists. Nangal is near the Bhakra Nangal Dam, making it a strategic tourism development point for Punjab's heritage circuit.

9

**Amaravati is being developed as AP's capital — on which historic site was the ancient Amaravati Stupa built?**

A Banks of Godavari

**B Banks of Krishna**

C Coastal Andhra

D Rayalaseema plateau

✓ Ans: B

**Explanation:** The ancient Amaravati Stupa — one of Buddhism's most important monuments — was also located on the banks of the Krishna river, making Amaravati a site of both historic and contemporary significance. The stupa dates to the 3rd century BCE during the Mauryan period and represents the Great Vehicle school of Buddhism.

10

**India's Nagoya Protocol leadership — the Convention on Biological Diversity was signed at which summit?**

A Kyoto 1997

B Stockholm 1972

**C Rio Earth Summit 1992**

D Johannesburg 2002

✓ Ans: C

**Explanation:** The Convention on Biological Diversity (CBD) was one of three Rio Conventions signed at the Earth Summit (UNCED) in Rio de Janeiro in June 1992 — alongside UNFCCC (climate) and UNCCD (desertification). The Nagoya Protocol (2010) is a supplementary agreement under CBD specifically governing fair benefit-sharing from genetic resources.

11

Who became the first woman assigned to NASA's Artemis II crewed lunar mission?

**A** Christina Koch

**B** Sunita Williams

**C** Kalpana Chawla

**D** Jessica Meir

✓ Ans: A

**Explanation:** Artemis II is the first crewed mission of NASA's Artemis programme — flying astronauts around the Moon without landing, the first humans near the Moon since Apollo 17 in 1972. Christina Koch, who holds the record for the longest spaceflight by a woman (328 days on ISS), was selected as mission specialist.

12

Who was elected as Mongolia's new Prime Minister in March 2026?

**A** Zandanshatar Gombojav

**B** Luvsannamsrai Oyun-Erdene

**C** Uchral Nyam-Osor

**D** Khurelsukh Ukhnaa

✓ Ans: C

**Explanation:** Uchral Nyam-Osor was elected Prime Minister of Mongolia in March 2026. Mongolia is a landlocked Central Asian nation sandwiched between Russia and China, making it strategically significant for India's Connect Central Asia policy. India and Mongolia have a Strategic Partnership since 2015 and share Buddhist cultural ties.

13

Which Indian city was included in the UN's '20 Cities Towards Zero Waste' initiative in 2026?

A Mysuru

B Indore

C Varkala

D Surat

✓ Ans: C

**Explanation:** Varkala, a coastal town in Kerala known for its cliff beaches and natural mineral water springs, was selected in this UN Environment Programme initiative. Unlike mega-cities, smaller Varkala's selection shows that community-led waste management, source segregation and local governance can achieve global recognition.

14

What is India's global rank in renewable energy installed capacity as per IRENA 2026?

A 1st

B 2nd

C 3rd

D 4th

✓ Ans: C

**Explanation:** IRENA ranked India 3rd globally in total installed renewable energy capacity in 2026, behind China (1st) and the USA (2nd). India's installed RE capacity has crossed 200 GW, driven primarily by solar and wind. India aims to reach 500 GW of non-fossil fuel capacity by 2030 as part of Paris Agreement commitments.

15

Which country ranks 1st globally in total installed renewable energy capacity as per IRENA 2026?

A USA

B Germany

C China

D Japan

✓ Ans: C

**Explanation:** China leads the world in total installed renewable energy capacity by a massive margin, accounting for over 1500 GW as of 2026. The USA ranks 2nd and India 3rd. China's dominance in renewable manufacturing (solar panels, wind turbines, batteries) also gives it significant supply chain leverage over other nations' clean energy transitions.

16

International Mine Awareness Day is observed on which date every year?

A 2-Apr

B 3-Apr

C 4-Apr

D 5-Apr

✓ Ans: C

**Explanation:** The UN designated April 4 as International Mine Awareness Day in 2005. Landmines and unexploded ordnance kill and maim thousands of civilians annually, even decades after conflicts end. The day raises awareness about the Ottawa Treaty (Mine Ban Treaty, 1997) and the global effort to clear mines and assist survivors.

17

Which anniversary of NATO was marked on April 4 2026?

A 50th

B 75th

C 77th

D 80th

✓ Ans: C

**Explanation:** NATO (North Atlantic Treaty Organization) was established through the Washington Treaty signed on April 4 1949, making April 4 2026 its 77th anniversary. Originally 12 founding members, NATO now has 32 members after Finland and Sweden joined. Article 5, the collective defence clause, remains central to global security architecture.

18

Which were the two newest nations to join NATO, completing its expansion to 32 members?

A Ukraine and Georgia

B Montenegro and Macedonia

C Sweden and Finland

D Serbia and Bosnia

✓ Ans: C

**Explanation:** Finland joined NATO in April 2023 and Sweden in March 2024, bringing membership to 32. Both had maintained military neutrality for decades — Sweden for over 200 years. Russia's invasion of Ukraine in February 2022 fundamentally changed their security calculus, leading to near-simultaneous NATO membership applications.

19

National Maritime Day on April 5 commemorates which historic voyage?

A First naval battle of independent India

B SS Loyalty's 1919 voyage across the Indian Ocean

C Launch of INS Vikrant

D Signing of UNCLOS

✓ Ans: B

**Explanation:** National Maritime Day marks the voyage of SS Loyalty on April 5 1919 — the first time an Indian-owned steamship sailed across the Indian Ocean under the Indian flag, operated by the Scindia Steam Navigation Company. The day highlights India's maritime heritage and the role of seafarers in global trade.

20

INS Aridhaman (India's third SSBN) was commissioned alongside which new stealth frigate?

A INS Arihant

B INS Arighat

C INS Taragiri

D INS Nilgiri

✓ Ans: C

**Explanation:** SSBNs (nuclear-powered ballistic missile submarines) form the sea-based leg of India's nuclear triad. INS Aridhaman, the third SSBN after INS Arihant and Arighat, was commissioned alongside INS Taragiri (Project 17A frigate) in a dual ceremony — boosting both nuclear deterrence and conventional naval combat capability simultaneously.



Questions 21 – 40

21

Min Aung Hlaing was elected President of Myanmar in April 2026 — what event had he led in February 2021?

A A democratic election

**B A military coup**

C A peace treaty signing

D A constitutional referendum

✓ Ans: B

**Explanation:** Min Aung Hlaing led the February 1 2021 military coup in Myanmar that overthrew the democratically elected government of Aung San Suu Kyi. His election as President in April 2026 through a military-controlled process drew widespread international condemnation. Myanmar shares a 1643 km border with India, making its stability critical for India's Northeast security.

22

Who is Russia's First Deputy Prime Minister who visited India in April 2026?

A Sergey Lavrov

B Dmitry Medvedev

**C Denis Manturov**

D Mikhail Mishustin

✓ Ans: C

**Explanation:** Denis Manturov, Russia's First Deputy Prime Minister and former Industry and Trade Minister, visited India in April 2026. His visit focused on India-Russia bilateral trade, which has surged since 2022 due to discounted Russian oil purchases, and on diversifying cooperation into technology, defence and manufacturing.

23

Which Indian squash player won the ASF Men's Player of the Year 2025?

A Saurav Ghosal

B Abhay Singh

C Ramit Tandon

D Mahesh Mangaonkar

✓ Ans: B

**Explanation:** Abhay Singh won the Asian Squash Federation Men's Player of the Year 2025. He is the younger brother of squash star Saurav Ghosal and has been consistently ranked among Asia's top players. This reflects the growing depth of Indian squash, which has traditionally been dominated by players from Egypt, Pakistan and Malaysia.

24

Who authored the book 'Tides of Time: Bharat's History through Murals in Parliament'?

A Shashi Tharoor

B Amish Tripathi

C Sudha Murty

D Chetan Bhagat

✓ Ans: C

**Explanation:** Sudha Murty — author, philanthropist and Rajya Sabha MP — authored this book documenting the historical narrative in the murals of the Indian Parliament. The murals in Parliament's Central Hall depict India's civilisational journey from ancient times to independence. The book was released by VP C.P. Radhakrishnan in April 2026.

25

PM-KUSUM scheme supporting solar energy for farmers was extended till which date?

A Dec-25

B Mar-26

C Mar-27

D Mar-28

✓ Ans: C

**Explanation:** PM-KUSUM (Pradhan Mantri Kisan Urja Suraksha evam Uttham Mahabhiyan) was extended till March 2027. The scheme has three components: standalone solar pumps, solarisation of grid-connected pumps, and solar power plants on barren land. It reduces diesel dependence in agriculture and gives farmers additional income through surplus solar power sales.

26

INS Taragiri is the 4th ship of which naval project commissioned on April 3 2026?

A Project 15B

B Project 17

C Project 17A

D Project 75

✓ Ans: C

**Explanation:** Project 17A is India's stealth guided-missile frigate programme, an advanced successor to the Shivalik class. INS Taragiri is the 4th of seven P17A frigates being built by MDL and GRSE. These frigates have over 75% indigenous content, advanced radar-absorbent features, MF-STAR multi-function radar and vertical launch systems.

27

What new capability does deemed university status give NCERT?

A Power to set exam fees

B Power to award degrees

C Power to regulate state boards

D Power to hire IAS officers

✓ Ans: B

**Explanation:** Deemed university status allows NCERT to award its own degrees, conduct research programmes and expand beyond curriculum development and textbook publication. This positions NCERT to directly offer teacher education degrees aligned with the National Education Policy 2020's emphasis on transforming teacher training in India.

28

Who received the Prof. M.S. Swaminathan Award 2024-25 for climate-resilient agriculture?

A Dr. R.S. Paroda

B Dr. M.S. Swaminathan

C Dr. C. Srinivas Rao

D Dr. S.K. Singh

✓ Ans: C

**Explanation:** Dr. Ch. Srinivasa Rao, Director of ICAR-IARI (Indian Agricultural Research Institute), received the award. ICAR-IARI developed the semi-dwarf wheat varieties central to India's Green Revolution. The award recognises scientists advancing food security through applied agricultural research — the legacy of Prof. M.S. Swaminathan himself.

29

Which country topped the global list for highest number of athletes suspended for doping in 2026?

A China

B Kenya

C Russia

D India

✓ Ans: D

**Explanation:** India topped the WADA-affiliated doping suspension list — a concerning milestone. While this partly reflects increased testing coverage (more athletes tested means more detections), it also signals the need for robust anti-doping education at the grassroots level. India's NADA has been working to strengthen testing protocols across more sports.

30

The International Day of Sport for Development and Peace on April 6 commemorates which event from 1896?

A First Olympics closing ceremony

B First modern Olympics opening in Athens

C Founding of the IOC

D First FIFA match

✓ Ans: B

**Explanation:** April 6 1896 was the opening day of the first modern Olympic Games in Athens, Greece — organised by Pierre de Coubertin. The UN designated this date as the International Day of Sport for Development and Peace in 2013, recognising sport as a tool for fostering peace, tolerance and cross-cultural understanding.

31

National Maritime Day is observed on April 5 — India's EEZ covers approximately how much area?

A 1 million sq km

B 2.37 million sq km

C 3.5 million sq km

D 4.2 million sq km

✓ Ans: B

**Explanation:** India's Exclusive Economic Zone (EEZ) spans approximately 2.37 million sq km — the 18th largest in the world. Within the EEZ, India has sovereign rights over natural resources including fish, oil, gas and minerals. India's blue economy, maritime security and the IOS SAGAR mission are all connected to the strategic imperative of protecting and developing this vast maritime space.

32

India's defence exports reached ₹38424 crore in FY 2025-26 — what is India's defence export target?

A ₹40000 crore by 2027

B ₹50000 crore by 2029

C ₹60000 crore by 2030

D ₹25000 crore by 2025

✓ Ans: B

**Explanation:** India's defence export target is ₹50000 crore (~\$6 billion) by 2029. The ₹38424 crore in FY26 is a massive leap from ₹686 crore in 2013-14 — a 56x growth. Key export items include BrahMos missile, Dhruv helicopter, Pinaka rocket systems. India now exports to 85+ countries, driven by the Positive Indigenisation List policy.

33

Who became the first fast bowler to take 200 IPL wickets?

A Jasprit Bumrah

B Mohammed Shami

C Bhuvneshwar Kumar

D Umesh Yadav

✓ Ans: C

**Explanation:** Bhuvneshwar Kumar became the first pacer to claim 200 IPL wickets in April 2026. A master of swing bowling known for taking wickets in Powerplay overs, his milestone was previously considered near-impossible for pace bowlers who are more expensive than spinners in T20 cricket.

34

Who is the all-time highest wicket-taker in IPL history as of April 2026?

A Dwayne Bravo

B Piyush Chawla

C Yuzvendra Chahal

D Amit Mishra

✓ Ans: C

**Explanation:** Yuzvendra Chahal is the IPL's all-time leading wicket-taker with over 200 wickets. The leg-spinner deceives batters with googlies and variations. While Bhuvneshwar became the first pacer to 200 wickets, Chahal's record is in total wickets across the entire IPL history.

35

INS Sunayna deployed under IOS SAGAR is classified as which type of naval vessel?

A Aircraft Carrier

B Destroyer

C Offshore Patrol Vessel

D Submarine

✓ Ans: C

**Explanation:** Offshore Patrol Vessels (OPVs) are the workhorse of maritime patrol — conducting surveillance over India's EEZ, anti-piracy operations, search and rescue and HADR. Under IOS SAGAR, OPVs like INS Sunayna visit island nations to deliver supplies, medical aid and conduct joint exercises, projecting India as a regional security provider.

36

India's painting 'Yashoda and Krishna' sold for ₹167 crore — why is Raja Ravi Varma historically significant?

