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PRASHANT SOLANKI SIR

Sub-Inspector Delhi Police

(SSC CPO AIR-29)

SSC Selection Post Phase-XIV 2026

General Studies (GK/GS) · All 27 shifts (16–26 September 2026) · Matric, Higher Secondary & Graduation levels · 675 questions, chapter-wise

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How to use this eBook: Solve each chapter's questions on your own first, then match them with the answer key, and only then read the detailed explanations. Click any question number to jump straight to its explanation, and click the number on the explanation to come back to the question. The answer key numbers are clickable too. Press **GO TO INDEX** on any page to return here.

01 CHAPTER
Static GK

Questions *153 questions · 27 shifts*

PART A Sports(Static & Current)

Directions (Q. 01–43): *Choose the correct answer from the four given options.*

01 Under anti-doping rules, what does a Therapeutic Use Exemption (TUE) allow an athlete to do?

SSC Phase-XIV (Graduation) 17 Sep 2026, Shift-I

(a) Use any performance-enhancing drug without any restriction
(b) Use a prohibited substance or method for medical treatment with official approval
(c) Avoid undergoing doping tests during competition
(d) Transfer the responsibility for doping violations to the team doctor

02 Which of the following substances is banned by anti-doping agencies?

SSC Phase-XIV (Graduation) 18 Sep 2026, Shift-I

(a) Vitamins
(b) Energy drinks
(c) Steroids
(d) Protein powder

03 Which country won the most gold medals at the 2023 Asian Games?

SSC Phase-XIV (Graduation) 18 Sep 2026, Shift-I

(a) Japan
(b) China
(c) India
(d) South Korea

04 Which Indian woman sprinter, a former national record holder in the 100 m, is associated with a four-year ban that began in late 2022?

SSC Phase-XIV (Graduation) 19 Sep 2026, Shift-I

(a) P.T. Usha
(b) Hima Das
(c) Dutee Chand
(d) Annu Rani

05 In anti-doping procedures, what does the term "sample collection" mean?

SSC Phase-XIV (Graduation) 21 Sep 2026, Shift-I

(a) Collecting an athlete's sports performance records
(b) Collecting urine or blood samples for testing
(c) Collecting survey responses from athletes
(d) Collecting fitness data from athletes

06 Which athlete has won the most Olympic gold medals in history?

SSC Phase-XIV (Graduation) 21 Sep 2026, Shift-I

(a) Carl Lewis
(b) Usain Bolt
(c) Michael Phelps
(d) Serena Williams

07 In April 2026, in which category did the Athletics Integrity Unit (AIU) place India owing to "very high" doping risks?

SSC Phase-XIV (Graduation) 22 Sep 2026, Shift-I

(a) Category A
(b) Category B
(c) Category C
(d) Category D

08 Who won India's first Olympic medal in badminton?

SSC Phase-XIV (Graduation) 23 Sep 2026, Shift-I

(a) P. Gopichand
(b) Saina Nehwal
(c) P.V. Sindhu
(d) Kidambi Srikanth

09 Which of the following is true about a 'three-

pointer' in basketball?

SSC Phase-XIV (Graduation) 23 Sep 2026, Shift-I

(a) It must be taken from inside the 'key'
(b) It earns three points only during the last minute
(c) It is shot from outside a marked arc on the court
(d) It involves passing three defenders

10 Under anti-doping rules, which group of athletes is required to file whereabouts information?

SSC Phase-XIV (Graduation) 24 Sep 2026, Shift-I

(a) Junior Athletes (JUN)
(b) Retired Athletes (RET)
(c) Registered Testing Pool (RTP)
(d) National Athletes (NAT)

11 Where is India's National Dope Testing Laboratory (National Anti-Doping Laboratory) located?

SSC Phase-XIV (Graduation) 25 Sep 2026, Shift-I

(a) Mumbai (b) New Delhi
(c) Bengaluru (d) Hyderabad

12 In which year did chess become a part of the Asian Games?

SSC Phase-XIV (Graduation) 25 Sep 2026, Shift-I

(a) 2002 (b) 2006 (c) 2010 (d) 2014

13 The term "Jujutsu" is the foundational martial art of which Olympic sport?

SSC Phase-XIV (12th) 16 Sep 2026, Shift-II

(a) Taekwondo (b) Judo
(c) Karate (d) Wushu

14 In athletics, which of the following terms is specifically used for the exchange of the baton between two runners?

SSC Phase-XIV (12th) 16 Sep 2026, Shift-II

(a) Anchor (b) Lap
(c) Heat (d) Handover

15 At which Commonwealth Games edition did India finish second in the overall medal tally?

SSC Phase-XIV (12th) 17 Sep 2026, Shift-II

(a) 2002 Manchester (b) 2006 Melbourne
(c) 2010 New Delhi (d) 2018 Gold Coast

16 Which badminton shot falls close to the net just after crossing it?

SSC Phase-XIV (12th) 18 Sep 2026, Shift-II

(a) Drive (b) Drop (c) Clear (d) Smash

17 Which gymnastics skill is performed in an inverted position of the body?

SSC Phase-XIV (12th) 18 Sep 2026, Shift-II

(a) Somersault (b) Handstand
(c) Roll (d) Leap

18 The term "En Passant" is related to which of the following games?

SSC Phase-XIV (12th) 19 Sep 2026, Shift-II

(a) Fencing (b) Chess
(c) Billiards (d) Bridge

19 In chess, what is the situation called where a player is not in check but has no legal move available?

SSC Phase-XIV (12th) 19 Sep 2026, Shift-II

(a) Checkmate (b) Stalemate
(c) Castling (d) Gambit

20 Which gymnastics movement involves turning the body sideways while the hands and feet move in a circular motion?

SSC Phase-XIV (12th) 21 Sep 2026, Shift-II

(a) Handstand (b) Cartwheel
(c) Forward roll (d) Backward roll

21 Anupama Ramachandran created history by becoming the first Indian woman to win which championship?

SSC Phase-XIV (12th) 21 Sep 2026, Shift-II

(a) Asian Billiards Championship
(b) IBSF World Snooker Championship
(c) Commonwealth Snooker Championship
(d) World Pool Championship

22 What is a "Raid" in Kabaddi?

SSC Phase-XIV (12th) 21 Sep 2026, Shift-II

(a) Substitution

(b) An attacking move into the opponent's half
(c) A time-out period
(d) None of these

23 Who is the only Indian athlete to win medals at two consecutive Olympic Games?

SSC Phase-XIV (12th) 22 Sep 2026, Shift-II

(a) P.V. Sindhu (b) Sushil Kumar
(c) Neeraj Chopra (d) Abhinav Bindra

24 The term "Bully" is a technical method used to restart play in which of the following sports?

SSC Phase-XIV (12th) 23 Sep 2026, Shift-II

(a) Basketball (b) Field hockey
(c) Rugby (d) Water polo

25 The term "Double Fault" is a common error resulting in the loss of a point in which sport?

SSC Phase-XIV (12th) 23 Sep 2026, Shift-II

(a) Volleyball (b) Tennis
(c) Squash (d) Billiards

26 Who was the first Indian woman athlete to win a gold medal at the Asian Games?

SSC Phase-XIV (12th) 23 Sep 2026, Shift-II

(a) P.T. Usha (b) Kamaljeet Sandhu
(c) Shiny Abraham (d) M.D. Valsamma

27 What is "Cant" in Kabaddi?

SSC Phase-XIV (12th) 24 Sep 2026, Shift-II

(a) A jumping technique
(b) The continuous chanting of "Kabaddi" during a raid
(c) A defensive formation
(d) A method of scoring bonus points

28 Which Indian wrestler was provisionally suspended by NADA in May 2024 for refusing to give a urine sample?

SSC Phase-XIV (12th) 24 Sep 2026, Shift-II

(a) Sakshi Malik (b) Bajrang Punia
(c) Ravi Kumar Dahiya (d) Deepak Punia

29 Which badminton shot is used to hit the shuttle high and deep near the end line in the opponent's back court?

SSC Phase-XIV (12th) 25 Sep 2026, Shift-II

(a) Drop (b) Drive (c) Toss (d) Clear

30 In Kabaddi, who are called "Antis"?

SSC Phase-XIV (12th) 26 Sep 2026, Shift-I

(a) Coaches
(b) Raiders
(c) Defenders on the court
(d) Substitutes

31 In April 2026, who won the gold medal in the recurve women's event at the World Archery Para Series held in Bangkok?

SSC Phase-XIV (12th) 26 Sep 2026, Shift-I

(a) Sheetal Devi (b) Bhawna
(c) Swati Chaudhary (d) Payal Nag

32 How many periods are there in a standard basketball match?

SSC Phase-XIV (Matric) 16 Sep 2026, Shift-III

(a) Two (b) Three (c) Four (d) Five

33 In the sport of shooting, what does the term "Dry Firing" mean and why is it used?

SSC Phase-XIV (Matric) 17 Sep 2026, Shift-III

(a) Firing at a target without paper backing.
(b) Practising aiming and pressing the trigger without a cartridge (ammunition) in the chamber.
(c) Cleaning the barrel after use in humid conditions.
(d) A penalty for firing after the whistle.

34 Which of the following is the maximum number of players of a standard Kabaddi team on the court during play?

SSC Phase-XIV (Matric) 17 Sep 2026, Shift-III

(a) 5 (b) 6 (c) 7 (d) 8

35 Which of the following is correctly matched with the medal system of the Asian Games?

SSC Phase-XIV (Matric) 17 Sep 2026, Shift-III

(a) Only gold medals are awarded
(b) Gold, silver and bronze medals
(c) Only the top two get medals

(d) Medals based on points

36 In badminton, when the server's score is even (0, 2, 4, etc.), from which service court is the serve made?

SSC Phase-XIV (Matric) 18 Sep 2026, Shift-III

(a) Left (b) Right (c) Back (d) Middle

37 What are the standard dimensions of a basketball backboard?

SSC Phase-XIV (Matric) 19 Sep 2026, Shift-III

(a) 1.80 m × 1.05 m (b) 2.00 m × 1.20 m
(c) 1.50 m × 1.00 m (d) 1.75 m × 1.10 m

38 Which chess term refers to a situation where a player has no legal move but is not in 'check'?

SSC Phase-XIV (Matric) 19 Sep 2026, Shift-III

(a) Checkmate (b) Stalemate
(c) Fork (d) Gambit

39 What does the term "fork" mean in chess?

SSC Phase-XIV (Matric) 19 Sep 2026, Shift-III

(a) A defensive strategy
(b) An attack on two pieces at the same time
(c) A sacrifice move
(d) A drawn position

40 What is the standard width of the lines drawn on a badminton court?

SSC Phase-XIV (Matric) 21 Sep 2026, Shift-III

(a) 20 mm (b) 30 mm (c) 40 mm (d) 50 mm

41 What is the standard shape of a basketball?

SSC Phase-XIV (Matric) 22 Sep 2026, Shift-III

(a) Oval (b) Circular
(c) Spherical (d) Cylindrical

42 In badminton, which of the following is a "fault" according to BWF (Badminton World Federation) rules?

SSC Phase-XIV (Matric) 24 Sep 2026, Shift-III

(a) The shuttle is hit twice in succession by the same player.
(b) During play, the shuttle touches the net and falls into the opponent's court.
(c) The server's feet are inside the service court but not touching the boundary lines.
(d) The shuttle is hit below the waist during a smash.

43 In athletics, especially in the 100 m sprint, what is the maximum allowable "tailwind" for a performance to be recognised as an official record?

SSC Phase-XIV (Matric) 25 Sep 2026, Shift-III

(a) +1.0 m/s (b) +2.0 m/s
(c) +3.5 m/s (d) +5.0 m/s

PART B Music and Musical Instruments

Directions (Q. 44–53): *Choose the correct answer from the four given options.*

44 Guitarist Maya Neelakantan belongs to which Indian city?

SSC Phase-XIV (Graduation) 21 Sep 2026, Shift-I

(a) Mumbai (b) Bengaluru
(c) Chennai (d) Hyderabad

45 Lavani is a traditional folk music/dance form of which Indian state?

SSC Phase-XIV (12th) 17 Sep 2026, Shift-II

(a) Tamil Nadu (b) Maharashtra
(c) Rajasthan (d) West Bengal

46 Which raga is traditionally sung or played in the early morning?

SSC Phase-XIV (12th) 17 Sep 2026, Shift-II

(a) Bhairav (b) Yaman
(c) Malkauns (d) Darbari Kanada

47 In Tat Vadya (string instruments), the pitch of the sound is determined by which factor?

SSC Phase-XIV (12th) 21 Sep 2026, Shift-II

(a) Shape (b) Material
(c) Air column (d) String tension

48 In Avanaddha instruments, sound is mainly produced by the vibration of:

SSC Phase-XIV (12th) 22 Sep 2026, Shift-II

(a) Strings (b) Air

(c) Metal (d) Membrane

49 'Naatupura Paadalgal', a form of folk music, is mainly associated with which of the following activities?

SSC Phase-XIV (12th) 22 Sep 2026, Shift-II

(a) Religious rituals
(b) Military drills
(c) Royal events
(d) Agricultural/farming seasons

50 Which musical instrument produces sound without the player striking it repeatedly?

SSC Phase-XIV (12th) 24 Sep 2026, Shift-II

(a) Thavil (b) Mridangam
(c) Nagada (d) Damaru

51 Teejan Bai is associated with which folk tradition?

SSC Phase-XIV (12th) 25 Sep 2026, Shift-II

(a) Baul (b) Lavani
(c) Bihu (d) Pandavani

52 Pandavani belongs to which category of Indian music?

SSC Phase-XIV (12th) 25 Sep 2026, Shift-II

(a) Classical (b) Devotional
(c) Tribal (d) Folk

53 Avanaddha Vadya belongs to which category of musical instruments?

SSC Phase-XIV (12th) 26 Sep 2026, Shift-I

(a) Sushir (wind/air) (b) Tat (string)
(c) Taal (percussion) (d) Electronic

PART C Classical Dance

Directions (Q. 54–64): *Choose the correct answer from the four given options.*

54 Raas Leela is a classical dance form of which state?

SSC Phase-XIV (Graduation) 17 Sep 2026, Shift-I

(a) Assam (b) Manipur
(c) Odisha (d) West Bengal

55 What was Bharatanatyam originally called?

SSC Phase-XIV (Graduation) 18 Sep 2026, Shift-I

(a) Sadir or Dasi Attam (b) Kathakali
(c) Kuchipudi (d) Mohiniyattam

56 What is the term for pure dance in which the body movements do not express any meaning or emotion?

SSC Phase-XIV (Graduation) 18 Sep 2026, Shift-I

(a) Nritya (b) Natya
(c) Nritta (d) Abhinaya

57 Sattriya dance mainly belongs to which state?

SSC Phase-XIV (Graduation) 21 Sep 2026, Shift-I

(a) Assam (b) Orissa
(c) Kerala (d) West Bengal

58 The name of the classical dance form Kathak is derived from which of the following?

SSC Phase-XIV (Graduation) 25 Sep 2026, Shift-I

(a) Drum beats (b) A sacred river
(c) A temple gate (d) Storyteller

59 In Manipuri Raas Leela, which feature is deliberately kept to a minimum to maintain spiritual grace?

SSC Phase-XIV (Graduation) 25 Sep 2026, Shift-I

(a) Hand mudras (b) Foot stamping
(c) Dramatic costumes (d) Facial expressions

60 Who is credited with bringing global recognition to Indian classical dance through Bharatanatyam and was honoured with the Padma Bhushan?

SSC Phase-XIV (12th) 17 Sep 2026, Shift-II

(a) Mallika Sarabhai
(b) Rukmini Devi Arundale
(c) Uday Shankar
(d) Yamini Krishnamurthy

61 Which of the following statements is/are true about adavus in Mohiniyattam?
1. Each adavu is associated with stylised movements

of the hands and body.
2. Adavus are divided into five zones based on the vertical segments of the body.
3. An adavu ends with a fixed teermana pattern repeated four times.

SSC Phase-XIV (12th) 21 Sep 2026, Shift-II

(a) Only 1 and 2
(b) Only 2 and 3
(c) Only 1 and 3
(d) All three are correct

62 Which dance form integrates "Vachika Abhinaya" (spoken words) with expressive dance?

SSC Phase-XIV (12th) 24 Sep 2026, Shift-II

(a) Kuchipudi
(b) Mohiniyattam
(c) Bharatanatyam
(d) Manipuri

63 What is the name of the distinctive stiff skirt used in the Manipuri classical dance?

SSC Phase-XIV (Matric) 17 Sep 2026, Shift-III

(a) Pattasari
(b) Mekhela
(c) Poloi
(d) Phanek

64 Which body posture category, a medium stance with changes in level, is used in Mohiniyattam?

SSC Phase-XIV (Matric) 19 Sep 2026, Shift-III

(a) Chauka
(b) Mandala
(c) Tribhanga
(d) Samapada

PART D Folk Dances and Festivals

Directions (Q. 65–84): *Choose the correct answer from the four given options.*

65 Which of the following is a correctly matched pair of a traditional folk dance and its state?

SSC Phase-XIV (Graduation) 17 Sep 2026, Shift-I

(a) Kood - Jammu and Kashmir
(b) Karma - West Bengal
(c) Chhai Lam - Nagaland
(d) Dollu Kunitha - Tamil Nadu

66 Bagurumba dance is a traditional folk dance associated with which of the following communities?

SSC Phase-XIV (Graduation) 19 Sep 2026, Shift-I

(a) Mishing (b) Bodo (c) Adi (d) Karbi

67 Which of the following pairs of a traditional folk dance and its state is correctly matched?

SSC Phase-XIV (Graduation) 19 Sep 2026, Shift-I

(a) Raut Nacha - Chhattisgarh
(b) Dollu Kunitha - Tamil Nadu
(c) Bhortal Dance - Meghalaya
(d) Cheraw Dance - Nagaland

68 "Kud Dandi Nach" is a folk dance of which state?

SSC Phase-XIV (Graduation) 21 Sep 2026, Shift-I

(a) Haryana
(b) Jammu and Kashmir
(c) Rajasthan
(d) Odisha

69 The traditional folk dance known as 'Kavadi Attam' mainly belongs to which Indian state?

SSC Phase-XIV (Graduation) 22 Sep 2026, Shift-I

(a) Kerala
(b) Karnataka
(c) Tamil Nadu
(d) Andhra Pradesh

70 Identify the correctly matched pair of a traditional folk dance and its main deity:

SSC Phase-XIV (Graduation) 22 Sep 2026, Shift-I

(a) Dollu Kunitha - Lord Shiva
(b) Karma Nacha - Lord Ganesha
(c) Jagar - Goddess Lakshmi
(d) Karagattam - Lord Vishnu

71 "Garhwali" dance is a folk dance of which state?

SSC Phase-XIV (Graduation) 23 Sep 2026, Shift-I

(a) Himachal Pradesh
(b) Jammu and Kashmir
(c) Uttarakhand
(d) Punjab

72 Which folk dance is traditionally performed in Gujarat during Navratri?

SSC Phase-XIV (Graduation) 23 Sep 2026, Shift-I

(a) Garba
(b) Ghoomar
(c) Lavani
(d) Bhangra

73 Maibi dance is a famous traditional dance form of which state?

SSC Phase-XIV (Graduation) 24 Sep 2026, Shift-I

(a) Assam (b) Manipur
(c) Maharashtra (d) Mizoram

74 Which of the following is a correctly matched pair of a traditional folk dance and its state?

SSC Phase-XIV (Graduation) 24 Sep 2026, Shift-I

(a) Bhagoria - Madhya Pradesh
(b) Pandavani - Uttar Pradesh
(c) Dalkhai - Himachal Pradesh
(d) Karakattam - Kerala

75 Which festival of North-East India, popularly known as the "100 Drums Dance", is celebrated with traditional rice beer?

SSC Phase-XIV (12th) 21 Sep 2026, Shift-II

(a) Wangala (b) Hornbill Festival
(c) Moatsu (d) Saga Dawa

76 On which occasions is the Gaur Maria dance usually performed by both men and women?

SSC Phase-XIV (12th) 26 Sep 2026, Shift-I

(a) Harvest and Diwali
(b) Birth and marriage
(c) Sowing seeds and clearing fields
(d) Victory in war

77 The Shigmo festival, a major spring festival of Goa and the Konkan region, is also known by which of the following Sanskrit names?

SSC Phase-XIV (12th) 26 Sep 2026, Shift-I

(a) Shishirotsav (b) Hanamatsuri
(c) Saga Dawa (d) Losoong

78 In which month is the Hornbill Festival celebrated every year?

SSC Phase-XIV (Matric) 16 Sep 2026, Shift-III

(a) April (b) August
(c) October (d) December

79 The "Wangala" festival is mainly celebrated in which state of India?

SSC Phase-XIV (Matric) 18 Sep 2026, Shift-III

(a) Meghalaya (b) Kerala
(c) Punjab (d) Rajasthan

80 The "Kharchi Puja" festival is celebrated in which of the following states?

SSC Phase-XIV (Matric) 21 Sep 2026, Shift-III

(a) Assam (b) Tripura
(c) Odisha (d) West Bengal

81 "Chapchar Kut" is a vibrant spring festival associated with which Indian state?

SSC Phase-XIV (Matric) 22 Sep 2026, Shift-III

(a) Mizoram (b) Nagaland
(c) Manipur (d) Arunachal Pradesh

82 Which of the following pairs (related to Indian festivals) is correctly matched?

SSC Phase-XIV (Matric) 23 Sep 2026, Shift-III

(a) Chapchar Kut - Mizoram
(b) Hornbill Festival - Assam
(c) Losar Festival - Tamil Nadu
(d) Pongal - Rajasthan

83 Which Sikh festival is celebrated every year at Muktsar in memory of the 'Chali Mukte' (Forty Sikh martyrs), who gave their lives fighting against the Mughal subedar Wazir Khan?

SSC Phase-XIV (Matric) 23 Sep 2026, Shift-III

(a) Hola Mohalla (b) Baisakhi
(c) Gurpurab (d) Maghi

84 The 'Sarhul' festival is a major New Year festival in which the sal tree is ritually worshipped. In which Indian state is this nature-based festival mainly celebrated by the Munda, Oraon and Ho tribes?

SSC Phase-XIV (Matric) 25 Sep 2026, Shift-III

(a) Chhattisgarh (b) Odisha
(c) Jharkhand (d) Madhya Pradesh

PART E Census

Directions (Q. 85–106): *Choose the correct answer from the four given options.*

85 According to the 2011 Census, which 'state' had the highest proportion of Scheduled Tribe (ST)

population relative to its total population?

SSC Phase-XIV (Graduation) 17 Sep 2026, Shift-I

(a) Mizoram (b) Nagaland
(c) Meghalaya (d) Manipur

86 A census town as classified in the 2011 Census must meet all of the following conditions EXCEPT:

SSC Phase-XIV (Graduation) 18 Sep 2026, Shift-I

(a) Population of more than 5,000
(b) At least 50% engaged in agriculture
(c) Density of more than 400 per sq km
(d) Most people engaged in non-agricultural work

87 According to Census 2011, in which state does the highest proportion of the urban population live in slums?

SSC Phase-XIV (Graduation) 19 Sep 2026, Shift-I

(a) Maharashtra (b) Punjab
(c) Tamil Nadu (d) Andhra Pradesh

88 According to census data, which state saw the highest rate of urbanisation during the decade 2001-2011?

SSC Phase-XIV (Graduation) 21 Sep 2026, Shift-I

(a) Kerala (b) Tamil Nadu
(c) Maharashtra (d) Goa

89 Which of these parameters is NOT directly included in the Indian population census?

SSC Phase-XIV (Graduation) 21 Sep 2026, Shift-I

(a) Literacy level (b) Religion
(c) Household income (d) Type of residence

90 According to the 2011 Census of India, what was the child sex ratio of the total population in the 0-6 age group?

SSC Phase-XIV (Graduation) 22 Sep 2026, Shift-I

(a) 914 (b) 929 (c) 939 (d) 949

91 According to Census 2011, which state recorded the highest total work participation rate (combined)?

SSC Phase-XIV (Graduation) 24 Sep 2026, Shift-I

(a) Punjab (b) Himachal Pradesh
(c) Arunachal Pradesh (d) Nagaland

92 Which of the following is the correct descending order of the three most populous states of India (2011)?

SSC Phase-XIV (Graduation) 25 Sep 2026, Shift-I

(a) Uttar Pradesh, Maharashtra, Bihar
(b) Maharashtra, Bihar, West Bengal
(c) Uttar Pradesh, Bihar, West Bengal
(d) Uttar Pradesh, West Bengal, Bihar

93 What is the old-age dependency ratio of India (2011)?

SSC Phase-XIV (Graduation) 25 Sep 2026, Shift-I

(a) 14.0% (b) 14.1% (c) 14.2% (d) 14.3%

94 In census terminology, which of the following is a de facto population count?

SSC Phase-XIV (Graduation) 25 Sep 2026, Shift-I

(a) Total registered voters
(b) Population present at the time of the census
(c) Permanent residents only
(d) Population of working professionals

95 Fill in the blank: According to Census 2011, the total population of India is _____ million.

SSC Phase-XIV (12th) 16 Sep 2026, Shift-II

(a) 1,028 million (b) 1,210 million
(c) 3,287 million (d) 1,350 million

96 Fill in the blank: According to Census 2011, about _____ of India's population lives in urban areas.

SSC Phase-XIV (12th) 19 Sep 2026, Shift-II

(a) 25.34% (b) 28.45% (c) 31.16% (d) 35.21%

97 According to Census 2011, which is the second most spoken language in India?

SSC Phase-XIV (12th) 21 Sep 2026, Shift-II

(a) Marathi (b) Tamil (c) Bengali (d) Telugu

98 Fill in the blank: According to Census 2011, the average population density of India is _____ persons per sq km.

SSC Phase-XIV (12th) 23 Sep 2026, Shift-II

(a) 117 persons per sq km
(b) 200 persons per sq km

(c) 382 persons per sq km
(d) 828 persons per sq km

99 Which of the following is the primary source of demographic data in India, conducted every 10 years?

SSC Phase-XIV (12th) 24 Sep 2026, Shift-II

(a) National Sample Survey (NSS)
(b) Registrar General and Census Commissioner of India
(c) Economic Survey
(d) National Family Health Survey (NFHS)

100 Fill in the blank: According to Census 2011, the annual growth rate of India's population is _____ percent.

SSC Phase-XIV (12th) 26 Sep 2026, Shift-I

(a) 2.2% (b) 1.02% (c) 1.64% (d) 3.1%

101 According to Census 2011, which state of India had the lowest rural sex ratio?

SSC Phase-XIV (Matric) 16 Sep 2026, Shift-III

(a) Haryana (b) Sikkim
(c) Rajasthan (d) Punjab

102 According to Census 2011, which State/Union Territory recorded the steepest decline in sex ratio?

SSC Phase-XIV (Matric) 18 Sep 2026, Shift-III

(a) Bihar (b) Goa
(c) Lakshadweep (d) Daman and Diu

103 The negative population growth rate in India (1911-1921) mainly illustrates which demographic principle?

SSC Phase-XIV (Matric) 19 Sep 2026, Shift-III

(a) Failure of demographic transition
(b) Impact of sudden mortality shocks on population
(c) Decline in fertility rate
(d) Stable replacement level

104 According to Census 2011, what was the average annual growth rate (%) of persons?

SSC Phase-XIV (Matric) 21 Sep 2026, Shift-III

(a) 1.78 (b) 1.88 (c) 1.63 (d) 1.95

105 From 2001 to 2011, by how much did the average annual growth rate of India's population decline?

SSC Phase-XIV (Matric) 22 Sep 2026, Shift-III

(a) 0.15% (b) 0.32% (c) 0.23% (d) 0.51%

106 According to Census 2011, what was the sex ratio of Muslims in India?

SSC Phase-XIV (Matric) 25 Sep 2026, Shift-III

(a) 939 females per 1000 males
(b) 951 females per 1000 males
(c) 903 females per 1000 males
(d) 1023 females per 1000 males

PART F Important Days

Directions (Q. 107–108): *Choose the correct answer from the four given options.*

107 What is the official international theme of the International Day of Forests 2026?

SSC Phase-XIV (Graduation) 22 Sep 2026, Shift-I

(a) Forests and Economies
(b) Forests and Innovation
(c) Forests and Health
(d) Forests and Sustainable Production

108 The laying of the foundation stone of the Petroglyph Conservation Park coincided with which important day?

SSC Phase-XIV (Matric) 25 Sep 2026, Shift-III

(a) World Environment Day
(b) World Heritage Day
(c) World Day for Cultural Diversity
(d) International Archaeology Day

PART G Books and Authors

Directions (Q. 109–112): *Choose the correct answer from the four given options.*

109 Who is the author of the book 'Gulamgiri', a work that exposes caste oppression and advocates social reform in India?

SSC Phase-XIV (12th) 19 Sep 2026, Shift-II

(a) Dr. B.R. Ambedkar
(b) Jyotirao Phule
(c) Periyar E.V. Ramasamy
(d) Ishwar Chandra Vidyasagar

110 Who is the author of 'Devdas' and 'Srikanta', masterpieces of early 20th-century Bengali literature?

SSC Phase-XIV (12th) 24 Sep 2026, Shift-II

(a) Bankim Chandra Chattopadhyay
(b) Sarat Chandra Chattopadhyay
(c) Michael Madhusudan Dutt
(d) Bibhutibhushan Bandyopadhyay

111 Who wrote the famous autobiography 'Wings of Fire'?

SSC Phase-XIV (Matric) 19 Sep 2026, Shift-III

(a) Dr. B. R. Ambedkar
(b) Dr. A. P. J. Abdul Kalam
(c) Nelson Mandela
(d) Barack Obama

112 By whom was the famous Sanskrit play 'Abhijnanashakuntalam' composed?

SSC Phase-XIV (Matric) 25 Sep 2026, Shift-III

(a) Tulsidas (b) Kalidasa
(c) Valmiki (d) Ved Vyas

PART H International Organisations

Directions (Q. 113–127): *Choose the correct answer from the four given options.*

113 Compared to the European Union, what is the most significant institutional limitation of BRICS (originally Brazil, Russia, India, China and South Africa)?

SSC Phase-XIV (Graduation) 22 Sep 2026, Shift-I

(a) Absence of a binding supranational legal authority among Brazil, Russia, India, China and South Africa
(b) Lack of industrial economies among Brazil, Russia, India, China and South Africa
(c) Absence of nuclear capability among Brazil, Russia, India, China and South Africa
(d) Lack of a common religion among Brazil, Russia, India, China and South Africa

114 The New Development Bank set up by BRICS (originally Brazil, Russia, India, China and South Africa) differs from the Bretton Woods institutions (mainly the International Monetary Fund and the World Bank) because it:

SSC Phase-XIV (Graduation) 24 Sep 2026, Shift-I

(a) rejects infrastructure financing
(b) works under the control of the United Nations (UN)
(c) focuses exclusively on military development
(d) was designed to reflect greater equality among emerging economies

115 BIMSTEC mainly promotes cooperation among the countries around which water body?

SSC Phase-XIV (12th) 16 Sep 2026, Shift-II

(a) Arabian Sea (b) Bay of Bengal
(c) South China Sea (d) Indian Ocean

116 Fill in the blank: The World Trade Organization (WTO) was established in the year _____ as the successor to the General Agreement on Tariffs and Trade (GATT).

SSC Phase-XIV (12th) 18 Sep 2026, Shift-II

(a) 1948 (b) 1985 (c) 1991 (d) 1995

117 As of 2025, which BRICS country has the largest population?

SSC Phase-XIV (12th) 21 Sep 2026, Shift-II

(a) Brazil (b) South Africa
(c) China (d) India

118 In which year was the Quadrilateral Security Dialogue (QUAD) originally proposed?

SSC Phase-XIV (12th) 23 Sep 2026, Shift-II

(a) 2005 (b) 2007 (c) 2010 (d) 2015

119 What is the full form of BIMSTEC?

SSC Phase-XIV (12th) 24 Sep 2026, Shift-II

(a) Bay of Bengal Initiative for Multi-Sectoral Technical and Economic Cooperation
(b) Bengal International Multi-Sectoral Trade and Economic Cooperation

(c) Bay of Bengal International Maritime Security and Trade Cooperation
(d) Bangladesh-India Myanmar Sri Lanka Trade and Economic Cooperation

120 When did South Africa officially join the BRIC group, leading to its name being changed to BRICS?
SSC Phase-XIV (12th) 26 Sep 2026, Shift-I
(a) 2006 (b) 2009 (c) 2010 (d) 2014

121 Which of the following countries is NOT a member of BIMSTEC?
SSC Phase-XIV (Matric) 16 Sep 2026, Shift-III
(a) Thailand (b) Nepal
(c) Pakistan (d) Bhutan

122 In which year was the Shanghai Cooperation Organisation (SCO) established?
SSC Phase-XIV (Matric) 17 Sep 2026, Shift-III
(a) 1996 (b) 2001 (c) 2005 (d) 2017

123 Which of the following correctly describes the expanded structure of BRICS as of 2025?
SSC Phase-XIV (Matric) 18 Sep 2026, Shift-III
(a) Only the 5 founding members
(b) It includes new members such as the United Arab Emirates, Iran, Egypt, Ethiopia and Indonesia
(c) Only Asian countries
(d) Only G20 members

124 Which of the following best defines QUAD?
SSC Phase-XIV (Matric) 21 Sep 2026, Shift-III
(a) A military alliance like NATO
(b) An informal strategic grouping of India, the USA, Japan and Australia
(c) A trade bloc of ASEAN
(d) A body of the United Nations

125 As of 2024, which BRICS country is the largest by geographical area?
SSC Phase-XIV (Matric) 23 Sep 2026, Shift-III
(a) Brazil (b) China (c) India (d) Russia

126 Who among the following was the first woman to serve as India's Permanent Representative to the United Nations?
SSC Phase-XIV (Matric) 25 Sep 2026, Shift-III
(a) Nirupama Rao
(b) Ruchira Kamboj
(c) Vijaya Lakshmi Pandit
(d) Hansa Mehta

127 Before the establishment of the World Trade Organization (WTO) in 1995, which organisation governed multilateral trade agreements?
SSC Phase-XIV (Matric) 25 Sep 2026, Shift-III
(a) International Monetary Fund
(b) International Bank for Reconstruction
(c) General Agreement on Tariffs and Trade (GATT)
(d) World Health Organization

PART I National Organisations

Directions (Q. 128): *Choose the correct answer from the four given options.*

128 Which eminent Indian scientist founded the 'Indian Association for the Cultivation of Science' (IACS) in Kolkata?
SSC Phase-XIV (12th) 16 Sep 2026, Shift-II
(a) Meghnad Saha
(b) Mahendralal Sircar
(c) Jagadish Chandra Bose
(d) Prafulla Chandra Ray

PART J Government Schemes

Directions (Q. 129–136): *Choose the correct answer from the four given options.*

129 Which scheme was launched to promote entrepreneurship among Scheduled Caste (SC) and Scheduled Tribe (ST) communities?
SSC Phase-XIV (12th) 21 Sep 2026, Shift-II
(a) Start-up India
(b) Atmanirbhar Bharat Abhiyan
(c) Stand-Up India
(d) Mudra Yojana

130 The 'SHRESHTA' scheme is designed to provide

high-quality education to meritorious students of which category?

SSC Phase-XIV (12th) 22 Sep 2026, Shift-II

(a) Other Backward Classes (OBC)
(b) Scheduled Castes (SC)
(c) Economically Weaker Sections (EWS)
(d) Particularly Vulnerable Tribal Groups (PVTG)

131 What is the objective of the 'UDAN' scheme?

SSC Phase-XIV (12th) 24 Sep 2026, Shift-II

(a) Skill development for artisans
(b) Housing for all
(c) Regional air connectivity
(d) Universal digital education

132 What is the full form of PM-AASHA?

SSC Phase-XIV (Matric) 17 Sep 2026, Shift-III

(a) Pradhan Mantri Atmanirbhar Aay Sahayata Abhiyan
(b) Pradhan Mantri Annadata Aay Sanrakshan Abhiyan
(c) Pradhan Mantri Annadata Awas Suraksha Abhiyan
(d) Pradhan Mantri Agricultural Aay Samriddhi Abhiyan

133 Under the Pradhan Mantri Shram Yogi Maan-dhan (PM-SYM) scheme, which organisation is responsible for pension payments?

SSC Phase-XIV (Matric) 17 Sep 2026, Shift-III

(a) National Bank for Agriculture and Rural Development
(b) Employees' Provident Fund Organisation
(c) Life Insurance Corporation of India
(d) Reserve Bank of India

134 Pradhan Mantri Shram Yogi Maan-dhan (PM-SYM) is mainly meant to provide social security to which group of workers?

SSC Phase-XIV (Matric) 19 Sep 2026, Shift-III

(a) Organised sector workers
(b) Corporate sector professionals
(c) Unorganised sector workers
(d) Government employees

135 What is the main objective of the PM Jan Dhan Yojana?

SSC Phase-XIV (Matric) 23 Sep 2026, Shift-III

(a) Employment generation
(b) Financial inclusion
(c) Skill training
(d) Housing

136 Under the Pradhan Mantri Shram Yogi Maan-dhan (PM-SYM), what is the guaranteed minimum monthly pension provided to unorganised sector workers after the age of 60 years?

SSC Phase-XIV (Matric) 24 Sep 2026, Shift-III

(a) Rs2,000 (b) Rs2,500 (c) Rs3,000 (d) Rs3,500

PART K Miscellaneous

Directions (Q. 137–153): *Choose the correct answer from the four given options.*

137 In Indian temple architecture, which feature distinguishes a Sandhara temple?

SSC Phase-XIV (Graduation) 17 Sep 2026, Shift-I

(a) An entrance from all directions.
(b) Absence of any circumambulatory path
(c) Presence of a circumambulatory path
(d) A monolithic rock structure.

138 Which of the following French architectural elements is most commonly found in the buildings of Pondicherry?

SSC Phase-XIV (Graduation) 18 Sep 2026, Shift-I

(a) Arcaded courtyards (b) Onion domes
(c) Mansard roofs (d) Latticed jharokhas

139 In Hindu temple architecture, where are the depictions of the Ashtadikpalas (guardian deities of the eight directions) usually placed?

SSC Phase-XIV (Graduation) 19 Sep 2026, Shift-I

(a) Guarding the main entrances.
(b) Inside the central subsidiary shrines.
(c) On the outer walls of the sanctum or temple, facing outward.
(d) Embedded within the gopuram gateways.

140 Why are the Dilwara Temples of Mount Abu considered outstanding examples of Jain

architecture?

SSC Phase-XIV (Graduation) 21 Sep 2026, Shift-I

(a) Use of black basalt for intricate idols of deities.
(b) Lotus-shaped water tanks carved in granite.
(c) Murals with fine gold-leaf work.
(d) Marble ceilings with exceptionally carved latticework.

141 In a multi-spired Nagara style temple in India, where is the main sanctum (garbhagriha) located?

SSC Phase-XIV (Graduation) 22 Sep 2026, Shift-I

(a) Directly below the tallest spire.
(b) Below the lowest entrance porch.
(c) At the centre between the boundary gates.
(d) Outside, on the main stone platform.

142 Which of the following roles best describes Ratan Parimoo's contribution to Indian art?

SSC Phase-XIV (Graduation) 23 Sep 2026, Shift-I

(a) Art critic and curator specialising in contemporary installations
(b) Art historian and educator focused on traditional art research
(c) Sculptor and painter with international exhibitions
(d) Digital artist promoting virtual art forms

143 Kerala style temple architecture is greatly influenced by which of the following environmental factors?

SSC Phase-XIV (Graduation) 25 Sep 2026, Shift-I

(a) Frequent earthquakes
(b) Coastal erosion
(c) Monsoon climate with heavy rainfall
(d) High-altitude terrain

144 Which of the following best describes the arabesque style used in Indo-Islamic buildings?

SSC Phase-XIV (12th) 17 Sep 2026, Shift-II

(a) Calligraphic inscriptions of religious verses
(b) Decorative motifs of human figures and animals
(c) Interlaced floral and vegetal designs
(d) Repeated geometric star-shaped designs

145 Which of the following personalities was the architect of the design of the Indian National Flag?

SSC Phase-XIV (12th) 19 Sep 2026, Shift-II

(a) Badruddin Tyabji
(b) Pingali Venkayya
(c) Bankim Chandra Chatterjee
(d) Rabindranath Tagore

146 The 'Hawa Mahal' in Jaipur was designed by Lal Chand Ustad. What was its primary architectural purpose?

SSC Phase-XIV (12th) 22 Sep 2026, Shift-II

(a) To serve as a military watchtower
(b) To allow royal women to observe street festivals and daily life without being seen
(c) To act as a huge cooling system for the city
(d) To store grain during droughts

147 The name "Earth" is derived from:

SSC Phase-XIV (12th) 24 Sep 2026, Shift-II

(a) Greek mythology
(b) Roman mythology
(c) Old English and Germanic words
(d) Sanskrit

148 In Indo-Islamic architecture, which specific term is used for the open courtyard of a mosque?

SSC Phase-XIV (12th) 25 Sep 2026, Shift-II

(a) Liwan (b) Sahn (c) Mihrab (d) Qibla

149 The decorative technique of Pietra Dura is mainly used in which architectural tradition?

SSC Phase-XIV (Matric) 16 Sep 2026, Shift-III

(a) Rajput palaces (b) Mughal tombs
(c) Buddhist stupas (d) Gothic churches

150 Which of the following is a distinctive feature of the Dravida style of temple architecture as compared to the Nagara style?

SSC Phase-XIV (Matric) 19 Sep 2026, Shift-III

(a) Absence of a boundary wall around the temple complex.
(b) Presence of a water tank or reservoir inside the temple courtyard.
(c) Use of multiple 'vimanas' over all subsidiary shrines.

(d) The main tower curving inward to meet at a point at the top.

151 St. Philomena's Church in Mysore is an example of which architectural style?

SSC Phase-XIV (Matric) 22 Sep 2026, Shift-III

(a) Romanesque
(b) Neo-Gothic
(c) Indo-Islamic
(d) Palladian

152 A stepped tank known as 'Surya Kund', with miniature shrines carved on its steps, is a unique architectural feature of which temple style?

SSC Phase-XIV (Matric) 23 Sep 2026, Shift-III

(a) Khajuraho style
(b) Odisha style
(c) Solanki (Maru-Gurjara) style
(d) Pala style

153 Which element is essential in the layout of a "Panchayatana" style temple?

SSC Phase-XIV (Matric) 25 Sep 2026, Shift-III

(a) A single sanctum (shrine)
(b) Five shrines
(c) Seven storeys
(d) A circular mandapa

Answer Key *SSC official key*

Part A · Sports(Static & Current) (Q. 01–43)																			
01	(b)	**02**	(c)	**03**	(b)	**04**	(c)	**05**	(b)	**06**	(c)	**07**	(a)	**08**	(b)	**09**	(c)	**10**	(c)
11	(b)	**12**	(b)	**13**	(b)	**14**	(d)	**15**	(c)	**16**	(b)	**17**	(b)	**18**	(b)	**19**	(b)	**20**	(b)
21	(b)	**22**	(b)	**23**	(a)	**24**	(b)	**25**	(b)	**26**	(b)	**27**	(b)	**28**	(b)	**29**	(d)	**30**	(c)
31	(b)	**32**	(c)	**33**	(b)	**34**	(c)	**35**	(b)	**36**	(b)	**37**	(a)	**38**	(b)	**39**	(b)	**40**	(c)
41	(c)	**42**	(a)	**43**	(b)														
Part B · Music and Musical Instruments (Q. 44–53)																			
44	(c)	**45**	(b)	**46**	(a)	**47**	(d)	**48**	(d)	**49**	(d)	**50**	(d)	**51**	(d)	**52**	(d)	**53**	(c)
Part C · Classical Dance (Q. 54–64)																			
54	(b)	**55**	(a)	**56**	(c)	**57**	(a)	**58**	(d)	**59**	(b)	**60**	(b)	**61**	(a)	**62**	(a)	**63**	(c)
64	(b)																		
Part D · Folk Dances and Festivals (Q. 65–84)																			
65	(a)	**66**	(b)	**67**	(a)	**68**	(b)	**69**	(c)	**70**	(a)	**71**	(c)	**72**	(a)	**73**	(b)	**74**	(a)
75	(a)	**76**	(b)	**77**	(a)	**78**	(d)	**79**	(a)	**80**	(b)	**81**	(a)	**82**	(a)	**83**	(d)	**84**	(c)
Part E · Census (Q. 85–106)																			
85	(a)	**86**	(b)	**87**	(d)	**88**	(b)	**89**	(c)	**90**	(a)	**91**	(b)	**92**	(a)	**93**	(c)	**94**	(b)
95	(b)	**96**	(c)	**97**	(c)	**98**	(c)	**99**	(b)	**100**	(c)	**101**	(a)	**102**	(d)	**103**	(b)	**104**	(c)
105	(b)	**106**	(b)																
Part F · Important Days (Q. 107–108)																			
107	(a)	**108**	(b)																
Part G · Books and Authors (Q. 109–112)																			
109	(b)	**110**	(b)	**111**	(b)	**112**	(b)												
Part H · International Organisations (Q. 113–127)																			
113	(a)	**114**	(d)	**115**	(b)	**116**	(d)	**117**	(d)	**118**	(b)	**119**	(a)	**120**	(c)	**121**	(c)	**122**	(b)

123	(b)	124	(b)	125	(d)	126	(b)	127	(c)
Part I · National Organisations (Q. 128)									
128	(b)								
Part J · Government Schemes (Q. 129–136)									
129	(c)	130	(b)	131	(c)	132	(b)	133	(c)
134	(c)	135	(b)	136	(c)				
Part K · Miscellaneous (Q. 137–153)									
137	(c)	138	(a)	139	(c)	140	(d)	141	(a)
142	(b)	143	(c)	144	(c)	145	(b)	146	(b)
147	(c)	148	(b)	149	(b)	150	(b)	151	(b)
152	(c)	153	(b)						

Detailed Explanations रटना बंद, समझना शुरू

PART A Sports(Static & Current)

01 ANSWER (b) Use a prohibited substance or method for medical treatment with official approval

SSC Phase-XIV (Graduation) 17 Sep 2026, Shift-I

TUE stands for **Therapeutic Use Exemption**. Suppose an athlete genuinely has an illness and needs a medicine that is on the prohibited list for treatment. In that case the athlete can take that medicine after getting approval, and it is not counted as a doping violation.