A First Indian to win Olympic medal

B First to use oil on canvas for Indian mythological subjects

C First Indian architect

D First Indian scientist

✓ Ans: B

**Explanation:** Raja Ravi Varma (1848-1906) was the first Indian artist to successfully blend European academic realism with Indian mythological subjects on oil canvas. His oleograph prints of gods and goddesses became so widespread that they fundamentally shaped how Indians visually imagine their deities — making him one of India's most culturally influential artists.

37

World Health Day is observed on April 7 — in which year was the WHO founded?

A 1945

B 1946

C 1948

D 1950

✓ Ans: C

**Explanation:** The World Health Organization was established on April 7 1948 — the date now observed annually as World Health Day. WHO is a specialised UN agency headquartered in Geneva, Switzerland, with 194 member states. Each year it selects a specific global health theme to drive awareness and policy action.

38

INS Sunayna's IOS SAGAR visit in April 2026 aimed to strengthen India's ties with which country?

A Sri Lanka

B Bangladesh

C Maldives

D Indonesia

✓ Ans: C

**Explanation:** INS Sunayna visited Maldives as part of the IOS SAGAR mission. Maldives is strategically located astride key shipping lanes in the Indian Ocean. India's Neighbourhood First policy and SAGAR doctrine position India as a reliable security and humanitarian partner for Indian Ocean island nations.

39

Dr. Menaka Guruswamy is known for which landmark Supreme Court case that she argued?

A Sabarimala judgment

B Aadhaar judgment

C Section 377 judgment

D Triple Talaq judgment

✓ Ans: C

**Explanation:** Dr. Menaka Guruswamy was lead counsel in the 2018 Supreme Court judgment decriminalising homosexuality by striking down Section 377 of the Indian Penal Code. Her oral argument — 'We are not less' — is credited with shifting the court's position. Her election as India's first openly LGBTQ+ Rajya Sabha MP from West Bengal is a historic milestone.

40

As per Skytrax 2026 which Indian airport was ranked best in India?

A Kempegowda International  
Bengaluru

B RGIA Hyderabad

C IGI Airport Delhi

D CSMIA Mumbai

✓ Ans: C

**Explanation:** Indira Gandhi International (IGI) Airport Delhi was ranked the best in India at the Skytrax World Airport Awards 2026. Skytrax ratings are based on passenger surveys covering check-in, immigration, security, boarding and staff service. IGI handles over 70 million passengers annually, making it one of South Asia's busiest airports.



Questions 41 – 60

41

The Blackbuck reintroduction at Barnawapara Wildlife Sanctuary — in which state is this sanctuary located?

A Odisha

B Madhya Pradesh

C Chhattisgarh

D Maharashtra

✓ Ans: C

**Explanation:** Barnawapara Wildlife Sanctuary is in Mahasamund district of Chhattisgarh. The Blackbuck (*Antelope cervicapra*) can reach speeds of 80-120 km/h, making it India's fastest land animal. It is listed under Schedule I of the Wildlife Protection Act 1972 and is the state animal of Punjab, Haryana and Andhra Pradesh.

42

'School Chalen Hum' campaign was launched by which state for the 2026-27 academic year?

A Rajasthan

B Madhya Pradesh

C Gujarat

D Uttar Pradesh

✓ Ans: B

**Explanation:** Madhya Pradesh launched 'School Chalen Hum' to boost student enrolment at the start of the new academic year. The campaign mobilises teachers, community leaders and panchayats to identify and enrol out-of-school children. India passed the Right to Education Act in 2009 guaranteeing free compulsory education to children aged 6-14.

43

**Kargil District Court Complex inaugurated by CJI Surya Kant — why is this significant for Ladakh?**

A First court in Ladakh ever

**B First district court in Kargil since Ladakh became a UT**

C First High Court in Ladakh

D First e-court in India

✓ Ans: B

**Explanation:** Since Ladakh became a Union Territory in August 2019, building formal judicial infrastructure has been a priority. The Kargil District Court Complex gives residents of remote Kargil direct access to formal courts without travelling to Leh or Jammu — addressing a long-standing access-to-justice gap for this strategically important border region.

44

**What does the 'One Health' concept mean — as discussed at the Lyon summit?**

A Unified global hospital network

**B Interconnection of human animal and environmental health**

C Single global health ministry

D Universal health insurance coverage

✓ Ans: B

**Explanation:** One Health recognises that the health of humans, animals and ecosystems is deeply interconnected. Most emerging infectious diseases — including COVID-19, Ebola and Nipah — originate in animals. By monitoring animal and environmental health simultaneously with human health, One Health aims to prevent pandemics before they reach human populations.

45

The Vikramaditya Vedic Clock uses which calendar system to display time?

A Gregorian calendar

B Julian calendar

C Vikram Samvat calendar

D Hijri calendar

✓ Ans: C

**Explanation:** The Vikramaditya Vedic Clock installed at Kashi Vishwanath Dham uses the ancient Vedic timekeeping system based on the Vikram Samvat calendar — approximately 57 years ahead of the Gregorian calendar (so 2026 CE = VS 2083). It displays Vedic time units like Ghati and Pala, reviving India's ancient scientific heritage alongside the Kashi Vishwanath Dham redevelopment.

46

India's PFBR at Kalpakkam is part of which stage of India's three-stage nuclear programme?

A First stage

B Second stage

C Third stage

D Fourth stage

✓ Ans: B

**Explanation:** India's three-stage nuclear programme: Stage 1 uses natural uranium in PHWRs; Stage 2 uses plutonium from Stage 1 in Fast Breeder Reactors (FBRs) like the PFBR at Kalpakkam; Stage 3 will use thorium — of which India has the world's 2nd largest reserves. The PFBR achieving criticality in 2026 is a major milestone for India's long-term energy independence.

47

To Lam elected President of Vietnam on April 7 2026 — Vietnam follows which political system?

A Multi-party democracy

B Military junta

C Constitutional monarchy

D One-party communist state

✓ Ans: D

**Explanation:** Vietnam is governed by the Communist Party of Vietnam (CPV) under a single-party system. Despite this political structure, Vietnam has one of Asia's fastest-growing economies. To Lam, previously Minister of Public Security, was elected President by the National Assembly. Vietnam is a key partner for India in the Indo-Pacific strategic framework.

48

Who became the first Indian athlete to reach World No. 5 in World Taekwondo Rankings?

A Karishma Yadav

B Anita Chaudhary

C Rupa Bayor

D Pooja Patel

✓ Ans: C

**Explanation:** Rupa Bayor became the first Indian to breach the World No. 5 ranking in World Taekwondo — a milestone in a sport dominated by South Korean, Iranian and Russian athletes. Taekwondo has been an Olympic sport since Sydney 2000. India's systematic investment in combat sports is paying off following successes in boxing and wrestling.

49

Which film won the Best Film award at the Chetak Screen Awards 2026?

A Pathaan

B Homebound

C Jawan

D Animal

✓ Ans: B

**Explanation:** Homebound won Best Film at the Chetak Screen Awards 2026, which celebrate excellence in Indian cinema. The Chetak Screen Awards are considered prestigious within the Indian film industry for recognising films across multiple categories of artistic and technical merit.

50

Pradhan Mantri Mudra Yojana completed 11 years in April 2026 — what is the maximum loan under its newest 'Tarun Plus' category?

A ₹10 lakh

B ₹15 lakh

C ₹20 lakh

D ₹25 lakh

✓ Ans: C

**Explanation:** PMMY was launched April 8 2015. It provides collateral-free loans under Shishu (up to ₹50,000), Kishore (up to ₹5 lakh) and Tarun (up to ₹10 lakh). The new 'Tarun Plus' category extending to ₹20 lakh was added for successful repeat borrowers needing scale-up capital. Over 52 crore loans worth ₹30 lakh crore have been sanctioned since inception.

51

Gurgaon's PM<sub>2.5</sub> of 116 µg/m<sup>3</sup> in March 2026 is approximately how many times the WHO guideline?

A 5 times

B 10 times

C 23 times

D 40 times

✓ Ans: C

**Explanation:** WHO recommends a PM<sub>2.5</sub> annual average of 5 µg/m<sup>3</sup>. Gurgaon's 116 µg/m<sup>3</sup> is approximately 23 times this limit — meaning residents were breathing severely hazardous air. CREA (Centre for Research on Energy and Clean Air — a Finland-based research organisation) identified this through satellite and ground-level monitoring data.

52

Iran closed the Strait of Hormuz in February 2026 — approximately how many million barrels of oil transit it daily?

A 5-7 million barrels

B 10-13 million barrels

C 17-20 million barrels

D 25-30 million barrels

✓ Ans: C

**Explanation:** The Strait of Hormuz is the world's most critical oil chokepoint — approximately 17-20 million barrels pass through it daily, representing about 20% of global oil consumption. The strait is only 33 km wide at its narrowest point. Iran's closure in February 2026 sent global oil prices soaring and triggered India's RELIEF scheme for exporters.

53

Russia and China vetoed a UN resolution to reopen which strategic waterway blocked by Iran?

A Suez Canal

B Strait of Malacca

C Strait of Hormuz

D Bab-el-Mandeb

✓ Ans: C

**Explanation:** Iran closed the Strait of Hormuz in February 2026 during the escalating West Asia conflict. Russia and China used their UNSC veto power to block a resolution seeking its reopening — a geopolitical alignment reflecting their shared interest in keeping the USA and its allies under economic pressure from high oil prices.

54

Exercise DUSTLIK 7th edition was held in Uzbekistan — what is the exercise's primary focus?

A Cyber warfare training

B Counter-terrorism in mountainous terrain

C Naval operations

D Space cooperation

✓ Ans: B

**Explanation:** Exercise DUSTLIK is a joint military exercise between India and Uzbekistan focusing on counter-terrorism in mountainous and semi-urban environments. It builds interoperability between the two armies in joint planning, weapon handling and tactical operations — relevant given both countries' proximity to Afghanistan and Central Asian security challenges.

55

Pradhan Mantri Mudra Yojana was launched on April 8 2015 — what does MUDRA stand for?

**A** Micro Units Development and Refinance Agency

**B** Multi-Use Development and Refinance Authority

**C** Micro Urban Development and Rural Administration

**D** Manufacturing Units Development and Regulatory Agency

✓ Ans: A

**Explanation:** MUDRA stands for Micro Units Development and Refinance Agency. MUDRA Bank was established as a subsidiary of SIDBI to regulate and refinance micro-finance institutions and small business lenders. The PMMY scheme operates through MUDRA and partner banks, providing collateral-free loans to the informal sector's micro-entrepreneurs.

56

The Konyak Aoleang Monyu festival of Nagaland is primarily associated with which activity?

**A** Fishing festival

**B** Spring agricultural sowing festival

**C** Harvest thanksgiving festival

**D** Winter solstice celebration

✓ Ans: B

**Explanation:** Aoleang Monyu is the spring festival of the Konyak tribe — the largest Naga tribe — celebrated in the first week of April to mark the beginning of the agricultural sowing season. The Konyaks, historically known as headhunters, inhabit the Mon district of Nagaland bordering Myanmar. The festival includes traditional songs, dances and elaborate headgear.

57

RBI's Utkarsh 2029 strategy covers 2026-29 — what was the predecessor strategy called?

A Utkarsh 2020

B Utkarsh 2022

C Utkarsh 2025

D Utkarsh 2027

✓ Ans: C

**Explanation:** RBI's 'Utkarsh 2025' was its medium-term strategy for 2022-25. 'Utkarsh' means progress or excellence in Sanskrit. Utkarsh 2029 (2026-29) builds on this foundation with priorities including UPI internationalisation, strengthening payment systems, enhancing supervisory frameworks and positioning India as a global financial hub aligned with Viksit Bharat 2047.

58

RBI proposed a 1-hour delay on UPI payments above ₹10000 to first-time payees — what fraud type does this primarily target?

A Account hacking

B Social engineering fraud

C Credit card skimming

D Phishing websites

✓ Ans: B

**Explanation:** Social engineering fraud involves manipulating victims into voluntarily transferring money — through impersonation of officials, fake job offers or investment scams. The 1-hour cooling period gives victims time to recognise the deception. Unlike account hacking, social engineering fraud is harder to reverse since the victim themselves initiates the payment.

59

The World Bank raised India's FY27 GDP growth forecast to 6.6% — what global risk was cited as the primary threat?

A COVID-19 resurgence

B West Asia conflict and oil price spike

C US Fed rate hikes

D China economic slowdown

✓ Ans: B

**Explanation:** The World Bank's April 2026 India growth report flagged the West Asia conflict and the Strait of Hormuz closure as the primary external risk. Disrupted oil supply would push energy prices higher, widen India's current account deficit and revive inflationary pressures — potentially keeping RBI rates higher for longer despite an easing bias.

60

National Safe Motherhood Day on April 11 marks the birth anniversary of which personality?

A Mother Teresa

B Kasturba Gandhi

C Sarojini Naidu

D Anne Besant

✓ Ans: B

**Explanation:** National Safe Motherhood Day is observed on April 11 to mark the birth anniversary of Kasturba Gandhi, wife of Mahatma Gandhi. The day highlights the need for adequate healthcare during pregnancy and childbirth. India's Maternal Mortality Ratio has dropped from 254 per lakh live births (2004-06) to approximately 97 (2018-20) — but regional disparities remain significant.



Questions 61 – 80

61

Bank of Baroda launched 'bob SAMVAD' — what specific problem does this AI platform solve?

A Online fraud detection

**B Language barrier in banking access**

C Loan approval delays

D ATM network failures

✓ Ans: B

**Explanation:** bob SAMVAD addresses linguistic exclusion in banking — millions of Indians, particularly in rural areas, cannot fully access banking services because interactions are often conducted only in English or Hindi. The AI-powered multilingual platform enables conversations in regional languages at bank branches, directly improving financial inclusion for non-English, non-Hindi speaking populations.

62

India's patent filings of 1.43 lakh in FY26 — what share came from domestic Indian innovators?

A 49%

B 59%

**C 69%**

D 79%

✓ Ans: C

**Explanation:** 69% of India's 1.43 lakh patent applications in FY 2025-26 were filed by domestic innovators — a significant shift from years when foreign companies dominated Indian filings. Tamil Nadu, Karnataka and Maharashtra lead domestically. This 'Invented in India' trend reflects the impact of Startup India, IIT research commercialisation and reduced patent fee structures for MSMEs.

63

India ranks 6th globally in patent filings — which body publishes these global patent statistics?

A WTO

B UNCTAD

C WIPO

D UNESCO

✓ Ans: C

**Explanation:** The World Intellectual Property Organization (WIPO) publishes the annual World Intellectual Property Indicators report tracking global patent, trademark and design filings by country. WIPO also administers the Patent Cooperation Treaty (PCT) allowing inventors to file a single international patent application valid in 157 countries.

64

Jallianwala Bagh Massacre on April 13 1919 — which law passed days earlier triggered the protests?

A Sedition Act 1870

B Rowlatt Act 1919

C Vernacular Press Act

D Arms Act 1878

✓ Ans: B

**Explanation:** The Rowlatt Act (March 1919) gave the British colonial government powers to arrest and detain Indians without trial. This draconian law directly triggered protests that led to the Jallianwala Bagh gathering on Baisakhi. Brigadier-General Reginald Dyer ordered troops to fire on the peaceful crowd without warning — killing 379 officially and wounding over 1200.

65

**Exercise DUSTLIK — Uzbekistan is the most populous country in which region?**

A South Asia

**B Central Asia**

C Eastern Europe

D Middle East

✓ Ans: B

**Explanation:** Uzbekistan, with about 36 million people, is the most populous country in Central Asia — comprising Kazakhstan, Kyrgyzstan, Tajikistan, Turkmenistan and Uzbekistan. India's growing Central Asian engagement, including DUSTLIK, is driven by its Connect Central Asia policy and the region's importance as a corridor to Russia, Iran and Europe.

66

**The World Bank approved \$340 million for Amaravati — it was proposed as AP's capital following which event?**

A Merger of Hyderabad with Maharashtra

**B Formation of Telangana and bifurcation of AP in 2014**

C Loss of AP in 2019 elections

D Creation of new AP districts

✓ Ans: B

**Explanation:** Amaravati was proposed after AP's bifurcation in June 2014, when Hyderabad was made the capital of the newly-formed Telangana state, leaving AP without a capital. The greenfield capital on the Krishna riverbank — chosen by TDP's N. Chandrababu Naidu — became politically contested but was confirmed as AP's sole capital by 2026.

67

Dr. B.R. Ambedkar was born on April 14 1891 in Mhow — what is Mhow officially renamed?

**A** Dr. Ambedkar Nagar

**B** Bhimrao Nagar

**C** Ramji Nagar

**D** Babasaheb Nagar

✓ Ans: A

**Explanation:** Mhow in Madhya Pradesh (Military Headquarters of War) has been renamed 'Dr. Ambedkar Nagar' honouring its most celebrated son. Dr. Ambedkar earned doctorates from Columbia University and the London School of Economics. He chaired the Drafting Committee of India's Constitution and founded the Republican Party of India.

68

The Khalsa Panth was founded by Guru Gobind Singh in 1699 at which sacred place?

**A** Amritsar

**B** Anandpur Sahib

**C** Patna Sahib

**D** Nanded

✓ Ans: B

**Explanation:** The Khalsa Panth was founded at Anandpur Sahib (Punjab) on Baisakhi April 13 1699. The 'Panj Pyare' (Five Beloved Ones) — the first five volunteers who offered their heads — were initiated. Anandpur Sahib is home to Takht Sri Keshgarh Sahib, one of Sikhism's five Takhts (seats of temporal authority).

69

IMD predicted 92% of Long Period Average for the 2026 monsoon — what LPA percentage is 'Normal'?

A 90-95%

B 96-104%

C 100-110%

D 88-96%

✓ Ans: B

**Explanation:** IMD classifies the monsoon as 'Normal' at 96-104% of the Long Period Average (50-year average of ~87 cm). At 92%, the 2026 monsoon was predicted 'Below Normal', raising concerns for Kharif crops, reservoir levels and rural incomes in rain-dependent agricultural states.

70

Susan Coyle was appointed Australia's first female Army Chief — what warship deal did Australia and Japan sign simultaneously?

A Kongo-class destroyers

B Mogami-class frigates

C Oyashio-class submarines

D Izumo-class carriers

✓ Ans: B

**Explanation:** Australia and Japan signed a \$7 billion deal for Mogami-class multi-role frigates — one of Japan's first major defence exports, enabled by Japan's revised arms export policy. This reflects deepening Quad security cooperation in the Indo-Pacific and Japan's strategic shift to become a more active regional security partner.

71

Startup India Fund of Funds 2.0 has a corpus of ₹10000 crore — how does a Fund of Funds work?

A It funds startups directly

B It provides bank loans to startups

C It invests in AIFs that then fund startups

D It gives government grants to startups

✓ Ans: C

**Explanation:** A Fund of Funds invests in SEBI-registered Alternative Investment Funds (AIFs) — venture capital and private equity funds — which then invest in individual startups. This structure leverages professional fund managers' expertise, multiplies the government's investment through private co-investment and reduces risk through diversification across many funds and sectors.

72

World Quantum Day on April 14 — the date represents which fundamental constant of quantum mechanics?

A Speed of light

B Planck's constant ( $4.14 \times 10^{-15}$  eV·s)

C Avogadro's number

D Boltzmann constant

✓ Ans: B

**Explanation:** World Quantum Day is on April 14 because the date 4/14 represents the approximate value of Planck's constant ( $4.14 \times 10^{-15}$  electron-volt seconds) — the fundamental constant of quantum mechanics defining the scale at which quantum effects become significant. India inaugurated its first Quantum Test Reference Facility in Amaravati on this day in 2026.

73

Samrat Choudhary became Bihar's first BJP CM — Bihar was previously governed by whom for over 20 years?

A RJD under Lalu Prasad

B JD(U) under Nitish Kumar

C Congress under Jagannath Mishra

D BJP under Sushil Modi

✓ Ans: B

**Explanation:** Nitish Kumar of JD(U) was Bihar's longest-serving CM, holding the post for over 20 years across multiple terms since 2005. His resignation in April 2026 citing health ended an era. Bihar — India's 3rd most populous state and historically the seat of Magadha Empire and Mauryan dynasty — now has its first standalone BJP Chief Minister.

74

The 131st Amendment Bill needed a special majority — what does Article 368 special majority require?

A Simple majority in both Houses

B Two-thirds of members present and voting plus majority of total membership

C Three-fourths of all members

D Unanimous vote

✓ Ans: B

**Explanation:** Article 368 requires a constitutional amendment to pass with a majority of the total membership of each House AND two-thirds of members present and voting. With 528 members present in Lok Sabha, the bill needed minimum 352 votes. It secured only 298 (230 against), failing by 54 votes — one of Parliament's most significant recent defeats.

75

India's retail CPI inflation in March 2026 was 3.4% — which component carries highest weight in India's CPI basket?

A Manufacturing prices

B Food and beverages

C Fuel and light

D Housing costs

✓ Ans: B

**Explanation:** Food and beverages carry approximately 46% weight in India's CPI basket — the highest of any category. This is why even small movements in vegetable and pulse prices disproportionately affect India's headline inflation compared to developed economies where food has 15-20% CPI weight. This makes India's inflation harder to control purely through interest rate policy.

76

e-SafeHER trains rural women as 'Cyber Sakhis' — which ministry launched this programme?

A Ministry of Rural Development

B Ministry of Women and Child Development

C Ministry of Electronics and IT

D Ministry of Home Affairs

✓ Ans: C

**Explanation:** e-SafeHER (Cyber Security Awareness Training Programme) was launched by MeitY. The Sakhi model deploys trained women as community-level change agents who then spread awareness among peers — effective in conservative rural settings where women trust information from other women. MeitY aims to train 10 lakh Cyber Sakhis to reduce digital fraud vulnerability.

77

**Nari Shakti Vandan Adhiniyam in force from April 16 2026 — why is implementation delayed until around 2034?**

**A** Requires Presidential assent

**B** Requires state ratification

**C** Linked to delimitation after the next Census

**D** Requires referendum

✓ Ans: C

**Explanation:** The 106th Constitutional Amendment mandates women's reservation takes effect only after delimitation following the next Census. Since India's Census is scheduled for 2027, delimitation will likely complete around 2028-30, making the 33% reservation applicable from the 2034 elections. The defeated 131st Amendment Bill tried to bypass this by using the 2011 Census instead.

78

**World Heritage Day (April 18) was established by which organisation before being ratified by UNESCO?**

**A** UNESCO directly

**B** ICOMOS

**C** UN General Assembly

**D** World Monuments Fund

✓ Ans: B

**Explanation:** World Heritage Day was first proposed by ICOMOS (International Council on Monuments and Sites) in 1982 and formally adopted by UNESCO's General Conference in 1983. ICOMOS is also the official advisory body to UNESCO for the World Heritage Convention (1972) — evaluating nominations for inscription on the World Heritage List.

79

India's first petroglyph conservation park was established at Sindhu Ghat in Leh — what are petroglyphs?

A Ancient astronomical instruments

**B Rock carvings made by prehistoric people**

C Ancient irrigation canals

D Burial monuments

✓ Ans: B

**Explanation:** Petroglyphs are images created by pecking, carving or abrading rock surfaces — one of humanity's earliest art forms. Ladakh has nearly 400 known petroglyph sites with carvings dating back 10,000 years, depicting animals, hunting scenes and geometric patterns. They are threatened by road construction, tourism pressure and low public awareness.

80

AIGEG — India's apex AI governance body — is chaired by which minister?

A Prime Minister

B Finance Minister

**C Minister of Electronics & IT**

D Minister of Science & Technology

✓ Ans: C

**Explanation:** AIGEG (AI Governance and Economic Group) is chaired by the Minister of Electronics & IT and supported by TPEC (Technology and Policy Expert Committee). It follows a whole-of-government approach, ensuring alignment across ministries on ethical AI deployment — positioned to regulate AI before it becomes ungovernable across India's diverse sectors.



Questions 81 – 100

81

The 131st Amendment Bill failed by 54 votes — it secured 298 but needed how many minimum?

A 312

B 326

C 352

D 370

✓ Ans: C

**Explanation:** With 528 members present in Lok Sabha, the two-thirds threshold (special majority) required a minimum of 352 votes. The bill secured 298 (with 230 against). The opposition — led by Congress, INDIA alliance and southern parties concerned about seat redistribution disadvantaging South India — voted collectively against it.

82

Following the 131st Amendment defeat, the government also withdrew which dependent bill?

A Women's Reservation Bill

B Delimitation Bill 2026

C OBC Reservation Bill

D Uniform Civil Code Bill

✓ Ans: B

**Explanation:** After the 131st Amendment Bill's defeat, the government withdrew both the Delimitation Bill 2026 and the UT Laws (Amendment) Bill 2026 — since both were dependent on the constitutional amendment passing first. Without changing Article 82 and 334A, the standalone Delimitation Bill had no operative constitutional basis.

83

World Hemophilia Day on April 17 marks the birthday of which person?

A Dr. Christiaan Barnard

B Frank Schnabel

C Paul Ehrlich

D Linus Pauling

✓ Ans: B

**Explanation:** World Hemophilia Day marks the birthday of Frank Schnabel, founder of the World Federation of Hemophilia (WFH). Hemophilia is a genetic disorder where blood does not clot properly due to deficiency of clotting Factors VIII (Hemophilia A) or IX (Hemophilia B). India has one of the world's largest populations of people with hemophilia, most cases undiagnosed.

84

India and China held SCO bilateral consultations on April 16-17 2026 — which border area was the 2020 Galwan clash site?

A LOC in Kashmir

B LAC in Ladakh

C Doklam in Sikkim

D Arunachal border

✓ Ans: B

**Explanation:** The Galwan Valley clash of June 2020 occurred in Ladakh along the Line of Actual Control (LAC). 20 Indian soldiers were killed in hand-to-hand combat. The crisis led to a years-long military standoff and the eventual October 2024 disengagement agreement. The April 2026 SCO bilateral consultations represent a step in the carefully managed post-Galwan normalisation process.

85

DA is calculated based on which index for central government employees?

A WPI

B GDP Deflator

C AICPI-IW

D CPI-Rural

✓ Ans: C

**Explanation:** Dearness Allowance (DA) is calculated based on the All India Consumer Price Index for Industrial Workers (AICPI-IW), published monthly by the Labour Bureau. The formula uses the average AICPI-IW for the preceding 12 months. DA is revised twice yearly — effective January 1 and July 1 — compensating employees for inflation's erosion of real wages.

86

Cabinet approved railway multitracking for UP and AP worth ₹24815 crore — what is the primary purpose of multitracking?

A Increasing speed for passengers only

B Adding extra tracks to increase capacity and reduce congestion

C Electrifying existing lines

D Installing digital signalling

✓ Ans: B

**Explanation:** India's core rail network operates at over 100% capacity on key routes — trains are delayed because the same track handles both passenger and freight traffic. Multitracking adds parallel tracks separating these flows, reducing delays, increasing freight throughput and allowing higher-speed passenger services on otherwise over-utilised corridors.

87

The Bharat Maritime Insurance Pool was created due to rising risks on which specific maritime route?