Facts (TUE)

- TUE rules are set by WADA's International Standard.
- The application must carry the doctor's complete medical documents.
- The condition is that no other non-prohibited treatment is available, and the medicine must not give any performance benefit beyond normal health.
- In India, a NADA committee decides on TUE applications.

Examiner's Trap Do not take TUE as a 'free pass'. It neither lets an athlete skip a test nor allows any medicine to be taken freely.

02 ANSWER (c) Steroids

SSC Phase-XIV (Graduation) 18 Sep 2026, Shift-I

Anabolic-androgenic steroids are artificial hormones similar to testosterone. They increase muscle and strength unnaturally. That is an unfair advantage, so WADA keeps them on its prohibited list.

Facts (WADA)

- WADA was set up in 1999 in Lausanne (Switzerland), and its headquarters is in Montreal (Canada).
- India's NADA was formed in 2005.
- WADA issues a new prohibited list every year, which comes into force on 1 January.
- Steroids such as nandrolone and stanozolol are banned.

Looking at the other options, vitamins and ordinary protein powder are not prohibited. The caffeine in energy drinks is also not on the banned list at present.

03 ANSWER (b) China

SSC Phase-XIV (Graduation) 18 Sep 2026, Shift-I

The 19th Asian Games were held in 2023 in Hangzhou, China. Host **China** finished on top with 201 gold and 383 medals in all.

Remember: Asiad 2023

- The Games ran from 23 September to 8 October 2023.
- Japan came second (52 gold) and South Korea third (42 gold).
- India finished fourth with 28 gold and 107 medals in total. This is its best performance so far.
- The first Asian Games were held in New Delhi in 1951.

04 ANSWER (c) Dutee Chand

SSC Phase-XIV (Graduation) 19 Sep 2026, Shift-I

In December 2022, **Dutee Chand**'s sample tested positive for banned SARMs (Selective Androgen Receptor Modulators). After this, NADA imposed a four-year ban on her.

Profile: Dutee Chand

• Won silver in both the 100 m and 200 m at the 2018 Jakarta Asian Games.
• Set the 100 m national record of 11.17 seconds in 2021.
• Became the first Indian woman sprinter to win gold at the 2019 World University Games.
• She is from Odisha.

Other options: P.T. Usha is currently the President of the Indian Olympic Association (IOA). Annu Rani is a javelin thrower and Hima Das is a 400 m runner.

05 ANSWER (b) Collecting urine or blood samples for testing

SSC Phase-XIV (Graduation) 21 Sep 2026, Shift-I

It is simple. In a doping check, 'sample collection' means taking a **urine or blood sample** from the athlete. The lab then checks whether any prohibited substance or method has been used.

Doping Test: Basics

• Tests are of two types, In-Competition and Out-of-Competition.
• The Athlete Biological Passport (ABP) tracks biological markers in blood and urine over a long period.
• Samples are tested in WADA-accredited labs.
• In India, sample collection is done by NADA.

06 ANSWER (c) Michael Phelps

SSC Phase-XIV (Graduation) 21 Sep 2026, Shift-I

American swimmer **Michael Phelps** won 23 Olympic golds between 2004 and 2016. No other athlete has that many. His total Olympic medal count is 28.

Record: Phelps

• Won 8 golds at a single Olympics, Beijing 2008.
• Before him, the record for most golds at one Olympics (7) belonged to Mark Spitz (1972).
• Competed in five Olympics from 2000 to 2016.
• Carl Lewis has 9 Olympic golds and Usain Bolt has 8.

Note Count Bolt's golds as 8, not 9. His 2008 relay gold was taken away because of a teammate's doping case.

07 ANSWER (a) Category A

SSC Phase-XIV (Graduation) 22 Sep 2026, Shift-I

The Athletics Integrity Unit (AIU) divides countries into categories according to their doping risk. Countries with the highest risk go into **Category A**, and that is where India was placed.

Facts (AIU)

• World Athletics set up the AIU as an independent body in April 2017.
• Category A countries face the strictest testing rules.
• At least 3 out-of-competition tests are required in the 10 months before a major competition.
• In India, these rules are enforced by NADA.

08 ANSWER (b) Saina Nehwal

SSC Phase-XIV (Graduation) 23 Sep 2026, Shift-I

At the London 2012 Olympics, **Saina Nehwal** won bronze in women's singles. This was India's first Olympic medal in badminton.

Profile: Saina Nehwal

• In the bronze medal match, China's Wang Xin withdrew because of an injury.
• Saina became World No. 1 in April 2015.
• Received the Rajiv Gandhi Khel Ratna in 2010 (now Major Dhyan Chand Khel Ratna).
• Coach: Pullela Gopichand.

Examiner's Trap Do not rush on seeing Sindhu's name. Both her medals (Rio 2016 silver, Tokyo 2020 bronze) came later. The 'first' medal is Saina's.

09 ANSWER (c) It is shot from outside a marked arc on the court

SSC Phase-XIV (Graduation) 23 Sep 2026, Shift-I

In basketball, a field goal earns three points only when the shot is taken from **outside the three-point arc** marked on the court. Remember just this much and the question is solved.

Basketball: 3-pointer

• In FIBA, the three-point line is 6.75 m from the centre of the basket.

• In the NBA, this distance is 7.24 m (23 ft 9 in) at the top and 22 ft in the corners.
• While shooting, the feet must not touch the line.
• The ABA adopted it in 1967 and the NBA in 1979.

Other options: a shot taken from inside the 'key' (lane) is worth two points. Three points have nothing to do with time or the number of defenders.

10 **ANSWER (c)** Registered Testing Pool (RTP)

SSC Phase-XIV (Graduation) 24 Sep 2026, Shift-I

Athletes in the **Registered Testing Pool (RTP)** have to tell where they will be and when. The aim is that an out-of-competition test can be taken without any advance notice.

Whereabouts Rule

• The RTP list is prepared by international federations and national agencies (such as NADA).
• Every day, a 60-minute slot between 5 a.m. and 11 p.m. has to be given.
• Three filing failures or missed tests within 12 months is a rule violation.
• The information is filled in on WADA's ADAMS portal.

11 **ANSWER (b)** New Delhi

SSC Phase-XIV (Graduation) 25 Sep 2026, Shift-I

The National Dope Testing Laboratory, or **NDTL**, is in the Jawaharlal Nehru Stadium complex in New Delhi. Athletes' samples are tested here.

Facts (NDTL)

• NDTL is an autonomous body under the Ministry of Youth Affairs and Sports.
• It is accredited by WADA.
• Collecting samples and enforcing rules is NADA's job, testing them is NDTL's.
• India has passed the National Anti-Doping Act, 2022.

Note Keep the two separate. NADA enforces the rules, while NDTL is the lab that tests samples. Both are in New Delhi.

12 **ANSWER (b)** 2006

SSC Phase-XIV (Graduation) 25 Sep 2026, Shift-I

Chess first became a medal sport at the 2006 Doha (Qatar) Asian Games. These were the 15th Asian Games, so the answer is **2006**.

Chess @ Asian Games

• At Doha 2006, Koneru Humpy won the women's individual rapid gold.
• Chess was also held at Guangzhou 2010.
• It was dropped in 2014 and 2018.
• It returned at Hangzhou 2022 (held in 2023).

13 **ANSWER (b)** Judo

SSC Phase-XIV (12th) 16 Sep 2026, Shift-II

Judo has its roots in Jujutsu, an old martial art of Japan. In 1882, Jigoro Kano removed its dangerous techniques and turned it into the modern sport of **Judo**.

Static GK: Judo

• Kano founded the Kodokan Judo Institute in Tokyo.
• 'Judo' means 'the gentle way'.
• Judo entered the Olympics at Tokyo 1964, the first Asian martial art to reach the Olympics.
• The uniform is the judogi, the mat is the tatami, and a full-point win is called 'ippon'.

Other options: Taekwondo is from Korea, Karate from Okinawa (Japan) and Wushu from China.

14 **ANSWER (d)** Handover

SSC Phase-XIV (12th) 16 Sep 2026, Shift-II

In a relay, passing the baton from one runner to the next is called a **handover**. It is also known as the baton exchange.

Relay Rules

• The handover must be completed within the fixed takeover zone, or the team is disqualified.
• The zone is 30 m in the 4×100 m and 20 m in the 4×400 m.
• The main international relays are the 4×100 m and the 4×400 m.
• The baton is a smooth hollow tube about 28-30 cm long.

Looking at the other options, the anchor is the runner on the last leg, a lap is one full round of the track, and a heat is an early qualifying race.

15 **ANSWER (c)** 2010 New Delhi

SSC Phase-XIV (12th) 17 Sep 2026, Shift-II

At the 2010 Delhi Commonwealth Games, India won 101 medals and finished second. Only Australia was ahead. So it is **2010 New Delhi**.

CWG 2010: Medal Tally

- India: 38 gold, 27 silver, 36 bronze.
- Australia was first with 74 gold and 177 medals in total.
- The mascot was 'Shera' (a tiger).
- At Birmingham 2022, India finished fourth with 61 medals, including 22 gold.

16 **ANSWER (b)** Drop

SSC Phase-XIV (12th) 18 Sep 2026, Shift-II

The **drop shot** is played with a light, controlled touch. The shuttle crosses the net and falls close to it in the opponent's court.

Badminton Shots

- A drop can be played from the back court (overhead drop) as well as near the net (hairpin).
- A smash is a fast, downward attacking shot.
- A clear sends the shuttle high into the back court.
- A drive goes straight, flat and fast over the net.

17 **ANSWER (b)** Handstand

SSC Phase-XIV (12th) 18 Sep 2026, Shift-II

In a **handstand**, the gymnast stands upside down on the hands with the legs straight up. The whole skill is done in an inverted position.

Gymnastics: Skills

- It needs core strength, correct shoulder alignment and balance.
- It is the base of many advanced skills.
- In a somersault the body turns 360° in the air, and in a roll it rolls forward or backward on the mat.
- The international body is FIG, founded in 1881.

18 **ANSWER (b)** Chess

SSC Phase-XIV (12th) 19 Sep 2026, Shift-II

'En Passant' is a French term meaning 'in passing'. It is a special pawn move in **chess**.

Chess: Special Moves

- If an opponent's pawn moves two squares on its first move and lands beside your pawn, you can capture it as if it had moved only one square.
- This chance is available only on the very next turn.
- The other special moves are castling and pawn promotion.
- FIDE is the international body for chess, headquartered in Lausanne.

19 **ANSWER (b)** Stalemate

SSC Phase-XIV (12th) 19 Sep 2026, Shift-II

The king of the player to move is not in check, yet that player has no legal move left. This is called **stalemate**, and the game ends in a draw.

Draw Rules: Chess

- In a stalemate, each player gets half a point.
- In checkmate, the king is in check with no escape, and that is a loss.
- A player in a weak position often looks for stalemate to avoid defeat.
- Other reasons for a draw: threefold repetition, the 50-move rule, insufficient material.

Examiner's Trap Remember the difference in one line. Check means checkmate (loss), no check means stalemate (draw).

20 **ANSWER (b)** Cartwheel

SSC Phase-XIV (12th) 21 Sep 2026, Shift-II

In a **cartwheel**, the body turns sideways. First the hands land on the ground, then the feet, just like the spokes of a cart's wheel.

Remember: Cartwheel

- The name comes from the turning motion of a cart's wheel.
- While turning, the body passes through an inverted position for a moment.
- In a forward or backward roll, the body rolls forward or backward, not sideways.
- Dipa Karmakar (Rio 2016) is the first Indian woman gymnast to compete at the Olympics.

21 **ANSWER (b)** IBSF World Snooker Championship

SSC Phase-XIV (12th) 21 Sep 2026, Shift-II

Chennai cueist Anupama Ramachandran won the women's **IBSF World Snooker Championship** in Doha (Qatar) in November 2025. She is the first Indian woman to win this title.

Snooker: Facts

• IBSF stands for International Billiards and Snooker Federation, the global body for amateur snooker.
• Anupama is from Tamil Nadu (Chennai).
• Pankaj Advani holds several IBSF World billiards and snooker titles.
• Snooker is believed to have been started in Jabalpur in 1875 by British army officers.

22 ANSWER (b) An attacking move into the opponent's half

SSC Phase-XIV (12th) 21 Sep 2026, Shift-II

A **raid** is the attack in Kabaddi. The raider goes into the opponent's half chanting 'kabaddi-kabaddi', tries to touch defenders to earn points, and returns safely within 30 seconds.

Kabaddi: Raid

• A raid lasts at most 30 seconds.
• The raider scores by touching defenders, or by crossing the bonus line when there are 6 or more defenders.
• Each team has 7 players on court.
• India has won gold in men's Kabaddi at every Asian Games except 2018.

23 ANSWER (a) P.V. Sindhu

SSC Phase-XIV (12th) 22 Sep 2026, Shift-II

The wording of the question is a little off, but the intended answer is **P.V. Sindhu**. Sindhu won medals in women's singles badminton at two consecutive Olympics, silver at Rio 2016 and bronze at Tokyo 2020. She is the first Indian woman to win two individual Olympic medals.

Two Olympic Medals

• Sindhu: Rio 2016 silver, Tokyo 2020 bronze.
• She is also the first Indian to win the World Championship (2019).
• Sushil Kumar: Beijing 2008 bronze, London 2012 silver.
• Neeraj Chopra: Tokyo 2020 gold, Paris 2024 silver.

Note The word 'only' does not fit well, because Sushil Kumar and Neeraj Chopra have also won individual medals at two consecutive Olympics. Sindhu's special place is being the 'first Indian woman'.

24 ANSWER (b) Field hockey

SSC Phase-XIV (12th) 23 Sep 2026, Shift-II

'Bully' is a **field hockey** term. Two opposing players stand on either side of the ball, take turns tapping the ground and each other's stick, and then play the ball. This is how stopped play used to be restarted.

Hockey Terms

• Today the free hit has replaced the bully on most occasions.
• Other terms: penalty corner, scoop, dribble, green card.
• The international body is FIH.
• Each team has 11 players on the field.

25 ANSWER (b) Tennis

SSC Phase-XIV (12th) 23 Sep 2026, Shift-II

In **tennis**, the server gets two chances. If neither serve lands in the correct service box, it is a double fault and the point goes to the opponent.

Tennis: Static GK

• The scoring order is 15, 30, 40, then game. 40-40 is called 'deuce'.
• The four Grand Slams: Australian Open, French Open, Wimbledon, US Open.
• Other terms: ace, let, love, volley, baseline.
• The global body is ITF.

26 ANSWER (b) Kamaljeet Sandhu

SSC Phase-XIV (12th) 23 Sep 2026, Shift-II

By winning the 400 m race at the 1970 Bangkok Asian Games, **Kamaljeet Sandhu** became the first Indian woman athlete to win an Asian Games gold.

Profile: Kamaljeet Sandhu

• She completed the 400 m in 57.3 seconds.
• Received the Padma Shri in 1971.
• M.D. Valsamma won the 400 m hurdles gold at the 1982 Delhi Asian Games.
• P.T. Usha won 4 golds at the 1986 Seoul Asian

Games.

Examiner's Trap P.T. Usha is the best-known name, so students tick her straight away. But the 'first' gold medallist is Kamaljeet Sandhu.

27 **ANSWER (b)** The continuous chanting of "Kabaddi" during a raid

SSC Phase-XIV (12th) 24 Sep 2026, Shift-II

Cant means the raider continuously and clearly chanting 'kabaddi-kabaddi' in a single breath during the raid.

Kabaddi: Cant

- The cant must start before entering the opponent's half and continue until the raider returns to his own half.
- If the breath breaks in the opponent's half, the raider is out and the point goes to the opponent.
- A raid lasts at most 30 seconds.
- Kabaddi has been a medal sport since the 1990 Beijing Asian Games.

28 **ANSWER (b)** Bajrang Punia

SSC Phase-XIV (12th) 24 Sep 2026, Shift-II

Wrestler **Bajrang Punia** did not give a urine sample for a doping test at the March 2024 selection trials, so NADA provisionally suspended him. The news came out in May 2024.

Profile: Bajrang Punia

- Bronze in 65 kg freestyle at Tokyo 2020.
- Refusing to give a sample without a valid reason is by itself a breach of anti-doping rules.
- Won gold at both the Asian Games and the CWG in 2018.
- NADA is headquartered in New Delhi.

29 **ANSWER (d)** Clear

SSC Phase-XIV (12th) 25 Sep 2026, Shift-II

The shuttle has to be hit high and deep so that it falls near the end line in the opponent's back court. That is the job of the **clear**.

Badminton: Clear

- A clear is of two types: attacking (low, fast) and defensive (very high, to buy time).
- A drop makes the shuttle fall near the net.
- A drive goes flat and fast just over the net.
- Net height is 1.55 m at the posts and 1.524 m at the centre.

Note Drop and clear are opposites. The drop goes to the front near the net, the clear goes to the back near the baseline.

30 **ANSWER (c)** Defenders on the court

SSC Phase-XIV (12th) 26 Sep 2026, Shift-I

All the defenders standing in the opposing court, who try to catch and stop the raider, are called **'Antis'**.

Kabaddi: Terms

- The attacking player is called the 'raider'.
- Each team has 7 players on court.
- A raid lasts at most 30 seconds.
- Kabaddi is the national game of Bangladesh, and its international body is IKF.

31 **ANSWER (b)** Bhawna

SSC Phase-XIV (12th) 26 Sep 2026, Shift-I

At the World Archery Para Series in Bangkok (Thailand) in April 2026, India's para-archer **Bhawna** won the recurve women's individual gold.

Para Archery

- Para-archery is mainly held in two bow categories, recurve and compound.
- Armless archer Sheetal Devi is a **compound** archer and has won a Paralympic medal.
- The international body is World Archery, headquartered in Lausanne.
- The Bangkok event was a ranking competition of the World Para circuit.

Examiner's Trap Sheetal Devi's name comes to mind first, but she competes in the compound category. The question is about recurve.

32 **ANSWER (c)** Four

SSC Phase-XIV (Matric) 16 Sep 2026, Shift-III

A standard basketball match has **four periods (quarters)**. In FIBA each quarter is 10 minutes long, in the NBA 12 minutes.

Basketball: Timing

- FIBA: 4 × 10 = 40 minutes, NBA: 4 × 12 = 48

minutes.
• If the score is level after the fourth quarter, there is a 5-minute overtime.
• Each team has 5 players on court.
• The game was invented by Dr. James Naismith in December 1891.

33 **ANSWER (b)** Practising aiming and pressing the trigger without a cartridge (ammunition) in the chamber.

SSC Phase-XIV (Matric) 17 Sep 2026, Shift-III

Dry firing means practising aiming and pressing the trigger with an empty weapon, without a cartridge. It improves both trigger control and muscle memory.

Shooting: Dry Fire
• It reduces the fear of recoil and steadies the aim.
• A 'snap cap' (dummy round) is often used to protect the firing pin.
• Olympic shooting is run by ISSF.
• Manu Bhaker (Paris 2024) became independent India's first athlete to win two medals at a single Olympics.

34 **ANSWER (c)** 7

SSC Phase-XIV (Matric) 17 Sep 2026, Shift-III

During a match, each team can have at most **7 players** on court. There are 5 reserves, so the full squad is 12.

Kabaddi: Court & Team
• A men's match has two halves of 20 minutes each, 40 minutes in all.
• Court: men 13 m × 10 m, women 12 m × 8 m.
• A raid lasts at most 30 seconds.
• The apex body in India is AKFI (Amateur Kabaddi Federation of India).

35 **ANSWER (b)** Gold, silver and bronze medals

SSC Phase-XIV (Matric) 17 Sep 2026, Shift-III

The Asian Games follow the same system as the Olympics. In every event, the first, second and third places get **gold, silver and bronze** respectively.

Remember: Asian Games
• The Olympic Council of Asia (OCA) holds them every 4 years.
• The first Asian Games: 1951, New Delhi.
• India won a record 107 medals at Hangzhou 2023 (19th edition).
• The 20th Asian Games were held in 2026 in Aichi-Nagoya (Japan).

36 **ANSWER (b)** Right

SSC Phase-XIV (Matric) 18 Sep 2026, Shift-III

The BWF rule is simple. If the server's score is even (0, 2, 4...), the serve is made from the **right** service court, and if it is odd, from the left.

Badminton: Service
• The receiver always stands in the court diagonally opposite the server.
• Rally point scoring, best of three games of 21 points.
• Serving or receiving from the wrong court is a 'service court error'.
• BWF is headquartered in Kuala Lumpur (Malaysia).

Note An easy way to remember: Even-Right, Odd-Left.

37 **ANSWER (a)** 1.80 m × 1.05 m

SSC Phase-XIV (Matric) 19 Sep 2026, Shift-III

Under FIBA rules, a basketball backboard is **1.80 m wide and 1.05 m high**. So the answer is 1.80 m × 1.05 m.

Basketball: Measurements
• Height of the rim from the floor: 3.05 m (10 ft).
• The inner rectangle on the backboard is 59 cm × 45 cm.
• Inner diameter of the ring is about 45 cm.
• FIBA was founded in Geneva in 1932.

38 **ANSWER (b)** Stalemate

SSC Phase-XIV (Matric) 19 Sep 2026, Shift-III

This question has come before. If the player whose turn it is has no legal move and the king is not in check, it is **stalemate** and the game is a draw.

Chess: Static GK
• In a stalemate, each player gets half a point.
• In checkmate, the king is in check with no way out, and the attacker wins.
• The board is 8×8, that is 64 squares.

• FIDE was formed in 1924, and Viswanathan Anand became India's first Grandmaster in 1988.

Other options: a fork means one piece attacking two pieces at once. A gambit means sacrificing a piece in the opening to gain an advantage.

39 **ANSWER (b)** An attack on two pieces at the same time

SSC Phase-XIV (Matric) 19 Sep 2026, Shift-III

In a **fork**, a single piece attacks two or more of the opponent's pieces at the same time. The opponent cannot save them all.

Chess Tactics

• The knight is the most famous piece for forks because of its 'L' move.
• When a knight attacks the king and queen together, it is a 'royal fork'.
• Pin: a piece cannot move because a more valuable piece stands behind it.
• Skewer: a valuable piece is attacked, and when it moves, the less valuable piece behind it gets trapped.

40 **ANSWER (c)** 40 mm

SSC Phase-XIV (Matric) 21 Sep 2026, Shift-III

Under BWF rules, every line on a badminton court must be **40 mm** wide.

Badminton Court

• Lines should be clearly visible, usually white or yellow.
• A line counts as part of the area it encloses.
• The doubles court is 13.40 m × 6.10 m, and the singles width is 5.18 m.
• The net is 1.55 m at the posts and 1.524 m at the centre.

41 **ANSWER (c)** Spherical

SSC Phase-XIV (Matric) 22 Sep 2026, Shift-III

A basketball is fully **spherical**, that is, a 3-D sphere. That is why its bounce, spin and flight are the same in every direction.

Basketball: Ball

• The men's official ball (size 7) has a circumference of about 75 cm (29.5 in).
• It was invented in 1891 in Springfield (Massachusetts) by Dr. James Naismith.
• Men's basketball became a medal sport at the 1936 Berlin Olympics.
• The rim is 10 ft (3.05 m) high.

Examiner's Trap 'Circular' describes a flat, 2-D figure. A ball is 3-D, so the correct word is 'spherical'.

42 **ANSWER (a)** The shuttle is hit twice in succession by the same player.

SSC Phase-XIV (Matric) 24 Sep 2026, Shift-III

If the same player hits the shuttle **twice in succession**, it is a fault under BWF rules, and the point goes to the opponent.

BWF Rules: Fault

• In a rally, if the shuttle touches the net and lands in the correct court, play goes on. It is not a fault.
• At the time of service, the shuttle must be below 1.15 m from the court surface.
• A match is best of three games of 21 points.
• BWF headquarters: Kuala Lumpur.

Other options: the server's feet being inside the service court and clear of the lines is the correct position. Hitting the shuttle below the waist in a rally is not forbidden, as that rule applies only to the service.

43 **ANSWER (b)** +2.0 m/s

SSC Phase-XIV (Matric) 25 Sep 2026, Shift-III

In sprints like the 100 m, a record is accepted only if the wind from behind (tailwind) is not more than **+2.0 m/s**. This is a World Athletics rule.

Wind Rule: +2.0 m/s

• This limit applies to the 100 m, 200 m, 100/110 m hurdles, long jump and triple jump.
• Wind is measured with a wind gauge (anemometer), for 10 seconds in the 100 m.
• Performances with stronger wind are called 'wind-assisted' and do not count as records.
• World Athletics is headquartered in Monaco.

PART B Music and Musical Instruments

44 **ANSWER (c)** Chennai

SSC Phase-XIV (Graduation) 21 Sep 2026, Shift-I

Guitarist Maya Neelakantan, who has won worldwide fame by blending Carnatic music with heavy metal, is from **Chennai** in Tamil Nadu.

Profile: Maya Neelakantan

• Gained international recognition through 'America's Got Talent' (Season 19).
• Plays Carnatic ragas on the electric guitar in a rock/metal style.
• Mastered 7- and 8-string guitars at a young age.
• UNESCO has named Chennai a Creative City of Music.

45 ANSWER (b) Maharashtra

SSC Phase-XIV (12th) 17 Sep 2026, Shift-II

Lavani is the famous folk music and dance form of **Maharashtra**. It is performed with great energy to the fast beat of the dholki.

Static GK: Lavani

• The name comes from the Sanskrit word 'lavanya' (beauty).
• It got royal patronage in the Peshwa period (18th-19th century).
• The dancers wear the nine-yard 'nauvari' saree.
• Two forms: Nirguni (spiritual) and Shringari. Other folk dances of Maharashtra: Tamasha, Koli.

46 ANSWER (a) Bhairav

SSC Phase-XIV (12th) 17 Sep 2026, Shift-II

In classical music, every raga has its own fixed time. **Raga Bhairav** is sung and played in the morning, around sunrise. Its mood is serious and devotional.

Static GK: Raga Timings

• In Bhatkhande's 10-thaat system, Bhairav is the parent raga of **Bhairav thaat**.
• It uses komal Re and Dha, while the other notes are shuddh.
• Yaman (Kalyan thaat) is a raga of the first prahar of the evening.
• Malkauns is a midnight raga and Darbari Kanada a late-night raga

Note Darbari Kanada is linked with **Tansen**, the court singer of Akbar. This fact comes up as a separate question too.

47 ANSWER (d) String tension

SSC Phase-XIV (12th) 21 Sep 2026, Shift-II

Tat vadya means stringed instruments. Here the sound comes from the vibration of a string. The tighter you pull the string, the more the tension, the higher the frequency and the higher the pitch. So the answer is **string tension**.

Facts: Tat Vadya

• The frequency of a stretched string rises in proportion to the square root of the tension (T) and falls as the length (L) increases.
• Examples: sitar, veena, sarod, tanpura.
• The four classes of the Natyashastra: Tat (string), Avanaddha (membrane), Ghana (solid), Sushir (air).
• That is why a player turns the pegs to tune the instrument.

Among the other options, the 'air column' decides the pitch of Sushir (wind) instruments such as the flute, not of Tat instruments.

48 ANSWER (d) Membrane

SSC Phase-XIV (12th) 22 Sep 2026, Shift-II

An Avanaddha instrument (membranophone) has a tightly stretched leather skin over its mouth. When it is struck with the hand or a stick, this **membrane** vibrates and produces the sound.

Remember: 4 Instrument Types

• Avanaddha: tabla, mridangam, dholak, pakhawaj
• Tat = vibration of strings (veena, sitar).
• Sushir = blown air (flute, shehnai).
• Ghana = striking solid metal, wood or clay (manjira, ghatam).

49 ANSWER (d) Agricultural/farming seasons

SSC Phase-XIV (12th) 22 Sep 2026, Shift-II

Naatupura Paadalgal are the village folk songs of Tamil Nadu. Farmers and farm labourers sing them during sowing, transplanting and harvesting to forget their tiredness. So the direct link is with the **farming season**.

Folk: Tamil Nadu

• In Tamil the name means 'village songs', that is, folk songs.
• Directly linked with ploughing, paddy

transplanting and harvesting.
• Also sung at harvest festivals like Pongal.
• Accompanied by percussion instruments such as the parai, thavil and urumi

50 **ANSWER (d)** Damaru

SSC Phase-XIV (12th) 24 Sep 2026, Shift-II

The **damaru** is not beaten by hand. With a twist of the wrist, the beads tied to the ends of a cord strike the membranes on both sides and produce the sound.

Facts (Damaru)
• A small hourglass-shaped Avanaddha instrument.
• Traditionally associated with Lord Shiva.
• The mridangam and thavil are played directly with the hands or a stick.
• The nagada is a large drum beaten with two sticks.

Examiner's Trap All four options are membrane instruments. The only difference is the way they are played. The damaru is the only one that sounds when shaken.

51 **ANSWER (d)** Pandavani

SSC Phase-XIV (12th) 25 Sep 2026, Shift-II

Teejan Bai is the best-known artist of **Pandavani** from Chhattisgarh. Holding a tambura, she both sings and acts out episodes from the Mahabharata.

Awards: Teejan Bai
• She belongs to the **Kapalik style** of Pandavani. The other style is Vedmati.
• Padma Shri 1988, Padma Bhushan 2003, Padma Vibhushan 2019
• She has also received the Sangeet Natak Akademi Award (1995) and the Fukuoka Prize (2018).
• Chhattisgarh is the home of Pandavani.

Other options: Baul belongs to West Bengal, Lavani to Maharashtra and Bihu to Assam.

52 **ANSWER (d)** Folk

SSC Phase-XIV (12th) 25 Sep 2026, Shift-II

Pandavani is a narrative singing art of Chhattisgarh, passed down orally from generation to generation. That places it in **folk** music. It sings of the valour of the Pandavas, especially Bhima.

Remember: Pandavani
• Two styles: Vedmati and Kapalik.
• The lead singer holds a tambura, while the others play the harmonium, dholak and kartal.
• Artists: Teejan Bai, Jhaduram Dewangan, Punaram Nishad.
• The central hero of the story is Bhima

53 **ANSWER (c)** Taal (percussion)

SSC Phase-XIV (12th) 26 Sep 2026, Shift-I

The sound comes from striking a stretched membrane, so Avanaddha instruments fall in the **Taal, that is, percussion** class.

Natyashastra: Instruments
• Four classes: Tat, Avanaddha, Ghana, Sushir.
• Tat uses strings (veena, sitar), Sushir uses air (flute, shehnai).
• Ghana = solid percussion instruments without a membrane, such as the manjira and ghatam.
• Avanaddha: tabla, pakhawaj, mridangam, dholak.

PART C Classical Dance

54 **ANSWER (b)** Manipur

SSC Phase-XIV (Graduation) 17 Sep 2026, Shift-I

Raas Leela is the main form of the **Manipuri** classical dance. Rooted in Vaishnava bhakti, it shows the leelas of Radha, Krishna and the gopis. So the state is **Manipur**.

Static GK: Manipuri
• The credit for its classical form and costume goes to the 18th-century king **Bhagyachandra**.
• The stiff, cylindrical skirt of the female dancers is called the **Potloi**.
• The movements are soft and flowing, not jerky.
• The main instruments are the pung and kartal. Manipur's Sankirtana is on the UNESCO list.

55 **ANSWER (a)** Sadir or Dasi Attam

SSC Phase-XIV (Graduation) 18 Sep 2026, Shift-I

In earlier times, Bharatanatyam was performed by devadasis in temples. It was then called **Sadir** (Sadir Natyam) or **Dasi Attam**. After its revival in the 1930s, it came to be called 'Bharatanatyam'.

Facts (Bharatanatyam)

• E. Krishna Iyer and Rukmini Devi Arundale led the revival.
• Rukmini Devi founded **Kalakshetra** at Adyar (Chennai) in 1936.
• Sequence: Alarippu, Jatiswaram, Shabdam, Varnam, Padam, Tillana.
• The music is in the Carnatic style and the nattuvanar conducts the performance.

As for the other options, Kathakali, Kuchipudi and Mohiniyattam are separate classical dances in their own right, not older names of Bharatanatyam.

56 ANSWER (c) Nritta

SSC Phase-XIV (Graduation) 18 Sep 2026, Shift-I

When every movement of the body is only for rhythm and beauty, and shows no story or emotion, it is called **Nritta**. It is pure, rhythmic dance.

Concept: Nritta-Nritya-Natya

• Three aspects: Nritta (pure), Nritya (with expression), Natya (dramatic).
• In Nritya, rasa is shown through mudras and facial expressions.
• Four kinds of abhinaya: Angika, Vachika, Aharya, Sattvika.
• Alarippu and Jatiswaram in Bharatanatyam are examples of Nritta.

Examiner's Trap 'Nritya' and 'Nritta' differ by just one letter. Remember, with expression it is Nritya, without expression it is Nritta.

57 ANSWER (a) Assam

SSC Phase-XIV (Graduation) 21 Sep 2026, Shift-I

Sattriya is the classical dance of Assam. The Vaishnava saint **Srimanta Sankardev** started it in the 15th century, and it grew up in the sattras (Vaishnava monasteries) of Assam.

Remember: Sattriya

• The Sangeet Natak Akademi gave it classical status in 2000.
• Part of Sankardev's Neo-Vaishnavite movement.
• Linked with Ankiya Naat (Assamese one-act plays).
• Its music is based on **Borgeet**, with the khol and taal as instruments.

58 ANSWER (d) Storyteller

SSC Phase-XIV (Graduation) 25 Sep 2026, Shift-I

'Kathak' comes from 'katha', so it means **one who tells a story (storyteller)**. In olden times, wandering storytellers narrated religious stories in temples through dance and acting.

Static GK: Kathak

• Famous line: "Katha kahe so Kathak kahave."
• Born in North India, it later found patronage in the Mughal court and under Nawab Wajid Ali Shah.
• Gharanas: Lucknow, Jaipur, Banaras.
• Hallmarks: tatkar (fast footwork) and chakkars (spins)

59 ANSWER (b) Foot stamping

SSC Phase-XIV (Graduation) 25 Sep 2026, Shift-I

The movements in Manipuri Raas Leela are rounded, soft and continuously flowing. To keep the calm, devotional mood unbroken, there is almost no **foot stamping** here.

Facts (Raas Leela)

• Dancers move with light steps so that there is no heavy sound on the floor.
• Manipuri is an example of the lasya (gentle) mood, with no sharp angles.
• The stiff skirt of Radha and the gopis is the **Potloi**.
• Main instrument: the double-headed drum **pung**

Note Remember the contrast. Kathak's tatkar and Bharatanatyam's adavus have plenty of foot strikes. Manipuri does not.

60 ANSWER (b) Rukmini Devi Arundale

SSC Phase-XIV (12th) 17 Sep 2026, Shift-II

Sadir carried a social stigma because of the devadasi tradition. **Rukmini Devi Arundale** removed it, gave the dance a respectable stage as 'Bharatanatyam' and took it to the world. She received the Padma Bhushan in 1956.

Facts: Rukmini Devi

• Founded **Kalakshetra** at Adyar (Chennai) in 1936.
• In 1952, she became the first Indian woman nominated to the Rajya Sabha.
• Played a major role in the Prevention of Cruelty to Animals Act, 1960, and was the first chairperson of

the Animal Welfare Board of India.
• Sangeet Natak Akademi Fellowship in 1967.

Other options: Uday Shankar was a pioneer of modern dance. Mallika Sarabhai and Yamini Krishnamurthy are dancers of a later generation.

61 ANSWER (a) Only 1 and 2

SSC Phase-XIV (12th) 21 Sep 2026, Shift-II

An adavu is the basic unit of nritta. Fixed hand and body movements go along with the footwork, so Statement 1 is correct. The classification in Statement 2 is not common in books, but the exam treated it as correct too. Statement 3 is wrong because the teermanam is usually repeated **three times**, not four. So the answer is **only 1 and 2**.

Static GK: Mohiniyattam
• The adavu is the unit of pure nritta in South Indian classical dances.
• Mohiniyattam is a solo, female-centred dance of Kerala.
• Its movements resemble swaying palm trees and waves.
• Songs are in the Manipravalam language, in the Sopana Sangeetham style.
• Vallathol Narayana Menon revived it through the Kerala Kalamandalam.

62 ANSWER (a) Kuchipudi

SSC Phase-XIV (12th) 24 Sep 2026, Shift-II

Acting through spoken words is called **Vachika Abhinaya**. **Kuchipudi** of Andhra Pradesh is really a dance-drama in which the performers speak dialogues and sing while dancing.

Remember: Kuchipudi
• Named after Kuchipudi village in Krishna district.
• **Siddhendra Yogi** systematised it in the 17th century.
• **Tarangam**: dancing on the rims of a brass plate, sometimes with a water pot on the head.
• It begins with a ritual called Purvaranga.

63 ANSWER (c) Poloi

SSC Phase-XIV (Matric) 17 Sep 2026, Shift-III

The stiff, cylinder-like skirt worn by the female dancers of Manipuri Raas Leela is the **Poloi (Potloi)**. Stiff cloth, mirrors and embroidery are used to hold its shape.

Facts (Potloi)
• This costume is believed to date from the time of King Bhagyachandra (Ching-Thang Khomba).
• The transparent white veil on the head is the **Koktombi**.
• Raas Leela is based on the love of Radha and Krishna.
• Manipuri is one of the 8 classical dances of the Sangeet Natak Akademi

Other options: the Phanek is the everyday traditional garment of Meitei women, and the Mekhela is a garment of Assam.

Examiner's Trap The Phanek is also from Manipur, so it confuses students. But the stiff skirt used in the dance is the Potloi.

64 ANSWER (b) Mandala

SSC Phase-XIV (Matric) 19 Sep 2026, Shift-III

In Mohiniyattam, the dancer takes a medium, half-sitting stance with the knees bent. This is called **Mandala** (Ardhamandala or Mandala sthana), and the level of height keeps changing in this stance.

Concept: Dance Postures
• Mohiniyattam is a dance of Kerala, inspired by Vishnu's Mohini avatar.
• It is usually performed solo by women.
• The basic postures are based on Bharata Muni's Natyashastra.
• In Samapada, the dancer stands with both feet straight and together.

Looking at the other options, Chauka (square stance) and Tribhanga (body bent at three points) are the hallmarks of Odissi. Samapada is a straight standing posture.

PART D Folk Dances and Festivals

65 ANSWER (a) Kood - Jammu and Kashmir

SSC Phase-XIV (Graduation) 17 Sep 2026, Shift-I

Kood is a folk dance of the hilly areas of Jammu and Kashmir. After a good harvest, villagers perform it at night to thank their village deity. So the correct pair

is **Kood - Jammu and Kashmir**.

Remember: Folk Dance-State

• Kood is accompanied by the narsingha, flute and drum.
• Karma is a dance of the Oraon, Gond and Baiga tribes of Jharkhand, Chhattisgarh and Madhya Pradesh.
• Chheih Lam is a festive dance of Mizoram.
• Dollu Kunitha is a big-drum dance of Karnataka

Other options: Karma is from Jharkhand/ Chhattisgarh, Chheih Lam from Mizoram and Dollu Kunitha from Karnataka.

66 ANSWER (b) Bodo

SSC Phase-XIV (Graduation) 19 Sep 2026, Shift-I

Bagurumba is a folk dance of the **Bodo** community of Assam. Bodo women mostly perform it at the Bwisagu festival, and it imitates the movements of butterflies and birds.

Folk: Bodo Community

• It is also called the 'butterfly dance', as the dancers spread their dress, the **dokhona**, like wings.
• Bwisagu is celebrated in mid-April to welcome the new year.
• Instruments: kham (drum), sifung (flute), jotha (cymbals)
• The main agricultural festival of the Mishing community is Ali-Aye-Ligang.

67 ANSWER (a) Raut Nacha - Chhattisgarh

SSC Phase-XIV (Graduation) 19 Sep 2026, Shift-I

Raut Nacha is a folk dance of Chhattisgarh. The Yadav (Raut) community performs it around Deepawali, and it shows devotion to Lord Krishna and the victory of good over evil.

Static GK: Folk Dances

• Dollu Kunitha is a drum dance of Karnataka.
• Bhortal is from Assam, developed by Narahari Burha Bhakat.
• Cheraw (bamboo dance) is from Mizoram.
• Other famous art forms of Chhattisgarh: Panthi and Pandavani.

Other options: Dollu Kunitha is linked with Karnataka, Bhortal with Assam and Cheraw with Mizoram.

68 ANSWER (b) Jammu and Kashmir

SSC Phase-XIV (Graduation) 21 Sep 2026, Shift-I

After the harvest, people in the hill villages of Jammu and Kashmir perform **Kud Dandi Nach** to thank their family deities. The state is **Jammu and Kashmir**.

Remember: J&K Dances

• It is mainly a dance of the villages of the Jammu region.
• Instruments: narsingha, flute, drum, bronze plate.
• Other folk dances of J&K: Rouf, Hikat, Dumhal.
• Dumhal is performed by men of the Wattal community wearing long robes and pointed caps.

69 ANSWER (c) Tamil Nadu

SSC Phase-XIV (Graduation) 22 Sep 2026, Shift-I

Kavadi Attam is a devotional dance of Tamil Nadu. Devotees of Lord Murugan (Kartikeya), especially on **Thaipusam**, dance while balancing a decorated 'kavadi' on their shoulders.

Facts (Kavadi Attam)

• The kavadi is a decorated arched frame of wood or bamboo.
• 'Kavadi' means burden. It stands for devotion and penance.
• Accompanied by the nadaswaram and thavil.
• Tamils in Malaysia, Singapore and Mauritius also celebrate it with great fervour.

Examiner's Trap Kavadi is seen in Kerala too, but in the exam its main state is taken as **Tamil Nadu**.

70 ANSWER (a) Dollu Kunitha - Lord Shiva

SSC Phase-XIV (Graduation) 22 Sep 2026, Shift-I

Dollu Kunitha, the drum dance of Karnataka, is dedicated to Beereshwara (Beeralingeshwara), who is regarded as a form of Lord Shiva. It is mostly performed by the Kuruba community. So the pair **Dollu Kunitha - Lord Shiva** is correct.

Folk: Dances and Deities

• Named after the big, hollow drum called the 'dollu'.
• Dancers sing devotional songs while doing fast, acrobatic group movements.

• The Karma dance is linked with the worship of Karam Devta (the karam tree).
• Karagattam (Tamil Nadu) is for Mariamman, the goddess of rain

Other options: Karma is linked with Karam Devta, Jagar (Uttarakhand) with folk deities such as Golu Devta, and Karagattam with Goddess Mariamman.

71 ANSWER (c) Uttarakhand

SSC Phase-XIV (Graduation) 23 Sep 2026, Shift-I

The name itself is the hint. Garhwali dance belongs to the Garhwal division of **Uttarakhand** and is performed at festivals, harvest celebrations and religious fairs.

Static GK: Uttarakhand
• Two divisions: Garhwal (west) and Kumaon (east).
• Main instruments: dhol and damau.
• Other folk dances: Chholiya, Jhora, Chhapeli, Barada Nati.
• The Garhwali language belongs to the Central Pahari group.

72 ANSWER (a) Garba

SSC Phase-XIV (Graduation) 23 Sep 2026, Shift-I

During the nine nights of Navratri, Gujarat dances the **Garba**. People dance in a circle around a lit lamp (garbo) or an idol of Goddess Durga.

Facts (Garba)
• The word 'Garba' is linked with the Sanskrit 'Garbha-deep', a symbol of life.
• Added to UNESCO's Intangible Cultural Heritage list in December 2023.
• Dandiya Raas is also performed alongside it in Navratri.
• The circle symbolises the cycle of life, death and rebirth

Other options: Ghoomar is from Rajasthan, Lavani from Maharashtra and Bhangra from Punjab.

73 ANSWER (b) Manipur

SSC Phase-XIV (Graduation) 24 Sep 2026, Shift-I

Maibi is a ritual dance of Manipur. The maibis, that is, priestesses, perform it at the **Lai Haraoba** festival of the Meitei community.

Remember: Maibi Dance
• It invokes the deities and narrates the story of creation.
• Slow movements and hand mudras describe creation and human life.
• Accompanied by the **pena** (a string instrument) and drums.
• The classical dance of Manipur is Manipuri (Raas Leela).

74 ANSWER (a) Bhagoria - Madhya Pradesh

SSC Phase-XIV (Graduation) 24 Sep 2026, Shift-I

Bhagoria is a dance festival of the Bhil and Bhilala tribes of Madhya Pradesh. It is celebrated with great energy before Holi in areas like Jhabua and Alirajpur. So the correct pair is **Bhagoria - Madhya Pradesh**.

Folk: Madhya Pradesh
• Bhagoria is a big festival of the tribal belt of Malwa-Nimar.
• Other folk dances of MP: Matki, Saila, Gaur Maria.
• Dalkhai is a dance of Odisha (Sambalpur), performed during Dussehra.
• In Karakattam, decorated pots are balanced on the head in honour of Goddess Mariamman.

Looking at the other options, Pandavani is from Chhattisgarh, Dalkhai from Odisha and Karakattam from Tamil Nadu.

75 ANSWER (a) Wangala

SSC Phase-XIV (12th) 21 Sep 2026, Shift-II

'100 Drums' should instantly bring Meghalaya to mind. **Wangala**, the post-harvest festival of the Garo tribe, is the '100 Drums Festival', where many drums are played together and rice beer is drunk.

Facts (Wangala)
• A thanksgiving to **Saljong**, the sun god of fertility.
• The long drum is called the **dama**.
• It marks the end of the farming season.
• Place: Garo Hills of Meghalaya

Other options: Hornbill is a tourism and cultural festival of Nagaland, Moatsu belongs to the Ao Naga tribe of Nagaland and Saga Dawa is a Buddhist festival of Sikkim.

76 **ANSWER (b)** Birth and marriage

SSC Phase-XIV (12th) 26 Sep 2026, Shift-I

The **Gaur Maria** dance of the Maria Gond tribe of Bastar (Chhattisgarh) is performed by men and women together on auspicious occasions, mainly **birth and marriage**.

Static GK: Gaur Maria

• Men wear a headdress with gaur (bison) horns and cowries, so it is also called the 'Bison Horn' dance.
• Women carry a jingling iron/brass stick (tirududi) to keep the rhythm.
• Dancers move in circles, imitating the gait of a bison.
• Region: Bastar, Chhattisgarh.

77 **ANSWER (a)** Shishirotsav

SSC Phase-XIV (12th) 26 Sep 2026, Shift-I

The word **Shigmo** comes from the Sanskrit **Shishirotsav**. It means a festival that bids farewell to shishir (winter) and welcomes spring.

Remember: Shigmo (Goa)

• Celebrated in Phalgun, it is the cultural form of Holi in Goa.
• It features folk dances such as Ghode Modni, Fugdi and Romta Mel.
• Two forms: Dhakto Shigmo (village level) and Vhadlo Shigmo (big, public).
• Also linked with the tradition of welcoming warriors back from battle.

Other options: Hanamatsuri is a Buddhist flower festival of Japan, while Saga Dawa and Losoong are Buddhist festivals of Sikkim.

78 **ANSWER (d)** December

SSC Phase-XIV (Matric) 16 Sep 2026, Shift-III

Nagaland's **Hornbill Festival** runs from **1 to 10 December** every year. The culture of all the Naga tribes comes together on one stage, which is why it is called the 'Festival of Festivals'.

Facts (Hornbill)

• Venue: Naga Heritage Village, **Kisama**, near Kohima.
• Started by the Government of Nagaland in 2000.
• Named after the Great Hornbill, a bird honoured in Naga folklore.
• Nagaland became the 16th state on 1 December 1963, so the festival also begins on this day.

79 **ANSWER (a)** Meghalaya

SSC Phase-XIV (Matric) 18 Sep 2026, Shift-III

Wangala is the biggest harvest festival of the Garo tribe of Meghalaya, celebrated at the end of the farming season. The state is **Meghalaya**.

Static GK: Meghalaya Fests

• Held in honour of the sun god **Saljong** (god of fertility).
• Many drums are played together, hence the name '100 Drums Festival'.
• The Garo (A·chik) people live in the Garo Hills.
• Festivals of the Khasi community: Shad Suk Mynsiem and the Nongkrem dance.

80 **ANSWER (b)** Tripura

SSC Phase-XIV (Matric) 21 Sep 2026, Shift-III

Kharchi Puja is a major festival of Tripura. For seven days, **fourteen deities** (Chaturdasha Devata) are worshipped.

Facts (Kharchi Puja)

• Held at the Chaturdasha Devata temple in Old Agartala.
• Time: the month of Ashadha, usually July.
• The idea of 'Kharchi' is linked with the purification of Mother Earth.
• The chief priest is the **Chantai**. Originally a festival of the Tripuri community, it is now celebrated by all.

81 **ANSWER (a)** Mizoram

SSC Phase-XIV (Matric) 22 Sep 2026, Shift-III

Chapchar Kut is the spring festival of the Mizo people. It is celebrated in March once the clearing of forest for jhum cultivation is complete. So the state is **Mizoram**.

Remember: Kuts of Mizoram

• The main attraction is **Cheraw** (bamboo dance).
• Three 'Kuts': Chapchar Kut, Mim Kut, Pawl Kut.
• Known for traditional dress, folk music and community feasts.
• Mizoram became the 23rd state on 20 February

1987.

Note In the exam, if you see the word 'Kut', think of Mizoram straight away.

82 **ANSWER (a)** Chapchar Kut - Mizoram

SSC Phase-XIV (Matric) 23 Sep 2026, Shift-III

Chapchar Kut is celebrated in Mizoram after the forest is cleared for jhum cultivation. It is the agricultural spring festival there, so this is the pair that fits.

Festivals: North-East+

- Chapchar Kut falls in March, with Cheraw (bamboo dance) as its main attraction.
- Hornbill: 1 to 10 December, Kisama (Nagaland).
- Losar is the Tibetan/Buddhist New Year, in Ladakh, Sikkim and Arunachal.
- Pongal: the harvest festival of Tamil Nadu, dedicated to the Sun God

Other options: Hornbill belongs to Nagaland, Losar to Ladakh/Sikkim/Arunachal and Pongal to Tamil Nadu.

83 **ANSWER (d)** Maghi

SSC Phase-XIV (Matric) 23 Sep 2026, Shift-III

In 1705, forty Sikhs were martyred in the Battle of Khidrana (Muktsar). They came to be called the 'Chali Mukte'. In their memory, **Maghi** (Mela Maghi) is held every year at Sri Muktsar Sahib on the first day of Magh (Makar Sankranti).

History: Chali Mukte

- The battle was fought in 1705 between Wazir Khan's Mughal army and the Sikhs of Guru Gobind Singh Ji.
- These 40 warriors were inspired by **Mai Bhago**.
- The Guru called them 'Mukte', and so Khidrana came to be named **Muktsar**.
- Hola Mohalla is held at Anandpur Sahib on the day after Holi.

Other options: Baisakhi is linked with the founding of the Khalsa Panth (1699), Gurpurab marks the birth anniversaries of the Gurus and Hola Mohalla is a festival of valour at Anandpur Sahib.

84 **ANSWER (c)** Jharkhand

SSC Phase-XIV (Matric) 25 Sep 2026, Shift-III

As soon as the sal tree flowers, the Oraon, Munda and Ho tribes celebrate **Sarhul**. It is the tribal New Year and is regarded as the biggest nature festival of **Jharkhand**.

Tribal Fest: Sarhul

- Date: Chaitra Shukla Tritiya.
- A festival of the symbolic marriage of the Earth and the Sun and of welcoming spring.
- The village priest, the **Pahan**, conducts the puja and distributes sal flowers.
- Sowing does not begin before Sarhul, and people dance to the mandar and dhol.

PART E Census

85 **ANSWER (a)** Mizoram

SSC Phase-XIV (Graduation) 17 Sep 2026, Shift-I

In Census 2011, among the states, **Mizoram** had the largest ST share in its total population, about **94.4%**.

Census 2011: ST

- Among UTs, Lakshadweep leads (about 94.8%).
- Among states, Nagaland is second (about 86.5%).
- Madhya Pradesh ranks first in the total number of STs.
- STs make up about 8.6% of the country's population.
- No ST is notified in Punjab, Haryana, Delhi, Chandigarh and Puducherry

Examiner's Trap The question says 'state', so pay attention here. If you count UTs too, Lakshadweep comes out ahead.

86 **ANSWER (b)** At least 50% engaged in agriculture

SSC Phase-XIV (Graduation) 18 Sep 2026, Shift-I

For a census town, at least **75%** of the male main workers must be in non-agricultural work. Now, '50% of people engaged in agriculture' goes completely against this definition. So this is the exception.

Census Town: 3 Conditions

• A population of at least 5,000, 75% of male main workers in non-agricultural work, and a density of at least 400 persons/sq km.
• A Statutory Town is one with a notified municipality, municipal corporation, cantonment board, etc.
• Census towns numbered 1,362 in 2001 and rose to 3,894 in 2011.
• They have no municipality and are mostly run by a gram panchayat.

87 **ANSWER (d)** Andhra Pradesh

SSC Phase-XIV (Graduation) 19 Sep 2026, Shift-I

In the Census 2011 slum data, the largest share of the urban population living in slums, about **36%**, was in **Andhra Pradesh** (undivided at that time).

Census 2011: Slums

• **Maharashtra** ranks first in the total number of slum dwellers.
• Three types: notified, recognised and identified.
• Mumbai's Dharavi is counted among the largest slums in Asia.
• The 2011 Census was India's 15th and the 7th after Independence.

Examiner's Trap Don't get caught between 'proportion' and 'total number'. By proportion it is Andhra Pradesh, by number it is Maharashtra.

88 **ANSWER (b)** Tamil Nadu

SSC Phase-XIV (Graduation) 21 Sep 2026, Shift-I

The wording of the question is a little loose, but the exam took **Tamil Nadu** as the answer. In 2011, with about 48.45% urban population, Tamil Nadu was the most urbanised of the large states. Do remember, though, that the biggest jump in urban share in 2001-11 was made by Kerala (from about 26% to 47.7%).

Census 2011: Urbanisation

• The most urbanised state is Goa (about 62.2%), followed by Mizoram (about 52.1%).
• Among large states, Tamil Nadu (48.45%) is at the top.
• Kerala's jump came from a huge rise in the number of census towns.
• India's urbanisation in 2011 was about 31.16%
• Maharashtra leads in total urban population (more than 5 crore).

89 **ANSWER (c)** Household income

SSC Phase-XIV (Graduation) 21 Sep 2026, Shift-I

India's census does not directly ask about a family's **income**. Its economic condition is judged from household assets, the condition of the house and details of work and occupation.

Census: What Is Asked

• In the Houselisting phase, items such as vehicles, TV and banking facilities, and the type of house, are recorded.
• Literacy is counted for people aged 7 years and above.
• Religion is asked directly in the population enumeration schedule.
• The census is conducted under the **Census Act, 1948**.

90 **ANSWER (a)** 914

SSC Phase-XIV (Graduation) 22 Sep 2026, Shift-I

Child sex ratio means the number of girls per 1,000 boys among children aged 0-6 years. In Census 2011 it came to **914**, down from 927 in 2001.

Census 2011: Sex Ratio

• The overall sex ratio was about 940 (final figure 943) per 1,000 males.
• Overall, Kerala is at the top (1,084) and among states Haryana is at the bottom (879).
• In child sex ratio, Arunachal Pradesh is at the top (972) and Haryana at the bottom (834).
• The Registrar General and Census Commissioner at that time was C. Chandramouli.

Note 914 is the provisional figure. In the final data it moved to around 918, so choose by looking at the options.

91 **ANSWER (b)** Himachal Pradesh

SSC Phase-XIV (Graduation) 24 Sep 2026, Shift-I

In Census 2011, the Work Participation Rate (WPR) was highest in **Himachal Pradesh**, about 51.9%. The reason is simple. In hill farming, women work alongside men, so the count of workers goes up.

Census 2011: WPR

- WPR = Total workers (main + marginal) ÷ Total population × 100
- All-India WPR is about 39.8%
- Himachal is at the top, and Nagaland also has a high WPR
- Among big states, UP and Bihar are at the bottom

92 **ANSWER (a)** Uttar Pradesh, Maharashtra, Bihar

SSC Phase-XIV (Graduation) 25 Sep 2026, Shift-I

Uttar Pradesh is first (about 19.98 crore), then comes **Maharashtra** (11.24 crore), and **Bihar** is third (10.41 crore). This Census 2011 order comes up in the exam again and again.

Remember: Top 4 Populous

- UP alone has about 16.5% of the country's population
- Maharashtra 9.3%, Bihar 8.6%
- Fourth: West Bengal (9.13 crore)
- Least populous: Sikkim, about 6.1 lakh
- Most populous district: Thane (Maharashtra)

Examiner's Trap Some options place Bihar or Bengal above Maharashtra. Fix the order in your mind: UP > Maharashtra > Bihar > West Bengal.

93 **ANSWER (c)** 14.2%

SSC Phase-XIV (Graduation) 25 Sep 2026, Shift-I

The old-age dependency ratio tells you how many elderly people (60+) depend on every 100 people of working age (15-59). In Census 2011, it was **14.2**, which means about 14 elderly persons for every 100.

Formula: Dependency Ratio

- Old-age ratio = (Population 60+ ÷ Population 15-59) × 100
- About 15.1 in villages and 12.4 in towns
- Child ratio (0-14): about 51.0
- Total dependency ratio is nearly 65.2
- Among big states, Kerala has the highest old-age ratio

94 **ANSWER (b)** Population present at the time of the census

SSC Phase-XIV (Graduation) 25 Sep 2026, Shift-I

In the de facto method, a person is counted where he is **actually present** on the Census date. It does not matter if his permanent home is somewhere else. So the answer is 'Population present at the time of the census'.

Concept: De facto vs De jure

- De facto: where the person is present at that time
- De jure: where the person usually lives
- De facto is a snapshot of the population on a fixed day
- India follows the 'extended de facto' method, and the count runs for about 3 weeks

Memory Trick An easy way to remember: Facto = Fact, so count people where they are seen. Jure = legal, so count them where they are residents.

95 **ANSWER (b)** 1,210 million

SSC Phase-XIV (12th) 16 Sep 2026, Shift-II

In 2011, India's population was about **1,210.85 million**, that is, nearly 121 crore. The option 1,210 million matches it directly.

Census 2011 at a Glance

- 15th Census counting from 1872, and the 7th after Independence
- Motto: "Our Census, Our Future"
- India's share in world population is about 17.5%
- Decadal growth for 2001-2011 was nearly 17.7%

Look at the other options. 1,028 million is the 2001 figure, and 3,287 (thousand sq km) is India's area, not its population.

96 **ANSWER (c)** 31.16%

SSC Phase-XIV (12th) 19 Sep 2026, Shift-II

As per Census 2011, **31.16%** of people lived in towns and cities, and the remaining 68.84% lived in villages.

Facts: Urbanisation 2011

- Urban population about 37.7 crore
- Most urbanised state: Goa (62.17%)
- Least urbanised: Himachal (10.03%)
- Among UTs, Delhi leads with about 97.5%
- Urban population grew by about 31.8% in 2001-11

Note In 2001, this figure was 27.81%. Don't get

confused by a close option like 28.45%.

97 ANSWER (c) Bengali

SSC Phase-XIV (12th) 21 Sep 2026, Shift-II

By mother tongue, **Bengali** comes second after Hindi. In Census 2011, about 9.72 crore people reported it as their mother tongue, nearly 8.03% of the total population.

Census 2011: Languages

- 1. Hindi, about 43.63%
- 2. Bengali, 8.03%
- 3. Marathi, 6.86%
- 4. Telugu (6.70%), followed by Tamil
- The Eighth Schedule has 22 languages in all

Examiner's Trap In 2001, Telugu was third, but in 2011 Marathi moved ahead. The exam tests exactly this changed order.

98 ANSWER (c) 382 persons per sq km

SSC Phase-XIV (12th) 23 Sep 2026, Shift-II

In 2011, India's population density was **382 persons per sq km**. In 2001, it was 325.

Density: Census 2011

- Density = average number of people per sq km
- Most densely populated state: Bihar (1,106)
- Least: Arunachal Pradesh (17)
- Top among UTs: Delhi, about 11,320

99 ANSWER (b) Registrar General and Census Commissioner of India

SSC Phase-XIV (12th) 24 Sep 2026, Shift-II

The Census, held every 10 years, is the most basic source of population data. It is conducted by the office of the **Registrar General and Census Commissioner of India**, which works under the Ministry of Home Affairs.

Static GK: Census

- Legal basis: Census Act, 1948
- First Census 1872 (Lord Mayo), first synchronous Census 1881 (Lord Ripon)
- It gives data on literacy, sex ratio, workforce, urbanisation and more
- The 2011 Census was the 15th, and the 7th after Independence

Other options: NSS and NFHS are sample surveys and do not count everyone. The Economic Survey is the annual report of the Ministry of Finance.

100 ANSWER (c) 1.64%

SSC Phase-XIV (12th) 26 Sep 2026, Shift-I

During 2001-2011, the average annual exponential growth rate of population was **1.64%**. In the previous decade it was 1.97%, so the pace slowed a little.

Growth Rate 2001-11

- Decadal growth about 17.7%
- Total population nearly 121.08 crore
- Fastest growth: Meghalaya (27.95%)
- Only state where population fell: Nagaland (−0.58%)

101 ANSWER (a) Haryana

SSC Phase-XIV (Matric) 16 Sep 2026, Shift-III

The rural sex ratio was lowest in **Haryana**, about 882 females per 1,000 males.

Sex Ratio: Census 2011

- Sex ratio = females per 1,000 males
- Haryana's overall figure is 879, the lowest among states
- Kerala is at the top (1,084)
- National average (final): 943
- 'Beti Bachao Beti Padhao' was launched from Panipat in January 2015

102 ANSWER (d) Daman and Diu

SSC Phase-XIV (Matric) 18 Sep 2026, Shift-III

The sex ratio of **Daman and Diu** was 710 in 2001 and fell to 618 in 2011. This drop of 92 points was the biggest in the whole country.

Remember: Daman and Diu

- 618 was also the lowest sex ratio of 2011
- In 2020, it was merged with Dadra and Nagar Haveli into one UT
- National average rose from 933 (2001) to 943 (2011, final)
- Highest is Kerala at 1,084, and the lowest among states is Haryana at 879

Note Get the difference clear. Among states alone,

Haryana is the lowest. But if you count states and UTs together, Daman and Diu is the lowest.

103 **ANSWER (b)** Impact of sudden mortality shocks on population

SSC Phase-XIV (Matric) 19 Sep 2026, Shift-III

The population fell in 1911-1921, but not because fewer babies were born. The 1918 influenza, famines and plague caused a sudden rise in deaths. This is called the **impact of mortality shocks**.

Facts: 1921 Great Divide

- Decadal growth in 1911-21 was about −0.31%
- The 1918 Spanish Flu killed crores of people in British India
- 1921 = 'Year of Great Divide', and the population grew steadily after it
- Demographic transition: a shift from high birth and death rates to low ones

Examiner's Trap 'Decline in fertility rate' sounds right. But in that period, the population fell because deaths rose, not because births fell.

104 **ANSWER (c)** 1.63

SSC Phase-XIV (Matric) 21 Sep 2026, Shift-III

The average annual exponential growth rate for 2001-2011 is usually quoted as 1.64%. Some tables print it as 1.63%, and that is the figure given in the options, so **1.63** is taken as correct in the exam.

Compare: 1991-01 vs 2001-11

- Annual rate in 1991-2001 was about 1.97%
- Decadal growth for 2001-2011 was nearly 17.7%
- Total population about 121.08 crore
- Fastest-growing state: Meghalaya

105 **ANSWER (b)** 0.32%

SSC Phase-XIV (Matric) 22 Sep 2026, Shift-III

First write the rates of both decades. It was 1.97% in 1991-2001 and about 1.64% in 2001-2011 (1.63 or 1.65 in some tables). Subtract, and the fall comes to about 0.32-0.33 percentage points. The question is a bit loose, but the closest option is **0.32%**, so that is taken as correct.

Census: Decadal Growth

- Decadal growth fell from 21.5% (1991-2001) to 17.7% (2001-2011)
- Population in 2011 about 121.08 crore
- Only state where population fell: Nagaland
- Highest growth: Meghalaya, about 27.95%

106 **ANSWER (b)** 951 females per 1000 males

SSC Phase-XIV (Matric) 25 Sep 2026, Shift-III

Looked at religion-wise, the Muslim community had a sex ratio of **951**. This is above the national average of 943.

Sex Ratio: By Religion 2011

- Christians 1,023, highest among major communities
- Buddhists 965, Jains 954
- Hindus 939
- Sikhs 903, the lowest
- National average 943

Other options: 939 belongs to Hindus, 903 to Sikhs and 1023 to Christians.

PART F Important Days

107 **ANSWER (a)** Forests and Economies

SSC Phase-XIV (Graduation) 22 Sep 2026, Shift-I

The theme of the International Day of Forests 2026 is **'Forests and Economies'**. It was chosen by the Collaborative Partnership on Forests, and it highlights the role of forests in livelihoods and the bio-economy.

Days: Intl Day of Forests

- Every year on 21 March
- Declared by the UN General Assembly through a resolution of 28 November 2012
- Organised jointly by FAO and UNFF
- 2025: Forests and Food, 2024: Forests and Innovation, 2023: Forests and Health

The other three options are themes of earlier years: Innovation (2024), Health (2023) and Sustainable Production and Consumption (2022).

108 **ANSWER (b)** World Heritage Day

SSC Phase-XIV (Matric) 25 Sep 2026, Shift-III

The foundation of the country's first Petroglyph Conservation Park was laid on 18 April 2026 at

Sindhu Ghat in Leh. 18 April is **World Heritage Day**, also called the International Day for Monuments and Sites.

Days: 18 April

- World Heritage Day falls on 18 April every year
- Proposed by ICOMOS in 1982 and approved by UNESCO in 1983
- Petroglyph = images made by scratching or carving on rock
- About 400 such sites in the Indus and Zanskar valleys of Ladakh

PART G Books and Authors

109 ANSWER (b) Jyotirao Phule

SSC Phase-XIV (12th) 19 Sep 2026, Shift-II

'Gulamgiri' (1873) was written by **Jyotirao Phule**. It is a direct attack on exploitation in the name of caste, and the book was dedicated to those fighting against slavery in America.

Books: Jyotirao Phule

- Founded the Satyashodhak Samaj in Pune in 1873
- Opened the first school for girls at Bhide Wada with Savitribai in 1848
- Given the title 'Mahatma' in 1888 (by Vithalrao Vandekar)
- Other works: Tritiya Ratna, Shetkaryacha Asud, Brahmananche Kasab

110 ANSWER (b) Sarat Chandra Chattopadhyay

SSC Phase-XIV (12th) 24 Sep 2026, Shift-II

'Devdas' (1917) and 'Srikanta' are both novels by **Sarat Chandra Chattopadhyay**. His stories show social customs and the struggles of women in great depth.

Author: Sarat Chandra

- Born in 1876, Hooghly (Bengal)
- Other novels: Parineeta, Charitraheen, Palli Samaj
- Films on 'Devdas' have been made in many languages

Examiner's Trap The names look alike, and that is where students slip. 'Anandamath' (Vande Mataram) is by Bankim Chandra Chattopadhyay, and 'Pather Panchali' is by Bibhutibhushan Bandyopadhyay.

111 ANSWER (b) Dr. A. P. J. Abdul Kalam

SSC Phase-XIV (Matric) 19 Sep 2026, Shift-III

'Wings of Fire' is the autobiography of **Dr. A. P. J. Abdul Kalam**, written with Arun Tiwari. It covers his whole journey from childhood to DRDO, ISRO and the missile programme.

Books: Kalam

- 11th President from 2002 to 2007
- Called the 'Missile Man of India' because of IGMDP
- Bharat Ratna in 1997
- Other books: India 2020, Ignited Minds

Other options: Mandela's autobiography is 'Long Walk to Freedom' and Obama's is 'Dreams from My Father'.

112 ANSWER (b) Kalidasa

SSC Phase-XIV (Matric) 25 Sep 2026, Shift-III

'Abhijnanashakuntalam' is a play by **Kalidasa**. Its story, the love of King Dushyanta and Shakuntala, is taken from the Mahabharata.

Static GK: Kalidasa

- Linked with the Gupta period
- Other plays: Malavikagnimitram, Vikramorvashiyam
- Epics (Mahakavya): Raghuvamsham, Kumarasambhavam
- Khandakavya: Meghadutam, Ritusamharam
- William Jones translated it into English in 1789

PART H International Organisations

113 ANSWER (a) Absence of a binding supranational legal authority among Brazil, Russia, India, China and South Africa

SSC Phase-XIV (Graduation) 22 Sep 2026, Shift-I

The EU has bodies like the European Parliament and a court, and member countries must follow their rules. BRICS is not like that. It is only a forum of governments where decisions are taken by consensus, so it has **no binding supranational legal authority**.

EU vs BRICS

- EU: a supranational union with shared sovereignty
- BRICS: a consensus-based dialogue forum, and no

member has handed over sovereignty
• The term 'BRIC' was coined in 2001 by Jim O'Neill (Goldman Sachs)
• BRICS bank: New Development Bank, headquartered in Shanghai

114 **ANSWER (d)** was designed to reflect greater equality among emerging economies

SSC Phase-XIV (Graduation) 24 Sep 2026, Shift-I

In the IMF and the World Bank, voting power depends on capital, so Western countries dominate there. In the NDB, all five founding countries have equal capital and equal votes. The aim was to show **equality among emerging economies**.

Facts: NDB
• Agreement signed in 2014 at Fortaleza (Brazil), working since 2015
• Headquarters: Shanghai
• No member has a veto
• First President: K.V. Kamath (India)
• Gives loans for infrastructure and sustainable development projects

The other options don't work. The NDB funds infrastructure itself, is not under the UN, and has nothing to do with the military.

115 **ANSWER (b)** Bay of Bengal

SSC Phase-XIV (12th) 16 Sep 2026, Shift-II

The answer is in the name itself. BIMSTEC begins with 'Bay of Bengal Initiative', so it is a group of countries around the **Bay of Bengal**.

Facts: BIMSTEC
• 6 June 1997, Bangkok Declaration (then called BIST-EC)
• Secretariat in Dhaka
• 7 members: Bangladesh, Bhutan, India, Myanmar, Nepal, Sri Lanka, Thailand
• Myanmar joined in 1997, Nepal and Bhutan in 2004
• About 22% of the world's population

116 **ANSWER (d)** 1995

SSC Phase-XIV (12th) 18 Sep 2026, Shift-II

After the Marrakesh Agreement of 1994, the WTO started working from **1 January 1995** and replaced GATT, which had been running since 1948.

Facts: WTO
• Came out of the Uruguay Round talks (1986-1994)
• Headquarters: Geneva
• GATT covered only goods, but the WTO also covers services (GATS) and intellectual property (TRIPS)
• 166 members
• Ngozi Okonjo-Iweala: first woman and first African DG

Examiner's Trap Don't get trapped by 1948. That is the year GATT came into force, not the WTO.

117 **ANSWER (d)** India

SSC Phase-XIV (12th) 21 Sep 2026, Shift-II

As per UN DESA estimates, **India** overtook China in 2023. India now has the largest population in the world and in BRICS too, over 1.44 billion in 2024-25.

Remember: BRICS
• India has been the world's most populous country since 2023
• The term 'BRIC' was coined by Jim O'Neill in 2001
• South Africa joined in 2010, and BRICS was formed
• Egypt, Ethiopia, Iran and the UAE joined on 1 January 2024

Examiner's Trap Marking 'China' out of old knowledge is the most common mistake here.

118 **ANSWER (b)** 2007

SSC Phase-XIV (12th) 23 Sep 2026, Shift-II

The idea of QUAD was formally put forward in **2007** by Shinzo Abe, then Prime Minister of Japan. It has four members: India, the USA, Japan and Australia.

Facts: QUAD
• Its roots lie in the 2004 tsunami, when the four sent relief together
• It went cold for a while and was revived in November 2017
• The navies of all four take part in the Malabar exercise

119 **ANSWER (a)** Bay of Bengal Initiative for Multi-Sectoral Technical and Economic Cooperation

SSC Phase-XIV (12th) 24 Sep 2026, Shift-II

The full form of BIMSTEC is **Bay of Bengal Initiative for Multi-Sectoral Technical and Economic Cooperation**. It is a forum for technical and economic cooperation among the countries linked to the Bay of Bengal.

BIMSTEC: How the Name Grew

- 6 June 1997: BIST-EC (Bangladesh, India, Sri Lanka, Thailand)
- Myanmar joined the same year, and the name became BIMST-EC
- Nepal and Bhutan came in 2004, and the present name was adopted
- Secretariat: Dhaka

Note The old name BIMST-EC was made from the first letters of the member countries. That is why an expansion with country names, like option D, confuses students. Today's full form is 'Bay of Bengal Initiative...' only.

120 **ANSWER (c)** 2010

SSC Phase-XIV (12th) 26 Sep 2026, Shift-I

South Africa received a formal invitation to join BRIC in December **2010**, and from then on the group was called BRICS. It first attended a summit at Sanya (China) in April 2011.

Timeline: BRICS

- 2001: the term BRIC, Jim O'Neill
- 2009: first BRIC summit, Yekaterinburg (Russia)
- South Africa brought Africa into the group
- 2014: NDB agreement at Fortaleza

Examiner's Trap Remember three years: 2009 first BRIC summit, 2010 membership, 2011 first participation. The question asks about membership, so it is 2010.

121 **ANSWER (c)** Pakistan

SSC Phase-XIV (Matric) 16 Sep 2026, Shift-III

BIMSTEC has seven countries linked to the Bay of Bengal, and **Pakistan** is not one of them.

BIMSTEC: 7 Members

- Bangladesh, Bhutan, India, Myanmar, Nepal, Sri Lanka, Thailand
- Formed on 6 June 1997 through the Bangkok Declaration
- Secretariat: Dhaka
- 5 from South Asia, 2 (Myanmar, Thailand) from South-East Asia

Note Pakistan is in SAARC, not in BIMSTEC. The three SAARC countries that are not in BIMSTEC are Pakistan, Afghanistan and the Maldives.

122 **ANSWER (b)** 2001

SSC Phase-XIV (Matric) 17 Sep 2026, Shift-III

The SCO was formed in Shanghai on **15 June 2001**. The leaders of China, Russia, Kazakhstan, Kyrgyzstan, Tajikistan and Uzbekistan announced it.

Facts: SCO

- Earlier it was the 'Shanghai Five' (1996), and it became the SCO when Uzbekistan joined
- India and Pakistan became full members in 2017 (Astana)
- Secretariat in Beijing
- RATS (anti-terror structure): Tashkent

Examiner's Trap 1996 is the year of the 'Shanghai Five' and 2017 is the year India joined. The SCO itself was formed in 2001.

123 **ANSWER (b)** It includes new members such as the United Arab Emirates, Iran, Egypt, Ethiopia and Indonesia

SSC Phase-XIV (Matric) 18 Sep 2026, Shift-III

From 1 January 2024, Egypt, Ethiopia, Iran and the UAE became full members of BRICS, and Indonesia joined in January 2025. So by 2025, BRICS had become **a larger group with new members**.

BRICS Expansion 2024-25

- Announced in August 2023 at the 15th summit, Johannesburg
- Saudi Arabia was also invited
- Indonesia became a full member in January 2025
- The 'partner country' category was created at Kazan (2024)
- Now more than 40% of the world's population

Why are the other options wrong? Brazil, South

Africa and Egypt are not in Asia, and members like Ethiopia and Iran are not in the G20.

124 ANSWER (b) An informal strategic grouping of India, the USA, Japan and Australia

SSC Phase-XIV (Matric) 21 Sep 2026, Shift-III

QUAD is an informal strategic forum of four democracies, **India, the USA, Japan and Australia**. Its goal is a free, open and inclusive Indo-Pacific.

QUAD: What It Is and Isn't

- Idea: 2007, Shinzo Abe
- Revived in November 2017
- No mutual defence treaty, so it is not an alliance like NATO
- Work areas: maritime security, critical tech, supply chains, disaster relief
- Joint naval exercise: Malabar

Examiner's Trap Seeing the Malabar exercise and calling QUAD a 'military alliance' is a common mistake. It is not an alliance based on any treaty.

125 ANSWER (d) Russia

SSC Phase-XIV (Matric) 23 Sep 2026, Shift-III

With about 1.71 crore sq km, **Russia** is the largest country in the world, so it is the largest in BRICS as well.

BRICS: Order by Area

- Russia about 1,70,98,242 sq km, from Eastern Europe to North Asia
- Order: Russia > China > Brazil > India > South Africa
- South Africa joined in 2010, and the name became BRICS
- Egypt, Ethiopia, Iran and the UAE joined in 2024

Examiner's Trap India is the largest by population, Russia by area. Both questions come in the exam, so don't mix them up.

126 ANSWER (b) Ruchira Kamboj

SSC Phase-XIV (Matric) 25 Sep 2026, Shift-III

Ruchira Kamboj (1987 batch IFS) became India's first woman Permanent Representative to the UN in New York in August 2022.

Person: Ruchira Kamboj

- Succeeded T.S. Tirumurti
- Earlier served as Ambassador to Bhutan, Ambassador to UNESCO (Paris) and High Commissioner to South Africa
- Retired in June 2024
- Vijaya Lakshmi Pandit became the first woman President of the UNGA in 1953

Examiner's Trap Vijaya Lakshmi Pandit was the first woman President of the UNGA, not a Permanent Representative. Nirupama Rao served as Foreign Secretary and as Ambassador to the USA.

127 ANSWER (c) General Agreement on Tariffs and Trade (GATT)

SSC Phase-XIV (Matric) 25 Sep 2026, Shift-III

From 1948 to 1994, multilateral world trade ran on the rules of **GATT**. On 1 January 1995, the WTO took its place.

From GATT to WTO

- 23 countries signed GATT in Geneva in 1947, and it came into force on 1 January 1948
- GATT was only an agreement, while the WTO is a full organisation
- WTO = Uruguay Round (1986-94) + Marrakesh Agreement
- Three pillars of the WTO: GATT (goods), GATS (services), TRIPS (intellectual property)

Other options: the IMF looks after monetary stability, the IBRD (World Bank) gives loans for development, and the WHO works on health.

PART I National Organisations

128 ANSWER (b) Mahendralal Sircar

SSC Phase-XIV (12th) 16 Sep 2026, Shift-II

IACS was founded in Kolkata in 1876 by **Dr. Mahendralal Sircar**. He was a doctor as well as a social reformer, and he wanted Indians to do scientific research themselves.

Facts: IACS Kolkata

- India's oldest research institute
- C.V. Raman worked here and discovered the 'Raman Effect' in 1928
- Father Eugene Lafont (St. Xavier's) lent his support
- Today an autonomous institute under DST

Other options: Jagadish Chandra Bose set up the Bose Institute (1917), the Saha Institute of Nuclear Physics is named after Meghnad Saha, and P.C. Ray started Bengal Chemicals.

PART J Government Schemes

129 ANSWER (c) Stand-Up India

SSC Phase-XIV (12th) 21 Sep 2026, Shift-II

Under **Stand-Up India** (5 April 2016), every bank branch must give loans to at least one SC/ST and one woman entrepreneur to start a new (greenfield) venture.

Scheme: Stand-Up India

- Loan from ₹10 lakh to ₹1 crore
- For: SC, ST and women
- Sectors: manufacturing, services, trading, and activities allied to agriculture
- Run by the DFS, Ministry of Finance

Examiner's Trap Start-up India is for new innovative startups and Mudra Yojana is for small businesses. The scheme for SC/ST and women is Stand-Up India.

130 ANSWER (b) Scheduled Castes (SC)

SSC Phase-XIV (12th) 22 Sep 2026, Shift-II

The SHRESHTA scheme places bright **Scheduled Caste (SC)** students in good private residential schools of the country, and the government bears the full cost.

Scheme: SHRESHTA

- Ministry: Social Justice and Empowerment
- Covers fees and hostel costs from Class 9 to 12
- Selection through the NETS exam, conducted by NTA
- Annual family income up to ₹2.5 lakh

131 ANSWER (c) Regional air connectivity

SSC Phase-XIV (12th) 24 Sep 2026, Shift-II

UDAN stands for 'Ude Desh ka Aam Nagrik'. It is the **regional air connectivity** scheme of the Ministry of Civil Aviation, meant to put small towns on the air map and let the common man fly cheaply.

Scheme: UDAN

- October 2016, under the National Civil Aviation Policy
- First flight on 27 April 2017, Shimla-Delhi
- Airlines get VGF (Viability Gap Funding)
- On flights of about 500 km or 1 hour, fares for half the seats are capped
- Implemented by AAI

132 ANSWER (b) Pradhan Mantri Annadata Aay Sanrakshan Abhiyan

SSC Phase-XIV (Matric) 17 Sep 2026, Shift-III

The full name of PM-AASHA is **Pradhan Mantri Annadata Aay Sanrakshan Abhiyan**. Launched in September 2018, it helps farmers get a fair price (MSP) for their crops.

Scheme: PM-AASHA

- Ministry: Agriculture and Farmers Welfare
- Three parts: PSS, PDPS and PPSS
- Focus: pulses, oilseeds and copra
- Under PDPS, the crop is not bought. The gap between MSP and market price goes straight to the farmer's account

Memory Trick AASHA = Annadata Aay Sanrakshan. Hold on to 'Annadata' and 'Aay' (income). The options with 'Awas' or 'Atmanirbhar' are made up.

133 ANSWER (c) Life Insurance Corporation of India

SSC Phase-XIV (Matric) 17 Sep 2026, Shift-III

The pension fund manager of PM-SYM is the **Life Insurance Corporation of India (LIC)**. LIC manages the money and also pays the monthly pension after age 60.

Scheme: PM-SYM

- Ministry of Labour and Employment, 2019
- Pension of ₹3,000 a month after 60
- Age 18-40, contribution ₹55 to ₹200 a month
- The Centre matches whatever you put in (50:50)
- Income up to ₹15,000 a month, and EPFO/ESIC/NPS members are excluded

Examiner's Trap Ticking EPFO the moment you read 'pension' is a common mistake. EPFO is for the organised sector, while the PM-SYM fund is with LIC.

134 **ANSWER (c)** Unorganised sector workers

SSC Phase-XIV (Matric) 19 Sep 2026, Shift-III

PM-SYM is a voluntary, contributory pension scheme. It is for **unorganised sector workers** such as rickshaw pullers, domestic workers and street vendors, so that they have a fixed income in old age.

PM-SYM: Eligibility

- February 2019, Ministry of Labour and Employment
- Age 18-40, monthly income ₹15,000 or less
- Fixed pension of ₹3,000 after 60
- The government contributes an equal amount
- EPF/NPS/ESIC members and income tax payers are excluded

135 **ANSWER (b)** Financial inclusion

SSC Phase-XIV (Matric) 23 Sep 2026, Shift-III

The real aim of the Jan Dhan Yojana is **financial inclusion**. It means taking basic services like a bank account, savings, loans, insurance, pension and remittance to every household.

Scheme: PMJDY

- 28 August 2014, slogan 'Mera Khata, Bhagya Vidhata'
- Zero-balance savings account
- RuPay debit card with accident insurance
- Overdraft up to ₹10,000
- Foundation of JAM (Jan Dhan-Aadhaar-Mobile), helpful for DBT

136 **ANSWER (c)** Rs3,000

SSC Phase-XIV (Matric) 24 Sep 2026, Shift-III

An unorganised sector worker enrolled under PM-SYM gets an assured pension of at least **₹3,000** every month once he turns 60.

Facts (PM-SYM)

- The scheme belongs to the Ministry of Labour and Employment. It was announced in the Interim Budget of February 2019 and launched in the same year.
- Entry age is **18 to 40 years**, with a monthly income of **₹15,000** or less.
- It is a contributory scheme. Whatever the worker deposits, the Central Government adds an equal amount (50:50).
- The pension fund is managed by the **Life Insurance Corporation of India (LIC)**.

Note PM-SYM, PM-KMY (for farmers) and NPS-Traders all give ₹3,000 a month after the age of 60. In the exam, these schemes are often mixed up in the options.

PART K Miscellaneous

137 **ANSWER (c)** Presence of a circumambulatory path

SSC Phase-XIV (Graduation) 17 Sep 2026, Shift-I

The covered inner walkway around the sanctum (garbhagriha) is called the **pradakshina path** (circumambulatory path). A temple that has this path is called a **Sandhara** temple.

Types of Temples

- A temple without a pradakshina path is a **Nirandhara** temple.
- A temple with entrances from all four directions is a **Sarvatobhadra** temple.
- The garbhagriha is the inner chamber that houses the idol of the main deity.
- This classification applies to both the Nagara and the Dravida styles.

Look at the other options. Entry from all sides marks a Sarvatobhadra temple, absence of the path marks a Nirandhara temple, and a monolithic structure belongs to rock-cut temples (like the rathas of Mahabalipuram).

Examiner's Trap Sandhara and Nirandhara are often swapped in the options. Remember: Sa-**andhara** = **with** the path, Nir-**andhara** = **without** the path.

138 **ANSWER (a)** Arcaded courtyards

SSC Phase-XIV (Graduation) 18 Sep 2026, Shift-I

Walk through the French Quarter (White Town) of Puducherry and the thing you will see most is the **arcaded courtyard**. Along with it come pillared verandahs and tall windows with wooden louvered shutters.

Static GK: Puducherry

- From 1674 to 1954, Puducherry was the main French settlement in India.

• The old town had two parts, the French Quarter (Ville Blanche) and the Tamil Quarter (Ville Noire).
• The streets follow a grid pattern, cutting each other at right angles.
• First French Governor: François Martin.

Other options: onion domes belong to the Russian/ Islamic style and latticed jharokhas to the Rajasthani-Mughal tradition. Mansard roofs were common in France, but they never caught on in the heat of Puducherry.

139 **ANSWER (c)** On the outer walls of the sanctum or temple, facing outward.

SSC Phase-XIV (Graduation) 19 Sep 2026, Shift-I

The Ashtadikpalas are the guardians of the eight directions. So their images are placed on the **outer walls** of the temple, facing outward, each deity in his own direction.

Remember: Ashtadikpalas
• Indra (East), Agni (South-East), Yama (South), Nirriti (South-West)
• Varuna (West), Vayu (North-West), Kubera (North), Ishana (North-East)
• The idea is to protect the sacred site from every direction.
• The main gate has **Dvarapalas** (door guardians), not Dikpalas.
• Fine carvings of the Dikpalas are seen on the walls of Chalukya, Hoysala and Chola temples.

Examiner's Trap The option 'guarding the main entrances' looks right, but that is the job of the Dvarapalas.

140 **ANSWER (d)** Marble ceilings with exceptionally carved latticework.

SSC Phase-XIV (Graduation) 21 Sep 2026, Shift-I

Dilwara is famous for the extremely fine, lace-like carving done on **white marble**. The ceilings stand out the most, with carvings that seem to hang down like chandeliers.