A Suez Canal

B Strait of Malacca

C Strait of Hormuz

D Cape of Good Hope

✓ Ans: C

**Explanation:** Iran's closure of the Strait of Hormuz in February 2026 made global maritime insurers unwilling to cover Indian-linked ships at affordable premiums. The BMI Pool with ₹12980 crore sovereign guarantee creates a domestic alternative, ensuring Indian ships get affordable coverage even when international markets fail — critical for India's energy security and trade continuity.

88

Austria's Chancellor Christian Stocker visited India in April 2026 — the first Austrian Chancellor visit in how many years?

A 20

B 30

C 42

D 50

✓ Ans: C

**Explanation:** Austrian Chancellor Christian Stocker's visit (April 14-17 2026) was the first by an Austrian Chancellor in 42 years. The visit operationalised a bilateral Fast-Track Mechanism (FTM) for investment facilitation and strengthened India-Austria economic ties within the broader India-EU strategic partnership framework.

89

VP Radhakrishnan's Sri Lanka visit was historic because it was what kind of first?

- A First visit by any Indian leader to Sri Lanka
- B First bilateral visit by an Indian VP to Sri Lanka
- C First visit after a 10-year gap
- D First visit under MAHASAGAR vision

✓ Ans: B

**Explanation:** VP C.P. Radhakrishnan's visit was the first-ever bilateral visit by an Indian Vice President to Sri Lanka — part of India's Neighbourhood First policy and MAHASAGAR vision. He met President Dissanayake, PM Amarasuriya and Tamil leaders, and virtually handed over houses built under India's Housing Project Phase 3.

90

During the Sri Lanka visit, Tamil leaders thanked India for a USD 450 million package sent after which disaster?

- A Tsunami
- B Earthquake
- C Cyclone Ditwah
- D Floods

✓ Ans: C

**Explanation:** India sent a USD 450 million rehabilitation and relief package to Sri Lanka after Cyclone Ditwah. VP Radhakrishnan met Tamil community leaders in Nuwara Eliya — the plantation Tamil heartland — reinforcing India's role as a first responder and strengthening people-to-people bonds that are central to the bilateral relationship.

91

South Korean President Lee Jae Myung visited India — what bilateral trade target was set for 2030?

A 35 billion USD

B 40 billion USD

C 50 billion USD

D 60 billion USD

✓ Ans: C

**Explanation:** India and South Korea set a \$50 billion bilateral trade target by 2030 during President Lee's state visit. Current bilateral trade stands at approximately \$27 billion. The visit focused on new cooperation in AI, defence manufacturing and shipbuilding — sectors where South Korean companies like Samsung, Hyundai and Hanwha have global leadership.

92

The 131st Amendment Bill aimed to fast-track women's reservation — what percentage of seats does Nari Shakti Vandan Adhiniyam provide?

A 25%

B 30%

C 33%

D 40%

✓ Ans: C

**Explanation:** The Nari Shakti Vandan Adhiniyam (Constitution 106th Amendment, 2023) provides 33% (one-third) reservation for women in Lok Sabha, State Legislative Assemblies and the Delhi Legislative Assembly, including within SC/ST reserved constituencies. The 131st Amendment Bill aimed to operationalise this by 2029 elections using the 2011 Census for delimitation.

93

Dinesh Trivedi appointed HC to Bangladesh replaces which diplomat who moves to EU?

A Harsh Shringla

B Vikram Misri

C Pranay Verma

D Taranjit Sandhu

✓ Ans: C

**Explanation:** Dinesh Trivedi replaced Pranay Verma who moved as India's Ambassador to the EU in Brussels. Trivedi — an ex-Railway Minister and ex-TMC MP who joined BJP — is a rare political appointee as High Commissioner. His Bengali roots and political experience are seen as strategic assets for rebuilding India-Bangladesh ties after deterioration under Muhammad Yunus's interim government.

94

India's patent filings hit 1.43 lakh — which state leads domestically in patent applications?

A Karnataka

B Maharashtra

C Tamil Nadu

D Gujarat

✓ Ans: C

**Explanation:** Tamil Nadu leads all Indian states in patent filings, followed by Karnataka and Maharashtra. Over 69% of India's total patent filings now come from domestic innovators — a significant shift reflecting the success of government initiatives like Startup India, reduced filing fees and IIT/IIM research commercialisation.

95

India's first 3D semiconductor packaging unit was inaugurated in April 2026 in which state?

A Gujarat

B Karnataka

C Odisha

D Tamil Nadu

✓ Ans: C

**Explanation:** The groundbreaking for India's first advanced 3D semiconductor packaging unit by 3D Glass Solutions Inc. was held at Info Valley, Bhubaneswar, Odisha. It is part of India's Semicon India programme which has approved 10 projects with ₹1.60 lakh crore in cumulative investments across 6 states.

96

The 3D semiconductor unit uses which advanced technology?

A Silicon chip fabrication

B Glass interposer and 3D Heterogeneous Integration modules

C Gallium nitride wafers

D Silicon carbide processing

✓ Ans: B

**Explanation:** The unit will use glass interposers with embedded passives and silicon bridges, plus 3D Heterogeneous Integration (3DHI) modules — the world's most advanced semiconductor packaging. This allows chips from different manufacturers to be stacked in three dimensions, dramatically improving performance and energy efficiency for AI, defence and automotive applications.

97

The Bharat Maritime Insurance Pool has a sovereign guarantee of how much?

A ₹8500 crore

B ₹10000 crore

C ₹12980 crore

D ₹15000 crore

✓ Ans: C

**Explanation:** The Cabinet approved the BMI Pool with a sovereign guarantee of ₹12980 crore. It covers Hull and Machinery, Cargo, Protection & Indemnity (P&I) and War risk. It reduces India's dependence on the International Group of P&I Clubs and foreign marine insurers, ensuring trade continuity during geopolitical disruptions.

98

PMGSY-III was extended to March 2028 with a revised outlay of how much?

A ₹60000 crore

B ₹70000 crore

C ₹83977 crore

D ₹100000 crore

✓ Ans: C

**Explanation:** Cabinet extended PMGSY-III till March 2028 with a revised outlay of ₹83977 crore (up from original ₹80250 crore). PMGSY aims to provide all-weather road connectivity to unconnected rural habitations. Phase III focuses on upgrading existing rural roads for quality improvement, not just new connectivity.

99

The Femina Miss India 2026 grand finale was held for the first time in which city?

A Mumbai

B Chennai

C Hyderabad

D Bhubaneswar

✓ Ans: D

**Explanation:** The 61st Femina Miss India grand finale was held at KIIT (Kalinga Institute of Industrial Technology) in Bhubaneswar — the first time the event was hosted outside Mumbai or Delhi. Odisha has been actively promoting itself as a major events destination, having previously hosted Hockey World Cup and other international events.

100

Who was crowned Femina Miss India World 2026 and which state did she represent?

A Rajnandini Pawar from Maharashtra

B Sadhvi Satish Sail from Goa

C Sree Advaita from J&K

D Nikita Porwal from MP

✓ Ans: B

**Explanation:** Sadhvi Satish Sail from Goa won Femina Miss India World 2026. She will represent India at the 75th Miss World pageant to be held in Vietnam in September 2026. She is the daughter of Karwar Congress MLA Satish Sail and has business interests in the construction sector alongside her public profile.



Questions 101 – 120

101

India has 75 PVTGs — which state has the highest number of PVTGs (13)?

A Jharkhand

B Chhattisgarh

C Odisha

D Andhra Pradesh

✓ Ans: C

**Explanation:** Odisha has 13 of India's 75 Particularly Vulnerable Tribal Groups — the highest of any state. PVTGs were identified by the Dhebar Commission (1960-61) and Lokur Committee (1965) as the most marginalised tribal communities with declining populations, pre-agricultural technology and extreme geographic isolation.

102

National Civil Services Day 2026 was the how-many-th edition and where was it held?

A 14th edition at Rashtrapati Bhavan

B 16th edition at Red Fort

C 18th edition at Vigyan Bhawan

D 20th edition at Parliament

✓ Ans: C

**Explanation:** The 18th Civil Services Day was held at Vigyan Bhawan, New Delhi, on April 21 2026 — first celebrated in 2006. VP C.P. Radhakrishnan was Chief Guest. The PM's Awards for Excellence in Public Administration 2025 were conferred, recognising districts and organisations for outstanding governance outcomes.

103

April 21 2026 marked the 500th anniversary of the First Battle of Panipat — who did Babur defeat?

A Sher Shah Suri

B Ibrahim Lodi

C Hemu

D Rana Sanga

✓ Ans: B

**Explanation:** The First Battle of Panipat (April 21 1526) saw Babur defeat Ibrahim Lodi — the last Sultan of the Lodi Sultanate of the Delhi Sultanate. Babur used the Tulughma flanking tactic with gunpowder artillery — which the Lodi army had never encountered. The battle ended the Delhi Sultanate and established the Mughal Empire.

104

India aims to expand nuclear power from 8.8 GW to 100 GW by 2047 — why is 2047 significant?

A 75th year of ISRO

B 100th year of Indian independence

C 50th year of Pokhran tests

D 25th year of IIT system

✓ Ans: B

**Explanation:** 2047 is the centenary of India's independence — the year by which India aims to become a 'Viksit Bharat' (Developed India). The 100 GW nuclear target is part of this vision. Achieving it requires adding over 91 GW in 21 years — currently enabled by Small Modular Reactors (SMRs) as a faster pathway alongside conventional plants.

105

ISRO's G20 Satellite will be in which type of orbit at 720 km altitude?

A Geostationary orbit

B Low Earth orbit

C Sun-Synchronous Polar orbit

D Medium Earth orbit

✓ Ans: C

**Explanation:** In a Sun-Synchronous Polar Orbit (SSO), the satellite always crosses the equator at the same local solar time — ensuring consistent lighting conditions for photography and environmental monitoring. SSO satellites pass over every point on Earth twice daily, making them ideal for tracking deforestation, pollution, glacial retreat and climate change continuously.

106

India and South Korea's bilateral trade stands at \$27 billion — what trade agreement has been in force between them since 2010?

A FTA

B RCEP

C CEPA

D SAFTA

✓ Ans: C

**Explanation:** The India-Korea Comprehensive Economic Partnership Agreement (CEPA) entered into force in January 2010 — India's first CEPA with an East Asian nation. An upgrade to CEPA was discussed during President Lee's 2026 visit to reduce tariff barriers further and include new sectors like semiconductors, EVs and digital trade.

107

India's forest carbon biomass could rise 97% by 2100 under high emissions — which two factors primarily drive this increase?

A Rising temperature and deforestation

B CO<sub>2</sub> fertilization and increased rainfall

C Reduced forest fires and afforestation

D Glacier melt and soil moisture

✓ Ans: B

**Explanation:** Higher CO<sub>2</sub> in the atmosphere accelerates photosynthesis (CO<sub>2</sub> fertilization effect), while increased rainfall in some models improves soil moisture — leading to greater tree growth, especially in arid zones like Rajasthan and Gujarat. Paradoxically, the most significant biomass gains are expected in currently arid regions, not traditional forest zones.

108

India holds the BRICS chairship for 2026 — what is India's BRICS 2026 theme?

A Better Governance Sustainable Future

B Building for Resilience Innovation Cooperation Sustainability

C Bridging the Global South

D Bold Reforms Innovation Climate Solutions

✓ Ans: B

**Explanation:** India's BRICS 2026 theme is 'Building for Resilience, Innovation, Cooperation and Sustainability.' The inaugural BRICS Academic Forum was held in New Delhi on April 17-18 2026 — a Track II policy-input event ahead of the BRICS summit that India will host as chair.

109

World Earth Day 2026 theme 'Our Power Our Planet' — what does 'Our Power' specifically refer to?

A Military power of nations

B Collective power as voters consumers and citizens to demand clean energy

C Nuclear energy power

D Hydroelectric power

✓ Ans: B

**Explanation:** 'Our Power Our Planet' uses 'power' with double meaning — both renewable energy and political-economic power. It calls on individuals as voters to elect climate-conscious leaders, as consumers to choose sustainable products, and as citizens to demand corporate accountability. The theme pushes for 100% renewable energy transition as the central climate solution.

110

Shekha Jheel designated as India's 99th Ramsar site is in which district of Uttar Pradesh?

A Agra

B Aligarh

C Mathura

D Lucknow

✓ Ans: B

**Explanation:** Shekha Jheel is located in Aligarh district, Uttar Pradesh. It is an important habitat along the Central Asian Flyway supporting migratory birds like Bar-headed Goose and Painted Stork. With this designation UP now has 12 Ramsar sites — the most of any Indian state.

111

The Ramsar Convention was signed in 1971 in Ramsar — in which country is the city of Ramsar located?

A Iraq

B Iran

C Turkey

D Jordan

✓ Ans: B

**Explanation:** Ramsar is a city on the southern shore of the Caspian Sea in northern Iran. The Convention on Wetlands of International Importance (Ramsar Convention) was signed there in 1971 and entered into force in 1975. It now has 172 contracting parties. India with 99 Ramsar sites has the most in Asia.

112

MHA received satellite imaging system 'Prajna' — what does its AI integration specifically enable?

A Faster hardware procurement

B Real-time threat detection and decision support from satellite data

C Communication with border troops

D Drone manufacturing

✓ Ans: B

**Explanation:** Prajna integrates satellite imagery with AI-based analytics, automatically detecting patterns and flagging anomalies in near real-time. For MHA this means border monitoring, tracking infiltration patterns, disaster response coordination and counter-terrorism operations can all be data-driven and faster than traditional human-analyst-dependent methods.

113

The Union Cabinet raised DA from 58% to 60% in April 2026 — the previous revision was from 55% to 58% in which period?

A Jan-25

B Jul-25

C Jan-26

D Apr-25

✓ Ans: B

**Explanation:** DA is revised twice yearly — effective January 1 and July 1. The previous revision took DA from 55% to 58% effective July 2025. The April 2026 revision raised it to 60% effective January 1 2026, meaning central employees received retrospective arrears for the January-March 2026 period. The annual cost of the hike is ₹6791.24 crore.

114

The RELIEF scheme was expanded in April 2026 to include which additional countries in its coverage?

A USA and UK

B Egypt and Jordan

C Russia and Kazakhstan

D China and Indonesia

✓ Ans: B

**Explanation:** RELIEF (Resilience & Logistics Intervention for Export Facilitation) was originally launched for West Asia routes. Expansion to Egypt and Jordan reflects the widening disruption zone beyond the Strait of Hormuz into the broader WANA corridor. The scheme — administered by ECGC — supports MSMEs facing elevated freight and insurance costs due to geopolitical disruptions.

115

Carlos Alcaraz won the Laureus World Sportsman of the Year 2026 at a ceremony held in which city?

A Paris

B London

C Madrid

D Barcelona

✓ Ans: C

**Explanation:** The Laureus World Sports Awards 2026 were held in Madrid, Spain — fittingly Alcaraz's home country. He was joined as winner by Aryna Sabalenka (Sportswoman), PSG (Team), Lando Norris (Breakthrough) and Rory McIlroy (Comeback). The ceremony was co-hosted by Novak Djokovic and Eileen Gu.

116

Who won the Laureus World Sportswoman of the Year 2026?

A Iga Swiatek

B Coco Gauff

C Aryna Sabalenka

D Faith Kipyegon

✓ Ans: C

**Explanation:** Aryna Sabalenka won Laureus Sportswoman of the Year 2026. The Belarusian World No. 1 tennis player defended her US Open title in 2025 and reached three Grand Slam finals that year. Her consistent dominance at the top of women's tennis earned her this recognition — the first Belarusian to win a Laureus World Sports Award.

117

Which club won the Laureus World Team of the Year 2026 after winning its first-ever UEFA Champions League?

A Real Madrid

B Manchester City

C Barcelona

D Paris Saint-Germain

✓ Ans: D

**Explanation:** PSG won the Laureus World Team of the Year 2026 after claiming its first-ever UEFA Champions League title in 2024-25 under coach Luis Enrique. The French club, owned by Qatar Sports Investments, had been runners-up in 2020 (lost to Bayern Munich). Their team-first philosophy after Mbappe's departure paid off with European glory.

118

Lando Norris won Laureus Breakthrough of the Year 2026 after winning which championship?

A WRC Rally Championship

B MotoGP World Championship

C Formula One World Drivers Championship

D Formula E Championship

✓ Ans: C

**Explanation:** Lando Norris won the 2025 F1 World Drivers' Championship with McLaren — ending a 17-year drought since Lewis Hamilton's 2008 title. The 25-year-old British driver narrowly beat Max Verstappen in a season-long battle, going from perennial runner-up to world champion in one of F1's most dramatic title fights.

119

A seaplane successfully completed trial landings at which Uttarakhand lake in April 2026?

A Naini Lake

B Bhimtal Lake

C Tehri Lake

D Deoria Tal

✓ Ans: C

**Explanation:** A 19-seater seaplane completed trial landings at Tehri Lake — formed by the Tehri Dam (260 m tall) on the Bhagirathi river, one of Asia's tallest dams generating 2400 MW. Seaplane connectivity would open the region to adventure tourism and provide faster access for remote Himalayan communities that currently rely only on road transport.

120

The Poshan Pakhwada 2026 theme — why is the first 6 years of life critical for brain development?

A Maximum bone growth occurs

B 90% of brain development occurs before age 5-6

C Maximum height gain occurs

D Motor skills fully develop by age 6

✓ Ans: B

**Explanation:** Neuroscience research shows 90% of brain development occurs before age 5-6 — making this the most critical window for cognitive, emotional and social development. Malnutrition during this period causes permanent cognitive deficits. Poshan Pakhwada 2026's focus reflects India's shift from treating malnutrition purely as a food security issue to a brain development and human capital priority.



Questions 121 – 140

121

On the 1st anniversary of the Pahalgam terror attack — what strategic shift occurred in J&K's counter-terrorism approach?

A Urban to rural deployment

B Reactive urban containment to proactive high-altitude terrain dominance

C Military to police-led operations

D Passive to active border fencing

✓ Ans: B

**Explanation:** The April 2025 Pahalgam attack, which targeted tourists for the first time at scale and killed 26, triggered a comprehensive security review. J&K shifted from reactive urban containment to proactive high-altitude terrain dominance — pushing security forces into mountain ridges to intercept infiltrators before they reach populated areas.

122

Rory McIlroy won Laureus Comeback of the Year 2026 — winning the Masters completed which milestone for him?

A First Major title

B Calendar Grand Slam

C Career Grand Slam

D Olympic gold and Major double

✓ Ans: C

**Explanation:** Rory McIlroy was defending his Masters title in 2026. His Career Grand Slam had been completed at the 2025 Masters and was one of golf's most celebrated achievements. McIlroy had won the other three Majors but Augusta eluded him for over a decade before his 2025 breakthrough.

123

India's Startup India initiative recognised over 55200 startups in FY 2025-26 — what was the YoY growth rate?

A 31.60%

B 41.60%

C 51.60%

D 61.60%

✓ Ans: C

**Explanation:** India recognised 55,200+ startups in FY 2025-26 under Startup India — a 51.6% YoY growth and the highest-ever in a single year. Cumulatively over 23 lakh startups have been recognised. Direct employment from Startup India-recognised startups rose 36.1% to 4.99 lakh. Maharashtra leads in recognised startups followed by Karnataka and UP.

124

India's Namu Drone Didi Yojana trains rural women as drone pilots for agriculture — which state topped training?

A Uttar Pradesh

B Andhra Pradesh

C Maharashtra

D Karnataka

✓ Ans: D

**Explanation:** Karnataka topped drone pilot training under Namu Drone Didi Yojana. The scheme trains rural women — particularly SHG (Self Help Group) members — as drone pilots to support agricultural spraying, crop monitoring and precision farming. Drones reduce manual labour costs and improve agricultural productivity.

125

India sent 1000 MT rice to Burkina Faso — which African region is Burkina Faso located in?

A East Africa

B West Africa

C Central Africa

D Southern Africa

✓ Ans: B

**Explanation:** Burkina Faso is a landlocked country in West Africa's Sahel region, facing severe food insecurity from climate change-induced drought and armed conflict. India's rice aid reflects growing engagement with Africa under the India-Africa Forum Summit framework and 'South-South' humanitarian cooperation.

126

India topped athlete doping suspensions in 2026 — which is India's National Anti-Doping Agency?

A CAS

B WADA

C NADA

D IOC

✓ Ans: C

**Explanation:** NADA (National Anti-Doping Agency) is India's anti-doping body, affiliated with WADA (World Anti-Doping Agency) headquartered in Montreal. India's high suspension numbers reflect both expanded testing coverage (more athletes tested) and the need for stronger anti-doping education. NADA has been working to strengthen testing protocols across more sports.

127

India's defence exports grew from ₹686 crore in 2013-14 to ₹38424 crore in FY26 — what is the approximate growth multiple?

A 10x

B 30x

C 56x

D 100x

✓ Ans: C

**Explanation:** India's defence exports grew approximately 56 times in 12 years — driven by the Positive Indigenisation List, Defence Industrial Corridors in UP and Tamil Nadu, higher FDI limits in defence and the Strategic Partnership Model. Key exports include BrahMos missiles (Philippines), Dhruv helicopters and Pinaka rocket systems.

128

'School Chalen Hum' type campaigns address which critical education metric?

A Teacher-student ratio

B Out-of-school children numbers

C Gross Enrolment Ratio

D Annual dropout rates

✓ Ans: B

**Explanation:** While India has made remarkable progress in elementary enrolment since the Right to Education Act (2009), several states still have children outside the school system — particularly girls, tribal children and migrant children. Campaigns like 'School Chalen Hum' mobilise teachers and panchayats to identify and enrol out-of-school children at the academic year's start.

129

**India's PFBR at Kalpakkam is built by BHAVINI — what does BHAVINI stand for?**

**A** Bharatiya Heavy Engineering and Nuclear Industry

**B** Bharatiya Vidyut and Nuclear Institution

**C** Bharatiya Nabhikiya Vidyut Nigam Limited

**D** Bharat Advanced Nuclear Industry

✓ Ans: C

**Explanation:** BHAVINI (Bharatiya Nabhikiya Vidyut Nigam Limited) is a Government of India enterprise under the Department of Atomic Energy, established specifically to construct and operate Fast Breeder Reactors. The PFBR at Kalpakkam was originally expected to achieve criticality in 2010 but faced multiple delays before its 2026 milestone.

130

**CREA that identified Gurgaon as India's most polluted city — where is CREA headquartered?**

**A** India

**B** USA

**C** Finland

**D** UK

✓ Ans: C

**Explanation:** CREA (Centre for Research on Energy and Clean Air) is a Finland-based independent research organisation focused on science-based clean energy transition and air quality analysis. It publishes influential reports on global air pollution and coal phase-out. Though Finland-based, CREA conducts extensive research on India due to India's critical role in global climate metrics.

131

**RBI's UPI delay proposal — UPI is built on which technical payment infrastructure?****A** SWIFT messaging**B** Immediate Payment Service (IMPS)**C** National Electronic Fund Transfer**D** Real-time Gross Settlement

✓ Ans: B

**Explanation:** UPI (Unified Payments Interface) was built on IMPS (Immediate Payment Service) infrastructure developed by NPCI (National Payments Corporation of India). NPCI launched UPI in April 2016. Unlike IMPS requiring account and IFSC details, UPI uses Virtual Payment Addresses (name@bank). UPI now processes over 15 billion transactions monthly — the world's largest real-time payment system.

132

**India's Startup India — which city hosts the highest concentration of recognised startups?****A** Delhi**B** Bengaluru**C** Mumbai**D** Chennai

✓ Ans: B

**Explanation:** Bengaluru (Silicon Valley of India) hosts the largest concentration of DPIIT-recognised startups, followed by Delhi-NCR and Mumbai. Maharashtra leads at the state level. Bengaluru's startup ecosystem is driven by IT companies, IISc, IIM-B, access to venture capital and decades of technology sector culture.

133

The Khalsa Panth was founded at Anandpur Sahib — who were the 'Panj Pyare'?

A The five Sikh Gurus

**B The first five volunteers who offered their heads to Guru Gobind Singh**

C The five sacred texts of Sikhism

D The five founders of the Golden Temple

✓ Ans: B

**Explanation:** The Panj Pyare (Five Beloved Ones) were the first five volunteers who offered their heads to Guru Gobind Singh at the Khalsa's founding. They represent courage, selflessness and devotion. In Sikh tradition they hold special religious authority — performing initiation ceremonies (Amrit Sanchar) and guiding the community on matters of faith.

134

Dr. Ambedkar's doctoral thesis at Columbia University was about which subject?

A Indian independence movement

**B National dividend of India**

C Caste discrimination

D Political history of Maharashtra

✓ Ans: B

**Explanation:** Dr. Ambedkar's Columbia University doctoral thesis (supervised by Prof. Edwin Seligman) was titled 'National Dividend of India: A Historical and Analytical Study' — a rigorous economic analysis of British India's fiscal policies. Later revised and published as 'The Evolution of Provincial Finance in British India', it demonstrated his academic brilliance before his political and social activism.

135

**Bihar is India's most populous state ranked how?**

A 1st

B 2nd

C 3rd

D 4th

✓ Ans: C

**Explanation:** Bihar is India's 3rd most populous state with approximately 13 crore people, after Uttar Pradesh (1st, 22+ crore) and Maharashtra (2nd). Bihar has India's highest population density among large states and historically low per capita income — making its governance and development critical for India's overall human development goals.

136

**India's only 'mixed' UNESCO World Heritage Site is which?**

A Sundarbans

B Western Ghats

C Khangchendzonga National Park  
Sikkim

D Kaziranga National Park

✓ Ans: C

**Explanation:** Khangchendzonga National Park in Sikkim is India's only 'mixed' UNESCO World Heritage Site — inscribed in 2016 for both natural values (biodiversity, Mt. Khangchendzonga — world's 3rd highest peak) and cultural significance (sacred landscape in Sikkimese Buddhist traditions). India has 44 total UNESCO WHSites — 36 cultural, 7 natural, 1 mixed.

137

The Indian Constitution has been amended over how many times since 1950?

A Over 50

B Over 75

C Over 100

D Over 150

✓ Ans: C

**Explanation:** As of 2026, the Indian Constitution has been amended over 105 times — making it among the world's most frequently amended constitutions. It was designed as a 'living document'. Major amendments include the 42nd (1976, 'Mini Constitution'), 44th (1978, reversing Emergency provisions) and 73rd/74th (1992, Panchayati Raj institutions).

138

India's DA revision formula — how frequently is DA revised?

A Monthly

B Quarterly

C Twice a year

D Once a year

✓ Ans: C

**Explanation:** Dearness Allowance is revised twice annually — effective January 1 (announced around March-April) and July 1 (announced around September-October). Each revision is based on the 12-month average AICPI-IW. The 7th Pay Commission formula determines the exact DA percentage. Pensioners receive a corresponding Dearness Relief (DR).

139

India and South Korea have CEPA since 2010 — South Korea leads globally in which sector directly relevant to India's industrial ambitions?

A Textiles and agriculture

B Semiconductors shipbuilding and electric vehicles

C Oil refining

D Diamonds and jewellery

✓ Ans: B

**Explanation:** South Korea leads globally in semiconductors (Samsung, SK Hynix), shipbuilding (Hyundai Heavy Industries), steel (POSCO) and EVs (Hyundai, Kia). These are directly relevant to India's semiconductor programme, naval shipbuilding ambitions and EV transition — making India-South Korea partnership strategically important beyond trade volumes.