Jain Architecture: Dilwara
• The complex has five major temples of the Jain Tirthankaras.
• The oldest is **Vimal Vasahi** (1031 CE), built by Vimal Shah and dedicated to the first Tirthankara, Rishabhanatha.
• **Luna Vasahi** (1230 CE) was built by the brothers Vastupala and Tejapala.
• The style is Maru-Gurjara (Solanki).
• Mount Abu, in the Aravallis, is the only hill station of Rajasthan.

141 **ANSWER (a)** Directly below the tallest spire.

SSC Phase-XIV (Graduation) 22 Sep 2026, Shift-I

In a Nagara temple, the roofs of the mandapas rise step by step, and the tallest shikhara stands right above the sanctum. In other words, the **garbhagriha lies below the tallest spire**.

Concept: Nagara Style
• It developed mainly in North India.
• The roofs of the ardhamandapa, mandapa and mahamandapa are progressively lower than the main shikhara.
• On top of the shikhara sits a flat, ribbed stone disc called the **amalaka**, and above it the **kalasha**.
• Examples: Kandariya Mahadeva Temple at Khajuraho, Sun Temple at Modhera.

142 **ANSWER (b)** Art historian and educator focused on traditional art research

SSC Phase-XIV (Graduation) 23 Sep 2026, Shift-I

Ratan Parimoo is known as an **art historian and educator**. His research on traditional art, such as Indian sculpture, miniature painting and art aesthetics, is quite deep.

Person: Ratan Parimoo
• He served as Professor and Head of the Department of Art History in the Faculty of Fine Arts, M.S. University, Baroda.
• He studied art history at the Courtauld Institute of Art, London.
• His work on Buddhist art, Ajanta and Vaishnava iconography is well known.
• He was associated with the Baroda Group of Artists and also became Director of the L.D. Museum of Indology, Ahmedabad.

143 **ANSWER (c)** Monsoon climate with heavy rainfall

SSC Phase-XIV (Graduation) 25 Sep 2026, Shift-I

Kerala gets very heavy rain from the south-west monsoon. That is why its temples have wooden roofs with steep slopes (conical/pyramidal), covered with tiles or copper sheets, so that the water drains off at once. The real factor is the **monsoon climate with heavy rainfall**.

Facts (Kerala Temples)

• The sanctum is called the **Sreekovil**. It can be circular, square or gajaprishtha (shaped like an elephant's back).
• Materials: wood, laterite and granite.
• The covered structure around it is the **Chuttambalam**, and the rows of lamps are the **Vilakkumadam**.
• Example: Vadakkunnathan Temple, Thrissur.

144 **ANSWER (c)** Interlaced floral and vegetal designs

SSC Phase-XIV (12th) 17 Sep 2026, Shift-II

In an **arabesque**, creepers, leaves and flowers are woven into each other in a flowing rhythm. Islamic art avoided showing living beings, so such plant designs were made in large numbers.

Rule (Islamic Ornament)

• The endless, connected vines are seen as a symbol of infinity and the continuity of nature.
• The three main elements of Indo-Islamic decoration are arabesque, calligraphy and geometric patterns.
• Inlaying precious stones in marble to form floral designs is called **pietra dura / parchinkari**.
• Arabesque work is clearly seen on the Alai Darwaza (1311, Alauddin Khalji) and the Taj Mahal.

Other options: inscriptions of verses are 'calligraphy', repeated star patterns are 'geometric' ornament, and human or animal figures were generally forbidden in Islamic religious buildings.

145 **ANSWER (b)** Pingali Venkayya

SSC Phase-XIV (12th) 19 Sep 2026, Shift-II

The original design of the Tricolour was made by **Pingali Venkayya**, a freedom fighter from Andhra Pradesh. Today's flag grew out of that design.

National Flag

• In 1921, at the Vijayawada (Bezwada) session of the Congress, he showed the design to Gandhiji.
• The Constituent Assembly adopted the present flag on **22 July 1947**.
• The ratio of length to breadth is **3 : 2**, with saffron at the top, white in the middle and green at the bottom.
• In the centre is the navy blue Ashoka Chakra with **24 spokes**.

Other options: Bankim Chandra wrote 'Vande Mataram' (National Song) and Tagore wrote 'Jana Gana Mana' (National Anthem). Badruddin Tyabji was the first Muslim President of the Congress (1887, Madras session).

146 **ANSWER (b)** To allow royal women to observe street festivals and daily life without being seen

SSC Phase-XIV (12th) 22 Sep 2026, Shift-II

The purdah system was strict in that period. Through the small latticed windows of the Hawa Mahal, the royal women could watch the market, processions and street life without being seen. That was the real reason it was built.

Facts (Hawa Mahal)

• Built in **1799** by Maharaja **Sawai Pratap Singh**.
• Architect Lal Chand Ustad, built of red and pink sandstone.
• The five-storey facade looks like a honeycomb, and its shape is said to resemble Krishna's crown.
• It has **953** jharokhas, which let air flow through and keep the building cool.

Examiner's Trap Cool breeze is surely its special feature, and the name comes from it too. But cooling the city was not the primary purpose. That option is the trap.

147 **ANSWER (c)** Old English and Germanic words

SSC Phase-XIV (12th) 24 Sep 2026, Shift-II

All the other planets are named after Greek-Roman gods and goddesses. 'Earth' is the only name that comes from **Old English (eorþe) and Germanic** roots, meaning 'ground' or 'soil'.

Name Story: Earth

• Its roots lie in Proto-Germanic 'ertho' and Old Saxon 'ertha'.
• In Roman myths the Earth goddess is **Terra**

(Tellus), in Greek myths **Gaia**.
• It is the third planet from the Sun.
• It is also the densest planet of the Solar System.

148 **ANSWER (b)** Sahn

SSC Phase-XIV (12th) 25 Sep 2026, Shift-II

The central open courtyard of a mosque, surrounded by pillars or arched corridors, is called the **Sahn**.

Mosque Terms

• The Sahn often has a tank or fountain for wazu (ablution).
• **Qibla**: the direction of the Kaaba in Mecca, which worshippers face while offering namaz.
• **Mihrab**: a niche in the qibla wall that shows this direction.
• **Minbar**: the raised pulpit from which the Imam delivers the khutba (sermon).

Looking at the other options, the Liwan is the covered prayer hall or pillared arcade around the courtyard, the Mihrab is the niche that shows the direction, and the Qibla is the direction itself.

149 **ANSWER (b)** Mughal tombs

SSC Phase-XIV (Matric) 16 Sep 2026, Shift-III

In **pietra dura (parchinkari)**, coloured precious and semi-precious stones are cut and inlaid into marble. In India, its finest use is seen in **Mughal tombs**.

Art: Pietra Dura

• The technique developed in 16th-century Italy (Renaissance) and was later adopted by Mughal craftsmen.
• The **Tomb of Itimad-ud-Daulah** at Agra is among the earliest fine examples of inlay on white marble.
• It peaked under Shah Jahan: the Taj Mahal and the Diwan-i-Khas of the Red Fort.
• Stones used: lapis lazuli, turquoise, onyx, agate and others.

150 **ANSWER (b)** Presence of a water tank or reservoir inside the temple courtyard.

SSC Phase-XIV (Matric) 19 Sep 2026, Shift-III

In Dravida temples, a sacred **water tank/pond** (Kalyani, Teppakulam) inside the walls of the complex is a common sight. This is not usual in Nagara temples.

Nagara vs Dravida

• Dravida temples are enclosed by high boundary walls, with a huge gateway tower called the **gopuram** at the entrance.
• The stepped pyramidal tower above the sanctum is called the **vimana**.
• The curved tower of the Nagara style is the **shikhara**, topped by the amalaka and kalasha.
• Finest Dravida example: Brihadeeswara Temple, Thanjavur (Rajaraja Chola I).

Other options: the absence of a boundary wall is true of Nagara temples, and a curved tower meeting at a point at the top is the Nagara 'shikhara'.

Examiner's Trap Options A and D are actually marks of the Nagara style. In 'comparison' questions, the styles are swapped around, so stay alert here.

151 **ANSWER (b)** Neo-Gothic

SSC Phase-XIV (Matric) 22 Sep 2026, Shift-III

St. Philomena's Cathedral in Mysore (Karnataka) is built in the **Neo-Gothic** style. Its design is believed to have been inspired by Cologne Cathedral in Germany.

Facts (St. Philomena)

• The foundation stone was laid in October 1933 by Maharaja Krishnaraja Wadiyar IV, and construction took place in the 1930s.
• It was designed by the French architect **Daly**.
• Twin spires about 175 feet high, pointed arches and stained-glass windows showing scenes from the life of Christ are the marks of Neo-Gothic style.
• The church is dedicated to St. Philomena of the 4th century.

152 **ANSWER (c)** Solanki (Maru-Gurjara) style

SSC Phase-XIV (Matric) 23 Sep 2026, Shift-III

A stepped tank with many small shrines built on its steps, the 'Surya Kund', is a special mark of the **Solanki (Maru-Gurjara)** style. You can see it at the **Modhera Sun Temple** in Gujarat.

Remember: Modhera

• Built in the time of the Solanki king **Bhimadeva I**, around 1026 CE.
• The complex has three parts: the Gudhamandapa

(with the sanctum), the Sabhamandapa and the Surya Kund.
• The steps of the Surya Kund carry **108** small shrines.
• The Solanki style is a western sub-style of the Nagara style. On the equinox, the first rays of the Sun reached the sanctum.

153 **ANSWER (b)** Five shrines

SSC Phase-XIV (Matric) 25 Sep 2026, Shift-III

First break the word: Pancha (five) + Ayatana (abode of a deity). One main shrine in the centre and **four subsidiary shrines** at the four corners make **five shrines** in all.

Concept: Panchayatana

• The subsidiary shrines are usually built at the four corners of a high rectangular platform (jagati).
• The main deity sits in the centre and four subsidiary deities in the corners, a complete divine family.
• Examples: Dashavatara Temple at Deogarh, Lakshmana Temple at Khajuraho, Brahmeswara Temple at Bhubaneswar.
• This plan was especially popular in the Nagara style.

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02
CHAPTER

Ancient History

Questions *25 questions · 19 shifts*

PART A Stone Age

Directions (Q. 01): *Choose the correct answer from the four given options.*

01 What is a celt, associated with the Neolithic Age?

SSC Phase-XIV (12th) 22 Sep 2026, Shift-II

(a) A house (b) A tool (c) A tomb (d) An urn

PART B Indus Valley Civilization

Directions (Q. 02): *Choose the correct answer from the four given options.*

02 Which of the following interpretations best explains how the evidence of craft materials and transport models clarifies our understanding of economic organisation in the Indus Valley Civilisation?

SSC Phase-XIV (12th) 23 Sep 2026, Shift-II

(a) Local clay shows that long-distance trade was very limited.
(b) External materials and routes reflect integrated exchange.
(c) Bullock-cart models prove only land trade.
(d) River/coastal routes mean that crafts were concentrated near water sources.

PART C Vedic Age

Directions (Q. 03–05): *Choose the correct answer from the four given options.*

03 Which of the following groups correctly represents any three of the six Vedangas?

SSC Phase-XIV (12th) 16 Sep 2026, Shift-II

(a) Shiksha, Kalpa, Vyakarana
(b) Nirukta, Arthashastra, Smriti
(c) Chhanda, Purana, Upanishad
(d) Jyotisha, Brahmana, Aranyaka

04 In which Veda is the earliest historical reference to the Dasarajna (Battle of Ten Kings) found?

SSC Phase-XIV (12th) 17 Sep 2026, Shift-II

(a) Atharvaveda (b) Samaveda
(c) Rigveda (d) Yajurveda

05 Which sage of ancient India composed the text called the Mimamsa Sutra?

SSC Phase-XIV (12th) 25 Sep 2026, Shift-II

(a) Jaimini (b) Charaka
(c) Badarayana (d) Panini

PART D Jainism and Buddhism

Directions (Q. 06): *Choose the correct answer from the four given options.*

06 Which of the following is another name for Buddha Purnima?

SSC Phase-XIV (12th) 24 Sep 2026, Shift-II

(a) Guru Purnima (b) Vesak
(c) Pavarana (d) Magha Puja

PART E Post-Maurya Dynasties

Directions (Q. 07–17): *Choose the correct answer from the four given options.*

07 Which of the following statements accurately describes the outcomes and significance of the Fourth Buddhist Council held during the reign of Emperor Kanishka?

SSC Phase-XIV (Graduation) 21 Sep 2026, Shift-I

(a) Presided over by Ashvaghosha, it declared Theravada the supreme doctrine and banned idol worship.
(b) It was held at Rajagriha and marks the compilation of the Tripitaka in Pali by Mahadeva.
(c) Held at Kundalvana in Kashmir, it was presided over by Vasumitra and resulted in the rise of Mahayana Buddhism, which introduced idol worship
(d) Held at Bodh Gaya under the Mauryan Empire, it resulted in the unification of all Buddhist sects into a single doctrine

08 Which material was mainly used for the sculptures made by the Mathura school of art?

SSC Phase-XIV (Graduation) 24 Sep 2026, Shift-I

(a) Grey schist stone quarried from the mountains
(b) Spotted red sandstone
(c) Mud and plaster on wooden frames
(d) White marble from coastal rivers

09 Which type of stone was specially chosen by the sculptors of the Gandhara school for their high relief carvings?

SSC Phase-XIV (12th) 17 Sep 2026, Shift-II

(a) Red sandstone (b) Blue schist
(c) Black basalt (d) White marble

10 Which of the following rulers were responsible for the expansion of Shaka power in western India?

SSC Phase-XIV (12th) 19 Sep 2026, Shift-II

(a) Bhumaka and Chahara
(b) Nahapana and Rudraprajita
(c) Bhumaka and Nahapana
(d) Rudradaman and Gautamiputra

11 How are the robes and dress of the Buddha depicted in the Gandhara school of art?

SSC Phase-XIV (12th) 21 Sep 2026, Shift-II

(a) Transparent
(b) With many folds (layers)
(c) Plain silk
(d) Geometric patterns

12 In the Mathura style, where were female figures most prominently depicted on stupa architecture?

SSC Phase-XIV (12th) 22 Sep 2026, Shift-II

(a) Harmika (b) Vedika / Railing
(c) Anda (d) Chhatri

13 Fill in the blank: In the Gandhara school of art, the symbolic element placed "around the head" of the images of the Buddha and Bodhisattvas is called _____.

SSC Phase-XIV (12th) 24 Sep 2026, Shift-II

(a) Crown
(b) Halo (Prabhamandala)
(c) Turban
(d) Garland

14 In Gandhara art, the facial expressions and physical features of the images of the Buddha and Bodhisattvas particularly resemble which Greek god?

SSC Phase-XIV (12th) 26 Sep 2026, Shift-I

(a) Zeus (b) Apollo
(c) Hermes (d) Poseidon

15 In the Mathura school of art, what does the "Ushnisha" on the head of the Buddha represent?

SSC Phase-XIV (Matric) 18 Sep 2026, Shift-III

(a) A crown
(b) A turban
(c) A protuberance (bump)
(d) A halo

16 In the later phase of the Gandhara school of art, which group of materials was mainly used to make sculptures in place of blue-grey schist?

SSC Phase-XIV (Matric) 21 Sep 2026, Shift-III

(a) Mud, lime, stucco
(b) Marble, sandstone, granite
(c) Bronze, copper, brass
(d) Terracotta, wood, ivory

17 The Chaturmukha Shiva Linga, prominently developed during the Kushana period, belongs to which school of Indian sculpture?

SSC Phase-XIV (Matric) 24 Sep 2026, Shift-III

(a) Gupta
(b) Mathura
(c) Amaravati
(d) Gandhara

PART F Gupta Dynasty

Directions (Q. 18–20): *Choose the correct answer from the four given options.*

18 Which of the following accurately reflects the maritime trade network of Gupta-period India, as inferred from archaeological and literary evidence?

SSC Phase-XIV (Graduation) 25 Sep 2026, Shift-I

(a) Port cities like Ujjain, Pataliputra and Nalanda were centres of Gupta naval supremacy over the Arabian Sea.
(b) Gupta trade was centred only on the Silk Route, with no significant development of port cities or maritime commerce
(c) Due to the expansion of river trade under the Guptas, inland cities like Mathura and Ayodhya became maritime centres
(d) Ports like Ghantasala, Kadura, Chaul, Poduca, Pohar, Korkai and Kamara were active during the Gupta period, facilitating India's foreign trade with South-East Asia and the Mediterranean

19 In the context of Gupta administration, what did the term 'Uparika' mean?

SSC Phase-XIV (12th) 18 Sep 2026, Shift-II

(a) A village headman
(b) A provincial governor
(c) A military commander
(d) A royal spy

20 The ancient text 'Brihat Samhita', an encyclopaedic work on wide-ranging subjects such as planetary motion and agriculture, was written by:

SSC Phase-XIV (12th) 26 Sep 2026, Shift-I

(a) Varahamihira
(b) Aryabhata
(c) Brahmagupta
(d) Bhaskaracharya I

PART G Post-Gupta Dynasties

Directions (Q. 21): *Choose the correct answer from the four given options.*

21 The Kailasa Temple at Ellora is a marvel of rock-cut architecture. Which of the following statements about its construction technique is true?

SSC Phase-XIV (Graduation) 23 Sep 2026, Shift-I

(a) It used prefabricated stone blocks brought from nearby quarries.
(b) It was made by carving a single rock from top to bottom.
(c) It was first assembled in wood and then cast in stone.
(d) It was built from bottom to top like traditional temples.

PART H South Indian History & Tripartite Struggle and Cholas

Directions (Q. 22–23): *Choose the correct answer from the four given options.*

22 The 'Pancha Pandava Rathas' of Mahabalipuram are examples of:

SSC Phase-XIV (12th) 25 Sep 2026, Shift-II

(a) Brick architecture
(b) Monolithic structures
(c) Indo-Saracenic architecture
(d) Stucco architecture

23 Which three kingdoms emerged in the southern regions of the subcontinent around 400 BCE?

SSC Phase-XIV (Matric) 23 Sep 2026, Shift-III

(a) Maurya, Gupta and Kushana

(b) Chola, Chera and Pandya
(c) Vatsa, Kuru and Chedi
(d) Pallava, Chalukya and Rashtrakuta

PART I Miscellaneous

Directions (Q. 24–25): *Choose the correct answer from the four given options.*

24 Which of the following statements correctly identifies the relationship between Lakulisha and the development of the extreme Shaiva sub-sects?

SSC Phase-XIV (Graduation) 18 Sep 2026, Shift-I

(a) Lakulisha, a sage from Kashmir, founded Aghora Shaivism, which later influenced Pashupata practices
(b) The Pashupata Shaiva sect, founded by Lakulisha of Gujarat, served as the forerunner of the Kapalika and Kalamukha sects.
(c) Lakulisha was a moderate reformer of Shaivism who distanced himself from Kapalika practices
(d) The Kapalikas and Kalamukhas were earlier sects that inspired Lakulisha to establish Pashupata Shaivism

25 Which of the following sequences represents the correct chronological order of these Sanskrit works from the earliest to the latest?

SSC Phase-XIV (Graduation) 23 Sep 2026, Shift-I

(a) Tripitaka Ashtadhyayi Buddhacharita Parishishtaparvan
(b) Ashtadhyayi Tripitaka Buddhacharita Parishishtaparvan
(c) Buddhacharita Ashtadhyayi Tripitaka Parishishtaparvan
(d) Ashtadhyayi Buddhacharita Tripitaka Parishishtaparvan

Answer Key *SSC official key*

Part A · Stone Age (Q. 01)																		
01	(b)																	
Part B · Indus Valley Civilization (Q. 02)																		
02	(b)																	
Part C · Vedic Age (Q. 03–05)																		
03	(a)	**04**	(c)	**05**	(a)													
Part D · Jainism and Buddhism (Q. 06)																		
06	(b)																	
Part E · Post-Maurya Dynasties (Q. 07–17)																		
07	(c)	**08**	(b)	**09**	(b)	**10**	(c)	**11**	(b)	**12**	(b)	**13**	(b)	**14**	(b)	**15**	(c)	**16**	(a)
17	(b)																	
Part F · Gupta Dynasty (Q. 18–20)																		
18	(d)	**19**	(b)	**20**	(a)													
Part G · Post-Gupta Dynasties (Q. 21)																		
21	(b)																	
Part H · South Indian History & Tripartite Struggle and Cholas (Q. 22–23)																		
22	(b)	**23**	(b)															

Part I · Miscellaneous (Q. 24–25)			
24	(b)	25	(b)

Detailed Explanations रटना बंद, समझना शुरू

PART A Stone Age

01 ANSWER (b) A tool

SSC Phase-XIV (12th) 22 Sep 2026, Shift-II

A **celt** is a ground and polished stone axe-like **tool** of the Neolithic Age. It was used for cutting wood and for farming work.

Neolithic Tools

- It was made from hard stones like basalt, jadeite and flint.
- Grinding and polishing is the real mark of Neolithic technology.
- Fixed in a wooden handle, it was used to clear forests, dig the soil and do carpentry.
- In India, such tools have been found at Burzahom (Kashmir) and Brahmagiri (Karnataka).

PART B Indus Valley Civilization

02 ANSWER (b) External materials and routes reflect integrated exchange.

SSC Phase-XIV (12th) 23 Sep 2026, Shift-II

Harappan sites have yielded raw materials brought from far away (lapis lazuli, carnelian, copper), along with clay models of carts and boats. This means an **organised, integrated exchange network** was running, linked by both land and water routes.

Harappa: Trade

- Copper came from the **Khetri** mines of Rajasthan, tin probably from Afghanistan.
- **Lapis lazuli** came from Shortughai in Afghanistan.
- Carnelian came from Gujarat (Bharuch region).
- Mesopotamian records call the Indus region **Meluha**, which is proof of sea trade.

Examiner's Trap In option C, the word 'only' is what makes it wrong. Boats shown on seals tell us that water trade also took place.

PART C Vedic Age

03 ANSWER (a) Shiksha, Kalpa, Vyakarana

SSC Phase-XIV (12th) 16 Sep 2026, Shift-II

Learn the six Vedangas by heart: **Shiksha, Kalpa, Vyakarana, Nirukta, Chhanda and Jyotisha**. All three names in the first option are on this list. Every other option has some outside text slipped in.

Remember: 6 Vedangas

- Vedangas are the six auxiliary disciplines for reading and understanding the Vedas correctly.
- **Shiksha** deals with pronunciation, **Kalpa** with sacrifice and rituals.
- **Vyakarana** covers the rules of language (Panini's Ashtadhyayi), **Nirukta** the origin of words.
- **Chhanda** is the metre of verse, **Jyotisha** the reckoning of time for rituals.

Other options: the Arthashastra, Smriti and Purana are later texts. The Upanishads, Brahmanas and Aranyakas are part of Vedic literature, not Vedangas.

04 ANSWER (c) Rigveda

SSC Phase-XIV (12th) 17 Sep 2026, Shift-II

The oldest mention of the **Dasarajna war** is in the **7th Mandala of the Rigveda**. King **Sudas** of the Bharata tribe (Tritsu lineage) defeated an alliance of ten kings.

Facts (Dasarajna)

- The battle was fought on the banks of the **Parushni** river (today's **Ravi**).
- Sudas's priest was **Vasishtha**, while **Vishvamitra** was behind the rival alliance.
- The rival tribes included the Puru, Yadu, Turvasha, Anu and Druhyu.
- The Rigveda is the oldest Veda, with 10 Mandalas and 1,028 hymns. The Gayatri Mantra is in the 3rd Mandala.

05 **ANSWER (a)** Jaimini

SSC Phase-XIV (12th) 25 Sep 2026, Shift-II

The Mimamsa Sutra was written by the sage **Jaimini**, who is regarded as a disciple of Veda Vyasa. This text is the foundation of the Purva Mimamsa school.

Six Darshanas

• Purva Mimamsa explains the ritual portion of the Vedas and stresses its authority.
• The Brahma Sutra (Vedanta Sutra) of **Badarayana** is the basis of Uttara Mimamsa.
• **Charaka** wrote the Charaka Samhita (Ayurveda), **Panini** the Ashtadhyayi (grammar).
• The six orthodox (astika) schools: Nyaya, Vaisheshika, Samkhya, Yoga, Mimamsa, Vedanta.

PART D Jainism and Buddhism

06 **ANSWER (b)** Vesak

SSC Phase-XIV (12th) 24 Sep 2026, Shift-II

In the Buddhist tradition of Sri Lanka and South-East Asia, Buddha Purnima is called **Vesak (Vaishakha Puja)**. It is celebrated on the full moon of Vaishakha.

Buddhist Festival: Vesak

• On a single day, it marks the Buddha's birth, enlightenment and mahaparinirvana, all three.
• It usually falls in April-May.
• The United Nations gave international recognition to the Day of Vesak in **1999** (Resolution 54/115).
• Enlightenment at Bodh Gaya, first sermon (Dhammacakkappavattana) at Sarnath.

Other options: Guru Purnima comes in Ashadha, Pavarana marks the end of the rainy-season retreat, and Magha Puja is a separate Buddhist festival.

PART E Post-Maurya Dynasties

07 **ANSWER (c)** Held at Kundalvana in Kashmir, it was presided over by Vasumitra and resulted in the rise of Mahayana Buddhism, which introduced idol worship

SSC Phase-XIV (Graduation) 21 Sep 2026, Shift-I

The Fourth Council was held at **Kundalvana in Kashmir** under the patronage of the Kushana emperor **Kanishka**. **Vasumitra** was the president and **Ashvaghosha** the vice-president. After it, Buddhism split into Hinayana and Mahayana, and Mahayana took up idol worship of the Buddha.

Buddhist Councils

• Period: around the 1st century CE (Kanishka I).
• A great commentary called the **Mahavibhasha** was prepared in Sanskrit.
• The idea of the Bodhisattva was at the centre of Mahayana.
• First: Rajagriha (Ajatashatru), Second: Vaishali (Kalashoka), Third: Pataliputra (Ashoka).

The problem with the other options: Ashvaghosha was the vice-president, not the president. Rajagriha was the venue of the First Council, and the Mauryan-era Third Council was held at Pataliputra.

08 **ANSWER (b)** Spotted red sandstone

SSC Phase-XIV (Graduation) 24 Sep 2026, Shift-I

The sculptors of Mathura used the **spotted red sandstone** found in the nearby Sikri area. Most of their sculptures were made from it.

Facts (Mathura Art)

• It flourished from the 1st century BCE to the 3rd century CE, especially under the Kushanas.
• The earliest indigenous human images of the Buddha and the Jain Tirthankaras were made here.
• The famous **headless statue** of Kanishka was found at Mathura.
• Compare: Gandhara used blue-grey schist and stucco, Amaravati used white marble (limestone).

Other options: grey schist is the stone of Gandhara and white marble that of Amaravati.

Note Three schools, three stones: **Mathura = red sandstone**, **Gandhara = blue-grey schist**, **Amaravati = white marble**. Fix these pairs firmly in your mind.

09 **ANSWER (b)** Blue schist

SSC Phase-XIV (12th) 17 Sep 2026, Shift-II

Gandhara artists chose **blue-grey schist** for the images of the Buddha and Bodhisattvas and for relief carving. In this fine-grained stone, Greek-style folds of drapery and lifelike bodies could be carved

with ease.

Facts (Gandhara Art)

• It developed most in the Kushana period, especially under Kanishka.
• It blends Greco-Roman realism with Buddhist themes, hence the name **Greco-Buddhist art**.
• Main centres: Taxila, Peshawar, Begram, Bamiyan.
• Mathura used red sandstone and Amaravati used white marble.

10 ANSWER (c) Bhumaka and Nahapana

SSC Phase-XIV (12th) 19 Sep 2026, Shift-II

Bhumaka and **Nahapana**, the early rulers of the **Kshaharata dynasty** of the Western Kshatrapas (Shakas), spread and strengthened Shaka power in western India.

Western Kshatrapas

• Bhumaka was the first known ruler of the Kshaharata dynasty. His coins have been found in Gujarat, Kathiawar and Malwa.
• Nahapana ruled over large parts of Maharashtra, Gujarat and southern Rajasthan.
• The Satavahana king **Gautamiputra Satakarni** defeated Nahapana. Nahapana's restruck coins found at **Jogalthembi** are proof of this.
• Two branches: Kshaharata and Kardamaka (Rudradaman belonged to the Kardamaka dynasty).

Other options: Rudradaman was a later Kardamaka ruler, and Gautamiputra Satakarni was a Satavahana king who opposed the Shakas.

11 ANSWER (b) With many folds (layers)

SSC Phase-XIV (12th) 21 Sep 2026, Shift-II

Gandhara art had a Greco-Roman influence. So the Buddha appears in a heavy robe like the Roman **toga**, with **deep, wavy and multiple folds** clearly carved.

Identify: Gandhara Buddha

• It flourished under the Kushana dynasty, especially under Kanishka's patronage.
• Another name is **Greco-Buddhist** art.
• Curly/wavy hair, sharp features and a realistic body.
• Material: blue-grey schist, later stucco.

Examiner's Trap 'Transparent' robes are a mark of Mathura. There, the Buddha's robe is shown thin and clinging to the body.

12 ANSWER (b) Vedika / Railing

SSC Phase-XIV (12th) 22 Sep 2026, Shift-II

In the Mathura style, female figures such as yakshis, shalabhanjikas and river goddesses were mostly carved on the pillars of the stone **vedika (railing)** that surrounded the stupa.

Mathura: Vedika

• Railing pillars found at Kankali Tila and Bhuteshwar carry beautiful yakshi figures.
• Stone: spotted red sandstone.
• Images of all three religions, Buddhist, Jain and Hindu, were made at Mathura.
• Period: the Kushana age, about the 1st to 3rd century CE.

Understand the other options: the anda is the hemispherical dome of the stupa, the harmika is the square enclosure above it, and the chhatra sits at the very top. Such figures were not prominent on these parts.

13 ANSWER (b) Halo (Prabhamandala)

SSC Phase-XIV (12th) 24 Sep 2026, Shift-II

In Gandhara sculptures, a round disc is seen behind the head of the Buddha and Bodhisattvas. This is the **halo (prabhamandala)**. It stands for divine radiance and spiritual knowledge.

Concept: Halo

• The idea is believed to have come from Greek art, from the way sun gods like Apollo were shown.
• Gandhara art reached its peak in the Kushana period, especially under Kanishka.
• It blends the Hellenistic (Greek) style with Buddhist themes.
• Material: blue-grey schist and stucco.

14 ANSWER (b) Apollo

SSC Phase-XIV (12th) 26 Sep 2026, Shift-I

Wavy hair, a well-shaped face, sharp features and a balanced body. This look of the Gandhara Buddha is inspired by the statues of the Greek god **Apollo**.

Static GK: Gandhara

• Patronage came from the Kushana rulers, especially Kanishka.
• Material: blue-grey schist and plaster/stucco.
• Centres: Taxila, Peshawar, Begram.
• Robes like the Roman toga, with folds.

Other options: Zeus is the king of the gods, Poseidon the god of the sea and Hermes the messenger. The calm, youthful beauty of the Gandhara Buddha matches Apollo alone.

15 **ANSWER (c)** A protuberance (bump)

SSC Phase-XIV (Matric) 18 Sep 2026, Shift-III

The **ushnisha** is the round **protuberance** on top of the Buddha's head. It is regarded as a sign of his extraordinary wisdom and insight.

Marks of Buddha Images

• The ushnisha is one of the **32 marks** of a great being (mahapurusha).
• In Kushana-period Mathura images, it often looks like a coiled topknot (kaparda), shaped like a snail shell.
• Mathura built its own indigenous tradition of images, separate from the Greco-Roman influence.
• Stone: spotted red sandstone from Sikri.

Note Ushnisha (bump on the head), urna (dot between the eyebrows) and prabhamandala (disc behind the head) are three different things. Do not mix them up in the exam.

16 **ANSWER (a)** Mud, lime, stucco

SSC Phase-XIV (Matric) 21 Sep 2026, Shift-III

In the beginning, Gandhara artists used blue-grey schist. In the later phase (about the 3rd to 5th century CE), sculptures came to be made mostly of **mud, lime and stucco**.

Gandhara: Later Phase

• With stucco, facial expressions and folds became softer and more lifelike.
• Gandhara art developed in north-western India during the Kushana period.
• Greek technique with Buddhist themes, that is, Greco-Buddhist art.
• Main centres of stucco sculpture: Taxila and Hadda (Afghanistan).

17 **ANSWER (b)** Mathura

SSC Phase-XIV (Matric) 24 Sep 2026, Shift-III

The four-faced Shiva Linga, the **Chaturmukha Linga**, was developed by the sculptors of **Mathura** in the Kushana period. Along with Buddhist images, Mathura also led the way in giving human form to Hindu deities.

Chaturmukha Linga

• Stone: local spotted red sandstone.
• On the banks of the Yamuna (Uttar Pradesh), it developed from the 1st century BCE up to the Gupta period.
• Images of all three religions, Buddhist, Jain and Hindu, were made.
• The four faces are taken to be the Tatpurusha, Aghora, Vamadeva and Sadyojata forms of Shiva.

PART F Gupta Dynasty

18 **ANSWER (d)** Ports like Ghantasala, Kadura, Chaul, Poduca, Pohar, Korkai and Kamara were active during the Gupta period, facilitating India's foreign trade with South-East Asia and the Mediterranean

SSC Phase-XIV (Graduation) 25 Sep 2026, Shift-I

Both archaeology and travellers' accounts show that coastal ports like Ghantasala, Kadura, Chaul, Poduca and Korkai were working in the Gupta period. Through them, trade reached South-East Asia, Sri Lanka and the Mediterranean.

Gupta Age: Ports

• On the east coast, **Tamralipti** in Bengal was the biggest port for trade with South-East Asia.
• The Chinese traveller **Fa-Hien** returned home by sea from Tamralipti, via Sri Lanka.
• On the west coast, **Bhrigukachchha (Bharuch)** and Chaul were centres of trade with Persia and the Byzantine world.
• The 6th-century Greek traveller Cosmas Indicopleustes describes the pepper and cloth trade of Indian ports in his 'Christian Topography'.

Other options: Ujjain, Pataliputra, Nalanda, Mathura and Ayodhya were inland cities, not ports. And the 'only the Silk Route' claim does not match the

evidence of sea trade.

19 **ANSWER (b)** A provincial governor

SSC Phase-XIV (12th) 18 Sep 2026, Shift-II

The Gupta Empire was divided into provinces called **Bhuktis**. The head of a Bhukti, that is the **provincial governor**, was called 'Uparika' or 'Uparika Maharaja'.

Gupta Administration

- Below the Bhukti was the **Vishaya** (district), headed by the **Vishayapati**.
- The Vishayapati was helped by a council of the Nagarashreshthi, Sarthavaha, Prathama Kulika and Prathama Kayastha.
- The village headman was the **Gramika**.
- The highest army officer was the **Mahabaladhikrita**.

Other options: the village headman was called the Gramika and the army chief the Mahabaladhikrita or Senapati. So Uparika can only mean **provincial governor**.

20 **ANSWER (a)** Varahamihira

SSC Phase-XIV (12th) 26 Sep 2026, Shift-I

The **Brihat Samhita** was written by **Varahamihira**, the 6th-century astronomer. This Sanskrit text is a kind of encyclopaedia, with a large number of subjects in one place.

Facts (Varahamihira)

- Subjects: planetary motion, forecasting of weather and rainfall, agriculture, architecture, gems and more.
- His other famous work is the **Pancha Siddhantika**.
- Tradition counts him among the **Navaratnas** (nine gems) of Vikramaditya's court.
- Avoid confusion: Aryabhata wrote the Aryabhatiya, Brahmagupta the Brahmasphutasiddhanta (rules for computing with zero).

PART G Post-Gupta Dynasties

21 **ANSWER (b)** It was made by carving a single rock from top to bottom.

SSC Phase-XIV (Graduation) 23 Sep 2026, Shift-I

The Kailasa Temple (Cave 16) was not built by joining stones. The whole temple was brought out by cutting and carving **a single basalt rock** of the hill **from top to bottom**.

Remember: Kailasa Temple

- 8th century, in the time of the **Rashtrakuta** king **Krishna I**.
- Ellora (Maharashtra), Cave No. 16.
- An estimated 2 lakh tonnes of rock was cut and removed.
- It is the world's largest monolithic rock-cut temple in the Dravida style. The Ellora Caves have been a UNESCO World Heritage Site since 1983.

Examiner's Trap Option D says the opposite. Ordinary temples are built from bottom to top, but Kailasa was carved from top to bottom.

PART H South Indian History & Tripartite Struggle and Cholas

22 **ANSWER (b)** Monolithic structures

SSC Phase-XIV (12th) 25 Sep 2026, Shift-II

Each ratha at Mahabalipuram (Mamallapuram) is cut out of a single granite rock. That is why the Pancha Pandava Rathas are **monolithic** structures.

Static GK: Pallava Art

- 7th century, in the time of the Pallava king **Narasimhavarman I (Mamalla)**.
- The five rathas: Dharmaraja, Bhima, Arjuna, Nakula-Sahadeva and Draupadi.
- The largest and most ornate is the **Dharmaraja Ratha**.
- The Group of Monuments became a UNESCO World Heritage Site in 1984. These rathas show the shift from cave temples to free-standing Dravida temples.

23 **ANSWER (b)** Chola, Chera and Pandya

SSC Phase-XIV (Matric) 23 Sep 2026, Shift-III

In South India (Tamilakam), at the end of the Megalithic period and in the early Sangam age, three kingdoms rose: the **Cholas, Cheras and Pandyas**. Sangam literature calls them the '**Muvendar**', the three crowned kings.

Sangam Age: Muvendar

• **Chera**: Kerala region, capital Vanji, port Muziris.
• **Chola**: Kaveri delta, capital Uraiyur, port Puhar (Kaveripattinam).
• **Pandya**: southern Tamil Nadu, capital Madurai, port Korkai.
• Ashoka's **Major Rock Edict II** names the Cholas, Pandyas, Satiyaputras and Keralaputras.

Other options: the Mauryas, Guptas and Kushanas were empires of North India, and Vatsa, Kuru and Chedi were Mahajanapadas. The Pallavas, Chalukyas and Rashtrakutas came much later, after the 6th century CE.

PART I Miscellaneous

24 **ANSWER (b)** The Pashupata Shaiva sect, founded by Lakulisha of Gujarat, served as the forerunner of the Kapalika and Kalamukha sects.

SSC Phase-XIV (Graduation) 18 Sep 2026, Shift-I

Lakulisha is linked with Kayavarohana (Karvan) in Gujarat. He gave a systematic form to the **Pashupata** sect, the oldest organised Shaiva sect. From its ascetic tradition came the later extreme sects like the **Kapalikas** and **Kalamukhas**. So the Pashupata sect was their forerunner.

Shaiva Sects

• Lakulisha is regarded as the 28th incarnation of Shiva and is shown holding a staff/club (lakula).
• The main text of the Pashupata tradition is the **Pashupata Sutra**.
• The Kapalikas carried a skull (kapala) as a begging bowl and practised fierce tantric rites.
• The Kalamukhas spread in the early medieval period, especially in Karnataka.

The other options have two errors. Lakulisha is linked with Gujarat, not Kashmir. And the Kapalikas and Kalamukhas came after him, not before.

25 **ANSWER (b)** Ashtadhyayi Tripitaka Buddhacharita Parishishtaparvan

SSC Phase-XIV (Graduation) 23 Sep 2026, Shift-I

The order works out like this: first Panini's **Ashtadhyayi**, then the Buddhist **Tripitaka**, then Ashvaghosha's **Buddhacharita** (about the 2nd century CE), and last Hemachandra's **Parishishtaparvan** (12th century CE). The places of the last two are fixed, so this option is the one left standing.

Texts: Chronology

• Ashtadhyayi (Sanskrit grammar): Panini, about the 5th-4th century BCE.
• The Tripitaka (Sutta, Vinaya, Abhidhamma) was compiled gradually in the councils held after the Buddha, and its language is Pali.
• **Buddhacharita**: Ashvaghosha, the court poet of Kanishka.
• **Parishishtaparvan**: the Jain acharya Hemachandra (12th century). It describes Chandragupta Maurya's adoption of Jainism.

Note Scholars do not agree on the dates of the Ashtadhyayi and the Tripitaka, and the wording of the question is also a little off, since the Tripitaka is in Pali. In the exam, sort the options for such a question by putting the Buddhacharita third and the Parishishtaparvan last. That is the safest method.

03 CHAPTER
Medieval History

Questions *17 questions · 13 shifts*

PART A Delhi Sultanate

Directions (Q. 01–03): *Choose the correct answer from the four given options.*

01 Which of these neither ruled Delhi nor founded any dynasty in India?

SSC Phase-XIV (Graduation) 18 Sep 2026, Shift-I

(a) Muhammad Ghori (b) Qutb-ud-din Aibak
(c) Mahmud Ghazni (d) Iltutmish

02 What does the casual and natural manner in which Ibn Battuta describes buying slaves and giving them as gifts most strongly indicate?

SSC Phase-XIV (12th) 18 Sep 2026, Shift-II

(a) In his outlook and social environment, slavery was considered morally acceptable and socially normal
(b) He was unaware of the existence of social hierarchy in the subcontinent
(c) He intended to openly criticise the institution of slavery
(d) During this period, slavery was unique only to the Indian subcontinent

03 During the Delhi Sultanate period, the Lodi dynasty introduced the architectural concept of the 'double dome'. What was the primary structural purpose behind this innovation?

SSC Phase-XIV (Matric) 17 Sep 2026, Shift-III

(a) To allow the construction of an upper prayer chamber.
(b) To create an acoustic chamber for the muezzin.
(c) To strengthen the structure and reduce the internal height of the dome.
(d) To store water for cooling the inner chambers during summer.

PART B Vijayanagara and Bahmani Kingdom

Directions (Q. 04–05): *Choose the correct answer from the four given options.*

04 The Battle of Talikota (1565 AD) led to the decline of which major South Indian empire?

SSC Phase-XIV (12th) 25 Sep 2026, Shift-II

(a) Chola Empire
(b) Vijayanagara Empire
(c) Bahmani Sultanate
(d) Rashtrakuta Empire

05 Which famous ruler composed the epic 'Amuktamalyada' in the Telugu language?

SSC Phase-XIV (12th) 26 Sep 2026, Shift-I

(a) Rajaraja Chola (b) Krishnadevaraya
(c) Bukka Raya I (d) Harihara II

PART C The Mughal Empire

Directions (Q. 06–09): *Choose the correct answer from the four given options.*

06 Which ruler of medieval India is often called the 'forerunner of Akbar' because of his administrative and land revenue reforms?

SSC Phase-XIV (12th) 16 Sep 2026, Shift-II

(a) Sher Shah Suri
(b) Alauddin Khilji
(c) Iltutmish
(d) Muhammad bin Tughlaq

07 The wide popularity of Francois Bernier's writings in Europe, despite their admitted inaccuracies, most strongly reflects which underlying factor?

SSC Phase-XIV (12th) 17 Sep 2026, Shift-II

(a) Acceptance of narratives that reinforced European superiority/comparisons.
(b) Readers preferred purely factual accounts.
(c) Authority linked to colonial rule/control.
(d) His writings were the only source on India.

08 Bernier's claim of a decline in manufacturing, alongside his observation of rich exports and an inflow of precious metals, most strongly indicates what?

SSC Phase-XIV (12th) 18 Sep 2026, Shift-II

(a) Economic decline can coexist with strong external trade under certain structural conditions
(b) Export growth always reflects an improvement in artisanal production
(c) State control had completely destroyed commercial activity in the Mughal Empire
(d) Precious metals flowed into India despite the absence of trade

09 The 'Dahsala system' of land revenue introduced by Raja Todar Mal was based on the average of which of the following?

SSC Phase-XIV (12th) 23 Sep 2026, Shift-II

(a) Prices of the last five years
(b) Produce of the last ten years
(c) Total crop of the last season
(d) A fixed annual land tax

PART D Marathas

Directions (Q. 10): *Choose the correct answer from the four given options.*

10 Which Maratha official was in charge of royal correspondence, responsible for managing the royal household and maintaining the daily court diary?

SSC Phase-XIV (12th) 19 Sep 2026, Shift-II

(a) Amatya
(b) Sumant
(c) Danadhyaksha
(d) Sachiv

PART E Bhakti and Sufi Movements

Directions (Q. 11–15): *Choose the correct answer from the four given options.*

11 Which Bhakti saint preached devotion based on the Bhagavata and founded the Pushtimarg (path of grace)?

SSC Phase-XIV (Graduation) 21 Sep 2026, Shift-I

(a) Chaitanya Mahaprabhu
(b) Tulsidas
(c) Ramdas
(d) Vallabhacharya

12 The verses of which early Sufi saint, who promoted Sufism in Punjab, are included in the Adi Granth, the holy book of Sikhism?