140

The River Basin Management Scheme 2026-31 with ₹2183 crore falls under which ministry?

A Ministry of Agriculture

B Ministry of Environment

C Ministry of Jal Shakti

D Ministry of Power

✓ Ans: C

**Explanation:** The River Basin Management Scheme operates under the Ministry of Jal Shakti (formed in 2019 by merging Water Resources and Drinking Water ministries). It treats each river basin as an integrated hydrological unit — managing tributaries, groundwater, floodplains and wetlands together, critical for India's long-term water security.



Questions 141 – 160

141

**Femina Miss India World 2026 Sadhvi Satish Sail will represent India at the 75th Miss World — where will this be held?**

A Thailand

B Philippines

C Vietnam

D Indonesia

✓ Ans: C

**Explanation:** The 75th Miss World pageant will be held in Vietnam with its grand finale on September 5 2026. Vietnam is the first Southeast Asian country to host Miss World, reflecting Asia's growing prominence in the global pageant industry. Sadhvi Satish Sail from Goa won the 61st Femina Miss India World title at KIIT University Bhubaneswar.

142

**Babur documented his campaigns including Panipat in which autobiography?**

A Tuzuk-i-Timuri

B Baburnama

C Ain-i-Akbari

D Humayunnama

✓ Ans: B

**Explanation:** The Baburnama (also Tuzuk-i-Baburi) is Babur's personal memoir written in Chagatai Turkic — one of the earliest autobiographies in Islamic literature. It provides vivid first-hand accounts of the First Battle of Panipat, Babur's tactical use of artillery and his observations on Indian flora, fauna, culture and governance.

143

The First Battle of Panipat was fought near Panipat — which modern state is Panipat in?

A Punjab

B Haryana

C Uttar Pradesh

D Delhi

✓ Ans: B

**Explanation:** Panipat is in Haryana, approximately 90 km north of Delhi on the Yamuna river banks. Three historic battles were fought here: 1st (1526) Babur vs Ibrahim Lodi; 2nd (1556) Akbar's forces vs Hemu; 3rd (1761) Ahmad Shah Durrani vs Marathas — a decisive defeat that weakened Maratha power across northern India.

144

Civil Services Day — PM's Awards for Excellence in Public Administration include a prize of how much?

A ₹5 lakh

B ₹10 lakh

C ₹20 lakh

D ₹50 lakh

✓ Ans: C

**Explanation:** The PM's Award for Excellence in Public Administration includes a trophy, a scroll and ₹20 lakh cash for public welfare initiatives by districts, organisations and individual civil servants. Districts are evaluated on citizen-centric outcomes: health indicators, education enrolment and economic development. The 18th edition was held at Vigyan Bhawan on April 21 2026.

145

Sardar Patel described civil services as the 'steel frame' of India at which venue in 1947?

A Vigyan Bhawan Delhi

B Rashtrapati Bhawan

C Metcalfe House Delhi

D Red Fort Delhi

✓ Ans: C

**Explanation:** Sardar Vallabhbhai Patel addressed the first batch of IAS probationers at Metcalfe House in Delhi on April 21 1947 — calling civil services the 'steel frame of India', emphasising their role in maintaining administrative continuity and national unity during the turbulent transfer of power from British rule.

146

Earth Day was founded in 1970 — who is credited with founding it?

A Al Gore

B Gaylord Nelson

C Rachel Carson

D Wangari Maathai

✓ Ans: B

**Explanation:** Earth Day was founded by US Senator Gaylord Nelson, inspired by the 1969 Santa Barbara oil spill. The first Earth Day on April 22 1970 mobilised 20 million Americans and led to creation of the US Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) and landmark legislation including the Clean Air Act and Clean Water Act.

147

India's 99th Ramsar site designation — India has the most Ramsar sites in Asia. Which was India's first Ramsar site designated in 1990?

A Chilika Lake Odisha

B Loktak Lake Manipur

C Wular Lake J&K

D Keoladeo Ghana NP Rajasthan

✓ Ans: C

**Explanation:** Wular Lake in Jammu & Kashmir was India's first Ramsar site, designated in 1990. Wular Lake is one of Asia's largest freshwater lakes. India's Ramsar site count grew from 27 in 2019 to 99 by April 2026 — reflecting a dramatically accelerated wetland conservation effort under the current administration.

148

The RELIEF scheme is administered by ECGC — what does ECGC stand for?

A Export Credit Guarantee Corporation

B Export Commerce and Growth Corporation

C External Credit and Guarantee Committee

D Export Capital Governance Council

✓ Ans: A

**Explanation:** ECGC (Export Credit Guarantee Corporation of India) provides credit risk insurance and guarantees to exporters and banks. The RELIEF scheme launched under the Export Promotion Mission uses ECGC's infrastructure to provide insurance and reimbursement support to MSMEs facing abnormally high freight and war-risk insurance costs on West Asia trade routes.

149

The 4th India-Africa Forum Summit is planned for May 2026 — how many African Union member states are there?

A 45

B 55

C 65

D 75

✓ Ans: B

**Explanation:** The African Union (AU) has 55 member states covering the entire African continent. The AU was established in 2002 succeeding the Organisation of African Unity. India engages Africa collectively through the IAFS-AU platform. The 4th IAFS (2026) — first in over a decade since the 3rd in 2015 — aims to shift India-Africa ties from aid to investment partnership.

150

The Laureus Awards 2026 — Romanian gymnast Nadia Comaneci received the Lifetime Achievement Award for scoring the first-ever what in 1976 Olympics?

A Gold medal for Romania

B Perfect 10 in gymnastics history

C Backflip on balance beam

D Grand Slam in gymnastics

✓ Ans: B

**Explanation:** Nadia Comaneci scored the first-ever perfect 10 in Olympic gymnastics history at the 1976 Montreal Olympics at age 14. The scoreboard displayed 1.00 (having only three digits, not designed for 10.0). She earned seven perfect 10s at those Games and won three gold medals. Simone Biles introduced her at the 2026 Laureus ceremony.

151

Carlos Alcaraz won Laureus Sportsman 2026 — he became the 4th tennis player to win. Who won it most times?

A Rafael Nadal

B Roger Federer and Novak Djokovic tied

C Novak Djokovic

D Roger Federer

✓ Ans: B

**Explanation:** Both Roger Federer and Novak Djokovic have won the Laureus World Sportsman of the Year award five times each — the most by any athlete. Federer won in 2005, 2006, 2007, 2008 and 2018. Djokovic won in 2012, 2015, 2016, 2019 and 2024. Rafael Nadal won it twice. Carlos Alcaraz is now the fourth tennis player to win.

152

Tehri Dam generating 2400 MW is on which river?

A Ganga

B Bhagirathi

C Yamuna

D Alaknanda

✓ Ans: B

**Explanation:** The Tehri Dam is built on the Bhagirathi river — a major headstream of the Ganga — in Uttarakhand. At 260 m, it is among Asia's tallest dams. The Tehri Hydro Development Corporation (THDC) operates it. Tehri Lake (42 sq km) formed behind it supplies drinking water to Delhi and irrigation water to UP and Uttarakhand.

153

The Pahalgam attack's first anniversary — Pahalgam is located in which district of J&K?

A Baramulla

B Kupwara

C Anantnag

D Pulwama

✓ Ans: C

**Explanation:** Pahalgam is in Anantnag district of Jammu & Kashmir — a scenic valley town on the Lidder river and the base camp for the Amarnath Yatra pilgrimage. The April 2025 attack killed 26 tourists — the deadliest civilian attack in Kashmir in years. On the first anniversary, a memorial was inaugurated and the strategic security review was made public.

154

Poshan Pakhwada 2026 was its 8th edition — the POSHAN Mission was launched in which year?

A 2017

B 2018

C 2019

D 2020

✓ Ans: B

**Explanation:** POSHAN Mission (PM's Overarching Scheme for Holistic Nutrition) was launched in March 2018. It uses technology and Jan Andolan (people's movement) to reduce stunting, undernutrition, anaemia and low birth weight. The annual Poshan Pakhwada (April) and Poshan Maah (September) drive mass nutrition awareness campaigns across India.

155

India's National Quantum Mission approved in 2023 has a budget of how much over 8 years?

A ₹2000 crore

B ₹6003 crore

C ₹10000 crore

D ₹15000 crore

✓ Ans: B

**Explanation:** India's National Quantum Mission (NQM) was approved in April 2023 with a budget of ₹6003 crore over 8 years (2023-2031). It aims to develop quantum computers (50-1000 physical qubits), quantum communication, sensing and materials. The Quantum Test Reference Facility inaugurated in Amaravati in April 2026 is part of NQM's infrastructure.

156

Semicon India has approved 10 projects — what is the total cumulative investment?

A ₹60000 crore

B ₹1.60 lakh crore

C ₹2.50 lakh crore

D ₹80000 crore

✓ Ans: B

**Explanation:** With four new approvals in April 2026 (including the Odisha 3D unit), total approved Semicon India projects reached 10 with cumulative investments of approximately ₹1.60 lakh crore. Semcon India is modelled on the US CHIPS Act and EU Chips Act to reduce dependence on Taiwan and China for semiconductor supply chains.

157

**MAHASAGAR — under what earlier doctrine was SAGAR (Security and Growth for All in the Region) first articulated?**

- A** PM Modi's 2015 visit to Mauritius
- B** PM Modi's 2014 visit to Bhutan
- C** PM Modi's 2016 visit to Maldives
- D** PM Singh's 2008 IAFS speech

✓ Ans: A

**Explanation:** PM Narendra Modi first articulated the SAGAR doctrine during his visit to Mauritius in March 2015 — establishing India's vision for the Indian Ocean region. MAHASAGAR (2025) builds on SAGAR, positioning India as the primary security provider and development partner for Indian Ocean island nations under its Neighbourhood First policy.

158

**The Union Cabinet is constitutionally established under which Article of the Indian Constitution?**

- A** Article 52
- B** Article 74
- C** Article 78
- D** Article 356

✓ Ans: B

**Explanation:** Article 74 of the Constitution establishes the Council of Ministers headed by the PM to aid and advise the President. The Cabinet — a smaller subset of the Council of Ministers — takes major policy and legislative decisions. Article 75 prescribes the appointment and accountability of ministers. India follows the Westminster model of Cabinet government.

159

**Nari Shakti Vandan Adhiniyam amended which articles of the Constitution?****A** Articles 330 and 332**B** Articles 15 and 16**C** Articles 330 332 334 and 239AA**D** Articles 370 and 35A

✓ Ans: C

**Explanation:** The 106th Constitutional Amendment amended Articles 330 (SC/ST reservation in Lok Sabha), 332 (similar for state assemblies), 334 (reservation expiry provisions) and Article 239AA (Delhi) — adding new Articles 330A, 332A. It provides 33% reservation for women, including within SC/ST quota seats, linked to post-Census delimitation.

160

**The e-SafeHER Cyber Sakhi model — what does 'Sakhi' mean and why is this model effective in rural areas?****A** Male government agent for women**B** Female community change agent trusted by peer women**C** A mobile banking unit**D** A government digital kiosk

✓ Ans: B

**Explanation:** 'Sakhi' means female friend or companion in Hindi. The Sakhi model — used across Banking Sakhis and Digital Sakhis — works because rural women trust information from female peers from their own community rather than external officials. This peer-to-peer trust is especially effective in conservative settings where women may not interact freely with male government agents.

**Questions 161 – 180**

161

World Quantum Day 2026 — what is quantum computing's key advantage over classical computing?

A It uses larger processors

B It can solve certain problems exponentially faster using quantum superposition

C It never makes errors

D It operates at room temperature

✓ Ans: B

**Explanation:** Classical computers use bits (0 or 1). Quantum computers use qubits which can exist in superposition — simultaneously 0 and 1 — exponentially expanding computational power. This enables quantum computers to solve specific problems: cryptography, drug discovery, financial modelling and optimisation problems that would take classical computers millions of years.

162

Exercise DUSTLIK — India's Northern Command is headquartered in which city?

A Shimla

B Udampur

C Chandigarh

D Leh

✓ Ans: B

**Explanation:** India's Northern Command, headquartered in Udampur, Jammu & Kashmir, is responsible for northern borders including J&K and Ladakh. Given Uzbekistan's mountainous terrain and the shared counter-terrorism focus relevant to Central Asia and Afghanistan, Northern Command troops with high-altitude warfare expertise are the primary participants in Exercise DUSTLIK.

163

Bank of Baroda's bob SAMVAD addresses linguistic exclusion — India's Constitution recognises how many scheduled languages?

A 14

B 18

C 22

D 28

✓ Ans: C

**Explanation:** The Eighth Schedule of the Constitution originally listed 14 languages in 1950. Through successive amendments (21st, 71st, 92nd Acts) the list grew to 22 scheduled languages as of 2003 — including Bodo, Dogri, Maithili and Santali. Recognising India's linguistic diversity in banking through AI multilingual platforms directly addresses financial exclusion of non-Hindi, non-English speakers.

164

National Safe Motherhood Day — India's SDG target for Maternal Mortality Ratio by 2030?

A Below 100 per lakh

B Below 70 per lakh

C Below 50 per lakh

D Below 30 per lakh

✓ Ans: B

**Explanation:** The SDG target (Goal 3.1) is to reduce global MMR to less than 70 per 100,000 live births by 2030. India's MMR dropped from 254 (2004-06) to approximately 97 (2018-20). Anaemia, haemorrhage, hypertension and sepsis remain leading causes of maternal death. Regional disparities between states like Kerala (19) and Assam (195) remain significant.

165

MUDRA stands for Micro Units Development and Refinance Agency — it functions under which parent institution?

A RBI

B NABARD

C SIDBI

D SEBI

✓ Ans: C

**Explanation:** MUDRA (Micro Units Development and Refinance Agency) functions as a subsidiary of SIDBI (Small Industries Development Bank of India). SIDBI is the apex financial institution for promotion and development of MSMEs in India. MUDRA provides refinancing to banks, MFIs and NBFCs that in turn lend to micro-enterprises under the PMMY scheme.

166

India's wind power addition of 6.05 GW in FY26 — what is India's total installed wind power capacity approximately?

A 50 GW

B 75 GW

C 100 GW

D 120 GW

✓ Ans: B

**Explanation:** India's total installed wind capacity reached approximately 75 GW by April 2026 — the world's 4th largest after China, USA and Germany. Tamil Nadu, Gujarat, Rajasthan and Maharashtra are leading wind states. India aims to reach 140 GW of wind by 2030, requiring offshore wind development in the Bay of Bengal and Arabian Sea in addition to onshore expansion.

167

**One Health Summit in Lyon — which disease best exemplifies why One Health matters?**

A Malaria

B Cholera

C COVID-19

D Typhoid

✓ Ans: C

**Explanation:** COVID-19 is the paradigmatic One Health crisis — a zoonotic disease likely originating in bats via an intermediate host. SARS, MERS, Ebola, Nipah and H5N1 are all zoonotic. One Health argues that monitoring animal and ecosystem health proactively (not just human health reactively) is the most effective pandemic prevention strategy.

168

**BrahMos missile — India's landmark defence export — is a joint venture between India's DRDO and which country's company?**

A USA

B Russia

C France

D Israel

✓ Ans: B

**Explanation:** BrahMos is jointly developed by India's DRDO and Russia's NPO Mashinostroyenia. Named after Brahmaputra and Moskva rivers. At Mach 2.8-3, it is one of the world's fastest anti-ship cruise missiles. The Philippines deal for BrahMos in 2022 was India's first major weapons export to another country's military — a landmark for India's defence exports.

169

**Barnawapara Wildlife Sanctuary — besides blackbuck, which other animal inhabits this sanctuary?**

A Snow Leopard

B Cheetah

C Tiger

D Indian Wolf

✓ Ans: C

**Explanation:** Barnawapara Wildlife Sanctuary in Mahasamund district of Chhattisgarh hosts tigers, leopards, sloth bears, sambar deer and chital. Its mix of dry deciduous forest and grasslands suits both large predators and open-country species like the blackbuck being reintroduced, making it an ecologically important conservation landscape in central India.

170

**NATO's Article 5 collective defence was invoked only once — what was the immediate military outcome?**

A NATO issued a diplomatic note

B NATO invaded Afghanistan collectively

C Article 5 was suspended

D NATO expelled the aggressor

✓ Ans: B

**Explanation:** After the September 11 2001 attacks — the only Article 5 invocation — NATO supported the US-led invasion of Afghanistan through the ISAF (International Security Assistance Force) mission authorised by the UN Security Council. NATO's ISAF mission in Afghanistan ran until 2014, followed by Resolute Support until the 2021 US withdrawal.

171

Varkala in Kerala was included in UN Zero Waste Cities — Varkala is famous for which geographic feature?

A Backwaters

B Ancient temples only

C Cliff coastline with natural mineral water springs on the beach face

D Spice gardens

✓ Ans: C

**Explanation:** Varkala's Papanasam Beach is unique for natural mineral water springs emerging directly from laterite cliffs overlooking the Arabian Sea — a rare geological phenomenon. The cliffs are a protected geological monument. Varkala's selection for the Zero Waste Cities programme reflects Kerala's progressive community-led environmental governance.

172

President's Colour ceremony — India's National Police Day is observed on which date?

A 2-Oct

B 14-Nov

C 21-Oct

D 16-Dec

✓ Ans: C

**Explanation:** National Police Commemoration Day (Police Martyrs' Day) is observed on October 21 each year. It marks the 1959 ambush in Ladakh's Hot Springs where Indian Police personnel were killed by Chinese troops — one of the first casualties of the India-China border dispute. The President's Colour presented to Odisha Police is distinct from this commemorative day.

173

India and the 4th IAFS — the 3rd IAFS in 2015 resulted in which flagship commitment to Africa?

A Marshall Plan for Africa

**B Lines of Credit worth \$10 billion and 50000 scholarships**

C Pan-African railway network

D Joint military command

✓ Ans: B

**Explanation:** The 3rd IAFS (2015, New Delhi) committed \$10 billion in Lines of Credit for African development and 50,000 scholarships for African students in Indian universities. The 4th IAFS (2026) aims to go beyond this toward direct FDI, tech transfer and industrial partnerships — marking India's evolution from aid-giver to investment partner in Africa.

174

Aryna Sabalenka won Laureus Sportswoman 2026 — she is from which country?

A Russia

**B Belarus**

C Ukraine

D Kazakhstan

✓ Ans: B

**Explanation:** Aryna Sabalenka is from Belarus — one of the world's most high-profile Belarusian athletes. The World No. 1 since 2023, she defended her US Open title in 2025 and reached three Grand Slam finals that year. Her Laureus win makes her the first Belarusian to win a Laureus World Sports Award — a historic achievement for Belarusian sport.

175

**Samridhh Gram uses BharatNet — what is BharatNet?****A** Satellite broadband programme**B** Optical fibre network connecting all Gram Panchayats**C** A 5G rollout programme**D** A digital payment backbone✓ **Ans: B**

**Explanation:** BharatNet is the world's largest rural broadband programme, aiming to connect all 2.5 lakh Gram Panchayats with high-speed optical fibre internet. Samridhh Gram uses this backbone to power 'Samridhh Kendras' — phygital one-stop community service centres offering health, education, banking and government services in rural India.

176

**India's two Defence Industrial Corridors for defence manufacturing are located in which states?****A** Delhi-Mumbai and Chennai-Bengaluru**B** Uttar Pradesh and Tamil Nadu**C** Gujarat and Maharashtra**D** Rajasthan and Andhra Pradesh✓ **Ans: B**

**Explanation:** India's two Defence Industrial Corridors (DICs) are in Uttar Pradesh (Aligarh-Agra-Lucknow-Kanpur-Jhansi belt) and Tamil Nadu (Chennai-Coimbatore-Hosur-Salem belt). These corridors aim to create defence manufacturing ecosystems with dedicated land, testing facilities and supplier clusters — attracting both PSUs and private manufacturers.

177

India's VP Radhakrishnan in Sri Lanka — houses were handed to Tamil community in which region?

A Northern Sri Lanka

B Western Sri Lanka

C Upcountry Nuwara Eliya region

D Eastern Sri Lanka

✓ Ans: C

**Explanation:** Indian-origin Tamils in Sri Lanka are concentrated in the upcountry Nuwara Eliya region — descendants of Tamil labourers brought by the British for tea plantations in the 19th century. They differ from Sri Lankan Tamils in the Northern and Eastern provinces. India's Housing Project Phase 3 builds 4000 houses in plantation areas, directly improving lives of this community.

178

Bharat Maritime Insurance Pool — which ministry oversees India's maritime affairs?

A Ministry of Commerce

B Ministry of Finance

C Ministry of Ports Shipping and Waterways

D Ministry of External Affairs

✓ Ans: C

**Explanation:** The Ministry of Ports, Shipping and Waterways (MoPSW) oversees India's maritime sector including 13 Major Ports, the Merchant Shipping Act and maritime insurance. The BMI Pool was created under MoPSW to address the insurance gap created by the Strait of Hormuz crisis, ensuring Indian-linked vessels access affordable domestic marine insurance.

179

**Hemophilia A vs B — which is more common globally?****A** Hemophilia B (80-85% of cases)**B** Equal prevalence**C** Hemophilia A (80-85% of cases)**D** Hemophilia C is most common

✓ Ans: C

**Explanation:** Hemophilia A (deficiency of clotting Factor VIII) accounts for 80-85% of all hemophilia cases worldwide. Hemophilia B (Factor IX deficiency, also called Christmas disease) accounts for the remaining 15-20%. Both are X-linked recessive disorders — predominantly affecting males while females are typically carriers. India has one of the world's largest populations with hemophilia, most undiagnosed.

180

**Ladakh became a UT in August 2019 — which other UT was created simultaneously?****A** Chandigarh**B** Puducherry**C** Jammu & Kashmir**D** Dadra & Nagar Haveli

✓ Ans: C

**Explanation:** The J&K Reorganisation Act 2019 bifurcated the state of Jammu & Kashmir on August 5 2019 into two Union Territories: J&K (UT with Legislature) and Ladakh (UT without Legislature). Ladakh became directly administered by the Centre — strategically significant given its sensitive borders with both China and Pakistan.

**Questions 181 – 200**

181

**Bihar's Samrat Choudhary — Bihar is associated with which ancient empire?****A** Indus Valley Civilisation**B** Chola Empire**C** Magadha and Maurya Empires**D** Vijayanagara Empire

✓ Ans: C

**Explanation:** Bihar — particularly Patna (ancient Pataliputra) and Rajgir — was the heartland of ancient India's most powerful empires. The Magadha Empire gave rise to the Maurya dynasty. Emperor Ashoka ruled from Pataliputra. Bihar is also the birthplace of Buddhism (Bodh Gaya — where Buddha attained enlightenment) and Jainism (Vaishali — birthplace of Mahavira).

182

**India's NQM (National Quantum Mission) target is to develop quantum computers with how many physical qubits?****A** 10-50 qubits**B** 50-1000 qubits**C** 1000-5000 qubits**D** 5000+ qubits

✓ Ans: B

**Explanation:** India's National Quantum Mission (NQM) aims to develop intermediate-scale quantum computers with 50 to 1000 physical qubits within 8 years (by 2031). This positions India to compete with global quantum leaders like the USA, China and EU. Quantum computers with 1000+ qubits are considered sufficient to break current RSA encryption — a major cybersecurity implication.

183

The Jallianwala Bagh massacre in Amritsar — in which state is Amritsar located?

A Haryana

B Punjab

C Himachal Pradesh

D Rajasthan

✓ Ans: B

**Explanation:** Amritsar is located in Punjab — the city of the Golden Temple (Harmandir Sahib), the holiest shrine in Sikhism. The Jallianwala Bagh, where the 1919 massacre occurred, is adjacent to the Golden Temple. The massacre killed 379 officially (with actual estimates far higher) on Baisakhi — a day of religious significance for Sikhs and Hindus.

184

India ranks 6th in patent filings — the Pro Bono Facilitation Scheme helps which entities file patents cheaply?

A Large corporations

B Foreign companies

C Startups MSMEs and individual inventors

D Government departments

✓ Ans: C

**Explanation:** The Pro Bono Facilitation Scheme under CGPDTM provides free patent filing facilitation to eligible startups, MSMEs and individual inventors — bridging the access gap where high professional fees discouraged innovation from smaller entities. This scheme has contributed to 69% domestic share of India's patent filings and India's rise to 6th globally.

185

RBI's Utkarsh 2029 prioritises UPI internationalisation — how many countries can now use UPI for cross-border transactions approximately?

A 5

B 10

C 15

D 20

✓ Ans: D

**Explanation:** India has expanded UPI to approximately 20 countries including Singapore, UAE, Bhutan, Nepal, France, Mauritius, Sri Lanka and others. The goal under Utkarsh 2029 is to make UPI the global standard for instant digital payments, reducing dependence on SWIFT and card networks like Visa and Mastercard. UPI now processes over 15 billion transactions monthly.

186

Indian Crested Porcupine damaging Kashmir saffron crops — it is protected under which schedule of the Wildlife Protection Act?

A Schedule I

B Schedule II

C Schedule III

D Schedule IV

✓ Ans: B

**Explanation:** The Indian Crested Porcupine (*Hystrix indica*) is listed under Schedule II of the Wildlife Protection Act 1972 — making it illegal to hunt or kill without special permission. This protected status complicates farmer-wildlife conflict resolution. Kashmir saffron (known for Pampore Saffron) has a GI tag and is the world's most expensive spice.

187

**India's PFBR uses MOX fuel — what does MOX stand for?****A** Mixed Oxide fuel**B** Maximum Output Xenon fuel**C** Modulated Output X-ray fuel**D** Magnox Oxide fuel

✓ Ans: A

**Explanation:** MOX stands for Mixed Oxide fuel — a blend of  $\text{PuO}_2$  (plutonium oxide) and  $\text{UO}_2$  (uranium oxide). The PFBR at Kalpakkam uses MOX fuel and 'breeds' more fissile plutonium than it consumes from the uranium-238 blanket. The PFBR also converts thorium into fissile uranium-233 — bridging Stage 2 and Stage 3 of India's unique three-stage nuclear programme.

188

**Rajya Sabha members are elected by whom — making Dr. Menaka Guruswamy's election significant?****A** Direct public vote**B** Nominated by President**C** Elected by state legislative assembly members**D** Elected by Lok Sabha MPs

✓ Ans: C

**Explanation:** Rajya Sabha members are elected indirectly by the elected members of each State Legislative Assembly through Single Transferable Vote (proportional representation). The President nominates 12 members. West Bengal's MLAs elected Dr. Menaka Guruswamy — making her India's first openly LGBTQ+ Rajya Sabha MP and a historic moment for LGBTQ+ representation in Indian Parliament.

189

INS Sunayna is an Offshore Patrol Vessel — what is the primary role of OPVs in India's naval strategy?

A Aircraft carrier escort

B Nuclear deterrence

C Maritime patrol EEZ surveillance and island connectivity

D Submarine hunting

✓ Ans: C

**Explanation:** OPVs are the workhorse of maritime patrol — conducting surveillance over India's vast EEZ (2.37 million sq km), anti-piracy operations, search and rescue and HADR missions. Under IOS SAGAR, OPVs visit Indian Ocean island nations to deliver supplies, medical aid and conduct joint exercises, projecting India as a reliable regional security and humanitarian partner.

190

India led NCERT to deemed university status — who heads NCERT?