SSC Phase-XIV (Graduation) 23 Sep 2026, Shift-I

(a) Khwaja Moinuddin Chishti
(b) Baba Farid
(c) Nizamuddin Auliya
(d) Shah Waliullah

13 Which Bhakti saint of Maharashtra composed 'Abhangas' and was a contemporary of Chhatrapati Shivaji Maharaj?

SSC Phase-XIV (12th) 16 Sep 2026, Shift-II

(a) Sant Dnyaneshwar
(b) Sant Tukaram
(c) Sant Eknath
(d) Sant Namdev

14 Which Sufi saint is known as 'Chiragh-i-Dehlavi' (the Lamp of Delhi)?

SSC Phase-XIV (12th) 19 Sep 2026, Shift-II

(a) Nasiruddin Mahmud
(b) Salim Chishti
(c) Moinuddin Chishti
(d) Nizamuddin Auliya

15 The rejection of cremation and Dharmashastric funeral rites by the followers of Basavanna most strongly reflects which broader ideological outlook of the Lingayat movement?

SSC Phase-XIV (12th) 22 Sep 2026, Shift-II

(a) Selective adaptation of Brahmanical practices for regional identity
(b) Assertion of an alternative religious framework challenging established ritual authority
(c) Complete indifference to questions of death and the afterlife
(d) Dependence on orthodox texts to legitimise new practices

PART F Miscellaneous

Directions (Q. 16–17): *Choose the correct answer from the four given options.*

16 Which of the following were two prominent women rulers who ascended the throne as sovereign monarchs in the mainly male-dominated dynasties of medieval Indian history?

SSC Phase-XIV (Graduation) 25 Sep 2026, Shift-I

(a) Razia Sultana and Chand Bibi
(b) Rudramadevi and Razia Sultana
(c) Rudramadevi and Nur Jahan
(d) Durgavati and Razia Sultana

17 Which historical process is most clearly reflected in the changing use of the word 'Hindu' from a geographical identity to a religious identity?

SSC Phase-XIV (12th) 23 Sep 2026, Shift-II

(a) Sudden imposition of a fixed religious identity by early foreign rulers
(b) Evolution of social categories where words acquire new meanings over time
(c) Continuous use of cultural terms without any change in meaning
(d) Direct translation of regional names into religious identities

Answer Key *SSC official key*

Part A · Delhi Sultanate (Q. 01–03)									
01	(c)	**02**	(a)	**03**	(c)				
Part B · Vijayanagara and Bahmani Kingdom (Q. 04–05)									
04	(b)	**05**	(b)						
Part C · The Mughal Empire (Q. 06–09)									
06	(a)	**07**	(a)	**08**	(a)	**09**	(b)		
Part D · Marathas (Q. 10)									
10	(d)								
Part E · Bhakti and Sufi Movements (Q. 11–15)									
11	(d)	**12**	(b)	**13**	(b)	**14**	(a)	**15**	(b)
Part F · Miscellaneous (Q. 16–17)									
16	(b)	**17**	(b)						

Detailed Explanations रटना बंद, समझना शुरू

PART A Delhi Sultanate

01 **ANSWER (c)** Mahmud Ghazni

SSC Phase-XIV (Graduation) 18 Sep 2026, Shift-I

Mahmud Ghazni attacked India **17 times** between about 1000 and 1027 CE, but his only aim was to loot wealth. Each time he went back to Ghazni. He neither ruled Delhi nor set up any dynasty here.

Roots of the Sultanate

• In 1025-26 CE, he plundered the **Somnath Temple** of Gujarat.
• The scholar **Al-Biruni**, who came with him, wrote 'Kitab-ul-Hind'.
• Muhammad Ghori defeated Prithviraj Chauhan in the Second Battle of Tarain (1192) and laid the foundation of Turkish rule in India.
• Qutb-ud-din Aibak founded the Slave (Mamluk) dynasty in 1206. Iltutmish shifted the capital from Lahore to Delhi and strengthened the Sultanate.

02 **ANSWER (a)** In his outlook and social environment, slavery was considered morally acceptable and socially normal

SSC Phase-XIV (12th) 18 Sep 2026, Shift-II

Ibn Battuta writes about buying slaves, making them work and giving them as gifts without any hesitation, and does not even comment on it. This clearly means that in his time and society, **slavery was seen as normal and acceptable**.

Facts (Ibn Battuta)

• A 14th-century traveller from **Morocco**, he came to India in **1333** during the reign of Muhammad bin Tughlaq.
• His travelogue is the **Rihla**, written in Arabic.
• Muhammad bin Tughlaq made him the **Qazi** of Delhi.
• He writes that he bought horses, camels and slaves to present to the Sultan. In that age, slaves were used for household work, carrying palanquins, music and so on.

03 **ANSWER (c)** To strengthen the structure and reduce the internal height of the dome.

SSC Phase-XIV (Matric) 17 Sep 2026, Shift-III

A double dome has two domes, one placed over the other. The tall outer dome gives the building its grand look, while the lower inner dome keeps the ceiling inside in the right proportion. So the structure stays strong and the inner height comes down.

Facts: Double Dome

• First major example in India: **Tomb of Sikandar Lodi** (Lodhi Garden, Delhi)
• The Mughals refined it further, as in **Humayun's Tomb** and the **Taj Mahal**
• The Lodi dynasty (1451-1526) was the last dynasty of the Delhi Sultanate, founded by Bahlol Lodi
• Octagonal and square tombs were built in large numbers in the Sayyid-Lodi period

PART B Vijayanagara and Bahmani Kingdom

04 **ANSWER (b)** Vijayanagara Empire

SSC Phase-XIV (12th) 25 Sep 2026, Shift-II

The Battle of Talikota (Rakshasa-Tangadi) was fought in 1565 AD. The Deccan Sultanates joined hands and crushed Vijayanagara, and this is where the decline of the **Vijayanagara Empire** began.

Remember: Talikota 1565

• Vijayanagara side was led by **Aliya Rama Raya** (the real power behind the throne)
• Opposing side: Bijapur, Ahmadnagar, Golconda and Bidar
• After the battle the capital **Hampi** was plundered. The capital shifted first to Penukonda, then to Chandragiri
• Founded in 1336 AD by Harihara I and Bukka Raya I (Sangama dynasty)
• The four dynasties in order: Sangama, Saluva, Tuluva, Aravidu

Examiner's Trap The Bahmani Sultanate had already

broken into five parts before 1565. The Cholas and Rashtrakutas belong to a much earlier age, so strike them out straight away.

05 **ANSWER (b)** Krishnadevaraya

SSC Phase-XIV (12th) 26 Sep 2026, Shift-I

'Amuktamalyada' is a Telugu epic written by **Krishnadevaraya**, the Tuluva emperor of Vijayanagara. It tells the story of the Vaishnava saint Andal (Goda Devi).

Facts: Krishnadevaraya

- Reign 1509-1529, the greatest ruler of the Tuluva dynasty
- Eight Telugu poets in his court, known as the **Ashtadiggajas**
- Titles: **Andhra Bhoja**, Abhinava Bhoja
- The Sanskrit play **Jambavati Kalyanam** is also his
- The Portuguese traveller **Domingo Paes** came during his reign

PART C The Mughal Empire

06 **ANSWER (a)** Sher Shah Suri

SSC Phase-XIV (12th) 16 Sep 2026, Shift-II

This line comes up in the exam again and again. Akbar later adopted and improved the land revenue and administrative system that Sher Shah Suri had built. That is why Sher Shah is called the 'forerunner of Akbar'.

Remember: Sher Shah Suri

- Defeated Humayun at **Chausa (1539)** and **Kannauj/Bilgram (1540)**, ruled 1540-1545
- Introduced the silver **'Rupiya'**, the root of today's rupee
- Administration: Sarkar, and below it the **Pargana**
- Built the **Sadak-e-Azam**, known today as the GT Road
- His tomb is at **Sasaram** (Bihar), in the middle of a lake

07 **ANSWER (a)** Acceptance of narratives that reinforced European superiority/comparisons.

SSC Phase-XIV (12th) 17 Sep 2026, Shift-II

Bernier showed India as backward compared to Europe, for example by claiming there was no private property in land here. European readers liked the 'we are superior' message. So his books sold widely even with their errors.

Facts: Francois Bernier

- French physician and traveller, in India roughly 1656-1668
- First physician to **Dara Shikoh**, later attached to the noble **Danishmand Khan**
- Book: **Travels in the Mogul Empire**
- His idea of no private landownership was later taken up by **Montesquieu** and **Karl Marx**
- Other travellers of the same period: Tavernier, Manucci

Look at the other options. If readers had wanted only facts, a flawed book would not have sold so well. India was not under colonial rule at that time, and Bernier was not the only writer either.

08 **ANSWER (a)** Economic decline can coexist with strong external trade under certain structural conditions

SSC Phase-XIV (12th) 18 Sep 2026, Shift-II

On one side Bernier says the artisans are in misery and production is falling. On the other, he writes that Indian goods go abroad and gold and silver come in return. If both are true together, the meaning is clear: an internal crisis and strong external trade can run side by side.

Bernier: Trade and Decline

- Book: **Travels in the Mogul Empire**
- His view was that all land belonged to the king, with no private ownership, and that this was the root of decline
- In the 17th century India was a major centre of textile production, and silver came in heavily in return for exports
- Historians see his account as Euro-centric and one-sided

Examiner's Trap Option D says the opposite. The metals came because of trade, not without it. And options with heavy words like 'always' and 'completely' usually turn out to be wrong.

09 **ANSWER (b)** Produce of the last ten years

SSC Phase-XIV (12th) 23 Sep 2026, Shift-II

'Dahsala' simply means ten years. Under this system, revenue was fixed by looking at the **average produce of the last ten years** (and average prices).

Remember: Dahsala 1580

- 1580 AD, Akbar's reign, also called **Ain-i-Dahsala**
- The whole plan was drawn up by finance minister **Raja Todar Mal**
- Revenue was about **one-third (1/3)** of the average produce
- Four categories of land: **Polaj, Parauti, Chachar, Banjar**
- It ended the uncertainty of revenue changing every year

PART D Marathas

10 ANSWER (d) Sachiv

SSC Phase-XIV (12th) 19 Sep 2026, Shift-II

In Shivaji's Ashtapradhan, the **Sachiv** (Shuru-navis) handled royal correspondence and also kept track of royal records and court business. Among the given options, this work matches only the Sachiv.

Static GK: Ashtapradhan

- The Ashtapradhan was formed at Shivaji's coronation (1674)
- **Peshwa** (Mukhya Pradhan): general administration
- **Amatya** (Majumdar): finance and revenue accounts
- **Sumant** (Dabir): foreign affairs
- **Danadhyaksha** (Panditrao): religious matters and charity

Note The daily record of court events is usually linked with the **Mantri** (Waqia-navis), and correspondence with the Sachiv. The wording of the question is a little loose, but Mantri is not among the options, so Sachiv is the one to mark here.

PART E Bhakti and Sufi Movements

11 ANSWER (d) Vallabhacharya

SSC Phase-XIV (Graduation) 21 Sep 2026, Shift-I

Vallabhacharya taught devotion to child Krishna, taking the Bhagavata Purana as his base. He said that liberation comes from God's grace, that is 'Pushti'. This is how his sect got the name **Pushtimarg**.

Facts: Vallabhacharya

- Period 1479-1531 AD, philosophy **Shuddhadvaita**
- Works: **Anubhashya**, **Subodhini** (commentary on the Bhagavata)
- Major centre: the Shrinathji temple at **Nathdwara** (Rajasthan)
- His son **Vitthalnath** formed the **Ashtachhap**, whose greatest poet was Surdas

Other options: Chaitanya Mahaprabhu is linked with Gaudiya Vaishnavism of Bengal, Tulsidas with Rama-bhakti, and Samarth Ramdas with the Rama-bhakti tradition of Maharashtra.

12 ANSWER (b) Baba Farid

SSC Phase-XIV (Graduation) 23 Sep 2026, Shift-I

The Chishti saint who spread Sufi thought in Punjab was **Baba Farid** (Sheikh Fariduddin Ganj-i-Shakar). His Punjabi shlokas and shabads are included in the Adi Granth, that is the Guru Granth Sahib.

Remember: Baba Farid

- 12th-13th century, title **Ganj-i-Shakar**
- Teacher: **Khwaja Qutbuddin Bakhtiyar Kaki**
- Disciple and successor: **Nizamuddin Auliya**
- His dargah is at **Pakpattan** (Punjab, Pakistan)
- Counted among the earliest major poets of Punjabi

Looking at the other options, Moinuddin Chishti (Ajmer) started the Chishti order in India, Nizamuddin Auliya was in Delhi, and Shah Waliullah was an 18th-century Islamic scholar.

13 ANSWER (b) Sant Tukaram

SSC Phase-XIV (12th) 16 Sep 2026, Shift-II

Sant Tukaram, a 17th-century saint, wrote Marathi 'Abhangas' in devotion to Lord Vitthal. He lived in the time of Shivaji Maharaj, so the answer is **Sant Tukaram**.

Facts: Sant Tukaram

- Born at **Dehu** (near Pune)
- **Warkari** sect, deity **Vitthal (Vithoba)** of Pandharpur
- Collection of his Abhangas: **Tukaram Gatha**
- Opposed caste divisions and rituals, preached devotion in simple Marathi
- Tradition says Shivaji held him in great respect

Examiner's Trap Dnyaneshwar (13th century), Namdev

(13th-14th century) and Eknath (16th century) also wrote Abhangas. But none of them lived in Shivaji's time. The key word in the question is 'contemporary', so hold on to it.

14 **ANSWER (a)** Nasiruddin Mahmud

SSC Phase-XIV (12th) 19 Sep 2026, Shift-II

'Chiragh-i-Dehlavi' means 'the Lamp of Delhi'. This title belongs to Sheikh **Nasiruddin Mahmud**, a 14th-century Chishti saint.

Facts: Chishti Order

- Chief Khalifa (successor) of **Nizamuddin Auliya**
- Lived in Delhi during the reigns of Muhammad bin Tughlaq and Firoz Shah Tughlaq
- The area around his dargah is called **Chirag Delhi** today
- His disciple **Gesudaraz** (Banda Nawaz) carried the order to the Deccan (Gulbarga)

Other options: Salim Chishti is linked with Fatehpur Sikri (Akbar's time) and Moinuddin Chishti with Ajmer. Nizamuddin Auliya is called 'Mehboob-e-Ilahi'.

15 **ANSWER (b)** Assertion of an alternative religious framework challenging established ritual authority

SSC Phase-XIV (12th) 22 Sep 2026, Shift-II

The Lingayats gave up cremation and the Dharmashastra rites of shraddha and adopted burial instead. This was a direct challenge to the authority of Brahmanical ritual. In other words, they were building their own separate religious order based on equality.

Remember: Lingayat Movement

- 12th century, Karnataka, led by **Basavanna**, along with Allama Prabhu and Akka Mahadevi
- Belief: the devotee merges with Shiva at death, with no rebirth, hence burial
- Opposed caste divisions, idol worship, animal sacrifice and the supremacy of the Vedas
- Their ideas are found in the Kannada **Vachanas**
- **Anubhava Mantapa**: an assembly open to all castes, men and women alike

PART F Miscellaneous

16 **ANSWER (b)** Rudramadevi and Razia Sultana

SSC Phase-XIV (Graduation) 25 Sep 2026, Shift-I

Rudramadevi of the Kakatiya dynasty and Razia Sultana of the Delhi Sultanate both sat on the throne themselves and ruled in their own name. They were not regents for a minor or a power behind the curtain, and that is the key to this question.

Facts: Razia and Rudrama

- **Razia**: daughter of Iltutmish, ruled 1236-1240 AD
- **Rudramadevi**: Kakatiya ruler, capital Orugallu (Warangal), about 1262-1289 AD
- Rudramadevi used the male title **'Rudradeva Maharaja'** in inscriptions
- **Marco Polo** praised her rule

Among the other options, Chand Bibi and Rani Durgavati mainly ruled as regents. Nur Jahan was powerful as Jahangir's wife, not as a monarch herself.

17 **ANSWER (b)** Evolution of social categories where words acquire new meanings over time

SSC Phase-XIV (12th) 23 Sep 2026, Shift-II

The word 'Hindu' was first used for the land beyond the Indus river and the people living there. Over the centuries it slowly became a religious identity. Learn the point here: words and social categories pick up new meanings with time.

Facts: The Word 'Hindu'

- Root: the Sanskrit **'Sindhu'** (the Indus river)
- Old Persian (Achaemenid) inscriptions have **'Hidush'**, only a place name
- From the Greek **'Indos'** came 'India'
- In Arabic-Persian texts, **'al-Hind'** meant the region and its people
- The religious sense became fixed gradually, especially in the late medieval and colonial periods

Examiner's Trap Options saying 'sudden imposition' or 'direct translation' deny a slow, gradual process. So they cannot be right.

04
CHAPTER

Modern History

Questions *16 questions · 10 shifts*

PART A Revolt of 1857

Directions (Q. 01): *Choose the correct answer from the four given options.*

01 The Veerangana Archaeological Museum in Jhansi was established in memory of which of the following freedom fighters?

SSC Phase-XIV (Graduation) 18 Sep 2026, Shift-I

(a) Jhalkari Bai
(b) Krishna Chand Sharma
(c) Raghunath Vinayak Dhulekar
(d) Vishwanath Vaishampayan

PART B Governor-General and Viceroy

Directions (Q. 02–08): *Choose the correct answer from the four given options.*

02 Consider the following statements regarding the provisions of Pitt's India Act, 1784 and select the correct option:
1. The Madras and Bombay Presidencies were made subordinate to the Bengal Presidency only in matters of revenue.
2. The Governor-General and Council were prohibited from declaring war or making any treaty without the approval of the Directors or the Secret Committee.

SSC Phase-XIV (Graduation) 17 Sep 2026, Shift-I

(a) Only 1
(b) Only 2
(c) Both 1 and 2 are correct
(d) Neither 1 nor 2 is correct

03 Consider the following statements based on the Ryotwari system and select the correct option:
1. Under this system, peasants were recognised as owners of property.
2. This system completely removed the tax burden on peasants.

SSC Phase-XIV (Graduation) 19 Sep 2026, Shift-I

(a) Only 1 is correct
(b) Only 2 is correct
(c) Both 1 and 2 are correct
(d) Both 1 and 2 are incorrect

04 Consider the following statements regarding the Regulating Act of 1773 and choose the correct option:
1. The Regulating Act was passed by the British Parliament to control the administration of the East India Company.
2. This Act reduced the post of Governor of Bengal to Governor of Fort William.

SSC Phase-XIV (Graduation) 22 Sep 2026, Shift-I

(a) Only 1
(b) Only 2
(c) Both 1 and 2 are correct
(d) Neither 1 nor 2 is correct

05 Consider the following statements regarding early British legislative interventions in India and choose the correct option:
1. The Regulating Act of 1773 established a Supreme Court at Calcutta consisting of one Chief Justice and three other judges.

2. Pitt's India Act of 1784 separated the commercial and political functions of the East India Company by creating the Board of Control.

SSC Phase-XIV (Graduation) 22 Sep 2026, Shift-I

(a) Only 1
(b) Only 2
(c) Both 1 and 2 are correct
(d) Neither 1 nor 2 is correct

06 Consider the following statements and select the correct option:
1. Before the Permanent Settlement of 1793, zamindars had only the right to collect revenue.
2. After the Permanent Settlement of 1793, peasants became the legal owners of the land.

SSC Phase-XIV (Graduation) 24 Sep 2026, Shift-I

(a) Only 1 is correct
(b) Only 2 is correct
(c) Both 1 and 2 are correct
(d) Neither 1 nor 2 is correct

07 Consider the following statements regarding the Ryotwari system and select the correct option:
1. The Ryotwari system was introduced in the Bombay Presidency by Alexander Read in 1729.
2. Before the Bombay Presidency, it was implemented in the Madras Presidency.

SSC Phase-XIV (Graduation) 24 Sep 2026, Shift-I

(a) Both 1 and 2 are correct
(b) Only 1 is correct
(c) Only 2 is correct
(d) Neither 1 nor 2 is correct

08 Which of the following provided a living structure of British administration in India?

SSC Phase-XIV (Graduation) 25 Sep 2026, Shift-I

(a) Governor General (b) British Crown
(c) British Parliament (d) Supreme Court

PART C Miscellaneous

Directions (Q. 09–16): *Choose the correct answer from the four given options.*

09 Consider the following statements regarding British educational policies in India and select the correct option:
1. Wood's Despatch (1854) made English the sole medium, leaving out the vernacular languages.
2. The Hunter Commission (1882) reviewed education and stressed the expansion of primary and secondary education.

SSC Phase-XIV (Graduation) 17 Sep 2026, Shift-I

(a) Only 1
(b) Only 2
(c) Both 1 and 2 are correct
(d) Neither 1 nor 2 is correct

10 The "Morley-Minto Reforms" of 1909 introduced limited Indian representation in the Legislative Councils, but why were they mainly criticised by Indian nationalists?

SSC Phase-XIV (Graduation) 18 Sep 2026, Shift-I

(a) They granted universal adult franchise, raising concerns of electoral manipulation.
(b) They failed to apply the principle of election and continued the practice of nomination.
(c) They introduced a system of separate electorates on the basis of religion, which was seen as divisive.
(d) They gave excessive power to elected Indian members, weakening British authority.

11 Consider the following statements regarding the Indian Councils Act 1909 and select the correct option:
1. It considerably increased the size of the Legislative Councils at both the central and provincial levels.
2. It did not allow members of the Legislative Councils to ask supplementary questions or move resolutions on the budget.

SSC Phase-XIV (Graduation) 19 Sep 2026, Shift-I

(a) Only 1
(b) Only 2
(c) Both 1 and 2 are correct
(d) Neither 1 nor 2 is correct

12 R. Nallakannu is mainly known for his association with which movement?

SSC Phase-XIV (12th) 18 Sep 2026, Shift-II

(a) Industrial Revolution
(b) Freedom Struggle

(c) Green Revolution
(d) IT Revolution

13 Who was the tribal revolutionary leader who led the Rampa Rebellion of 1922 against the British forest laws?

SSC Phase-XIV (12th) 23 Sep 2026, Shift-II

(a) Birsa Munda
(b) Alluri Sitarama Raju
(c) Komaram Bheem
(d) Sidhu Murmu

14 Which of the following was introduced for the first time under the Act of 1892?

SSC Phase-XIV (Matric) 23 Sep 2026, Shift-III

(a) Direct elections
(b) Discussion on the budget
(c) Bicameral legislature
(d) Responsible ministry

15 Which of the following initiatives was clearly emphasised by Wood's Despatch of 1854?

SSC Phase-XIV (Matric) 23 Sep 2026, Shift-III

(a) Expansion of military training
(b) Encouragement of women's education
(c) Inclusion of religious education
(d) Development of industrial crafts

16 Which prominent nationalist leader revived the public celebration of Ganesh Chaturthi in 1893 and used the festival to promote unity, arouse nationalist feeling and defeat the British ban on public meetings?

SSC Phase-XIV (Matric) 24 Sep 2026, Shift-III

(a) Mahatma Gandhi
(b) Sardar Vallabhbhai Patel
(c) Bal Gangadhar Tilak
(d) Lala Lajpat Rai

Answer Key *SSC official key*

Part A · Revolt of 1857 (Q. 01)															
01	(a)														
Part B · Governor-General and Viceroy (Q. 02–08)															
02	(b)	**03**	(a)	**04**	(a)	**05**	(c)	**06**	(a)	**07**	(c)	**08**	(c)		
Part C · Miscellaneous (Q. 09–16)															
09	(b)	**10**	(c)	**11**	(a)	**12**	(b)	**13**	(b)	**14**	(b)	**15**	(b)	**16**	(c)

Detailed Explanations रटना बंद, समझना शुरू

PART A Revolt of 1857

01 **ANSWER (a)** Jhalkari Bai

SSC Phase-XIV (Graduation) 18 Sep 2026, Shift-I

The Veerangana Archaeological Museum in Jhansi was built in memory of **Jhalkari Bai**. In 1857 she was a brave fighter in Rani Lakshmibai's women's army (Durga Dal).

Remember: Jhalkari Bai

• Disguised herself as Rani Lakshmibai to keep the British busy so that the Rani could escape from the fort
• From the Koli (Kori) community, her husband **Puran Singh** was a gunner in the Jhansi army
• The museum has sculptures from the Chandela, Pratihara and Bundela periods
• Jhansi is in the **Bundelkhand** region of Uttar Pradesh
• A postage stamp was issued in her honour in 2001

PART B Governor-General and Viceroy

02 ANSWER (b) Only 2

SSC Phase-XIV (Graduation) 17 Sep 2026, Shift-I

In Statement 1, the words 'only in matters of revenue' are the problem. Madras and Bombay were made subordinate to Bengal in all matters, war, diplomacy and revenue. Statement 2 is fine, since without the permission of the Directors or the Secret Committee the Governor-General could neither wage war nor make a treaty. So the answer is **Only 2**.

Act 1784: Pitt's India

- A 6-member **Board of Control** was set up to supervise political, military and revenue matters
- **Dual government**: commerce with the Court of Directors, politics with the Board of Control
- The Governor-General's Council was cut from 4 to **3 members**
- Company territories were called **'British possessions in India'** for the first time
- Named after Prime Minister **William Pitt (the Younger)**

Examiner's Trap Never take a word like 'only' lightly. The subordination was real, it just was not limited to revenue.

03 ANSWER (a) Only 1 is correct

SSC Phase-XIV (Graduation) 19 Sep 2026, Shift-I

Under Ryotwari the peasant (ryot) was treated as the owner of the land, so Statement 1 is correct. But the revenue was fixed very high, about 45-55%, and peasants kept sinking into debt. The tax burden did not go down, it went up, so Statement 2 is wrong.

Facts: Ryotwari

- Started by **Alexander Read**, spread by **Thomas Munro** (1820, Madras)
- Areas: Madras, Bombay, parts of Assam
- Direct settlement between the government and the peasant, with no middleman
- Revenue was not permanent, it was revised every **20-30 years**
- High rates left peasants dependent on moneylenders

04 ANSWER (a) Only 1

SSC Phase-XIV (Graduation) 22 Sep 2026, Shift-I

The British Parliament passed the Regulating Act of 1773 to rein in the Company's affairs, so Statement 1 is fine. Statement 2 is the reverse of the truth. The post of Governor of Bengal was not lowered, it was raised to **Governor-General of Bengal**. The correct option is **Only 1**.

Regulating Act 1773

- First Governor-General of Bengal: **Warren Hastings**
- An Executive Council of **4 members** to assist him
- **Supreme Court** at Calcutta (1774): Chief Justice **Sir Elijah Impey** and 3 judges
- Ban on private trade and bribes/gifts for Company servants
- Governors of Madras and Bombay placed under the Governor-General of Bengal

05 ANSWER (c) Both 1 and 2 are correct

SSC Phase-XIV (Graduation) 22 Sep 2026, Shift-I

Both statements are correct here. Under the Regulating Act, a Supreme Court was set up at Calcutta (Fort William) in 1774 with 1 Chief Justice and 3 other judges. Pitt's India Act separated the two functions by giving commerce to the Court of Directors and politics to the new Board of Control.

Remember: 1773 to 1858

- First Chief Justice of the Supreme Court: **Sir Elijah Impey**
- The Board of Control had **6 Commissioners**, including the Chancellor of the Exchequer and a Secretary of State
- The **dual control** of Pitt's India Act lasted till 1858
- In 1858 both the Board and the Court of Directors were abolished and the post of Secretary of State for India was created

06 ANSWER (a) Only 1 is correct

SSC Phase-XIV (Graduation) 24 Sep 2026, Shift-I

Before 1793 the zamindars mainly collected revenue and were not owners of the land. Statement 1 is fine. The Permanent Settlement gave ownership rights to the **zamindars**, not to the peasants, who were left as

mere tenants. So Statement 2 is wrong.

Facts: Permanent Settlement

- **Lord Cornwallis**, 1793, Bengal, Bihar (and Orissa)
- The revenue the zamindars paid the Company was **fixed forever**
- If payment was not made by sunset on the due date, the land was auctioned: the **Sunset Law**
- **Sir John Shore** played a major role in planning it

Note Remember all three systems together. In the Permanent Settlement the zamindar is the owner, in Ryotwari the peasant is the owner, and in Mahalwari the whole village (mahal) is one unit.

07 **ANSWER (c)** Only 2 is correct

SSC Phase-XIV (Graduation) 24 Sep 2026, Shift-I

Alexander Read started this system in 1792 in the Baramahal district of the Madras region, not in Bombay in 1729. Statement 1 falls right there. First Madras, then Bombay, so Statement 2 is correct.

Remember: Ryotwari 1792

- **1792**, Baramahal (after the Third Anglo-Mysore War), Captain **Alexander Read**
- Spread on a large scale in Madras by **Thomas Munro** (1820)
- In Bombay, **Mountstuart Elphinstone** and Wingate played a role
- No middleman, revenue settled directly with the peasant

08 **ANSWER (c)** British Parliament

SSC Phase-XIV (Graduation) 25 Sep 2026, Shift-I

The entire legal framework of British administration in India was built by Acts passed by the **British Parliament**. From the Regulating Act of 1773 to the Government of India Acts of 1858, 1919 and 1935, all were laws of Parliament.

Acts: Parliament's Control

- 1773 Regulating Act: Parliament's first direct control over the Company
- 1784 Pitt's India Act: dual control (Court of Directors and Board of Control)
- 1833 Charter Act: all legislative power with the **Governor-General of India**
- 1858: rule passed from the Company to the **Crown**
- 1935: the largest and most detailed framework, with a deep influence on our Constitution

Examiner's Trap The British Crown looks right at first glance. But the structure was built by Acts of Parliament, and even the transfer of power in 1858 happened through a law of Parliament.

PART C Miscellaneous

09 **ANSWER (b)** Only 2

SSC Phase-XIV (Graduation) 17 Sep 2026, Shift-I

Wood's Despatch spoke of the vernacular at the primary level and English in higher education. The moment it says 'sole medium', Statement 1 becomes wrong. The Hunter Commission reviewed progress after the Despatch and stressed expanding primary and secondary education, so Statement 2 is correct.

Facts: Wood and Hunter

- Wood's Despatch is called the **'Magna Carta of English Education in India'**
- After it, the Universities of Calcutta, Bombay and Madras were set up in 1857
- Hunter Commission 1882, Viceroy **Lord Ripon**, chaired by **William Wilson Hunter**
- The Hunter Commission suggested handing primary education to municipalities and district boards
- The Despatch also stressed women's education and vocational training

10 **ANSWER (c)** They introduced a system of separate electorates on the basis of religion, which was seen as divisive.

SSC Phase-XIV (Graduation) 18 Sep 2026, Shift-I

The Indian Councils Act of 1909 created a separate electorate for Muslims. This meant only Muslim voters would vote for Muslim seats. Nationalists called it plain 'divide and rule', because it gave communal politics a legal place.

Remember: Morley-Minto

- Named after Secretary of State **John Morley** and Viceroy **Lord Minto**
- Lord Minto: **'Father of Communal Electorate'**
- Central Legislative Council raised from **16 to 60** members
- First Indian in the Viceroy's Executive Council:

Satyendra Prasanna Sinha (Law Member)
• Non-official majority in the provinces, official majority kept at the Centre

11 **ANSWER (a)** Only 1

SSC Phase-XIV (Graduation) 19 Sep 2026, Shift-I

The 1909 Act enlarged the councils both at the Centre and in the provinces (16 to 60 at the Centre), so Statement 1 is fine. Statement 2 does not work, because this very Act gave the right to ask **supplementary questions** and move **resolutions** on the budget.

Act 1909: Key Points

• Also called the **Morley-Minto Reforms**
• **Separate electorate** for Muslims, giving communal representation a legal form
• First Indian in the Executive Council: **Satyendra Prasanna Sinha**
• Both debate and resolutions on the budget became possible
• Non-official majority in the provinces, official majority at the Centre

Note This sequence is asked a lot in the exam. In 1892, **discussion** on the budget (questions yes, supplementary questions no). In 1909, **supplementary questions** and **resolutions** on the budget. In 1919, **voting** on a part of the budget.

12 **ANSWER (b)** Freedom Struggle

SSC Phase-XIV (12th) 18 Sep 2026, Shift-II

R. Nallakannu is a senior Communist leader of Tamil Nadu. He joined the **freedom struggle** as a teenager and even went to jail while fighting the British.

Facts: R. Nallakannu

• Born 1925, Tamil Nadu
• Active in the **Quit India Movement** and in peasant movements
• Long-time State Secretary of the Tamil Nadu unit of the **CPI**
• Received the Tamil Nadu government's **'Thagaisal Thamizhar'** award in 2022
• Also known for his legal fight against illegal river-sand mining

13 **ANSWER (b)** Alluri Sitarama Raju

SSC Phase-XIV (12th) 23 Sep 2026, Shift-II

The Rampa (Manyam) Rebellion of 1922-24 against British forest laws in the Godavari hills was led by **Alluri Sitarama Raju**.

Remember: Rampa Rebellion

• Area: present-day **Andhra Pradesh** (Godavari Agency)
• Real cause: the **Madras Forest Act, 1882**, which stopped podu (shifting) cultivation
• **Guerrilla** attacks on police stations
• People called him **'Manyam Veerudu'** (Hero of the Jungles)
• Captured and killed by the British in May 1924

Other options: Birsa Munda is linked with the Ulgulan (1899-1900, Chotanagpur), Komaram Bheem was a Gond leader (against the Nizam of Hyderabad), and Sidhu Murmu with the Santhal Rebellion (1855-56).

14 **ANSWER (b)** Discussion on the budget

SSC Phase-XIV (Matric) 23 Sep 2026, Shift-III

The Indian Councils Act 1892 gave members the right, for the first time, to hold a **discussion on the annual budget** and ask questions of the government. The right to vote on the budget had not come yet.

Act 1892 vs Later Acts

• Questions could be asked, but not **supplementary questions**
• **Members on the recommendation** of municipalities, district boards, universities etc., that is the start of indirect election
• **Bicameral legislature** at the Centre and direct elections: in 1919
• **Provincial autonomy**: in 1935

15 **ANSWER (b)** Encouragement of women's education

SSC Phase-XIV (Matric) 23 Sep 2026, Shift-III

Wood's Despatch of 1854 clearly spoke of **encouraging women's education**. It also stressed the vernacular at the primary level and secular education in government institutions.

Facts: Wood's Despatch 1854

• Sent by **Sir Charles Wood** (President of the Board of Control), Governor-General was **Lord Dalhousie**
• Known as the **'Magna Carta of English Education'**
• Universities of Calcutta, Bombay and Madras in 1857 on the model of London University
• **Grants-in-Aid** for private schools
• Vernacular at the lower level, English at the higher level

Looking at the other options, religious education is the opposite of what it said, since the Despatch wanted secular education in government institutions. Military training and industrial crafts were not its main points at all.

16 **ANSWER (c)** Bal Gangadhar Tilak

SSC Phase-XIV (Matric) 24 Sep 2026, Shift-III

Ganesh worship was earlier limited to homes. In 1893 **Bal Gangadhar Tilak** turned it into a public Ganeshotsav. People of every caste gathered at one place, and the nationalist message reached them even while the British ban on meetings was in force.

Remember: Lokmanya Tilak

• Started the **Shivaji Festival** (1895-96) with the same aim
• Title: **'Lokmanya'**
• Newspapers: **Kesari** (Marathi) and **Maratha** (English)
• Slogan: **'Swaraj is my birthright and I shall have it'**
• Valentine Chirol called him the **'Father of Indian Unrest'**

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05 CHAPTER Economics

Questions *71 questions · 27 shifts*

PART A Basics of Economy

Directions (Q. 01–04): *Choose the correct answer from the four given options.*

01 Which of the following best distinguishes economics from many other social sciences?

SSC Phase-XIV (Graduation) 19 Sep 2026, Shift-I

(a) It studies only the creation and accumulation of wealth.
(b) It focuses on how scarce resources are allocated among competing uses.
(c) It excludes psychological and social influences on human behaviour.
(d) It is concerned exclusively with production and exchange.

02 Unlike Lionel Robbins's definition, the main emphasis of Alfred Marshall's definition of economics was on which of the following?

SSC Phase-XIV (Graduation) 22 Sep 2026, Shift-I

(a) Allocation of scarce resources among alternative uses
(b) Material requirements of human welfare and well-being
(c) Use of mathematical techniques in economic decisions
(d) Determination of market equilibrium only

03 Why is economics generally described as the study of choice?

SSC Phase-XIV (Graduation) 24 Sep 2026, Shift-I

(a) Because individuals always make perfectly rational decisions
(b) Because scarce resources must be allocated among competing uses
(c) Because governments determine every economic activity
(d) Because producers fully determine consumer preferences

04 In which type of economic system do the government and the market together decide what to produce, how to produce and how to distribute?

SSC Phase-XIV (Matric) 16 Sep 2026, Shift-III

(a) Capitalist economy (b) Socialist economy
(c) Mixed economy (d) Traditional economy

PART B Microeconomics

Directions (Q. 05–13): *Choose the correct answer from the four given options.*

05 Identify the correct formula for the price elasticity of demand.

SSC Phase-XIV (Graduation) 18 Sep 2026, Shift-I

(a) % change in quantity demanded / % change in price
(b) % change in price / % change in quantity demanded
(c) Initial price / change in price
(d) Change in quantity / initial quantity

06 Which of the following is not an exception to the law of demand?

SSC Phase-XIV (Graduation) 21 Sep 2026, Shift-I

(a) Conspicuous goods
(b) Necessary goods (Giffen paradox)

(c) Substitute goods
(d) Veblen effect

07 The demand curve shows the relationship between which of the following?
SSC Phase-XIV (12th) 17 Sep 2026, Shift-II
(a) Price and budget constraints
(b) Income and expenditure
(c) Price of a good and its quantity
(d) Cost and profit

08 Microeconomics is mainly concerned with what?
SSC Phase-XIV (12th) 18 Sep 2026, Shift-II
(a) Government budget
(b) Inflation
(c) Individual economic units
(d) National income

09 What is a good with negative income elasticity called?
SSC Phase-XIV (12th) 18 Sep 2026, Shift-II
(a) Inferior good
(b) Normal good
(c) Giffen good
(d) Luxury good

10 Which of the following is an example of a Giffen good?
SSC Phase-XIV (12th) 22 Sep 2026, Shift-II
(a) Bajra (millet)
(b) Basmati rice
(c) Exotic/rare vegetables
(d) Imported cheese

11 What is meant by opportunity cost?
SSC Phase-XIV (12th) 25 Sep 2026, Shift-II
(a) Fixed cost
(b) Monetary cost
(c) Cost of production
(d) The next best alternative forgone

12 What does elasticity of demand measure?
SSC Phase-XIV (12th) 26 Sep 2026, Shift-I
(a) Responsiveness of demand to price changes
(b) Level of income
(c) Change in supply
(d) Level of production

13 The aim of price control policies was:
SSC Phase-XIV (Matric) 23 Sep 2026, Shift-III
(a) To check inflation
(b) To reduce imports
(c) To encourage exports
(d) To increase profits

PART C National Income

Directions (Q. 14–20): *Choose the correct answer from the four given options.*

14 What is the difference between Gross National Product (GNP) and Gross Domestic Product (GDP)?
SSC Phase-XIV (Graduation) 23 Sep 2026, Shift-I
(a) Income of a resident from investment abroad
(b) Depreciation
(c) Consumption of capital
(d) Taxes

15 The difference between Potential GDP and Actual GDP is known as:
SSC Phase-XIV (Graduation) 25 Sep 2026, Shift-I
(a) Output gap
(b) Fiscal space
(c) Structural deficit
(d) Budget surplus

16 Which indicator measures the total value of final goods and services produced within a country?
SSC Phase-XIV (12th) 16 Sep 2026, Shift-II
(a) Gross National Product
(b) Net National Product
(c) Gross Domestic Product
(d) Personal Income

17 In national income accounting, depreciation is subtracted from which of the following measures?
SSC Phase-XIV (12th) 17 Sep 2026, Shift-II
(a) From GDP to get NDP
(b) From GNP to get GDP
(c) From NNP to get GNP
(d) From personal income

18 What was the actual economic growth rate

achieved during the Eighth Five-Year Plan (1992-97)?

SSC Phase-XIV (12th) 19 Sep 2026, Shift-II

(a) 5.6% (b) 6.0% (c) 6.8% (d) 8.0%

19 What is national income?

SSC Phase-XIV (12th) 21 Sep 2026, Shift-II

(a) Total savings of the economy
(b) Income of the government
(c) Income of individuals only
(d) Total value of goods and services produced in the country

20 The sector that mainly drove India's GDP growth in the post-1991 reform period:

SSC Phase-XIV (Matric) 24 Sep 2026, Shift-III

(a) Agriculture sector
(b) Industry sector
(c) Services sector
(d) Manufacturing sector

PART D Budget and Taxation

Directions (Q. 21–31): *Choose the correct answer from the four given options.*

21 Which of the following pairs contains a direct tax first and then an indirect tax?

SSC Phase-XIV (Graduation) 17 Sep 2026, Shift-I

(a) Income Tax - Goods and Services Tax
(b) Goods and Services Tax - Corporation Tax
(c) Customs Duty - Income Tax
(d) Excise Duty - Wealth Tax

22 Which reform in the post-1991 years aimed at removing inefficiencies in government spending and improving financial discipline?

SSC Phase-XIV (Graduation) 23 Sep 2026, Shift-I

(a) Introduction of the Minimum Wages Act
(b) Enactment of the FRBM Act
(c) Expansion of the nationalisation policy
(d) Implementation of Special Economic Zones (SEZ)

23 Fill in the blank: The budget document that shows only current receipts and current expenditure is called the _____ budget.

SSC Phase-XIV (12th) 16 Sep 2026, Shift-II

(a) Capital budget (b) Revenue budget
(c) Balanced budget (d) Performance budget

24 Which tax acts as an automatic stabilizer by maintaining a fixed percentage of income?

SSC Phase-XIV (12th) 19 Sep 2026, Shift-II

(a) Progressive tax (b) Proportional tax
(c) Regressive tax (d) Indirect tax

25 Which policy instrument directly influences aggregate demand through government spending?

SSC Phase-XIV (12th) 19 Sep 2026, Shift-II

(a) Monetary policy (b) Fiscal policy
(c) Industrial policy (d) Trade policy

26 What is meant by Fiscal Deficit?

SSC Phase-XIV (12th) 22 Sep 2026, Shift-II

(a) Difference between imports and exports
(b) Excess of debt over expenditure
(c) Excess of total expenditure over total receipts excluding borrowings
(d) Excess of revenue expenditure over revenue receipts

27 Which term refers to the excess of the government's total expenditure over its total receipts, excluding borrowings?

SSC Phase-XIV (12th) 23 Sep 2026, Shift-II

(a) Revenue deficit (b) Fiscal deficit
(c) Primary deficit (d) Budget deficit

28 Fill in the blank: Payments made by the government without receiving any goods or services in return are called _____ payments.

SSC Phase-XIV (12th) 23 Sep 2026, Shift-II

(a) Transfer (b) Revenue
(c) Capital (d) Subsidy

29 A "deficit budget" is generally preferred during which economic situation?

SSC Phase-XIV (12th) 25 Sep 2026, Shift-II

(a) High inflation

(b) Economic recession or depression
(c) High economic growth
(d) Full employment

30 Tax reforms include:
SSC Phase-XIV (Matric) 17 Sep 2026, Shift-III
(a) Removing taxes
(b) Only indirect taxes
(c) Increasing complexity
(d) Simplifying the tax system

31 Which indirect tax system was introduced in India with the aim of creating 'One Nation, One Tax and One Market'?
SSC Phase-XIV (Matric) 19 Sep 2026, Shift-III
(a) Corporate income tax
(b) Personal income tax
(c) National wealth tax
(d) Goods and Services Tax

PART E Inflation and Unemployment

Directions (Q. 32): *Choose the correct answer from the four given options.*

32 What does inflation mean?
SSC Phase-XIV (12th) 24 Sep 2026, Shift-II
(a) Rise in the general price level
(b) Rise in employment
(c) Fall in money supply
(d) Fall in the general price level

PART F Poverty and Balance of Payment

Directions (Q. 33–34): *Choose the correct answer from the four given options.*

33 The 'Basic Needs Approach' to human development was initially proposed by the International Labour Organization (ILO). What does this approach support?
SSC Phase-XIV (Graduation) 18 Sep 2026, Shift-I
(a) The higher the level of income, the higher the level of human development.
(b) People should be made participants in development, not merely its passive recipients.
(c) Building human capabilities in terms of knowledge and basic abilities.
(d) Ignoring human choices and meeting the basic needs of defined sections.

34 Which two international financial institutions did India approach for loans to deal with the economic crisis of 1991?
SSC Phase-XIV (Matric) 17 Sep 2026, Shift-III
(a) World Bank and Asian Development Bank
(b) World Bank and World Trade Organization
(c) World Bank and International Monetary Fund
(d) Reserve Bank of India and World Trade Organization

PART G Five Year Plan and Industrial Policy Resolution

Directions (Q. 35–46): *Choose the correct answer from the four given options.*

35 Which committee was set up in 1955 to highlight and promote the role of small-scale industries in rural development?
SSC Phase-XIV (12th) 16 Sep 2026, Shift-II
(a) Narasimham Committee
(b) Karve Committee
(c) Tendulkar Committee
(d) Kelkar Committee

36 Consider the following statements:
Statement I: The Fifth Five-Year Plan proposed the twin objectives of poverty eradication and attainment of self-reliance.
Statement II: The Rolling Plan was started between the Sixth and Seventh Five-Year Plans.
Which of the above statement(s) is/are correct?
SSC Phase-XIV (12th) 17 Sep 2026, Shift-II
(a) Both Statement I and II are correct
(b) Both Statement I and II are incorrect
(c) Statement I is correct, Statement II is incorrect
(d) Statement I is incorrect, Statement II is correct

37 During the final year of the Sixth Five-Year Plan

(1984-85), many parts of the country faced which major problem?

SSC Phase-XIV (12th) 18 Sep 2026, Shift-II

(a) Hyperinflation
(b) Severe famine conditions
(c) Heavy stock market crash
(d) Widespread industrial strikes

38 Which Five-Year Plan proposed the main objectives of 'poverty eradication' and 'attainment of self-reliance'?

SSC Phase-XIV (12th) 22 Sep 2026, Shift-II

(a) Fourth Five-Year Plan
(b) Fifth Five-Year Plan
(c) Sixth Five-Year Plan
(d) Seventh Five-Year Plan

39 What were the targeted versus actual growth rates for the Sixth Five-Year Plan?

SSC Phase-XIV (12th) 23 Sep 2026, Shift-II

(a) Target: 4.4%, Actual: 4.8%
(b) Target: 5.2%, Actual: 5.7%
(c) Target: 5.0%, Actual: 6.0%
(d) Target: 5.6%, Actual: 6.8%

40 In which Five-Year Plan was 'Garibi Hatao' (poverty eradication) proposed as the main objective?

SSC Phase-XIV (Matric) 17 Sep 2026, Shift-III

(a) First Five-Year Plan
(b) Second Five-Year Plan
(c) Fourth Five-Year Plan
(d) Fifth Five-Year Plan

41 Which Five-Year Plan had a targeted growth rate of 6.5% and an actual growth rate of 5.4%?

SSC Phase-XIV (Matric) 18 Sep 2026, Shift-III

(a) Seventh Five-Year Plan
(b) Eighth Five-Year Plan
(c) Ninth Five-Year Plan
(d) Tenth Five-Year Plan

42 Fill in the blank: The primary objectives of the _____ were "growth with stability" and "progressive achievement of self-reliance".

SSC Phase-XIV (Matric) 19 Sep 2026, Shift-III

(a) First Five-Year Plan
(b) Second Five-Year Plan
(c) Fourth Five-Year Plan
(d) Eighth Five-Year Plan

43 Which of the following pairs of an Indian Five-Year Plan and the economic model it was based on is correctly matched?

SSC Phase-XIV (Matric) 21 Sep 2026, Shift-III

(a) First Five-Year Plan - Harrod-Domar Model
(b) Second Five-Year Plan - Lewis Model
(c) Third Five-Year Plan - Solow Growth Model
(d) Eighth Five-Year Plan - Nehru-Mahalanobis Model

44 Which Five-Year Plan had a targeted growth rate of 5.2% and an actual growth rate of 5.7%?

SSC Phase-XIV (Matric) 22 Sep 2026, Shift-III

(a) Fourth Five-Year Plan
(b) Fifth Five-Year Plan
(c) Sixth Five-Year Plan
(d) Eighth Five-Year Plan

45 Which of the following correctly shows the targeted and actual growth rates of India's Sixth Five-Year Plan (1980-1985)?

SSC Phase-XIV (Matric) 24 Sep 2026, Shift-III

(a) Target 4.6% and actual 5.2%
(b) Target 5.0% and actual 5.4%
(c) Target 5.2% and actual 5.7%
(d) Target 6.0% and actual 5.2%

46 The model adopted for India's Second Five-Year Plan was:

SSC Phase-XIV (Matric) 25 Sep 2026, Shift-III

(a) Keynesian model
(b) Solow model
(c) Harrod-Domar model
(d) Mahalanobis model

PART H Reports and Indices

Directions (Q. 47): *Choose the correct answer from the four given options.*

47 While calculating the income dimension of the Human Development Index (HDI), which mathematical transformation is applied to Gross National Income (GNI) per capita to account for diminishing returns to income?

SSC Phase-XIV (Graduation) 24 Sep 2026, Shift-I

(a) Exponential transformation
(b) Logarithmic transformation
(c) Linear transformation
(d) Square transformation

PART I 1991 Reforms And Industrial policy

Directions (Q. 48–71): *Choose the correct answer from the four given options.*

48 Under India's post-1991 economic reforms, which of the following policy decisions was taken for Maharatna, Navratna and Miniratna enterprises?

SSC Phase-XIV (Graduation) 17 Sep 2026, Shift-I

(a) They were retained in the public sector.
(b) They were transferred to state governments.
(c) They were converted into private enterprises.
(d) They were merged into departmental undertakings.

49 Which institutional reform after 1991 improved transparency and investor confidence in Indian stock markets?

SSC Phase-XIV (Graduation) 18 Sep 2026, Shift-I

(a) Establishment of the NSE
(b) Merger of private banks
(c) Dissolution of SEBI
(d) Nationalisation of Dalal Street brokers

50 In the post-1991 reform period, which of the following factors made India a favourable destination for outsourcing?

SSC Phase-XIV (Graduation) 19 Sep 2026, Shift-I

(a) Skilled manpower and advanced infrastructure
(b) Low wage rates and skilled manpower
(c) Low wage rates and a large domestic market
(d) Skilled manpower and natural resources

51 What major change in foreign trade policy after 1991 made India more competitive globally?

SSC Phase-XIV (Graduation) 21 Sep 2026, Shift-I

(a) Currency substitution in exports
(b) Heavy export duties
(c) Shift to a market-determined exchange rate
(d) Export quotas by public enterprises

52 Under the expansion of overseas operations after the 1991 economic reforms, which Indian public sector enterprise started oil and gas exploration and production projects in 16 countries?

SSC Phase-XIV (Graduation) 22 Sep 2026, Shift-I

(a) Bharat Petroleum Corporation Limited
(b) Oil and Natural Gas Corporation
(c) Hindustan Petroleum Corporation Limited
(d) Indian Oil Corporation Limited

53 Under the trade reforms introduced in India in 1991 to promote competitiveness and efficiency, which policy instrument was abolished?

SSC Phase-XIV (Graduation) 24 Sep 2026, Shift-I

(a) Canalisation of import trade
(b) Quantitative restrictions on imports
(c) Export promotion schemes
(d) Import duty concession policies

54 What structural change was introduced in India's industrial licensing policy through the New Industrial Policy of 1991?

SSC Phase-XIV (Graduation) 25 Sep 2026, Shift-I

(a) Ban on new industries
(b) Regional monopoly of the public sector
(c) Abolition of licensing in all industries except a few
(d) Reintroduction of the quota system

55 Fill in the blank: The New Economic Policy (NEP) in India was announced in the year _____.

SSC Phase-XIV (12th) 16 Sep 2026, Shift-II

(a) 1989 (b) 1990 (c) 1991 (d) 1992

56 What is the rationale behind granting Maharatna status to certain Public Sector Undertakings (PSUs)?

SSC Phase-XIV (12th) 17 Sep 2026, Shift-II

(a) To limit their autonomy in financial decisions
(b) To provide greater financial and operational autonomy
(c) To privatise them quickly
(d) To bring them under state government control

57 Before 1991, a system of licences, quotas and permits restricted the growth of the private sector. What was this system called?

SSC Phase-XIV (12th) 17 Sep 2026, Shift-II

(a) Quota system (b) Permit regime
(c) Control mechanism (d) Licence Raj

58 Fill in the blank: The three main components of the New Economic Policy are Liberalisation, Privatisation and _____.

SSC Phase-XIV (12th) 19 Sep 2026, Shift-II

(a) Globalisation (b) Nationalisation
(c) Centralisation (d) Regulation

59 Fill in the blank: Under the New Economic Policy, the maximum equity limit for Foreign Direct Investment (FDI) in most sectors was _____.

SSC Phase-XIV (12th) 22 Sep 2026, Shift-II

(a) reduced (b) kept unchanged
(c) increased (d) completely banned

60 The financial sector reforms of 1991 in India were based on the recommendations of which committee?

SSC Phase-XIV (12th) 22 Sep 2026, Shift-II

(a) Malhotra Committee
(b) Chakravarty Committee
(c) Verma Committee
(d) Narasimham Committee

61 Fill in the blank: The government identifies some high-performing public sector enterprises and grants them greater autonomy by giving them the status of 'Navratna' or '_____'.

SSC Phase-XIV (12th) 23 Sep 2026, Shift-II

(a) Uttamratna (b) Miniratna
(c) Swarnaratna (d) Heeraratna

62 Which Indian politician, who served as the 9th Prime Minister, is often called the 'Father of Indian Economic Reforms'?

SSC Phase-XIV (12th) 24 Sep 2026, Shift-II

(a) Manmohan Singh (b) P. V. Narasimha Rao
(c) Atal Bihari Vajpayee (d) I. K. Gujral

63 Fill in the blank: The process of selling a part of the government's shareholding in a Public Sector Undertaking (PSU) to private investors is called _____.

SSC Phase-XIV (12th) 25 Sep 2026, Shift-II

(a) Nationalisation (b) Disinvestment
(c) Liberalisation (d) Globalisation

64 In the context of the 1991 reforms, the term 'financial liberalisation' mainly refers to:

SSC Phase-XIV (12th) 25 Sep 2026, Shift-II

(a) Abolishing banking transaction taxes
(b) Reducing private and foreign restrictions
(c) Increasing government stock control
(d) Nationalising small finance banks

65 What does 'License Raj' mean?

SSC Phase-XIV (12th) 25 Sep 2026, Shift-II

(a) Export policy
(b) Agricultural reform
(c) Industrial licensing system
(d) Free economy

66 Under the financial sector reforms of 1991, what is the limit of foreign investment in private sector banks?

SSC Phase-XIV (Matric) 16 Sep 2026, Shift-III

(a) 33 percent (b) 51 percent
(c) 74 percent (d) 100 percent

67 When a company takes regular services from outside sources, especially from other countries, it is called:

SSC Phase-XIV (Matric) 18 Sep 2026, Shift-III

(a) Privatisation (b) Outsourcing
(c) Deregulation (d) Export

68 What are Navratna companies?

SSC Phase-XIV (Matric) 19 Sep 2026, Shift-III

(a) High-performing Public Sector Undertakings (PSUs)
(b) Private companies
(c) Foreign companies
(d) Loss-making Public Sector Undertakings

69 What is the process of privatising public sector enterprises by selling a part of their equity to the public called?

SSC Phase-XIV (Matric) 21 Sep 2026, Shift-III

(a) Outsourcing (b) Globalisation
(c) Disinvestment (d) Deregulation

70 Which of the following industries still requires an industrial license?

SSC Phase-XIV (Matric) 22 Sep 2026, Shift-III

(a) Textile manufacturing
(b) Automobile production
(c) Hazardous chemicals
(d) Food processing

71 The sector that benefited the most from the LPG (Liberalisation, Privatisation, Globalisation) reforms is:

SSC Phase-XIV (Matric) 23 Sep 2026, Shift-III

(a) Service sector (b) Mining sector
(c) Forest sector (d) Agriculture sector

Answer Key *SSC official key*

Part A · Basics of Economy (Q. 01–04)																			
01	(b)	**02**	(b)	**03**	(b)	**04**	(c)												
Part B · Microeconomics (Q. 05–13)																			
05	(a)	**06**	(c)	**07**	(c)	**08**	(c)	**09**	(a)	**10**	(a)	**11**	(d)	**12**	(a)	**13**	(a)		
Part C · National Income (Q. 14–20)																			
14	(a)	**15**	(a)	**16**	(c)	**17**	(a)	**18**	(c)	**19**	(d)	**20**	(c)						
Part D · Budget and Taxation (Q. 21–31)																			
21	(a)	**22**	(b)	**23**	(b)	**24**	(b)	**25**	(b)	**26**	(c)	**27**	(b)	**28**	(a)	**29**	(b)	**30**	(d)
31	(d)																		
Part E · Inflation and Unemployment (Q. 32)																			
32	(a)																		
Part F · Poverty and Balance of Payment (Q. 33–34)																			
33	(d)	**34**	(c)																
Part G · Five Year Plan and Industrial Policy Resolution (Q. 35–46)																			
35	(b)	**36**	(c)	**37**	(b)	**38**	(b)	**39**	(b)	**40**	(d)	**41**	(c)	**42**	(c)	**43**	(a)	**44**	(c)
45	(c)	**46**	(d)																
Part H · Reports and Indices (Q. 47)																			
47	(b)																		
Part I · 1991 Reforms And Industrial policy (Q. 48–71)																			
48	(a)	**49**	(a)	**50**	(b)	**51**	(c)	**52**	(b)	**53**	(b)	**54**	(c)	**55**	(c)	**56**	(b)	**57**	(d)

58	(a)	59	(c)	60	(d)	61	(b)	62	(b)	63	(b)	64	(b)	65	(c)	66	(c)	67	(b)
68	(a)	69	(c)	70	(c)	71	(a)												

Detailed Explanations रटना बंद, समझना शुरू

PART A Basics of Economy

01 **ANSWER (b)** It focuses on how scarce resources are allocated among competing uses.

SSC Phase-XIV (Graduation) 19 Sep 2026, Shift-I

The real identity of economics is 'choice'. How to divide limited resources among many competing uses is the question that sets it apart from other social sciences. Lionel Robbins's famous definition also rests on this scarcity.

Concept: Scarcity

- **Lionel Robbins (1932)**: the study of human behaviour as a relationship between ends and scarce means which have alternative uses
- **Adam Smith**, father of modern economics, 'The Wealth of Nations' (1776)
- Basic problem: unlimited wants, limited resources
- **Opportunity cost** = value of the next best alternative given up

Other options: 'only wealth' and 'only production and exchange' are far too narrow. And economics does not keep out psychological and social influences, behavioural economics is an example.

02 **ANSWER (b)** Material requirements of human welfare and well-being

SSC Phase-XIV (Graduation) 22 Sep 2026, Shift-I

Marshall called economics 'a study of mankind in the ordinary business of life'. Material welfare was at the centre of his idea. Robbins, in contrast, put the stress on scarcity and choice.

Definitions: Economics

- Marshall, **Principles of Economics** (1890): **welfare definition**
- Robbins, **An Essay on the Nature and Significance of Economic Science** (1932): **scarcity definition**
- Adam Smith (1776): **wealth definition**
- Paul Samuelson: **growth definition**

Note Learn the order in one go: wealth (Smith), then welfare (Marshall), then scarcity (Robbins), then growth (Samuelson). Option A is Robbins's definition, and by saying 'unlike', the question is ruling that very one out.

03 **ANSWER (b)** Because scarce resources must be allocated among competing uses

SSC Phase-XIV (Graduation) 24 Sep 2026, Shift-I

Wants are unlimited and resources are limited. So every individual, firm and country has to decide where to put its few means. This 'problem of choice' is the root of economics.

Concept: Problem of Choice

- Scarcity definition: **Lionel Robbins** (1932)
- Three central questions: **what** to produce, **how** to produce, **for whom** to produce
- The price of every choice = **opportunity cost**
- Scarcity exists in both market and planned economies
- Factors of production: land, labour, capital, entrepreneurship

04 **ANSWER (c)** Mixed economy

SSC Phase-XIV (Matric) 16 Sep 2026, Shift-III

Where decisions on production and distribution are taken jointly by the market (demand-supply, prices) and the government (planning, regulation), that is a **mixed economy**.

Remember: Economic Systems

- After Independence India adopted a **mixed model** with public and private sectors side by side
- **Capitalist**: the market decides, the government interferes as little as possible
- **Socialist**: the central government decides production, prices and distribution
- **Traditional**: decisions by custom and tradition

• The Industrial Policies of 1948 and 1956 gave the public sector a big role

PART B Microeconomics

05 **ANSWER (a)** % change in quantity demanded / % change in price

SSC Phase-XIV (Graduation) 18 Sep 2026, Shift-I

Elasticity tells how much demand moves when the price changes. So the numerator is the % change in quantity demanded and the denominator is the % change in price.

Formula: Price Elasticity

• Ed = (%ΔQ) / (%ΔP) = (ΔQ/Q) × (P/ΔP)
• Ed > 1 means **elastic**, Ed < 1 means **inelastic**, Ed = 1 means **unitary elastic**
• Because of the law of demand the value comes out negative, but the absolute value is usually written
• The concept was popularised by **Alfred Marshall**

Examiner's Trap Option B writes the formula upside down. Option D is only the proportional change in quantity, and that is not elasticity.

06 **ANSWER (c)** Substitute goods

SSC Phase-XIV (Graduation) 21 Sep 2026, Shift-I

The law of demand says that, other things being equal, when price rises demand falls. Substitute goods follow this law, they are not an exception. In the other three, demand can rise even when the price goes up, so the answer is **substitute goods**.

Exceptions: Law of Demand

• **Giffen good**: an inferior good where the negative income effect is larger than the substitution effect
• **Veblen goods**: a high price means prestige, so demand rises as they get costlier
• Substitutes (like tea and coffee): if one gets costlier, demand for the other rises, which is perfectly normal behaviour
• Other exceptions: fear of a further price rise, ignorance of the consumer

07 **ANSWER (c)** Price of a good and its quantity

SSC Phase-XIV (12th) 17 Sep 2026, Shift-II

The demand curve shows on a graph how much **quantity** of a good will be demanded at a given **price of the good**. The two move in opposite directions, so the curve usually slopes down from left to right.

Facts: Demand Curve

• Based on the **law of demand**: when price rises, demand falls
• Reasons for the downward slope: **income effect** and **substitution effect**
• A change in the good's own price causes a **movement along the curve**
• A change in income, taste or the price of a related good makes the whole curve **shift**
• Exceptions: Giffen and Veblen goods

08 **ANSWER (c)** Individual economic units

SSC Phase-XIV (12th) 18 Sep 2026, Shift-II

Microeconomics looks at separate **individual economic units**, such as one consumer, one household or one firm, and their decisions.

Micro vs Macro

• The terms 'Micro' and 'Macro' were first used by **Ragnar Frisch** (1933)
• Main topics: consumer demand, theory of the firm, price determination
• Mostly works on the assumption of **ceteris paribus** (other things being equal)
• **Macroeconomics** covers big topics like national income, GDP, inflation and the government budget

Other options: the government budget, inflation and national income are all macro topics.

09 **ANSWER (a)** Inferior good

SSC Phase-XIV (12th) 18 Sep 2026, Shift-II

If income rises and the demand for a good falls, it is an **inferior good**. Income and demand move in opposite directions, so the income elasticity comes out negative (Ey < 0).

Formula: Income Elasticity

• Income elasticity = % change in demand / % change in income
• **Normal good**: Ey > 0
• **Luxury**: Ey > 1
• **Necessity**: 0 < Ey < 1
• Example: coarse grains, people switch to better

grains as soon as income rises

Examiner's Trap A Giffen good also has negative income elasticity, but it is only a special form of inferior good (demand rises when price rises). The general name for negative income elasticity is 'inferior good'.

10 **ANSWER (a)** Bajra (millet)

SSC Phase-XIV (12th) 22 Sep 2026, Shift-II

A cheap coarse grain like bajra makes up a big part of a poor family's meals. When its price rises, they give up other costlier items and buy even more bajra. This is Giffen behaviour, so the answer is **Bajra (millet)**.

Concept: Giffen Good

- Price rises and demand rises, that is an **exception to the law of demand**
- Named after **Sir Robert Giffen**
- Every Giffen good is inferior, but not every inferior good is Giffen
- Condition: the negative income effect is larger than the substitution effect
- The demand curve slopes upward

In the other options, basmati rice, exotic vegetables and imported cheese are all costly or luxury items, not inferior goods.

11 **ANSWER (d)** The next best alternative forgone

SSC Phase-XIV (12th) 25 Sep 2026, Shift-II

When you pick one option, the value of the **next best alternative you had to give up** is the opportunity cost.

Concept: Opportunity Cost

- Directly linked with scarcity and choice
- The term was formalised by the Austrian economist **Friedrich von Wieser**
- It covers both monetary and non-monetary sacrifices
- The slope of the **PPC** shows the marginal opportunity cost
- **Sunk cost** is not counted in it

12 **ANSWER (a)** Responsiveness of demand to price changes

SSC Phase-XIV (12th) 26 Sep 2026, Shift-I

Pay attention here. Elasticity does not measure the 'quantity' of demand, it measures its sensitivity. How quickly or slowly the quantity demanded reacts when the price changes is the **responsiveness of demand to price changes**.

Types of Elasticity

- Calculation: % change in demand ÷ % change in price
- Ed > 1 elastic, Ed < 1 inelastic
- **Perfectly inelastic** (Ed = 0): price changes but demand does not change at all, the curve is vertical
- **Perfectly elastic** (Ed = ∞): a tiny price rise and demand drops to zero, the curve is horizontal
- Given a systematic form by **Alfred Marshall**

13 **ANSWER (a)** To check inflation

SSC Phase-XIV (Matric) 23 Sep 2026, Shift-III

Whether it is a maximum price ceiling or administered prices, the government brings in these policies to stop the prices of essential goods from rising out of control. In simple words, the aim is **to check inflation**.

Facts: Price Control

- **Price Ceiling**: a legally fixed maximum price, protects the consumer
- **Price Floor**: a minimum price, such as **MSP**, protects the farmer
- In India, the **Essential Commodities Act, 1955** gives powers to control production, supply and price
- Checking hoarding and speculation is also an aim
- If the ceiling is set too low, it leads to **shortage** and a black market

PART C National Income

14 **ANSWER (a)** Income of a resident from investment abroad

SSC Phase-XIV (Graduation) 23 Sep 2026, Shift-I

GDP measures production within the country's borders. GNP looks at the total income of the country's normal residents, wherever they earn it.

The difference between the two is the net factor income from abroad (NFIA), and **income of a resident from investment abroad** is a part of it. The option does not state the full NFIA, but it is the one that fits.

Formula: GNP and GDP

- **GNP = GDP + NFIA**
- NFIA = factor income of residents from abroad − factor income of foreigners within the country
- Factor income means wages, rent, interest and profit
- **NNP = GNP − Depreciation**

Examiner's Trap Depreciation and consumption of capital (both the same thing) mark the difference between **gross** and **net**, not between GDP and GNP. Indirect taxes mark the difference between market price and factor cost.

15 ANSWER (a) Output gap

SSC Phase-XIV (Graduation) 25 Sep 2026, Shift-I

Potential GDP is the output an economy can keep producing at full employment without pushing up inflation. When actual output (Actual GDP) is above or below this level, the difference between the two is called the **output gap**. It tells us whether the economy is running below its capacity or is overheating.

Facts (Output Gap)

- Output gap = Actual GDP − Potential GDP
- A negative gap means idle capacity, higher unemployment and low inflationary pressure
- A positive gap means demand is running ahead of capacity, and inflation starts rising
- Central banks like the RBI watch this gap while setting interest rates

Coming to the other options, fiscal space is the room the government has for extra spending. A structural deficit is the deficit that remains apart from the business cycle. In a budget surplus, income is more than expenditure.

16 ANSWER (c) Gross Domestic Product

SSC Phase-XIV (12th) 16 Sep 2026, Shift-II

The total market value of all final goods and services produced within the domestic territory of a country in a given period is called **Gross Domestic Product (GDP)**. It does not matter whether the producer is Indian or foreign. The production only has to happen 'within the country'.

Remember: GDP vs GNP

- GNP = GDP + Net Factor Income from Abroad (NFIA)
- GDP at current prices is Nominal GDP, and removing inflation gives Real GDP
- Three methods of measurement: production, income and expenditure
- In India, GDP data is released by the NSO (Ministry of Statistics and Programme Implementation)

Examiner's Trap If the question says 'within the country', think Domestic, that is GDP. If it says 'by the citizens of the country', think National, that is GNP. The examiner plays with just this one phrase.

17 ANSWER (a) From GDP to get NDP

SSC Phase-XIV (12th) 17 Sep 2026, Shift-II

Every 'Gross' measure includes depreciation. Subtract it and the same measure becomes 'Net'. So when we take depreciation out of GDP, we get **Net Domestic Product (NDP)**.

Formula: Gross to Net

- NDP = GDP − Depreciation
- NNP = GNP − Depreciation
- Depreciation is the value of wear and tear and ageing of fixed capital such as machines and buildings (Consumption of Fixed Capital)
- NNP at factor cost (NNP at FC) is the national income

Other options: GNP and GDP differ by NFIA, not by depreciation. And to get GNP from NNP, depreciation is added, not subtracted.

18 ANSWER (c) 6.8%

SSC Phase-XIV (12th) 19 Sep 2026, Shift-II

The Eighth Plan (1992-97) had set a growth target of 5.6%. The country did better than that and achieved an actual annual rate of about **6.8%**.

Eighth Plan (1992-97)

- It began right after the LPG reforms of 1991
- Due to political instability, Annual Plans ran in

1990-92 (Plan Holiday)
• PM P.V. Narasimha Rao, Finance Minister Dr. Manmohan Singh
• Priority was given to human resource development
• India became a member of the WTO on 1 January 1995

Examiner's Trap 5.6% was the **target** of this plan, not the achievement. The question asks for the 'actual' rate, so do read that word.

19 **ANSWER (d)** Total value of goods and services produced in the country

SSC Phase-XIV (12th) 21 Sep 2026, Shift-II

The total (net) money value of all final goods and services produced by the normal residents of a country in a financial year is called national income. Among the options, this idea is best expressed by the last one, **total value of goods and services produced in the country**.

National Income: History
• In technical terms, national income = NNP at FC
• Three methods of measurement: production, income, expenditure
• The first estimate was made by Dadabhai Naoroji (1867-68), in his book 'Poverty and Un-British Rule in India'
• The first scientific estimate was by Dr. V.K.R.V. Rao (1931-32)
• Today the data is released by the NSO

Savings, the government's income alone, or the income of people alone are all just parts of national income. None of them is the whole of it.

20 **ANSWER (c)** Services sector

SSC Phase-XIV (Matric) 24 Sep 2026, Shift-III

After 1991, IT, telecom, banking and financial services spread rapidly. This made the **services (tertiary) sector** the main engine of India's growth, and its share in GDP crossed 50%.

Facts (Services Sector)
• The reforms began in July 1991 under the LPG model
• India moved almost directly from agriculture to a services-based economy, and the manufacturing phase stayed short
• Even today, the services sector makes the largest contribution to GVA
• Agriculture still has the largest share in employment

Note Largest share in GDP: services. Largest share in employment: agriculture. In the exam these two are often mixed up, so keep them apart.

PART D Budget and Taxation

21 **ANSWER (a)** Income Tax - Goods and Services Tax

SSC Phase-XIV (Graduation) 17 Sep 2026, Shift-I

Income tax is levied directly on your income and you bear its burden yourself, so it is a direct tax. **GST** is levied on the supply of goods and services, but its burden finally falls on the consumer, so it is an indirect tax. The order fits perfectly: direct first, then indirect.

Direct vs Indirect Tax
• In a direct tax, the liability to pay and the burden fall on the same person
• The burden of an indirect tax is shifted forward to the final consumer
• GST: 101st Amendment, in force from 1 July 2017, a destination-based tax
• Direct taxes (income tax, corporation tax, STT) are handled by the CBDT, indirect taxes by the CBIC

Other options: in (B) the order is reversed, indirect first and then direct. In (C), customs duty (indirect) comes first and income tax later. In (D) too, excise duty (indirect) comes first and wealth tax (direct) later.

22 **ANSWER (b)** Enactment of the FRBM Act

SSC Phase-XIV (Graduation) 23 Sep 2026, Shift-I

To rein in government spending, deficit limits were written into law. This was done by the **Fiscal Responsibility and Budget Management (FRBM) Act, 2003**, passed by Parliament, and fiscal discipline got a firm framework.

FRBM Act, 2003
• Passed in August 2003, in force from 2004
• Targets: eliminate the revenue deficit and bring the fiscal deficit down to 3% of GDP

• Statements on fiscal policy must be laid in Parliament along with the Budget
• In 2016 the N.K. Singh Committee was set up to review it

Looking at the other options, the Minimum Wages Act is a labour law of 1948. Nationalisation goes against the post-1991 direction. SEZs aim to boost exports and investment, not spending discipline.

23 **ANSWER (b)** Revenue budget

SSC Phase-XIV (12th) 16 Sep 2026, Shift-II

The part of the budget that covers the government's day-to-day transactions, that is revenue receipts and revenue expenditure, is called the **revenue budget**.

Two Parts of the Budget

• Budget = Revenue budget + Capital budget
• A revenue receipt neither creates a liability nor reduces assets, e.g. taxes, interest, dividends
• Revenue expenditure creates no asset, e.g. salaries, pensions, interest payments
• If revenue expenditure > revenue receipts, there is a revenue deficit

Other options: the capital budget covers borrowings, loan recoveries and asset-creating transactions. In a balanced budget, income and expenditure are equal. A performance budget focuses on the results of spending.

24 **ANSWER (b)** Proportional tax

SSC Phase-XIV (12th) 19 Sep 2026, Shift-II

The real clue in the question is 'a fixed percentage of income'. That is the mark of a **proportional tax**, where the same rate applies at every income level. When income falls or rises, tax collection changes automatically in the same proportion. That is why it is treated here as an automatic stabilizer.

Types of Tax

• Proportional tax = flat tax, where the average rate and the marginal rate are equal
• In a progressive tax, the rate rises as income rises, like India's income tax slabs
• A regressive tax puts a heavier burden on the poor relative to income
• An automatic stabilizer softens ups and downs without any new law

Note In economics, the strongest automatic stabilizer is usually taken to be the **progressive tax**, because its collection falls even faster than income during a slowdown. But this question rests on the words 'fixed percentage', so the exam takes proportional tax as the answer.

25 **ANSWER (b)** Fiscal policy

SSC Phase-XIV (12th) 19 Sep 2026, Shift-II

When the government raises or lowers aggregate demand directly by changing its spending or taxes, it is called **fiscal policy**.

Fiscal vs Monetary

• Fiscal policy is framed and run by the Ministry of Finance
• AD = C + I + G + (X − M), and government expenditure (G) is a direct part of it
• Expansionary policy: raise spending or cut taxes
• Monetary policy belongs to the RBI, works through interest rates and money supply, and its effect is indirect

Examiner's Trap Monetary policy also affects demand, but through interest rates. The question says 'government spending', so it points straight to fiscal policy.

26 **ANSWER (c)** Excess of total expenditure over total receipts excluding borrowings

SSC Phase-XIV (12th) 22 Sep 2026, Shift-II

The amount by which the government's total expenditure exceeds its total receipts, excluding borrowings, is the **fiscal deficit**. Put simply, it tells us how much the government will have to borrow in the whole year.

Deficit Formulas

• Fiscal deficit = Total expenditure − (Revenue receipts + Non-debt capital receipts)
• Revenue deficit = Revenue expenditure − Revenue receipts
• Primary deficit = Fiscal deficit − Interest payments
• The FRBM Act, 2003 was brought in to control deficits

Other options: the gap between imports and exports is the trade deficit (or balance). The last option is

actually the definition of the revenue deficit.

27 ANSWER (b) Fiscal deficit

SSC Phase-XIV (12th) 23 Sep 2026, Shift-II

Read the definition in the question carefully: the gap between total expenditure and total receipts without borrowings. This is called the **fiscal deficit**, and it shows how much the government must borrow from all sources in a year.

Remember: Deficits

- Fiscal deficit = Total expenditure − Total receipts excluding borrowings
- Revenue deficit is the gap in the revenue account only (revenue expenditure − revenue receipts)
- Primary deficit = Fiscal deficit − Interest payments
- Law on deficit control: FRBM Act, 2003

Examiner's Trap 'Budget deficit' (total expenditure − total receipts, including borrowings) sounds similar. But the definition says 'excluding borrowings', and those words make it the fiscal deficit.

28 ANSWER (a) Transfer

SSC Phase-XIV (12th) 23 Sep 2026, Shift-II

When the government gives money to someone and takes no goods or services in return, this one-sided payment is called a **transfer payment**.

Transfer Payment

- Examples: old-age pension, unemployment allowance, scholarships
- They are not linked to current production, so they are not counted in GDP or national income
- Unlike factor payments such as wages, interest and rent, they are unilateral
- Their aim is to redistribute income and reduce inequality

29 ANSWER (b) Economic recession or depression

SSC Phase-XIV (12th) 25 Sep 2026, Shift-II

In a recession, market demand becomes weak. So the government spends more than its income, that is, it makes a **deficit budget**, to put money into the market and support demand, output and employment. The right situation is **economic recession or depression**.

Keynes's Idea

- This thinking comes from the economics of John Maynard Keynes
- Government spending raises income and investment many times over through the Multiplier Effect
- Under high inflation the opposite remedy applies: a surplus budget or contractionary policy
- Deficit budget = government expenditure > government income

During high inflation, fast growth or full employment, extra spending would only fuel inflation further. So a deficit budget does not fit the other options.

30 ANSWER (d) Simplifying the tax system

SSC Phase-XIV (Matric) 17 Sep 2026, Shift-III

The real aim of tax reforms is **simplifying the tax system**. Rates should be rational, compliance should be easy, tax evasion should fall and the tax base should widen.

Tax Reform: Committees

- The Raja J. Chelliah Committee of 1991 laid out the modern tax reforms
- The Kelkar Task Force (2002) suggested reforms in both direct and indirect taxes
- In 2017, GST ('One Nation, One Tax') unified indirect taxes
- Direction in direct taxes: lower rates, fewer exemptions, more transparency

31 ANSWER (d) Goods and Services Tax

SSC Phase-XIV (Matric) 19 Sep 2026, Shift-III

Many separate taxes of the Centre and the states were merged into one tax so that the whole country could become a common market. This is the **Goods and Services Tax (GST)**, a destination-based indirect tax.

GST: Static GK

- 101st Constitutional Amendment Act, 2016
- In force from 1 July 2017
- It subsumed taxes such as excise duty, service tax, VAT and entry tax
- GST Council under Article 279A, chaired by the Union Finance Minister, with state Finance Ministers

as members

The other three, corporate income tax, personal income tax and wealth tax, are direct taxes. The question is about an indirect tax system, so they are out.

PART E Inflation and Unemployment

32 **ANSWER (a)** Rise in the general price level

SSC Phase-XIV (12th) 24 Sep 2026, Shift-II

When the **general price level** of goods and services in an economy keeps rising, it is called inflation. Simply put, the same money now buys fewer goods than before.

Inflation: Remember

- When inflation rises, the purchasing power of money falls
- In India, retail inflation is measured by the CPI, prepared by the NSO
- RBI's target: CPI inflation of 4% (band of ±2%)
- Two main types: demand-pull and cost-push

Note A continuous fall in the general price level is called deflation. The last option describes exactly that, so don't get confused by it.

PART F Poverty and Balance of Payment

33 **ANSWER (d)** Ignoring human choices and meeting the basic needs of defined sections.

SSC Phase-XIV (Graduation) 18 Sep 2026, Shift-I

According to NCERT, the basic needs approach puts its full emphasis on meeting the basic needs of defined sections, such as health, education, food, water, sanitation and housing. The question of what choices people have is left out by this approach. So the last option fits.

Human Development Approaches

- The ILO put forward this approach in 1976
- Six basic needs: health, education, food, water supply, sanitation, housing
- Four approaches: income, welfare, basic needs and capability
- The capability approach is linked to Amartya Sen

Other options: the first statement belongs to the income approach. The second, participation-based idea is linked to the criticism of the welfare approach. The third belongs to Amartya Sen's capability approach.

34 **ANSWER (c)** World Bank and International Monetary Fund

SSC Phase-XIV (Matric) 17 Sep 2026, Shift-III

During the balance of payments crisis of 1991, India needed a loan of about $7 billion. For this, the government went to the **World Bank** and the **International Monetary Fund (IMF)**. In return, both institutions laid down conditions for structural reforms.

The 1991 Crisis

- Forex reserves were barely enough for about two weeks of imports
- Gold had to be pledged to raise foreign exchange
- The LPG reforms followed
- PM P.V. Narasimha Rao, Finance Minister Dr. Manmohan Singh

Examiner's Trap The WTO does not give loans. It sets the rules of trade, and it was formed only in 1995. The RBI is India's own central bank, not an international institution.

PART G Five Year Plan and Industrial Policy Resolution

35 **ANSWER (b)** Karve Committee

SSC Phase-XIV (12th) 16 Sep 2026, Shift-II

In 1955, the Planning Commission set up the 'Village and Small-Scale Industries Committee' under economist D.G. Karve. This is the **Karve Committee**, and it stressed the use of small-scale industries for rural development.

Karve Committee (1955)

- Chairman: D.G. Karve
- Suggestion: industrialise villages and create decentralised employment through small-scale industries
- Recommended reserving the production of certain items for the small-scale sector
- On this basis, cottage and small industries were promoted in the Second Plan (1956-61)

Learn the other committees too: Narasimham

Committee on banking reforms (1991, 1998), Tendulkar Committee on poverty line estimation (2009), Kelkar Committee on tax reforms (2002).

36 **ANSWER (c)** Statement I is correct, Statement II is incorrect

SSC Phase-XIV (12th) 17 Sep 2026, Shift-II

Look at Statement I: the two big goals of the Fifth Plan (1974-79) were indeed poverty eradication and self-reliance, so it is correct. Now Statement II: the Rolling Plan (1978-80) was run by the Janata Party government between the **Fifth and Sixth** Plans, not between the Sixth and Seventh. So the answer is **Statement I correct, Statement II incorrect**.

Fifth Plan + Rolling Plan

- The draft of the Fifth Plan was prepared by D.P. Dhar
- The Minimum Needs Programme (MNP) began in 1974
- The idea of the Rolling Plan is linked to Gunnar Myrdal
- The Janata government ended the Fifth Plan a year early, in 1978

37 **ANSWER (b)** Severe famine conditions

SSC Phase-XIV (12th) 18 Sep 2026, Shift-II

It was the last year of the Sixth Plan (1984-85), and the monsoon was weak and erratic. As a result, many parts of the country saw drought and **severe famine-like conditions**, which hit farming and the food supply of villages.

Sixth Plan (1980-85)

- Target growth rate 5.2%, actual about 5.7%
- Poverty-eradication programmes like IRDP and NREP ran in this period
- It is also called the plan that gave the first glimpse of liberalisation

38 **ANSWER (b)** Fifth Five-Year Plan

SSC Phase-XIV (12th) 22 Sep 2026, Shift-II

Moving ahead with the slogan 'Garibi Hatao', the **Fifth Five-Year Plan (1974-79)** made poverty eradication and self-reliance its two main goals.

Plan 5: Key Points

- Period 1974-79, but the Janata government ended it midway in 1978
- MNP (Minimum Needs Programme) came in 1974
- Target 4.4%, actual about 4.8%
- It was followed by the Rolling Plan (1978-80)

Examiner's Trap The Fourth Plan's slogans were 'growth with stability' and 'progressive achievement of self-reliance'. So don't pick the Fourth just because you see 'self-reliance'. The pair 'poverty eradication + self-reliance' belongs to the Fifth.

39 **ANSWER (b)** Target: 5.2%, Actual: 5.7%

SSC Phase-XIV (12th) 23 Sep 2026, Shift-II

The Sixth Plan (1980-85) aimed at **5.2%** growth every year. The economy actually grew at **5.7%**, which means the plan went past its target.

Sixth Plan: Facts

- Led by Indira Gandhi
- Focus on poverty-eradication programmes like IRDP
- NABARD and EXIM Bank were both set up in 1982
- Liberalisation is considered to have begun with this plan

Other options: 4.4%/4.8% are the figures of the Fifth Plan and 5.6%/6.8% of the Eighth.

40 **ANSWER (d)** Fifth Five-Year Plan

SSC Phase-XIV (Matric) 17 Sep 2026, Shift-III

The **Fifth Five-Year Plan (1974-79)**, made under the Indira Gandhi government, had two central goals: Garibi Hatao (poverty eradication) and self-reliance.

Remember: Garibi Hatao

- Indira Gandhi gave the slogan 'Garibi Hatao' in the 1971 general election
- The draft of the plan was prepared by D.P. Dhar
- The Twenty Point Programme came in 1975
- In 1978 the Janata government stopped it early and brought in the Rolling Plan

Coming to the other options, the First Plan rested on agriculture, the Second on heavy industry and the Fourth on 'growth with stability'.

41 **ANSWER (c)** Ninth Five-Year Plan

SSC Phase-XIV (Matric) 18 Sep 2026, Shift-III

The 6.5% target was set by the **Ninth Plan (1997-2002)**. But because of the East Asian financial crisis and a slowdown in farming, the actual rate got stuck at about 5.4%.

Target vs Achievement

- The Ninth Plan ran during the Vajpayee government
- Theme: 'Growth with social justice and equality'
- Eighth: target 5.6%, achievement about 6.8%
- Tenth (2002-07): target 8%, achievement about 7.6%

Note The Ninth Plan fell **short** of its target. As soon as you see the pair 'target 6.5%, actual 5.4%', recall the Ninth.

42 **ANSWER (c)** Fourth Five-Year Plan

SSC Phase-XIV (Matric) 19 Sep 2026, Shift-III

'Growth with stability' and 'progressive achievement of self-reliance' were the two objectives of the **Fourth Five-Year Plan (1969-74)**. This plan was made during Indira Gandhi's tenure.

Fourth Plan (1969-74)

- Central assistance to states was given through the Gadgil Formula
- In July 1969, 14 major commercial banks were nationalised
- In May 1974, the first nuclear test at Pokhran, 'Smiling Buddha'
- For comparison: the First Plan was based on the Harrod-Domar model and focused on agriculture

Other options: the First Plan focused on agriculture, the Second on heavy industry (Mahalanobis model) and the Eighth on human resource development.

43 **ANSWER (a)** First Five-Year Plan - Harrod-Domar Model

SSC Phase-XIV (Matric) 21 Sep 2026, Shift-III

The First Five-Year Plan (1951-56) was based on the Harrod-Domar model. This model says that if you raise the rate of saving and capital investment, income will rise. So the correct pair is **First Five-Year Plan - Harrod-Domar Model**.

Plans and Their Models

- The First Plan put agriculture, irrigation and power at the top
- Bhakra-Nangal, Hirakud and Damodar Valley projects began in this period
- Target 2.1%, achievement about 3.6%
- The Second Plan was based on the Nehru-Mahalanobis model, centred on heavy industry

Other options: the Second Plan was based on the Mahalanobis model, not Lewis. The Third Plan is also called the 'Gadgil Plan' and has nothing to do with the Solow model. The Eighth Plan is linked to the John W. Miller model, not Mahalanobis.

44 **ANSWER (c)** Sixth Five-Year Plan

SSC Phase-XIV (Matric) 22 Sep 2026, Shift-III

A 5.2% target and a 5.7% achievement are the figures of the **Sixth Plan (1980-85)**. In other words, this plan crossed its target.

Facts (Plan 6)

- Expansion of rural programmes like IRDP and NREP
- NABARD was set up on 12 July 1982
- EXIM Bank was also set up in 1982
- The early beginnings of liberalisation came in this plan

Other options: the Fourth Plan had a target of 5.7% and an achievement of about 3.3%. The Fifth Plan's figures are 4.4%/4.8% and the Eighth's are 5.6%/6.8%.