A Secretary of MoE

B Chairman appointed by PM

C Director appointed by Education Minister

D Vice Chancellor elected by Senate

✓ Ans: C

**Explanation:** NCERT is headed by a Director appointed by the Ministry of Education. As a deemed university, NCERT's governance will evolve. It primarily develops the National Curriculum Framework (NCF), school textbooks and teacher training materials for CBSE and state boards — a role that will expand significantly with degree-granting powers under the National Education Policy 2020.

191

**PM-KUSUM scheme extended to March 2027 — what are its three components?**

**A** Solar plants rural roads and water bodies

**B** Solar pumps solarisation of grid pumps and solar power plants on barren land

**C** Solar panels for homes wind turbines and biogas

**D** Solar schools hospitals and government buildings

✓ Ans: B

**Explanation:** PM-KUSUM has three components: Component A — small solar power plants (500 kW to 2 MW) on barren land feeding local DISCOMs; Component B — standalone solar pumps replacing diesel pumps; Component C — solarisation of existing grid-connected agriculture pumps. All three reduce diesel dependence, cut input costs for farmers and provide additional income through excess power sales.

192

**India's renewable energy target of 500 GW by 2030 — what is India's current installed RE capacity approximately?**

**A** 100 GW

**B** 150 GW

**C** 200 GW

**D** 300 GW

✓ Ans: C

**Explanation:** India's installed renewable energy capacity crossed 200 GW by April 2026, driven primarily by solar (~100 GW) and wind (~75 GW). India needs to more than double this to reach 500 GW by 2030. Key challenges include grid integration of intermittent solar and wind power, transmission infrastructure and battery storage deployment at scale.

193

India's Positive Indigenisation List (PIL) — what does inclusion on the PIL mean for a defence item?

A It is available for export

B It can no longer be imported — must be procured domestically

C It is classified as strategic

D It requires special parliamentary approval

✓ Ans: B

**Explanation:** The Positive Indigenisation List notifies items that the armed forces can no longer import — forcing domestic procurement. Multiple PILs have been issued since 2020, covering weapons, aircraft components, warships and complex sub-systems. This policy is the structural engine behind India's 56x growth in defence exports and the Make in India initiative in defence manufacturing.

194

Lando Norris drives for which F1 team that ended a 26-year title drought with his 2025 championship?

A Red Bull

B Mercedes

C Ferrari

D McLaren

✓ Ans: D

**Explanation:** Lando Norris won the 2025 F1 World Drivers' Championship with McLaren — ending the team's 26-year title drought since Mika Hakkinen's 1999 title. McLaren had also won the Constructors' Championship in 2024. The British team's revival, led by CEO Zak Brown and team principal Andrea Stella, is one of F1's most celebrated recent stories.

195

Carlos Alcaraz won Laureus Sportsman 2026 — he won which two Grand Slams in 2025?

A Australian Open and Wimbledon

B French Open and US Open

C Wimbledon and US Open

D Australian Open and French Open

✓ Ans: B

**Explanation:** Carlos Alcaraz won the French Open (Roland Garros) and US Open in 2025 — along with six other titles, finishing the year ranked World No. 1. He also won the Australian Open in January 2026 to complete a Career Grand Slam. His 2025 season record of 71 wins and 9 losses was one of the most dominant in modern tennis.

196

BRICS Academic Forum 2026 in New Delhi — India's BRICS chair theme focuses on which key concept besides innovation and cooperation?

A Free trade

B Resilience in an era of geopolitical fragmentation

C Nuclear disarmament

D Space cooperation

✓ Ans: B

**Explanation:** India's BRICS 2026 theme centres on 'Building for Resilience' — specifically designing economic and institutional frameworks robust enough to withstand the geopolitical fragmentation, supply chain disruptions and financial volatility of the post-COVID, West Asia conflict era. This resonates with India's position as a Global South leader navigating between competing great power blocs.

197

The Femina Miss India 2026 was the 61st edition — the 60th edition's winner Nikita Porwal was from which state?

A Goa

B Rajasthan

C Madhya Pradesh

D Gujarat

✓ Ans: C

**Explanation:** Nikita Porwal from Madhya Pradesh won Femina Miss India World in the 60th edition (2024). She represented India at Miss World and was the outgoing titleholder who crowned Sadhvi Satish Sail (Goa) at the 61st edition in Bhubaneswar. The tradition of the outgoing winner crowning the new title-holder is a formal part of the pageant ceremony.

198

South Korean President Lee Jae Myung's state visit — approximately how many Korean companies joined the delegation?

A 50

B 100

C 200

D 500

✓ Ans: C

**Explanation:** Approximately 200 South Korean company representatives joined President Lee's business delegation to India — reflecting the private sector's interest in India's rapidly growing market. Key sectors discussed included shipbuilding, semiconductors, EVs and defence manufacturing — areas where Korean conglomerates like Hyundai, Samsung and LG have established global leadership.

199

DA raised to 60% — approximately how many central government pensioners benefit from the Dearness Relief (DR) hike?

A 25 lakh

B 50 lakh

C 68 lakh

D 100 lakh

✓ Ans: C

**Explanation:** The 2% DA/DR hike benefits 50.46 lakh central government employees (receiving Dearness Allowance) and 68.27 lakh central government pensioners (receiving Dearness Relief). DR is the equivalent of DA for pensioners, ensuring their fixed pension income is partially protected against inflation through the same AICPI-IW based formula.

200

India-China SCO bilateral consultations — what was the significance of the October 2024 disengagement agreement?

A India ceded border territory

B Partially restored pre-2020 patrolling rights along the LAC

C Established joint patrols

D Ended all LAC tensions permanently

✓ Ans: B

**Explanation:** The October 2024 India-China disengagement agreement was a diplomatic breakthrough — it partially restored patrolling rights along the Line of Actual Control in Ladakh that had been frozen since the Galwan clash of June 2020. The April 2026 SCO bilateral consultations built on this, representing the next step in carefully managed normalisation.



# Answer Key

Current Affairs MCQs — February 2026 · 200 Questions

Q.	ANS	CORRECT ANSWER	Q.	ANS	CORRECT ANSWER
1	B	Odisha Police	101	C	Odisha
2	B	Lt Gen Dhiraj Seth	102	C	18th edition at Vigyan Bhawan
3	C	Arundhati Roy	103	B	Ibrahim Lodi
4	B	Willie Walsh	104	B	100th year of Indian independence
5	C	Nagoya Protocol	105	C	Sun-Synchronous Polar orbit
6	B	Krishna	106	C	CEPA
7	B	Indian Navy	107	B	CO <sub>2</sub> fertilization and increased rainfall
8	B	Nangal	108	B	Building for Resilience Innovation Cooperation Sustainability
9	B	Banks of Krishna	109	B	Collective power as voters consumers and citizens to demand clean energy
10	C	Rio Earth Summit 1992	110	B	Aligarh
11	A	Christina Koch	111	B	Iran
12	C	Uchral Nyam-Osor	112	B	Real-time threat detection and decision support from satellite data
13	C	Varkala	113	B	Jul-25
14	C	3rd	114	B	Egypt and Jordan
15	C	China	115	C	Madrid
16	C	4-Apr	116	C	Aryna Sabalenka
17	C	77th	117	D	Paris Saint-Germain
18	C	Sweden and Finland	118	C	Formula One World Drivers Championship

Q.	ANS	CORRECT ANSWER	Q.	ANS	CORRECT ANSWER
19	B	SS Loyalty's 1919 voyage across the Indian Ocean	119	C	Tehri Lake
20	C	INS Taragiri	120	B	90% of brain development occurs before age 5-6
21	B	A military coup	121	B	Reactive urban containment to proactive high-altitude terrain dominance
22	C	Denis Manturov	122	C	Career Grand Slam
23	B	Abhay Singh	123	C	51.60%
24	C	Sudha Murty	124	D	Karnataka
25	C	Mar-27	125	B	West Africa
26	C	Project 17A	126	C	NADA
27	B	Power to award degrees	127	C	56x
28	C	Dr. C. Srinivas Rao	128	B	Out-of-school children numbers
29	D	India	129	C	Bharatiya Nabhikiya Vidyut Nigam Limited
30	B	First modern Olympics opening in Athens	130	C	Finland
31	B	2.37 million sq km	131	B	Immediate Payment Service (IMPS)
32	B	₹50000 crore by 2029	132	B	Bengaluru
33	C	Bhuvneshwar Kumar	133	B	The first five volunteers who offered their heads to Guru Gobind Singh
34	C	Yuzvendra Chahal	134	B	National dividend of India
35	C	Offshore Patrol Vessel	135	C	3rd
36	B	First to use oil on canvas for Indian mythological subjects	136	C	Khangchendzonga National Park Sikkim
37	C	1948	137	C	Over 100
38	C	Maldives	138	C	Twice a year

Q.	ANS	CORRECT ANSWER	Q.	ANS	CORRECT ANSWER
39	C	Section 377 judgment	139	B	Semiconductors shipbuilding and electric vehicles
40	C	IGI Airport Delhi	140	C	Ministry of Jal Shakti
41	C	Chhattisgarh	141	C	Vietnam
42	B	Madhya Pradesh	142	B	Baburnama
43	B	First district court in Kargil since Ladakh became a UT	143	B	Haryana
44	B	Interconnection of human animal and environmental health	144	C	₹20 lakh
45	C	Vikram Samvat calendar	145	C	Metcalfe House Delhi
46	B	Second stage	146	B	Gaylord Nelson
47	D	One-party communist state	147	C	Wular Lake J&K
48	C	Rupa Bayor	148	A	Export Credit Guarantee Corporation
49	B	Homebound	149	B	55
50	C	₹20 lakh	150	B	Perfect 10 in gymnastics history
51	C	23 times	151	B	Roger Federer and Novak Djokovic tied
52	C	17-20 million barrels	152	B	Bhagirathi
53	C	Strait of Hormuz	153	C	Anantnag
54	B	Counter-terrorism in mountainous terrain	154	B	2018
55	A	Micro Units Development and Refinance Agency	155	B	₹6003 crore
56	B	Spring agricultural sowing festival	156	B	₹1.60 lakh crore
57	C	Utkarsh 2025	157	A	PM Modi's 2015 visit to Mauritius
58	B	Social engineering fraud	158	B	Article 74
59	B	West Asia conflict and oil price spike	159	C	Articles 330 332 334 and 239AA

Q.	ANS	CORRECT ANSWER	Q.	ANS	CORRECT ANSWER
60	B	Kasturba Gandhi	160	B	Female community change agent trusted by peer women
61	B	Language barrier in banking access	161	B	It can solve certain problems exponentially faster using quantum superposition
62	C	69%	162	B	Udhampur
63	C	WIPO	163	C	22
64	B	Rowlatt Act 1919	164	B	Below 70 per lakh
65	B	Central Asia	165	C	SIDBI
66	B	Formation of Telangana and bifurcation of AP in 2014	166	B	75 GW
67	A	Dr. Ambedkar Nagar	167	C	COVID-19
68	B	Anandpur Sahib	168	B	Russia
69	B	96-104%	169	C	Tiger
70	B	Mogami-class frigates	170	B	NATO invaded Afghanistan collectively
71	C	It invests in AIFs that then fund startups	171	C	Cliff coastline with natural mineral water springs on the beach face
72	B	Planck's constant ( $4.14 \times 10^{-15}$ eV·s)	172	C	21-Oct
73	B	JD(U) under Nitish Kumar	173	B	Lines of Credit worth \$10 billion and 50000 scholarships
74	B	Two-thirds of members present and voting plus majority of total membership	174	B	Belarus
75	B	Food and beverages	175	B	Optical fibre network connecting all Gram Panchayats
76	C	Ministry of Electronics and IT	176	B	Uttar Pradesh and Tamil Nadu
77	C	Linked to delimitation after the next Census	177	C	Upcountry Nuwara Eliya region

Q.	ANS	CORRECT ANSWER	Q.	ANS	CORRECT ANSWER
78	B	ICOMOS	178	C	Ministry of Ports Shipping and Waterways
79	B	Rock carvings made by prehistoric people	179	C	Hemophilia A (80-85% of cases)
80	C	Minister of Electronics & IT	180	C	Jammu & Kashmir
81	C	352	181	C	Magadha and Maurya Empires
82	B	Delimitation Bill 2026	182	B	50-1000 qubits
83	B	Frank Schnabel	183	B	Punjab
84	B	LAC in Ladakh	184	C	Startups MSMEs and individual inventors
85	C	AICPI-IW	185	D	20
86	B	Adding extra tracks to increase capacity and reduce congestion	186	B	Schedule II
87	C	Strait of Hormuz	187	A	Mixed Oxide fuel
88	C	42	188	C	Elected by state legislative assembly members
89	B	First bilateral visit by an Indian VP to Sri Lanka	189	C	Maritime patrol EEZ surveillance and island connectivity
90	C	Cyclone Ditwah	190	C	Director appointed by Education Minister
91	C	50 billion USD	191	B	Solar pumps solarisation of grid pumps and solar power plants on barren land
92	C	33%	192	C	200 GW
93	C	Pranay Verma	193	B	It can no longer be imported — must be procured domestically
94	C	Tamil Nadu	194	D	McLaren
95	C	Odisha	195	B	French Open and US Open

Q.	ANS	CORRECT ANSWER	Q.	ANS	CORRECT ANSWER
96	B	Glass interposer and 3D Heterogeneous Integration modules	196	B	Resilience in an era of geopolitical fragmentation
97	C	₹12980 crore	197	C	Madhya Pradesh
98	C	₹83977 crore	198	C	200
99	D	Bhubaneswar	199	C	68 lakh
100	B	Sadhvi Satish Sail from Goa	200	B	Partially restored pre-2020 patrolling rights along the LAC

## Current Affairs MCQs

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