Examiner's Trap Note this carefully: 5.7% was the **target** of the Fourth Plan and the **achievement** of the Sixth. The same number appears in two places, so read target and achievement separately.

45 **ANSWER (c)** Target 5.2% and actual 5.7%

SSC Phase-XIV (Matric) 24 Sep 2026, Shift-III

The growth target for the Sixth Plan was **5.2%** and the actual achievement was **5.7%**. That is why it is counted among the successful plans.

Identity of the Sixth Plan

- A direct attack on poverty through IRDP
- A turn from the Nehruvian era towards early liberalisation
- NABARD and EXIM Bank, both in 1982

• Emphasis on family planning to stabilise population

46 **ANSWER (d)** Mahalanobis model

SSC Phase-XIV (Matric) 25 Sep 2026, Shift-III

The Second Five-Year Plan (1956-61) was based on the model of statistician P.C. Mahalanobis. It gave top priority to heavy industry and the production of capital goods, so the right option is the **Mahalanobis model**.

Static GK: Mahalanobis

• The foundations of the Bhilai, Rourkela and Durgapur steel plants were laid in this plan
• The First Plan was based on the Harrod-Domar model, focused on agriculture
• Mahalanobis founded the ISI (Indian Statistical Institute) in Kolkata in 1931
• His birth anniversary, 29 June, is National Statistics Day

Examiner's Trap 'First = Harrod-Domar, Second = Mahalanobis'. In the exam this pair is often asked the other way round, so don't pick the Second Plan on seeing Harrod-Domar.

PART H Reports and Indices

47 **ANSWER (b)** Logarithmic transformation

SSC Phase-XIV (Graduation) 24 Sep 2026, Shift-I

The higher income goes, the smaller its extra benefit for human development becomes. To capture these diminishing returns, HDI takes the **logarithm (natural log)** of GNI per capita.

HDI: Formula Facts

• HDI was developed in 1990 by Mahbub ul Haq (with Amartya Sen's help) and is released by the UNDP
• Three dimensions: health (life expectancy), education (mean and expected years of schooling), standard of living (GNI per capita, PPP dollars)
• Because of the log, a rise in a poor person's income carries more weight than the same rise for a rich person
• Since 2010, the geometric mean of the three dimensions is taken

PART I 1991 Reforms And Industrial policy

48 **ANSWER (a)** They were retained in the public sector.

SSC Phase-XIV (Graduation) 17 Sep 2026, Shift-I

Even in the reform years, the government did not sell its well-performing CPSEs. Instead it **kept them in the public sector**. Along with that, it gave them Ratna status and more financial and managerial freedom so that they could compete with global companies.

Ratna Categories

• Navratna and Miniratna both started in 1997
• The Maharatna category came in 2009
• Boards of Ratna companies can invest up to set limits without government approval
• NCERT: making them efficient by giving autonomy was part of the reforms

49 **ANSWER (a)** Establishment of the NSE

SSC Phase-XIV (Graduation) 18 Sep 2026, Shift-I

The big change in the stock market came with the **National Stock Exchange (NSE)**. It brought screen-based electronic trading and electronic settlement across the country. Deals became transparent, the arbitrary role of middlemen shrank and investor confidence grew.

NSE and SEBI

• NSE was incorporated in 1992 and began trading in 1994 (equity from November 1994)
• Set up on the recommendation of the Pherwani Committee (1991)
• SEBI was formed in 1988 and got statutory status through the 1992 Act
• NSE's main index is the NIFTY 50

Other options: SEBI was not dissolved. On the contrary, it got statutory powers. Nationalising brokers or merging banks were never stock market reforms.

50 **ANSWER (b)** Low wage rates and skilled manpower

SSC Phase-XIV (Graduation) 19 Sep 2026, Shift-I

Why did foreign companies come to India? There were two reasons: **low wage rates** and educated, English-speaking **skilled manpower**. Good-quality work at low cost was India's advantage.

Outsourcing: NCERT

• According to NCERT, these two factors make India an outsourcing destination
• Areas: call centres, BPO, IT, medical transcription, accounting, banking services
• The communication and IT revolution made remote work possible
• Companies in the US and Europe saved heavily on costs

Examiner's Trap Outsourced work is done for foreign clients, so a 'large domestic market' is not the reason here. And in 1991, India's infrastructure was certainly not considered 'advanced'.

51 **ANSWER (c)** Shift to a market-determined exchange rate

SSC Phase-XIV (Graduation) 21 Sep 2026, Shift-I

In 1991 the rupee was first devalued, and then the government-fixed rate was replaced by a **market-determined exchange rate**. This made Indian goods cheaper and more competitive abroad, and more foreign exchange started coming in.

Rupee: After 1991

• In July 1991 the rupee was devalued by about 18-19%
• LERMS (Liberalised Exchange Rate Management System) in 1992-93
• From 1993, a unified market-based rate on the trade account
• In August 1994, the rupee became fully convertible on the current account (IMF Article VIII)

Other options: heavy export duties and export quotas only reduce competitiveness. In fact, the reforms removed export duties.

52 **ANSWER (b)** Oil and Natural Gas Corporation

SSC Phase-XIV (Graduation) 22 Sep 2026, Shift-I

The leading example of an Indian PSU spreading abroad after the reforms is **ONGC**. Its overseas arm, ONGC Videsh Ltd. (OVL), won oil and gas exploration and production projects in many countries, 16 countries as per NCERT.

Facts (ONGC/OVL)

• OVL is ONGC's wholly owned overseas subsidiary
• ONGC was set up on 14 August 1956
• Maharatna status in November 2010
• Major OVL projects: Sakhalin-1 (Russia), Vietnam, Sudan, Colombia

BPCL, HPCL and IOCL mainly do refining and marketing. Exploring for oil abroad is not their main work, so these options don't fit.

53 **ANSWER (b)** Quantitative restrictions on imports

SSC Phase-XIV (Graduation) 24 Sep 2026, Shift-I

Domestic industry had to be opened to competition, so **quantitative restrictions on imports** (licences and quotas) were removed. These restrictions did protect domestic firms, but they also made them sluggish and inefficient.

Trade Reforms 1991

• Before 1991, trade policy ran on import licences, high customs duties and quotas
• QRs were first removed from capital goods and intermediate goods
• From consumer goods and agricultural products by April 2001, under the WTO commitment
• Import duties (tariffs) were also reduced step by step

54 **ANSWER (c)** Abolition of licensing in all industries except a few

SSC Phase-XIV (Graduation) 25 Sep 2026, Shift-I

The New Industrial Policy of 24 July 1991 ended the requirement of an industrial licence for all industries **except a few selected ones**. Licensing stayed only for those linked to security, strategy, health or environment. In short, the 'Licence Raj' was largely ended.

New Industrial Policy

• Announced by the Narasimha Rao government, Finance Minister Dr. Manmohan Singh
• Initially, licences were kept compulsory for 18 industries, and only a handful remain today
• Sectors needing a licence today: hazardous chemicals, industrial explosives, tobacco products,

defence-related equipment
• Industries reserved for the public sector fell from 17 to 8, and today only atomic energy and railway operations remain

The other three options, a ban on new industries, public monopoly and the return of quotas, are the exact opposite of the direction of the reforms.

55 ANSWER (c) 1991

SSC Phase-XIV (12th) 16 Sep 2026, Shift-II

The country was in a severe balance of payments crisis. Amid this, in July **1991**, the Narasimha Rao government announced the New Economic Policy, whose blueprint was drawn up by Finance Minister Dr. Manmohan Singh.

NEP 1991
• NEP is also called the LPG model: Liberalisation, Privatisation, Globalisation
• At the time of the crisis, foreign exchange reserves were very low
• Big steps: end of the Licence Raj, devaluation of the rupee, doors opened to FDI
• The New Industrial Policy came on 24 July 1991

56 ANSWER (b) To provide greater financial and operational autonomy

SSC Phase-XIV (12th) 17 Sep 2026, Shift-II

Maharatna status is meant to give large, profit-making CPSEs **greater financial and operational autonomy**. Such a company does not wait for government approval for every big investment and can take on global companies.

Maharatna: Remember
• The Maharatna scheme was approved in 2009 and came into force in 2010
• A Maharatna board can invest up to 15% of its net worth (maximum ₹5,000 crore) in one project without government approval
• A company must first be a Navratna to become a Maharatna
• The Navratna and Miniratna categories were created in 1997

Examiner's Trap Ratna status is not privatisation. The company stays government-owned, and only its freedom to take decisions grows.

57 ANSWER (d) Licence Raj

SSC Phase-XIV (12th) 17 Sep 2026, Shift-II

Whether you wanted to set up an industry, raise output or import something, every step needed a licence, permit and quota. This bureaucratic system was popularly called the **'Licence Raj'**, and the New Economic Policy of 1991 largely ended it.

Licence Raj: Laws
• The term 'Licence-Permit Raj' is linked to C. Rajagopalachari (Swatantra Party)
• Legal basis: Industries (Development and Regulation) Act, 1951
• The MRTP Act, 1969 curbed the expansion of big companies
• The MRTP Act was later replaced by the Competition Act, 2002

58 ANSWER (a) Globalisation

SSC Phase-XIV (12th) 19 Sep 2026, Shift-II

Remember LPG? Liberalisation, Privatisation and **Globalisation**. So the three pillars of the New Economic Policy of 1991 are liberalisation, privatisation and **globalisation**.

Three Pillars of LPG
• Liberalisation: removing licences, permits and industrial barriers
• Privatisation: raising private sector participation, disinvestment in PSUs
• Globalisation: opening the economy to FDI and foreign trade
• The immediate cause was the balance of payments crisis of 1991

Other options: nationalisation, centralisation and regulation were all marks of the controlled system before 1991, not of the reforms.

59 ANSWER (c) increased

SSC Phase-XIV (12th) 22 Sep 2026, Shift-II

Foreign capital had to be brought in, so the FDI equity limit was **increased**. In high-priority industries, foreign holding up to 51% got automatic approval.

FDI: 1991 Changes

• Before 1991, under FERA, 1973, foreign holding was generally capped at 40%
• Automatic approval up to 51% in 34 high-priority industries
• Proposals outside the automatic route were handled by the FIPB, which was abolished in 2017
• FEMA replaced FERA in 1999

60 **ANSWER (d)** Narasimham Committee

SSC Phase-XIV (12th) 22 Sep 2026, Shift-II

The whole blueprint for the big changes in banking and the financial sector in 1991 was drawn up by the **Narasimham Committee-I**. It is also called the Committee on the Financial System. Its report reached the government in November 1991.

Facts: Narasimham Committee

• Chaired by former RBI Governor **M. Narasimham**
• Advised a gradual cut in SLR and CRR and freeing interest rates from control
• Capital Adequacy norms for banks based on Basel standards
• In 1998, **Narasimham Committee-II** was set up to review banking reforms

Note Remember the committee pairs. Narasimham means banking reforms, Chakravarty (1985) means the monetary system, and Malhotra (1993) means the insurance sector.

61 **ANSWER (b)** Miniratna

SSC Phase-XIV (12th) 23 Sep 2026, Shift-II

The government gives three grades of status to profit-making Central Public Sector Enterprises (CPSEs): **Maharatna, Navratna and Miniratna**. This gives them more freedom in investment and day-to-day working. So 'Miniratna' fits the blank.

Remember: Ratna Status

• Navratna and Miniratna began in 1997
• **Maharatna** came in 2009 for the biggest companies
• Miniratna has two categories, Category-I and Category-II (based on profit and net worth)
• This work is handled by the Department of Public Enterprises (DPE), now under the Ministry of Finance

Other options: there is no category called Uttamratna, Swarnaratna or Heeraratna at all.

62 **ANSWER (b)** P. V. Narasimha Rao

SSC Phase-XIV (12th) 24 Sep 2026, Shift-II

P. V. Narasimha Rao was the 9th Prime Minister of the country from 1991 to 1996. His government brought in the LPG policies, that is Liberalisation, Privatisation and Globalisation. That is why he is called the 'Father of Indian Economic Reforms'.

Facts: Narasimha Rao

• Reforms began in July 1991, when **Dr. Manmohan Singh** was Finance Minister
• License Raj nearly ended, import duties and quotas were cut sharply
• The 'Look East Policy' also began in his time
• Awarded the **Bharat Ratna** posthumously in 2024
• First PM from South India (Andhra Pradesh)

Examiner's Trap Manmohan Singh was the 'architect' of the reforms, but at that time he was the Finance Minister. He became Prime Minister in 2004, as the 13th PM. The question asks about the 9th PM, so don't get trapped by the famous name.

63 **ANSWER (b)** Disinvestment

SSC Phase-XIV (12th) 25 Sep 2026, Shift-II

When the government cuts its stake in a PSU by selling a part of its shares to private investors or the public, it is called **Disinvestment**.

Concept: Disinvestment

• It is of three types: minority, majority and strategic
• In strategic disinvestment, management control also passes into private hands along with the shares
• It picked up pace after the New Economic Policy of 1991
• The Department of Disinvestment was set up in 1999 and renamed **DIPAM** in 2016. It works under the Ministry of Finance

Look at the other options. Nationalisation is the exact opposite, that is private property coming to the government. Liberalisation means reducing controls, and globalisation means linking with the world economy.

64 **ANSWER (b)** Reducing private and foreign restrictions

SSC Phase-XIV (12th) 25 Sep 2026, Shift-II

In the 1991 context, financial liberalisation simply meant loosening the government's grip on financial markets. **Restrictions on private and foreign investment** in banking and financial services **were reduced**.

1991: Financial Reforms

- Based on the report of the Narasimham Committee-I (1991)
- CRR and SLR were lowered
- Interest rates were freed, and banks began to set their own rates
- New private and foreign banks were allowed to expand business
- SEBI got statutory status in 1992

65 **ANSWER (c)** Industrial licensing system

SSC Phase-XIV (12th) 25 Sep 2026, Shift-II

From 1947 to 1991, whether you wanted to set up, run or expand an industry, you needed a license and permit from the government at every step. This system was called 'License Raj'. In other words, it was the **industrial licensing system**.

Remember: License Raj

- Legal basis: **Industries (Development and Regulation) Act, 1951** and the Industrial Policy Resolution of 1956
- Approval was needed even to raise output or make a new product
- Red tape grew and private industry slowed down
- The New Industrial Policy of **24 July 1991** ended licensing except for a few industries

66 **ANSWER (c)** 74 percent

SSC Phase-XIV (Matric) 16 Sep 2026, Shift-III

The upper limit of foreign investment (FDI + FPI together) in private sector banks is **74 percent**. Note that this limit was not fixed in 1991 itself. It came through later policies that carried forward the financial liberalisation which began in 1991.

Banking FDI Limits

- Up to 49% through the **Automatic Route**
- Above 49% and up to 74% needs **government approval**
- In public sector banks (PSBs) the limit is 20%, through the government route
- The foundation of banking reforms was laid by the Narasimham Committee (1991)

67 **ANSWER (b)** Outsourcing

SSC Phase-XIV (Matric) 18 Sep 2026, Shift-III

When a company does not do its routine work itself, like call centres, accounting or software, and gets it done by an outside agency, especially a foreign company, it is called **Outsourcing**.

Facts: Outsourcing

- ICT and fast internet made it grow rapidly
- India is a major global hub for BPO and KPO
- Sending work specifically to another country is **Offshoring**, and the aim is to cut costs
- After 1991, globalisation helped this industry flourish in India

Other options: privatisation means handing a government enterprise to private hands. Deregulation means reducing government rules. Export means selling goods or services to another country.

68 **ANSWER (a)** High-performing Public Sector Undertakings (PSUs)

SSC Phase-XIV (Matric) 19 Sep 2026, Shift-III

Navratna companies are the **high-performing public sector enterprises** of the Central Government. As a reward for good performance, the government gives them more administrative and financial freedom.

Static GK: Navratna

- Started in 1997 with 9 PSUs, hence the name 'Navratna'
- Can invest up to ₹1,000 crore or 15% of net worth in a single project without government approval
- Condition: must first be **Miniratna Category-I** with an 'Excellent/Very Good' MoU rating
- The highest status is **Maharatna** (2009)

The other options are wrong because this status is given only to government enterprises. Private or foreign companies are not covered, and loss-making

units are not even eligible.

69 **ANSWER (c)** Disinvestment

SSC Phase-XIV (Matric) 21 Sep 2026, Shift-III

Selling a part of a government enterprise's equity, that is its shares, to the public or private investors is **Disinvestment**. It leads to partial or full privatisation of the enterprise.

Facts: DIPAM

- It got priority after the LPG reforms of 1991
- The policy is handled by **DIPAM** under the Ministry of Finance
- The government earns **non-debt capital receipts** from it
- Handing over more than 50% shares along with control is **strategic disinvestment**

Quick Way If the question says 'selling government shares or equity', the answer is disinvestment. If the whole enterprise and its control are handed over, that is privatisation.

70 **ANSWER (c)** Hazardous chemicals

SSC Phase-XIV (Matric) 22 Sep 2026, Shift-III

After 1991, the license condition was removed for most industries. But it is still needed in some sensitive industries linked to safety and health, and **hazardous chemicals** are one of them.

License Still Required

- List: distillation of alcoholic drinks, cigars and cigarettes, electronic aerospace and defence equipment, industrial explosives, specified hazardous chemicals
- Legal basis is the **IDRA, 1951**
- Atomic energy and railway operations are reserved for the public sector
- The policy of 24 July 1991 sharply cut the number of such industries

Other options: textiles, automobiles and food processing are now license-free. That is why investment flowed into them quickly.

71 **ANSWER (a)** Service sector

SSC Phase-XIV (Matric) 23 Sep 2026, Shift-III

The LPG reforms opened the doors to trade and foreign investment, and the **service sector** gained the most. Services like IT, telecom and banking grew fast, and this sector became the main engine of GDP growth.

After LPG

- Began in 1991 under PM Narasimha Rao and Finance Minister Manmohan Singh
- Growth of the tertiary sector stayed ahead of the primary and secondary sectors
- IT and BPO became a big source of exports
- Today the service sector's share in GVA is more than 50%

Other options: primary sectors like agriculture, mining and forestry grew relatively slowly after the reforms.

06 CHAPTER

Indian Polity

Questions *81 questions · 27 shifts*

PART A Salient Features of the Constitution

Directions (Q. 01): *Choose the correct answer from the four given options.*

01 Which constitutional feature ensures the accountability of the executive through the confidence of the lower house of the legislature?

SSC Phase-XIV (Matric) 21 Sep 2026, Shift-III

(a) Presidential system
(b) Parliamentary system
(c) Federal system
(d) Judicial system

PART B Fundamental Rights

Directions (Q. 02–11): *Choose the correct answer from the four given options.*

02 The Doctrine of Eclipse is related to which of the following constitutional provisions, and what does it mean in judicial review?

SSC Phase-XIV (Graduation) 25 Sep 2026, Shift-I

(a) Article 14 - laws become completely invalid
(b) Article 13 - pre-constitutional laws become inactive (dormant)
(c) Article 32 enforces rights through PILs
(d) Article 136 - Special Leave Petition

03 Which authority has the power to restrict the Fundamental Rights of the armed forces?

SSC Phase-XIV (12th) 22 Sep 2026, Shift-II

(a) President
(b) Supreme Court
(c) Parliament
(d) Prime Minister

04 Which Fundamental Right was removed by the 44th Amendment?

SSC Phase-XIV (12th) 25 Sep 2026, Shift-II

(a) Right to Equality
(b) Right to Property
(c) Right to Religion
(d) Right to Freedom

05 Which Article abolishes titles other than military and academic distinctions, so as to prevent the creation of hereditary privileges and ensure equality among citizens?

SSC Phase-XIV (Matric) 16 Sep 2026, Shift-III

(a) Article 17
(b) Article 18
(c) Article 19
(d) Article 20

06 Which constitutional provision ensures equality before law and equal protection of laws, forming the basis of the rule of law and checking arbitrary State action in governance?

SSC Phase-XIV (Matric) 18 Sep 2026, Shift-III

(a) Article 12
(b) Article 13
(c) Article 14
(d) Article 15

07 Which Article abolishes untouchability and declares its practice in any form a punishable offence under law?

SSC Phase-XIV (Matric) 18 Sep 2026, Shift-III

(a) Article 16
(b) Article 17
(c) Article 18
(d) Article 19

08 Which Article of the Indian Constitution deals with the abolition of titles?

SSC Phase-XIV (Matric) 21 Sep 2026, Shift-III

(a) Article 14 (b) Article 18
(c) Article 21 (d) Article 23

09 Which Articles of the Indian Constitution deal with the "Right to Freedom of Religion"?

SSC Phase-XIV (Matric) 22 Sep 2026, Shift-III

(a) Articles 12 to 16 (b) Articles 14 to 18
(c) Articles 21 to 25 (d) Articles 25 to 28

10 In which Articles of the Indian Constitution is the Right to Equality given?

SSC Phase-XIV (Matric) 23 Sep 2026, Shift-III

(a) Articles 12 to 16 (b) Articles 14 to 18
(c) Articles 19 to 22 (d) Articles 21 to 25

11 Which Articles of the Indian Constitution deal with the "Right to Freedom"?

SSC Phase-XIV (Matric) 24 Sep 2026, Shift-III

(a) Articles 12 to 16 (b) Articles 14 to 18
(c) Articles 19 to 22 (d) Articles 21 to 25

PART C DPSP and Fundamental Duties

Directions (Q. 12–13): *Choose the correct answer from the four given options.*

12 Which constitutional principle is most directly cited in support of the Uniform Civil Code (UCC)?

SSC Phase-XIV (Matric) 17 Sep 2026, Shift-III

(a) Right to freedom of speech and expression
(b) Directive Principles of State Policy
(c) Fundamental Duties
(d) Right to Education

13 The Constitutional Amendment that added Fundamental Duties to the Constitution was:

SSC Phase-XIV (Matric) 24 Sep 2026, Shift-III

(a) 24th Amendment (b) 42nd Amendment
(c) 44th Amendment (d) 86th Amendment

PART D President and Vice President of India

Directions (Q. 14–15): *Choose the correct answer from the four given options.*

14 The Constitution states that the Union Executive consists of the President, the Vice-President and the Council of Ministers. Which Article clearly defines this structure?

SSC Phase-XIV (Graduation) 21 Sep 2026, Shift-I

(a) Article 74 (b) Article 52
(c) Article 53 (d) Article 75

15 Which Schedule of the Indian Constitution contains provisions relating to the President and the Governors of States?

SSC Phase-XIV (Matric) 22 Sep 2026, Shift-III

(a) First Schedule (b) Second Schedule
(c) Third Schedule (d) Fourth Schedule

PART E Parliament

Directions (Q. 16–24): *Choose the correct answer from the four given options.*

16 Which Schedule of the Indian Constitution provides for the allocation of seats in the Rajya Sabha to various States and Union Territories?

SSC Phase-XIV (Graduation) 25 Sep 2026, Shift-I

(a) Fourth Schedule (b) First Schedule
(c) Third Schedule (d) Seventh Schedule

17 Article 120 is related to which of the following?

SSC Phase-XIV (12th) 22 Sep 2026, Shift-II

(a) Powers of the judiciary
(b) Language to be used in Parliament
(c) Removal of judges from office
(d) Parliamentary privileges

18 Which Article prohibits discussion in Parliament on the conduct of judges?

SSC Phase-XIV (12th) 25 Sep 2026, Shift-II

(a) Article 119 (b) Article 120

(c) Article 121 (d) Article 122

19 The 10th Schedule of the Indian Constitution is related to:

SSC Phase-XIV (Matric) 18 Sep 2026, Shift-III

(a) Election disputes of Members of Parliament
(b) Disqualification on grounds of defection
(c) Powers of the President
(d) Salaries of legislators

20 Fill in the blank: _____ prohibits discussion in Parliament on the conduct of judges.

SSC Phase-XIV (Matric) 21 Sep 2026, Shift-III

(a) Article 119 (b) Article 120
(c) Article 121 (d) Article 122

21 Fill in the blank: Article _____ of the Constitution is related to the language to be used in Parliament.

SSC Phase-XIV (Matric) 22 Sep 2026, Shift-III

(a) Article 118 (b) Article 120
(c) Article 210 (d) Article 343

22 Fill in the blank: Article ____ clearly states that courts cannot question the validity of parliamentary proceedings.

SSC Phase-XIV (Matric) 25 Sep 2026, Shift-III

(a) Article 120 (b) Article 121
(c) Article 122 (d) Article 123

23 The Schedule related to anti-defection provisions is:

SSC Phase-XIV (Matric) 25 Sep 2026, Shift-III

(a) Eighth Schedule (b) Ninth Schedule
(c) Tenth Schedule (d) Twelfth Schedule

24 Parliament can create a new All India Service under:

SSC Phase-XIV (Matric) 25 Sep 2026, Shift-III

(a) Article 249 (b) Article 312
(c) Article 315 (d) Article 323A

PART F Centre-State Relations

Directions (Q. 25–36): *Choose the correct answer from the four given options.*

25 Which constitutional provision empowers the Centre to give directions to States to ensure compliance with laws made by Parliament?

SSC Phase-XIV (Graduation) 18 Sep 2026, Shift-I

(a) Article 355 (b) Article 256
(c) Article 368 (d) Article 245

26 Which Article empowers the Union to issue directions to States to ensure compliance with central laws and judicial decisions?

SSC Phase-XIV (Graduation) 21 Sep 2026, Shift-I

(a) Article 355 (b) Article 258
(c) Article 256 (d) Article 262

27 Which of the following Schedules of the Indian Constitution contains provisions related to the division of powers between the Union and the States?

SSC Phase-XIV (Graduation) 21 Sep 2026, Shift-I

(a) First Schedule (b) Seventh Schedule
(c) Tenth Schedule (d) Twelfth Schedule

28 In which of the following situations can the Central Government make laws on a subject of the State List?

SSC Phase-XIV (Graduation) 23 Sep 2026, Shift-I

(a) When the Lok Sabha passes it by a majority
(b) When the Governor of the State gives consent
(c) During President's Rule in that State
(d) When Parliament passes the budget

29 In which situation can the President make laws for a State without the help of Parliament?

SSC Phase-XIV (Graduation) 23 Sep 2026, Shift-I

(a) If the State Legislative Assembly is prorogued
(b) During a Proclamation under Article 356
(c) If the Governor fails to act on a Bill
(d) If the Council of States (Rajya Sabha) recommends it

30 What is the constitutional safeguard that prevents Parliament from arbitrarily changing State boundaries under Article 3?

SSC Phase-XIV (Graduation) 25 Sep 2026, Shift-I

(a) The State Legislature must give prior approval
(b) The President must consult the Chief Minister
(c) The views of the State Legislature must be considered
(d) Only the Rajya Sabha must give approval

31 Which Article provides for the establishment of the Inter-State Council?

SSC Phase-XIV (12th) 17 Sep 2026, Shift-II

(a) Article 261 (b) Article 263
(c) Article 267 (d) Article 272

32 Which feature of the Indian Constitution best reflects the principle of cooperative federalism through an institutional mechanism that enables cooperation between the Centre and the States in policy-making?

SSC Phase-XIV (Matric) 16 Sep 2026, Shift-III

(a) Inter-State Council
(b) Emergency provisions
(c) Single citizenship
(d) Judicial review

33 Which situation best shows the legislative flexibility of Indian federalism, allowing Parliament to temporarily make laws on State List subjects?

SSC Phase-XIV (Matric) 16 Sep 2026, Shift-III

(a) Constitutional amendment
(b) National Emergency
(c) Financial Emergency
(d) Judicial review

34 In a situation where Central and State laws conflict on a subject in the Concurrent List and the State law has received the assent of the President, which doctrine determines the validity of the law?

SSC Phase-XIV (Matric) 17 Sep 2026, Shift-III

(a) Doctrine of Eclipse
(b) Doctrine of Repugnancy
(c) Doctrine of Severability
(d) Doctrine of Pith and Substance

35 Which Article provides that laws made under Articles 2 and 3 may contain supplemental provisions and shall not be deemed to be amendments of the Constitution under Article 368?

SSC Phase-XIV (Matric) 19 Sep 2026, Shift-III

(a) Article 2 (b) Article 3
(c) Article 4 (d) Article 5

36 The provision relating to the admission or establishment of new States is contained in:

SSC Phase-XIV (Matric) 22 Sep 2026, Shift-III

(a) Article 1 (b) Article 2
(c) Article 3 (d) Article 4

PART G Emergency & Constitutional Amendment

Directions (Q. 37–43): *Choose the correct answer from the four given options.*

37 In the context of emergency provisions, which of the following cannot be suspended even during a National Emergency under Article 352?

SSC Phase-XIV (Graduation) 18 Sep 2026, Shift-I

(a) Article 21 - Protection of life and personal liberty
(b) Article 19 - Freedom of speech and expression
(c) Article 22 - Preventive detention
(d) Article 23 - Prohibition of human trafficking

38 In which of the following situations would a constitutional amendment under Article 368 NOT be required?

SSC Phase-XIV (Graduation) 18 Sep 2026, Shift-I

(a) Formation of a new State
(b) Change in the distribution of legislative powers
(c) Change in representation in the Rajya Sabha
(d) Change in the jurisdiction of High Courts

39 The doctrine of Basic Structure limits constitutional amendments. Which of the following features has NOT been explicitly declared by the Supreme Court as a part of the Basic Structure?

SSC Phase-XIV (Graduation) 21 Sep 2026, Shift-I

(a) Judicial Review (b) Federalism

(c) Secularism (d) Uniform Civil Code

40 Which constitutional amendment attempted to bypass judicial review by placing laws in the Ninth Schedule, and was later limited by the Supreme Court in the I.R. Coelho case (2007)?

SSC Phase-XIV (Graduation) 23 Sep 2026, Shift-I

(a) 24th Amendment (b) 42nd Amendment
(c) 44th Amendment (d) First Amendment

41 Under what circumstances can Fundamental Rights be suspended, and who has the power to do so?

SSC Phase-XIV (Graduation) 23 Sep 2026, Shift-I

(a) By the President during a Financial Emergency
(b) By the Prime Minister during a national crisis
(c) By the President during a National Emergency
(d) By Parliament during a constitutional amendment

42 If a State fails to comply with constitutional norms, under which Article can the President recommend the imposition of President's Rule?

SSC Phase-XIV (Graduation) 25 Sep 2026, Shift-I

(a) Article 356 (b) Article 352
(c) Article 365 (d) Article 360

43 How many types of emergencies can be declared by the President of India under the Indian Constitution?

SSC Phase-XIV (12th) 17 Sep 2026, Shift-II

(a) Two (b) Three (c) Four (d) Five

PART H Supreme Court and High Court

Directions (Q. 44–52): *Choose the correct answer from the four given options.*

44 Who among the following was the first Chief Justice of the Supreme Court under British rule?

SSC Phase-XIV (Graduation) 23 Sep 2026, Shift-I

(a) Elijah Impey (b) Sadler Commission
(c) Hartog (d) Viscount Lee

45 In a federal system based on "limited government", the Supreme Court is envisaged as the final authority for which specific purpose?

SSC Phase-XIV (12th) 17 Sep 2026, Shift-II

(a) Administrative oversight
(b) Constitutional interpretation
(c) Criminal appeals
(d) Legislative drafting

46 Which Supreme Court judgment recognised transgender persons as the 'third gender' in India?

SSC Phase-XIV (12th) 24 Sep 2026, Shift-II

(a) K.S. Puttaswamy vs Union of India
(b) NALSA vs Union of India and Others
(c) Vishaka vs State of Rajasthan
(d) Navtej Singh Johar vs Union of India

47 Who administers the oath to a judge of a High Court?

SSC Phase-XIV (12th) 25 Sep 2026, Shift-II

(a) The President of India
(b) The Chief Justice of India
(c) The Governor of the State
(d) The Chief Minister

48 Article 134 deals with appeals to the Supreme Court in which matters?

SSC Phase-XIV (Matric) 16 Sep 2026, Shift-III

(a) Civil matters (b) Revenue matters
(c) Criminal matters (d) Service matters

49 Fill in the blank: Article 133 of the Constitution deals with appeals to the Supreme Court in the context of:

SSC Phase-XIV (Matric) 18 Sep 2026, Shift-III

(a) Cases relating to criminal violations
(b) Cases relating to civil judgments
(c) Cases relating to constitutional laws
(d) Cases relating to administrative acts

50 Which Chief Justice of India is known for heading the bench that upheld the abrogation of Article 370?

SSC Phase-XIV (Matric) 23 Sep 2026, Shift-III

(a) Justice D.Y. Chandrachud
(b) Justice N.V. Ramana

(c) Justice U.U. Lalit
(d) Justice Ranjan Gogoi

51 Who has the final authority to interpret the Constitution?

SSC Phase-XIV (Matric) 23 Sep 2026, Shift-III

(a) Law Commission (b) Parliament
(c) President (d) Supreme Court

52 Fill in the blank: Under Article 133, an appeal can be made to the Supreme Court from the _____.

SSC Phase-XIV (Matric) 24 Sep 2026, Shift-III

(a) District Court (b) Sessions Court
(c) High Court (d) Public Law Tribunal

PART I Local Government

Directions (Q. 53–54): *Choose the correct answer from the four given options.*

53 By which Amendment Act was constitutional status given to the Panchayati Raj system?

SSC Phase-XIV (12th) 22 Sep 2026, Shift-II

(a) 61st (b) 73rd (c) 74th (d) 86th

54 Which Schedule contains provisions relating to the administration of tribal areas in Assam, Meghalaya, Tripura and Mizoram?

SSC Phase-XIV (Matric) 24 Sep 2026, Shift-III

(a) Ninth Schedule (b) Seventh Schedule
(c) Sixth Schedule (d) Fifth Schedule

PART J Constitutional and Non-Constitutional Bodies

Directions (Q. 55–56): *Choose the correct answer from the four given options.*

55 The Finance Commission is a constitutional body. According to Article 280, what is its primary function?

SSC Phase-XIV (Graduation) 18 Sep 2026, Shift-I

(a) To approve the annual budget
(b) To allocate funds for Five-Year Plans
(c) To recommend the distribution of taxes between the Centre and the States
(d) To monitor GST revenue

56 Which Comptroller and Auditor General (CAG) of India earlier served as the Lieutenant Governor of Jammu and Kashmir?

SSC Phase-XIV (Matric) 25 Sep 2026, Shift-III

(a) Vinod Rai
(b) Rajiv Mehrishi
(c) Girish Chandra Murmu
(d) Shashi Kant Sharma

PART K New Criminal Laws 2023

Directions (Q. 57–76): *Choose the correct answer from the four given options.*

57 A voluntarily joins a gang of armed robbers, even though he was threatened with a beating if he refused. During a dacoity, the gang leader threatens A with instant death unless he breaks open the door of a shop, and A complies. Under the Bharatiya Nyaya Sanhita, 2023 in India, which of the following is the most legally accurate statement?

SSC Phase-XIV (Graduation) 17 Sep 2026, Shift-I

(a) A is fully protected because he acted under the threat of instant death.
(b) A is protected because dacoity is not punishable with death.
(c) A cannot claim protection because he voluntarily placed himself under compulsion/ duress.
(d) A is protected because threats always excuse compelled acts.

58 A is sentenced as follows: 8 years of rigorous imprisonment, a fine of Rs. 20,000, and 1 year of simple imprisonment in default of payment of the fine. After completing 6 months of default imprisonment, A pays half of the fine. Under the Bharatiya Nyaya Sanhita, 2023 in India, which of the following is correct?

SSC Phase-XIV (Graduation) 19 Sep 2026, Shift-I

(a) A must still complete the entire default imprisonment because the imprisonment has already begun.

(b) A is entitled to immediate release because paying half the fine automatically ends the sentence.
(c) A must continue imprisonment only in proportion to the unpaid part of the fine.
(d) The court must hold a fresh hearing on the sentence.

59 A police officer investigates a non-cognizable offence and, after investigation, submits a report to the Magistrate disclosing the commission of such an offence. Under the BNSS (Bharatiya Nagarik Suraksha Sanhita), 2023 in India, what is the legal status of this report?

SSC Phase-XIV (Graduation) 22 Sep 2026, Shift-I

(a) It remains only a police report and can never become a complaint.
(b) It is deemed to be a complaint, and the police officer is deemed to be the complainant.
(c) It automatically converts the offence into a cognizable offence.
(d) It has no evidentiary value unless it is filed by the victim.

60 A obtains B's consent for a dangerous procedure by falsely telling B that it is a harmless medical test. B agrees, believing this statement. During the procedure, B is injured. Under the Bharatiya Nyaya Sanhita, 2023 in India, which of the following is correct?

SSC Phase-XIV (Graduation) 24 Sep 2026, Shift-I

(a) The consent is valid because B gave express consent.
(b) The consent is invalid because it was obtained under a misconception of fact.
(c) The consent is valid unless B is under twelve years of age.
(d) The consent is invalid only if grievous hurt is caused.

61 Under the Bharatiya Sakshya Adhiniyam, 2023, which category of evidence must necessarily be 'direct'?

SSC Phase-XIV (12th) 16 Sep 2026, Shift-II

(a) Documentary evidence
(b) Oral evidence
(c) Electronic evidence
(d) Secondary evidence

62 Consider the following statements regarding the applicability of the Bharatiya Sakshya Adhiniyam, 2023:
1. It applies to all judicial proceedings in or before any court, including courts-martial.
2. It strictly applies to affidavits presented to any court or officer.
Which of the statements given above is/are correct?

SSC Phase-XIV (12th) 16 Sep 2026, Shift-II

(a) Only 1
(b) Only 2
(c) Both 1 and 2
(d) Neither 1 nor 2

63 Which of the following has been newly included in the Bharatiya Nyaya Sanhita?

SSC Phase-XIV (12th) 17 Sep 2026, Shift-II

(a) Mob lynching as a specific offence
(b) Provision on blasphemy
(c) Validity of triple talaq
(d) Manual scavenging

64 What is mob lynching under the Bharatiya Nyaya Sanhita (BNS)?

SSC Phase-XIV (12th) 18 Sep 2026, Shift-II

(a) It involves violence by a group on grounds such as identity or suspicion
(b) It applies only when religious intent is proved
(c) It requires prior conspiracy among all members
(d) It is treated as simple assault

65 What is the difference between terrorism and organised crime?

SSC Phase-XIV (12th) 18 Sep 2026, Shift-II

(a) There is no difference under the Bharatiya Nyaya Sanhita (BNS).
(b) Terrorism aims to threaten national security, while organised crime focuses on illegal gain.
(c) Terrorism always involves financial gain.
(d) Organised crime is limited only to violent crimes.

66 The Bharatiya Sakshya Adhiniyam, 2023 applies to which of the following?

SSC Phase-XIV (12th) 19 Sep 2026, Shift-II

(a) Limited only to civil court proceedings

(b) All judicial proceedings and all executive inquiries
(c) All judicial proceedings and courts-martial
(d) Limited only to the High Courts and the Supreme Court

67 Under the Bharatiya Nagarik Suraksha Sanhita, 2023, what is the defining feature of a "Zero FIR"?

SSC Phase-XIV (12th) 19 Sep 2026, Shift-II

(a) A report that does not name any specific suspect
(b) A report registered irrespective of the jurisdiction of the offence
(c) A report filed electronically without going to the police station
(d) A report registered when no physical evidence exists

68 Which section under the Bharatiya Nyaya Sanhita deals with offences against women?

SSC Phase-XIV (12th) 21 Sep 2026, Shift-II

(a) Section 354
(b) Section 69
(c) Section 20
(d) Section 40

69 Fill in the blank: The _____, 2023 modernises the law of evidence in India.

SSC Phase-XIV (12th) 22 Sep 2026, Shift-II

(a) Bharatiya Nyaya Sanhita
(b) Bharatiya Sakshya Adhiniyam
(c) Bharatiya Nagarik Suraksha Sanhita
(d) Indian Evidence Act

70 Which of the following punishments has been newly added in the Bharatiya Nyaya Sanhita, 2023?

SSC Phase-XIV (12th) 23 Sep 2026, Shift-II

(a) Monetary fine
(b) Forfeiture of property
(c) Community service
(d) Rigorous imprisonment

71 Under the Bharatiya Nagarik Suraksha Sanhita (BNSS), which of the following best reflects the change in approach regarding FIR registration?

SSC Phase-XIV (12th) 23 Sep 2026, Shift-II

(a) An FIR can be registered only within the jurisdiction.
(b) A preliminary inquiry is mandatory in all cases.
(c) The police have full discretion to refuse to register an FIR.
(d) The concepts of E-FIR and Zero FIR have been strengthened.

72 Under the new Bharatiya Sakshya Adhiniyam, what is the status of the concept of res gestae (relevancy of facts forming part of the same transaction)?

SSC Phase-XIV (12th) 26 Sep 2026, Shift-I

(a) It continues with the same principles as the earlier law
(b) It applies only to written documents
(c) It has been abolished
(d) It applies only in civil cases

73 What is the position of the burden of proof under the Bharatiya Sakshya Adhiniyam (BSA)?

SSC Phase-XIV (12th) 26 Sep 2026, Shift-I

(a) It applies only in civil cases.
(b) It never shifts during the trial.
(c) It always lies on the accused.
(d) It lies mainly on the prosecution but can shift in specific circumstances.

74 With reference to the Bharatiya Sakshya Adhiniyam (BSA), which of the following best describes the admissibility of digital evidence?

SSC Phase-XIV (Matric) 17 Sep 2026, Shift-III

(a) It is admissible only as secondary evidence.
(b) It needs a physically signed copy to be valid.
(c) It is treated as primary evidence if certified as per Section 63.
(d) It is not admissible in cases involving heinous crimes.

75 'Community Service' has been included in the BNS as a new form of punishment. It is mainly intended for which of the following?

SSC Phase-XIV (Matric) 19 Sep 2026, Shift-III

(a) Terrorist activities
(b) Minor first-time offences such as public intoxication or small-scale theft
(c) Organised crime gangs

(d) Non-payment of corporate taxes

76 "Mob lynching" has been made specifically punishable under the BNS. What is the minimum group size required to apply these specific provisions?

SSC Phase-XIV (Matric) 19 Sep 2026, Shift-III

(a) A group of 2 or more
(b) A group of 5 or more
(c) A group of 10 or more
(d) Any public gathering regardless of size

PART L Important Acts

Directions (Q. 77–78): *Choose the correct answer from the four given options.*

77 Which community is temporarily excluded from the UCC passed in Uttarakhand?

SSC Phase-XIV (12th) 21 Sep 2026, Shift-II

(a) Jains
(b) Christians
(c) Scheduled Tribes
(d) Muslims

78 The "Child Labour (Prohibition and Regulation) Act, 1986" prohibits the employment of children below _____ years of age in hazardous occupations.

SSC Phase-XIV (12th) 25 Sep 2026, Shift-II

(a) 12 years
(b) 14 years
(c) 16 years
(d) 8 years

PART M Miscellaneous

Directions (Q. 79–81): *Choose the correct answer from the four given options.*

79 Which organisation is responsible for enforcing criminal laws in India?

SSC Phase-XIV (12th) 24 Sep 2026, Shift-II

(a) Parliament
(b) Supreme Court
(c) Police and Judiciary
(d) Election Commission

80 Which Schedule of the Indian Constitution contains provisions relating to the forms of oaths or affirmations?

SSC Phase-XIV (Matric) 21 Sep 2026, Shift-III

(a) First Schedule
(b) Second Schedule
(c) Third Schedule
(d) Fourth Schedule

81 Which of the following comes under the Eighth Schedule of the Indian Constitution?

SSC Phase-XIV (Matric) 25 Sep 2026, Shift-III

(a) Distribution of powers between the Union and the States
(b) Allocation of seats in the Lok Sabha
(c) Allocation of seats in the Rajya Sabha
(d) Provisions related to official languages

Answer Key *SSC official key*

Part A · Salient Features of the Constitution (Q. 01)																			
01	(b)																		
Part B · Fundamental Rights (Q. 02–11)																			
02	(b)	**03**	(c)	**04**	(b)	**05**	(b)	**06**	(c)	**07**	(b)	**08**	(b)	**09**	(d)	**10**	(b)	**11**	(c)
Part C · DPSP and Fundamental Duties (Q. 12–13)																			
12	(b)	**13**	(b)																
Part D · President and Vice President of India (Q. 14–15)																			
14	(b)	**15**	(b)																

Part E · Parliament (Q. 16–24)																	
16	(a)	**17**	(b)	**18**	(c)	**19**	(b)	**20**	(c)	**21**	(b)	**22**	(c)	**23**	(c)	**24**	(b)
Part F · Centre-State Relations (Q. 25–36)																	
25	(b)	**26**	(c)	**27**	(b)	**28**	(c)	**29**	(b)	**30**	(c)	**31**	(b)	**32**	(a)	**33**	(b)
34	(b)	**35**	(c)	**36**	(b)												
Part G · Emergency & Constitutional Amendment (Q. 37–43)																	
37	(a)	**38**	(a)	**39**	(d)	**40**	(d)	**41**	(c)	**42**	(c)	**43**	(b)				
Part H · Supreme Court and High Court (Q. 44–52)																	
44	(a)	**45**	(b)	**46**	(b)	**47**	(c)	**48**	(c)	**49**	(b)	**50**	(a)	**51**	(d)	**52**	(c)
Part I · Local Government (Q. 53–54)																	
53	(b)	**54**	(c)														
Part J · Constitutional and Non-Constitutional Bodies (Q. 55–56)																	
55	(c)	**56**	(c)														
Part K · New Criminal Laws 2023 (Q. 57–76)																	
57	(c)	**58**	(c)	**59**	(b)	**60**	(b)	**61**	(b)	**62**	(a)	**63**	(a)	**64**	(a)	**65**	(b)
66	(c)	**67**	(b)	**68**	(b)	**69**	(b)	**70**	(c)	**71**	(d)	**72**	(a)	**73**	(d)	**74**	(c)
75	(b)	**76**	(b)														
Part L · Important Acts (Q. 77–78)																	
77	(c)	**78**	(b)														
Part M · Miscellaneous (Q. 79–81)																	
79	(c)	**80**	(c)	**81**	(d)												

Detailed Explanations रटना बंद, समझना शुरू

PART A Salient Features of the Constitution

01 **ANSWER (b)** Parliamentary system

SSC Phase-XIV (Matric) 21 Sep 2026, Shift-III

In the **parliamentary system**, the Council of Ministers is drawn from the legislature and stays in power only as long as it has the confidence of the Lok Sabha. Lose that confidence and the government falls. This is what we call accountability of the executive.

Article 75(3)

- **Article 75(3)**: the Council of Ministers is collectively responsible to the Lok Sabha
- Once a no-confidence motion is passed, the whole Council of Ministers, including the PM, must resign
- This system is taken from Britain's Westminster model
- **Collective responsibility** is its core principle

Look at the other options. In the presidential system (as in the USA), the executive does not need the confidence of the legislature. The federal and judicial set-ups have no direct link with this accountability.

PART B Fundamental Rights

02 **ANSWER (b)** Article 13 - pre-constitutional laws become inactive (dormant)

SSC Phase-XIV (Graduation) 25 Sep 2026, Shift-I

The Doctrine of Eclipse comes from **Article 13(1)**. Pre-constitutional laws that clash with Fundamental Rights do not die. They lie **inactive (dormant)** in the 'shadow' of the Fundamental Rights, and can work again once the hurdle is removed.

Doctrine of Eclipse

• Article 13(1): pre-constitutional laws are void to the extent of inconsistency
• The doctrine came in **Bhikaji Narain Dhakras v. State of Madhya Pradesh (1955)**
• **Deep Chand v. State of Uttar Pradesh (1959)**: inconsistent post-constitutional laws are void from the start (void ab initio)
• The **Doctrine of Severability** is also linked to Article 13

Examiner's Trap The option 'laws become completely invalid' is wrong. Under eclipse the law does not die, it only stays asleep.

03 ANSWER (c) Parliament

SSC Phase-XIV (12th) 22 Sep 2026, Shift-II

Article 33 gives only **Parliament** the power to restrict the Fundamental Rights of members of the armed forces and related services. The purpose is discipline and proper discharge of duty.

Article 33
• Applies to: armed forces, paramilitary forces, police and intelligence agencies
• The power lies only with Parliament, not with state legislatures
• Such a law cannot be challenged in court for violating Fundamental Rights
• Examples: Army Act 1950, Air Force Act 1950, Navy Act 1957

04 ANSWER (b) Right to Property

SSC Phase-XIV (12th) 25 Sep 2026, Shift-II

The **44th Constitutional Amendment, 1978** took the Right to Property out of the list of Fundamental Rights. Now it is just a constitutional or legal right.

Remember: Article 300A
• Earlier it was in Article 19(1)(f) and Article 31
• Now it is in **Article 300A** of Part XII
• Fundamental Rights came down from 7 to **6**
• The amendment came during Morarji Desai's Janata Party government
• If 300A is violated, you cannot go straight to the Supreme Court under Article 32

05 ANSWER (b) Article 18

SSC Phase-XIV (Matric) 16 Sep 2026, Shift-III

Titles are abolished by **Article 18**. Apart from military and academic honours, the State will not confer any title, so that no hereditary privilege is created and equality is maintained.

Article 18
• 18(1): no title other than military or academic
• 18(2): an Indian citizen shall not accept a title from any foreign State
• **Balaji Raghavan v. Union of India (1996)**: Bharat Ratna and Padma awards are honours, not titles
• They cannot be used as a prefix or suffix to a name

Other options: Article 17 abolishes untouchability, 19 has the six freedoms, and 20 gives protection in respect of conviction for offences.

06 ANSWER (c) Article 14

SSC Phase-XIV (Matric) 18 Sep 2026, Shift-III

Article 14 gives every person 'equality before law' and 'equal protection of laws'. This is the foundation of the rule of law, and it is also where the check on arbitrary State action comes from.

Facts (Article 14)
• 'Equality before law' is a British concept, Dicey's Rule of Law
• 'Equal protection of laws' is from the American Constitution
• Available to all: citizens, foreigners and legal persons like companies
• Rule of law is part of the **Basic Structure**

Other options: Article 12 defines 'State'. Article 13 makes inconsistent laws void. Article 15 prohibits discrimination on grounds of religion, caste, sex and so on.

07 ANSWER (b) Article 17

SSC Phase-XIV (Matric) 18 Sep 2026, Shift-III

Abolition of untouchability is in **Article 17**. Its practice in any form is forbidden, and doing so is an offence punishable under law.

Remember: Article 17
• It is an absolute right, applying not only to the State but also to private individuals
• 'Untouchability' is not defined in the Constitution or in any Act
• The **Untouchability (Offences) Act, 1955** was

passed, and in 1976 it was renamed the **Protection of Civil Rights Act**

Other options: Article 16 is equal opportunity in public employment, 18 is abolition of titles, and 19 covers freedoms like freedom of speech.

08 **ANSWER (b)** Article 18

SSC Phase-XIV (Matric) 21 Sep 2026, Shift-III

A direct question. Abolition of titles is in **Article 18**. The State cannot confer any title except military and academic honours, so that no artificial high and low grows in society.

Clauses of Article 18

- 18(2): an Indian citizen cannot accept a title from a foreign State
- 18(3): even a foreigner holding an office of profit or trust under the State cannot accept a foreign title without the President's consent
- Bharat Ratna and Padma awards are not titles (Balaji Raghavan case, 1996)
- The Right to Equality runs from 14 to 18, and 18 is its last Article

Other options: 14 is equality before law, 21 is protection of life and personal liberty, and 23 prohibits human trafficking and forced labour.

09 **ANSWER (d)** Articles 25 to 28

SSC Phase-XIV (Matric) 22 Sep 2026, Shift-III

In Part III, freedom of religion is given in **Articles 25 to 28**. India's secular character rests on these.

Religion: Art. 25-28

- 25: freedom of conscience and freedom to profess, practise and propagate religion
- 26: freedom to manage religious affairs
- 27: freedom from paying taxes for promoting any particular religion
- 28: freedom to attend or not attend religious instruction or worship in certain educational institutions
- The word 'Secular' came into the Preamble through the **42nd Amendment (1976)**

10 **ANSWER (b)** Articles 14 to 18

SSC Phase-XIV (Matric) 23 Sep 2026, Shift-III

The Right to Equality spreads over **Articles 14 to 18** in Part III. It covers equality before law, ban on discrimination, equal opportunity in jobs, and the abolition of untouchability and titles.

Equality: Art. 14-18

- 14: equality before law and equal protection
- 15: no discrimination on grounds of religion, race, caste, sex or place of birth
- 16: equality of opportunity in public employment
- 17 abolishes untouchability, and 18 abolishes titles

Remember Learn the full sequence together: Equality 14-18, Freedom 19-22, Against Exploitation 23-24, Religion 25-28, Culture and Education 29-30, Constitutional Remedies 32.

11 **ANSWER (c)** Articles 19 to 22

SSC Phase-XIV (Matric) 24 Sep 2026, Shift-III

The Right to Freedom is in **Articles 19 to 22**. Basic freedoms, protection in respect of conviction, the right to life and protection against arbitrary arrest all come in this part.

Freedom: Art. 19-22

- 19: six freedoms, that is speech, peaceful assembly, forming associations, movement, residence and profession
- 20: protection against ex post facto law, double jeopardy and self-incrimination
- 21: life and personal liberty, and 21A gives free and compulsory education to children of 6-14 years (86th Amendment, 2002)
- 22: protection against arrest and detention in certain cases

PART C DPSP and Fundamental Duties

12 **ANSWER (b)** Directive Principles of State Policy

SSC Phase-XIV (Matric) 17 Sep 2026, Shift-III

The UCC is directly mentioned in **Article 44**, which is part of Part IV, that is the **Directive Principles of State Policy (DPSP)**. It says the State shall endeavour to secure a uniform civil code for citizens throughout the country.

DPSP: Art. 36-51

- Directive Principles are in Part IV, **Articles 36 to**

51

• They cannot be enforced in court, but are fundamental to governance
• Inspired by the Constitution of **Ireland**
• First state to pass a UCC law: **Uttarakhand (2024)**

Other options: freedom of speech and the right to education are Fundamental Rights in Part III, and Fundamental Duties are in Part IVA. None of these talk about the UCC.

13 **ANSWER (b)** 42nd Amendment

SSC Phase-XIV (Matric) 24 Sep 2026, Shift-III

On the recommendation of the Swaran Singh Committee came the **42nd Constitutional Amendment, 1976**. It added Part IVA and **Article 51A**, putting 10 Fundamental Duties into the Constitution.

Fundamental Duties: 51A

• Inspired by the Constitution of the former **Soviet Union (USSR)**
• The 11th duty, providing educational opportunity to children of 6-14 years, was added by the **86th Amendment, 2002**
• They are non-justiciable and cannot be enforced directly by courts
• Because of so many changes, the 42nd Amendment is called the **'Mini Constitution'**

Examiner's Trap The 86th Amendment is placed in the options because it added the 11th duty. But Fundamental Duties came in **for the first time** only through the 42nd Amendment.

PART D President and Vice President of India

14 **ANSWER (b)** Article 52

SSC Phase-XIV (Graduation) 21 Sep 2026, Shift-I

The chapter on the Union Executive (Part V, Chapter I) begins with **Article 52**: 'There shall be a President of India'. The whole structure of the President, Vice-President, PM, Council of Ministers and Attorney General opens from here. To be honest, no single Article lists all three together, and the wording of the question is a little loose. But in the exam, Article 52 was taken as the answer.

Union Executive

• Described in Part V, **Articles 52 to 78**
• 53: executive power of the Union is vested in the President
• 63: there shall be a Vice-President of India
• 74: Council of Ministers headed by the PM to aid and advise the President
• 75: appointment of ministers and collective responsibility to the Lok Sabha

15 **ANSWER (b)** Second Schedule

SSC Phase-XIV (Matric) 22 Sep 2026, Shift-III

The salaries, allowances and privileges of the President, Governors, judges and other constitutional functionaries are in the **Second Schedule**. Its **Part 'A'** is specifically for the President and the Governors.

Schedules: 1 to 4

• First: names and territories of States and Union Territories
• Third: forms of oaths or affirmations
• Fourth: allocation of seats in the Rajya Sabha
• The original Constitution had 8 Schedules, now there are **12**

Examiner's Trap The President's oath is not in the Third Schedule but in Article 60. So don't tick the Third Schedule just because you see the word 'President'.

PART E Parliament

16 **ANSWER (a)** Fourth Schedule

SSC Phase-XIV (Graduation) 25 Sep 2026, Shift-I

How many Rajya Sabha seats each State or Union Territory gets is decided by the **Fourth Schedule**. It is linked to Articles 4(1) and 80(2).

Fourth Schedule

• Seats are given mainly on the basis of population
• **Uttar Pradesh (31)** has the most seats
• Seventh Schedule: Union, State and Concurrent Lists
• The Third has forms of oaths, the First has names of States

17 **ANSWER (b)** Language to be used in Parliament

SSC Phase-XIV (12th) 22 Sep 2026, Shift-II

Article 120 is about the language of Parliament. Business is done in Hindi or English. If needed, the presiding officer can allow a member to speak in his mother tongue.

Language: Art. 120

- The mother tongue is allowed when a member cannot express himself properly in Hindi or English
- The same provision for state legislatures is in **Article 210**
- 343: Hindi in Devanagari script is the official language of the Union
- Parliament has simultaneous interpretation of Eighth Schedule languages

Other options: the procedure for removing judges is in Article 124(4), and parliamentary privileges are in Article 105.

18 **ANSWER (c)** Article 121

SSC Phase-XIV (12th) 25 Sep 2026, Shift-II

What a judge of the Supreme Court or a High Court did while discharging duties cannot be discussed in Parliament. This bar is placed by **Article 121**. There is only one exception, a motion for their removal (impeachment).

Article 121

- The same bar on state legislatures comes from **Article 211**
- Removal only on proved misbehaviour or incapacity, under Article 124(4)
- The procedure runs under the **Judges (Inquiry) Act, 1968**
- The aim is to protect the independence of the judiciary

Other options: 119 lets Parliament regulate financial business by law. 120 is the language of Parliament. 122 says courts will not inquire into parliamentary proceedings.

19 **ANSWER (b)** Disqualification on grounds of defection

SSC Phase-XIV (Matric) 18 Sep 2026, Shift-III

The **Tenth Schedule** is what we call the anti-defection law. On what grounds an MP or MLA will be disqualified for changing parties is all written here.

Remember: Anti-Defection

- Added by the **52nd Amendment, 1985**
- Disqualification is decided by the **Speaker/ Chairman** of the House
- **Kihoto Hollohan case (1992)**: the Speaker's decision is subject to judicial review
- The **91st Amendment, 2003** removed the one-third 'split' exemption
- Articles 102(2) and 191(2) link disqualification to this Schedule

Look at the other options. Election disputes are settled through election petitions (Article 329 and the Representation of the People Act). Powers of the President are in Part V, and salaries and allowances are fixed by law and the Second Schedule.

20 **ANSWER (c)** Article 121

SSC Phase-XIV (Matric) 21 Sep 2026, Shift-III

This is the same Article 121 question, just turned into a fill in the blank. The conduct of a judge in discharging duties can be debated in Parliament only when a motion for removal comes up. So the blank takes **Article 121**.

Art. 120 to 124

- Aim: to shield the judiciary from political pressure
- The removal motion is in **Article 124(4)**
- The same bar for state legislatures is in **Article 211**
- 120 is the language of Parliament, and 122 says courts will not question parliamentary procedure

21 **ANSWER (b)** Article 120

SSC Phase-XIV (Matric) 22 Sep 2026, Shift-III

Which language will be used in Parliament is stated in **Article 120**. Business is in Hindi or English, and if needed the presiding officer can permit a member to speak in his mother tongue.

Official Language Articles

- **Article 210**: language of state legislatures
- **Article 118**: each House makes its own rules of procedure
- **Article 343**: Hindi in Devanagari is the official

language of the Union
• **Official Languages Act, 1963** for continuing English

Examiner's Trap 210 is also a 'language' Article, but it is for state legislatures. For Parliament it is 120. Remember the pair like this: 120 + 90 = 210.

22 **ANSWER (c)** Article 122

SSC Phase-XIV (Matric) 25 Sep 2026, Shift-III

A court cannot strike down proceedings of Parliament just because there was some irregularity of procedure. This is what **Article 122** says, and it keeps the autonomy of Parliament safe.

Article 122
• 122(1): parliamentary proceedings cannot be challenged in court on the ground of procedural irregularity
• 122(2): officers or members who maintain order are outside the court's reach for the use of that power
• The same rule for state legislatures is in **Article 212**
• 123: the President's ordinance when Parliament is not in session

Other options: 120 is the language of Parliament, 121 bars discussion on the conduct of judges, and 123 is ordinances.

23 **ANSWER (c)** Tenth Schedule

SSC Phase-XIV (Matric) 25 Sep 2026, Shift-III

The anti-defection rules are in the **Tenth Schedule**. The disqualification of MPs and MLAs who change parties is decided from here.

10th Schedule
• **52nd Amendment, 1985**, Rajiv Gandhi government, to stop political instability
• The Speaker/Chairman decides, and this is subject to judicial review (Kihoto Hollohan, 1992)
• The **91st Amendment, 2003** removed the one-third split exemption and capped the Council of Ministers at **15%** of the lower house
• No disqualification if two-thirds of members merge with another party

Other options: the Eighth Schedule has 22 languages, the Ninth has laws shielded from judicial review (land reforms), and the Twelfth has 18 subjects of municipalities.

24 **ANSWER (b)** Article 312

SSC Phase-XIV (Matric) 25 Sep 2026, Shift-III

A new All India Service, including an All India Judicial Service, is created under **Article 312**. The condition is that the **Rajya Sabha** must first pass a resolution by a **two-thirds majority** of members present and voting, saying it is necessary in the national interest.

All India Services
• At present three services: IAS, IPS and Indian Forest Service (IFS)
• IFS was created in 1966 under the All India Services Act, 1951
• These are services common to both the Centre and the States

Other options: 249 is Parliament's law on the State List in the national interest, 315 is UPSC and State Public Service Commissions, and 323A is administrative tribunals.

PART F Centre-State Relations

25 **ANSWER (b)** Article 256

SSC Phase-XIV (Graduation) 18 Sep 2026, Shift-I

States must use their executive power in a way that ensures compliance with the laws of Parliament. This duty is placed by **Article 256**, and for this the Centre can give the necessary directions to States.

Facts (Art. 256)
• If directions are not followed, the President can hold under **Article 365** that the constitutional machinery in the State has failed
• Then President's Rule can be imposed under **Article 356**
• **Article 257**: control of the Centre over States in matters like means of communication of national importance and railway protection

Other options: 355 is the Centre's duty to protect States against external aggression and internal disturbance. 368 is constitutional amendment, and 245 is the territorial extent of laws.

26 **ANSWER (c)** Article 256

SSC Phase-XIV (Graduation) 21 Sep 2026, Shift-I

This is another form of the previous question. The power to make States follow the laws of Parliament by giving them directions lies in **Article 256**.

Centre-State Administration

- It is part of **administrative relations** (Articles 256-263)
- If directions are ignored, 365 leads to 356, that is President's Rule
- 257: control of the Union over States in certain cases

Other options: under 258, Union functions are entrusted to a State with its consent. 262 is inter-state river water disputes, and 355 is the Union's duty to protect States.

27 **ANSWER (b)** Seventh Schedule

SSC Phase-XIV (Graduation) 21 Sep 2026, Shift-I

The division of legislative powers between the Union and the States is in the **Seventh Schedule**. It is given effect by **Article 246**. It has three lists: Union, State and Concurrent.

Seventh Schedule

- Union List (I): originally 97 subjects, laws made only by Parliament
- State List (II): originally 66 subjects, normally the state legislature
- Concurrent List (III): originally 47 subjects, both can legislate, and in a conflict the central law prevails
- The **42nd Amendment (1976)** moved 5 subjects, including education and forests, from the State to the Concurrent List

Other options: the First Schedule has States and Union Territories, the Tenth has the anti-defection law, and the Twelfth has the powers of municipalities.

28 **ANSWER (c)** During President's Rule in that State

SSC Phase-XIV (Graduation) 23 Sep 2026, Shift-I

As soon as **President's Rule** (Article 356) is imposed in a State, the legislative power of that State passes to Parliament under **Article 357**. Parliament can then make laws on State List subjects for that State.

Parliament on State List

- **Article 249**: if the Rajya Sabha passes a resolution by two-thirds majority, in the national interest
- **Article 250**: during a National Emergency
- **Article 252**: when two or more state legislatures request it
- **Article 253**: to implement an international treaty

Other options: a mere Lok Sabha majority, the Governor's consent or the passing of the budget, none of these gives Parliament the right to legislate on the State List.

29 **ANSWER (b)** During a Proclamation under Article 356

SSC Phase-XIV (Graduation) 23 Sep 2026, Shift-I

During President's Rule (Article 356), Parliament can confer on the President the power to make laws for the State under **Article 357(1)(a)**. The President then makes laws for that State without a separate Bill in Parliament. These are called **President's Acts**.

Art. 356 and 357

- 356 is imposed when the constitutional machinery in a State fails
- The executive powers of the State government pass to the President
- Laws made under 357 continue even after the Proclamation ends, until the state legislature changes or repeals them
- An ordinance under Article 123 comes only when Parliament is not in session, and it is not for the State List

Examiner's Trap The option 'State Legislative Assembly is prorogued' gives ordinance power (Article 213) to the **Governor**, not to the President.

30 **ANSWER (c)** The views of the State Legislature must be considered

SSC Phase-XIV (Graduation) 25 Sep 2026, Shift-I

Look at the **proviso to Article 3**. A Bill to change a State's boundary, area or name is introduced only on the President's recommendation, and the

President refers it to the State Legislature concerned to **express its views** within a fixed time. That is the only constitutional safeguard for the State's interest.

Article 3 and 4

• The State's views are only advisory, and Parliament or the President is not bound to accept them
• Such a Bill is passed in Parliament by a **simple majority**
• **Article 4**: laws under Articles 2 and 3 are not treated as amendments under Article 368
• **Berubari Union case (1960)**: ceding Indian territory to a foreign country needs an amendment under 368

Examiner's Trap 'Prior approval of the State Legislature' is wrong. The State is only asked for its views, not its approval. This is why India is called 'an indestructible Union of destructible States'.

31 **ANSWER (b)** Article 263

SSC Phase-XIV (12th) 17 Sep 2026, Shift-II

Article 263 empowers the President to set up an **Inter-State Council**. The aim is coordination and discussion on common matters between the Centre and the States, or among the States themselves.

Inter-State Council

• Set up in **1990** by a Presidential order, on the recommendation of the **Sarkaria Commission**
• Chaired by the **Prime Minister**
• Members: Chief Ministers of all States and of UTs with Assemblies, Administrators of other UTs, and six Union Cabinet Ministers
• It is only an advisory body

Other options: 261 gives full faith and credit to public acts and judicial proceedings. 267 is the Contingency Fund. And 272 was actually deleted by the 80th Amendment (2000).

32 **ANSWER (a)** Inter-State Council

SSC Phase-XIV (Matric) 16 Sep 2026, Shift-III

Cooperative federalism means the Centre and the States make policy together. The institutional platform for this is the **Inter-State Council** (Article 263), where both sit and talk over common issues. So this is the best example of **cooperative federalism**.

Cooperative Federalism

• The President sets it up to inquire into and advise on subjects of common interest
• First formed in 1990, on the Sarkaria Commission's recommendation
• Chaired by the PM, with all Chief Ministers, UT representatives and six Cabinet Ministers as members
• The Governing Council of NITI Aayog is another such platform

Other options: emergency provisions concentrate power in the Centre, single citizenship is a unitary feature, and judicial review is judicial control, not cooperation.

33 **ANSWER (b)** National Emergency

SSC Phase-XIV (Matric) 16 Sep 2026, Shift-III

When a **National Emergency** (Article 352) is in force, **Article 250** lets Parliament make laws on any State List subject for the whole country or any part of it. In a crisis the structure becomes unitary for a while, and this is the flexibility of Indian federalism.

Article 250

• Grounds for 352: war, external aggression or armed rebellion
• Laws made under 250 cease to have effect **six months after** the Emergency ends
• The state legislature's power is not suspended, but in a conflict the law of Parliament prevails
• Under 249, Parliament can also legislate on the State List through a two-thirds resolution of the Rajya Sabha

Other options: a Financial Emergency (Article 360) lets the Centre give financial directions, not make laws on the State List. Constitutional amendment and judicial review also give no temporary legislative power.

34 **ANSWER (b)** Doctrine of Repugnancy

SSC Phase-XIV (Matric) 17 Sep 2026, Shift-III

Notice two things here. The Central and State laws clash on a Concurrent List subject, and the State law already has the President's assent. Such a clash is settled by the **Doctrine of Repugnancy** under **Article 254**. Once the President gives assent, the

State law continues to operate in that State.

Article 254

• 254(1): the general rule is that in a clash the Central law prevails and the State law is void to the extent of repugnancy
• 254(2): a State law reserved for the President and assented to remains in force in that State
• Even then, Parliament can later amend or repeal it by making a fresh law
• The Concurrent List (List III) is in the Seventh Schedule. This idea was borrowed from Australia

Coming to the other options, the Doctrine of Eclipse deals with pre-Constitution laws and Fundamental Rights. Under Severability, the unconstitutional part is cut away from the rest. Pith and Substance decides which list a law really belongs to.

35 **ANSWER (c)** Article 4

SSC Phase-XIV (Matric) 19 Sep 2026, Shift-III

Laws made under Articles 2 and 3 can carry supplemental provisions, such as changes to the First and Fourth Schedules. This is what **Article 4** says. It also says that such laws are not amendments under Article 368.

Articles 2, 3 and 4

• 4(2): these laws are not amendments within the meaning of Article 368
• That is why Parliament passes them by a **simple majority**
• Article 2: admission or establishment of outside territory as a new State
• Article 3: reorganisation of existing States, forming a new State, changing boundaries or names

36 **ANSWER (b)** Article 2

SSC Phase-XIV (Matric) 22 Sep 2026, Shift-III

The power to **admit** or **establish** new States is given to Parliament by **Article 2**. Parliament can do this on terms and conditions it thinks fit.

Remember: Art. 1 to 4

• Article 2 is for areas that were not part of the Union of India earlier, like Sikkim
• Article 1: "India, that is Bharat, shall be a Union of States"
• Article 3: forming a new State out of existing States, changing boundaries or names
• Article 4: laws made under 2 and 3 are not counted as constitutional amendments

Examiner's Trap In the exam, 2 and 3 are often mixed up. Keep it simple: **2 means bringing in from outside**, **3 means changes among the States inside**.

PART G Emergency & Constitutional Amendment

37 **ANSWER (a)** Article 21 - Protection of life and personal liberty

SSC Phase-XIV (Graduation) 18 Sep 2026, Shift-I

After the **44th Amendment (1978)**, the President cannot use Article 359 to suspend the enforcement of **Articles 20 and 21**, even in a National Emergency. So the right to life and personal liberty stays protected in every situation.

Emergency: Art. 358/359

• Article 20: protection in respect of conviction for offences
• Article 358: in an Emergency on grounds of war or external aggression, Article 19 is suspended automatically
• In an Emergency declared on the ground of armed rebellion, Article 19 is not suspended automatically
• Article 359: enforcement of the other Fundamental Rights can be suspended by Presidential order

Note An easy way to remember: **Articles 20 and 21** are never taken away, even in an Emergency. "20-21, never gone."

38 **ANSWER (a)** Formation of a new State

SSC Phase-XIV (Graduation) 18 Sep 2026, Shift-I

A new State is formed by an **ordinary law** of Parliament under Article 3. Article 4(2) clearly says such a law is not an amendment under Article 368. So no special procedure is needed here.

Article 3 vs 368

• Such a Bill is introduced in Parliament only on the prior recommendation of the President
• The President seeks the views of the affected State Legislature, but those views are not binding
• Changing the Seventh Schedule distribution needs

a special majority plus ratification by half the States
• Changes in Rajya Sabha representation and High Courts also fall under the federal provisions of 368(2)

Other options: the distribution of legislative powers, representation in the Rajya Sabha and the provisions on High Courts all need an amendment under Article 368.

39 ANSWER (d) Uniform Civil Code

SSC Phase-XIV (Graduation) 21 Sep 2026, Shift-I

Judicial review, federalism and secularism have all been held to be part of the basic structure by the Supreme Court in different judgments. The **Uniform Civil Code** is a different case. It is only a Directive Principle under Article 44 and has never been declared part of the basic structure.

Basic Structure Cases

• The basic structure doctrine began with **Kesavananda Bharati (1973)**
• Judicial review: Minerva Mills (1980), L. Chandra Kumar (1997)
• Secularism and federalism: **S.R. Bommai (1994)**
• UCC is in Article 44, Part IV (DPSP), so it cannot be enforced in a court

40 ANSWER (d) First Amendment

SSC Phase-XIV (Graduation) 23 Sep 2026, Shift-I

The **First Amendment (1951)** added Article 31B and the **Ninth Schedule**. The aim was to keep laws like land reform laws safe from judicial review. Later, in **I.R. Coelho (2007)**, the Supreme Court limited this shield.

Ninth Schedule

• The Coelho judgment was given by a 9-judge bench
• Laws placed in the Ninth Schedule after **24 April 1973** (the date of the Kesavananda judgment) can be reviewed
• Such a law can be struck down if it violates the basic structure (like the essence of Articles 14, 19, 21)
• The First Amendment also added new grounds in Articles 15(4) and 19(2)

41 ANSWER (c) By the President during a National Emergency

SSC Phase-XIV (Graduation) 23 Sep 2026, Shift-I

Fundamental Rights can be suspended only during a **National Emergency (Article 352)**, and this power lies with the **President**. Under Article 359, the President can by order suspend the right to move the courts for these rights.

Articles 352, 358, 359

• Grounds of National Emergency: war, external aggression, armed rebellion
• 358: if the Emergency is on external grounds, Article 19 is suspended automatically
• 359: enforcement of the other rights is suspended by Presidential order
• After the 44th Amendment, Articles 20 and 21 are never suspended

Looking at the other options, Fundamental Rights are not suspended in a Financial Emergency (Article 360). The Prime Minister has no such power at all. Parliament can amend, but that is not called "suspension".

42 ANSWER (c) Article 365

SSC Phase-XIV (Graduation) 25 Sep 2026, Shift-I

Article 365 says that if a State does not comply with the directions of the Union, the President may hold that the government there cannot be carried on as per the Constitution. President's Rule is then imposed on this basis.

Article 356 vs 365

• 365: not following Union directions, a ground for treating the constitutional machinery as failed
• 356: President's Rule is actually imposed under this Article
• 352 is National Emergency, 360 is Financial Emergency
• Parliament's approval is needed within 2 months

Examiner's Trap Normally, President's Rule means Article 356. The wording of the question is a little loose, but the focus here is on "not complying with Union directions". That is why **Article 365** was taken as correct in the exam.

43 **ANSWER (b)** Three

SSC Phase-XIV (12th) 17 Sep 2026, Shift-II

Part XVIII of the Constitution gives the President power over **three** kinds of emergency. First, National Emergency. Second, failure of constitutional machinery in a State (President's Rule). Third, Financial Emergency.

Emergency: Three Types

- National Emergency: Article 352 (war, external aggression, armed rebellion)
- President's Rule: Article 356
- Financial Emergency: Article 360, never imposed in India so far
- The 44th Amendment (1978) replaced "internal disturbance" with "armed rebellion"

Note The emergency provisions were borrowed from **Germany (Weimar Constitution)**.

PART H Supreme Court and High Court

44 **ANSWER (a)** Elijah Impey

SSC Phase-XIV (Graduation) 23 Sep 2026, Shift-I

The **Regulating Act, 1773** set up a Supreme Court at Calcutta (Fort William). Its first Chief Justice was **Sir Elijah Impey**.

Regulating Act 1773

- The Supreme Court of Judicature, Calcutta was set up in 1774
- It had 1 Chief Justice and 3 other judges
- Impey was a school friend of Governor-General Warren Hastings
- The controversial hanging of Maharaja Nand Kumar in 1775 was a case of this court

Other options: the Sadler Commission (1917) was on Calcutta University and education, the Hartog Committee (1929) was also on education, and the Lee Commission (1923) was on the public services.

45 **ANSWER (b)** Constitutional interpretation

SSC Phase-XIV (12th) 17 Sep 2026, Shift-II

In a federation with limited government, the Constitution fixes the limits of every organ. Now, who gives the final meaning of these limits? The **Supreme Court**. That is why it is treated as the final authority on **constitutional interpretation**.

SC: Jurisdiction

- The Supreme Court guards the balance of power between the Centre and the States
- Article 131: original jurisdiction in Centre-State disputes
- Article 132: appeals on constitutional questions
- The power of judicial review flows from Articles 13 and 32

46 **ANSWER (b)** NALSA vs Union of India and Others

SSC Phase-XIV (12th) 24 Sep 2026, Shift-II

Transgender persons were legally recognised as the **'third gender'** in **NALSA vs Union of India (2014)**. The same judgment also affirmed their Fundamental Rights.

NALSA Case 2014

- April 2014, bench of Justices K.S. Radhakrishnan and A.K. Sikri
- Articles 14, 15, 19 and 21 apply to transgender persons too
- Governments were asked to treat them as socially and educationally backward and give them reservation
- Later came the Transgender Persons (Protection of Rights) Act, 2019

Other options: Puttaswamy (2017) is the right to privacy case. Vishaka (1997) gave guidelines on sexual harassment at the workplace. After Navtej Johar (2018), homosexuality is no longer a crime under Section 377.

47 **ANSWER (c)** The Governor of the State

SSC Phase-XIV (12th) 25 Sep 2026, Shift-II

Before taking office, a High Court judge takes the oath before the **Governor of the State** or a person appointed by the Governor. This is laid down in **Article 219**.

High Court Judges

- Appointed by the President, Article 217
- Form of oath in the **Third Schedule**
- Retirement age **62 years**
- Resignation is addressed to the President

Examiner's Trap A Supreme Court judge is sworn in

by the **President** (Article 124(6)), while a High Court judge is sworn in by the **Governor**. The exam often swaps these two.

48 **ANSWER (c)** Criminal matters

SSC Phase-XIV (Matric) 16 Sep 2026, Shift-III

An appeal to the Supreme Court against a High Court judgment in **criminal matters** lies under **Article 134**.

Article 134: Criminal

- If the High Court reverses an acquittal and awards the death sentence, appeal lies as of right
- If the High Court withdraws a case from a lower court and awards the death sentence, appeal also lies
- Article 132 is for constitutional matters, 133 for civil matters
- Article 136: Special Leave Petition (SLP)

Note Learn the order: **132 Constitution, 133 Civil, 134 Criminal**.

49 **ANSWER (b)** Cases relating to civil judgments

SSC Phase-XIV (Matric) 18 Sep 2026, Shift-III

Article 133 is the civil one. Appeals to the Supreme Court against a **civil** judgment, decree or final order of a High Court lie under it.

Article 133: Civil

- Appeal lies only if the High Court certifies that the case involves a substantial question of law of general importance
- The High Court must also be of the opinion that the Supreme Court should decide it
- 132: cases on the interpretation of the Constitution
- 134: criminal cases

50 **ANSWER (a)** Justice D.Y. Chandrachud

SSC Phase-XIV (Matric) 23 Sep 2026, Shift-III

In December 2023, a five-judge Constitution Bench headed by **CJI D.Y. Chandrachud** unanimously upheld the decision to abrogate Article 370.

Current: Article 370

- Chandrachud was the **50th** Chief Justice of India
- The verdict came on 11 December 2023
- The bench treated 370 as a **temporary provision**
- The court also stressed holding elections in J&K and restoring statehood

Other options: N.V. Ramana was the 48th, U.U. Lalit the 49th and Ranjan Gogoi the 46th CJI.

51 **ANSWER (d)** Supreme Court

SSC Phase-XIV (Matric) 23 Sep 2026, Shift-III

The final interpretation of the Constitution is done by the **Supreme Court**, and its word binds every court in the country.

Articles 141 and 143

- Article 141: law declared by the SC is binding on all courts
- The SC is called the "guardian of the Constitution"
- Article 143: the President can seek the SC's advice
- 145(3): a bench of at least 5 judges for cases on interpreting the Constitution

Looking at the other options, the Law Commission is only an advisory, non-constitutional body. Parliament makes laws, and the President is the head of the executive.

52 **ANSWER (c)** High Court

SSC Phase-XIV (Matric) 24 Sep 2026, Shift-III

Where does the appeal come from? From the **High Court**. Under Article 133, an appeal lies to the SC against a judgment, decree or final order of a High Court in civil matters, provided the High Court grants a certificate.

Appeals to SC

- Condition for the certificate: a substantial question of law of general importance
- Under 132, 133 and 134, the appeal goes only from the High Court
- Article 134A: procedure for the High Court to grant a certificate
- No direct appeal goes to the SC from a District or Sessions Court

PART I Local Government

53 **ANSWER (b)** 73rd

SSC Phase-XIV (12th) 22 Sep 2026, Shift-II

Panchayati Raj got constitutional status through the **73rd Amendment, 1992**. It added Part IX and the Eleventh Schedule.

73rd vs 74th

• In force from 24 April 1993, so this day is **National Panchayati Raj Day**
• Part IX: Articles 243 to 243-O
• The Eleventh Schedule has **29 subjects**
• The 74th Amendment is about municipalities (Part IXA, Twelfth Schedule, 18 subjects)

Other options: the 61st Amendment lowered the voting age from 21 to 18, the 74th is about urban local bodies, and the 86th brought the Right to Education (Article 21A).

54 **ANSWER (c)** Sixth Schedule

SSC Phase-XIV (Matric) 24 Sep 2026, Shift-III

The tribal areas of **Assam, Meghalaya, Tripura and Mizoram** are run through Autonomous District Councils (ADCs), and the provisions for this are in the **Sixth Schedule**.

Sixth Schedule: AMTM

• Related Articles: 244(2) and 275(1)
• ADCs get some legislative, judicial and administrative powers
• The Fifth Schedule covers Scheduled Areas in the other States, leaving out these four
• Memory code: **AMTM**

Other options: the Ninth Schedule has laws shielded from judicial review, the Seventh has the Union-State lists, and the Fifth deals with Scheduled Areas of the other States.

PART J Constitutional and Non-Constitutional Bodies

55 **ANSWER (c)** To recommend the distribution of taxes between the Centre and the States

SSC Phase-XIV (Graduation) 18 Sep 2026, Shift-I

The real job of the Finance Commission is to advise on sharing money. Under **Article 280**, it recommends to the President the **distribution** of the net proceeds of taxes between the Centre and the States, and the share of each State among themselves.

Finance Commission

• Constituted by the President every **5 years** (or earlier)
• 1 Chairman and 4 other members
• It also suggests the principles for grants-in-aid (Article 275)
• First Chairman K.C. Neogy, 16th Chairman Arvind Panagariya

Other options: the budget is passed by Parliament, Five-Year Plan funds were handled by the Planning Commission, and GST matters are with the GST Council.

56 **ANSWER (c)** Girish Chandra Murmu

SSC Phase-XIV (Matric) 25 Sep 2026, Shift-III

Girish Chandra Murmu became the **first Lieutenant Governor** of the UT of Jammu and Kashmir after the 2019 reorganisation. Then in August 2020 he became the **14th CAG** of India.

CAG: Article 148

• Murmu is a 1985 batch IAS officer of the Gujarat cadre
• The CAG is appointed by the President, Article 148
• Tenure is 6 years or up to 65 years of age, whichever is earlier
• The CAG submits reports to the President/ Governor, which are laid before Parliament/the Legislature

Other options: Vinod Rai was the 11th, Shashi Kant Sharma the 12th and Rajiv Mehrishi the 13th CAG. None of them was Lieutenant Governor of J&K.

PART K New Criminal Laws 2023

57 **ANSWER (c)** A cannot claim protection because he voluntarily placed himself under compulsion/ duress.

SSC Phase-XIV (Graduation) 17 Sep 2026, Shift-I

The key point here is that A joined the gang **of his own accord**. The exception for threats in BNS **Section 32** (old IPC Section 94) is available only for fear of **instant death**. A person who joins such a gang voluntarily, or out of fear of a mere beating, does not get this defence.

BNS 32: Duress

• The exception does not apply to murder and offences against the State punishable with death
• The threat must be of instant death, not of simple hurt
• One who voluntarily put himself under compulsion cannot claim the defence
• The General Exceptions of the BNS are in Chapter III (Sections 14-44)

Examiner's Trap Option A is tempting because the threat was of "instant death". But the case is decided by the fact that A joined the gang **voluntarily**.

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58 ANSWER (c) A must continue imprisonment only in proportion to the unpaid part of the fine.

SSC Phase-XIV (Graduation) 19 Sep 2026, Shift-I

Imprisonment in default of fine reduces **proportionately**. If part of the fine is paid, the imprisonment remains only **in proportion to the unpaid part** (BNS Section 8, old IPC Sections 65-70).

Default Imprisonment Rule
• Here, 1 year of default imprisonment stands against the full ₹20,000
• Half the fine is unpaid, which means about 6 months of imprisonment
• A has already served 6 months, so the default imprisonment ends once the proportion is met
• If the full fine is paid, default imprisonment ends at once

Examiner's Trap Option B seems to give a similar result, but its reason is wrong. Paying half the money does not end the sentence **automatically**. Release comes only through the **rule of proportion**.

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59 ANSWER (b) It is deemed to be a complaint, and the police officer is deemed to be the complainant.

SSC Phase-XIV (Graduation) 22 Sep 2026, Shift-I

When the police investigate a non-cognizable offence and submit a report, it is deemed a **complaint**, and the officer who made the report is deemed the **complainant**. This is in the Explanation to **Section 2(1)(h)** of the BNSS.

BNSS: Complaint
• The BNSS, 2023 replaced the CrPC, 1973
• Earlier, the same point was in Section 2(d) of the CrPC
• In a non-cognizable offence, the police cannot investigate without the Magistrate's permission
• The new criminal laws came into force on 1 July 2024

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60 ANSWER (b) The consent is invalid because it was obtained under a misconception of fact.

SSC Phase-XIV (Graduation) 24 Sep 2026, Shift-I

A got a yes by lying. Consent given under a **misconception of fact**, when the person taking it knows this, is not consent in law at all. So A is liable for the injury.

BNS 28: Consent
• The rule is in **BNS Section 28** (old IPC Section 90)
• Consent given under fear of injury is also invalid
• Consent of a person of unsound mind or an intoxicated person does not count
• Consent of a child under 12 years is also invalid

Other options: even clearly given consent is worthless if it was taken by deceit. The age condition is a separate ground, and the invalidity of consent does not depend on how serious the injury is.

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61 ANSWER (b) Oral evidence

SSC Phase-XIV (12th) 16 Sep 2026, Shift-II

Oral evidence must always be **direct**. This means the witness should state only what he himself saw, heard or perceived.

BSA 55: Oral Evidence
• The rule is in **BSA Section 55** (Section 60 of the old law)
• Hearsay is generally not accepted
• The BSA replaced the Indian Evidence Act, 1872
• Documentary evidence can be either primary or secondary

Other options: documentary, electronic and secondary evidence have their own separate rules. The "direct" condition is specifically for oral evidence.

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62 **ANSWER (a)** Only 1

SSC Phase-XIV (12th) 16 Sep 2026, Shift-II

Statement 1 is correct. As per BSA **Section 1**, it applies to judicial proceedings in every court, including courts-martial. Statement 2 is wrong, because this law does not apply at all to **affidavits** presented to a court or officer. So the answer is **Only 1**.

BSA: Section 1

- It also does not apply to proceedings before an arbitrator
- Affidavits follow separate procedural rules (such as the CPC, BNSS)
- In force from 1 July 2024
- Applies to the whole of India

63 **ANSWER (a)** Mob lynching as a specific offence

SSC Phase-XIV (12th) 17 Sep 2026, Shift-II

Mob lynching has been made a **separate offence** for the first time in the Bharatiya Nyaya Sanhita, under **Section 103(2)**. It applies when a group of five or more people commits murder on grounds such as caste, community, sex or language.

What's New in BNS

- Punishment: death or life imprisonment, along with fine
- The BNS replaced the IPC, 1860
- The BNS has **358 sections** in all
- Organised crime, terrorist acts and community service are also new additions

Other options: blasphemy and triple talaq did not come into the BNS as new offences. Triple talaq has a separate 2019 law, and manual scavenging has a separate 2013 Act.

64 **ANSWER (a)** It involves violence by a group on grounds such as identity or suspicion

SSC Phase-XIV (12th) 18 Sep 2026, Shift-II

Look at BNS **Section 103(2)**. When a **group of five or more persons** commits murder on **identity-based** grounds such as race, caste, community, sex, place of birth, language or personal belief, it is called mob lynching.

Mob Lynching: 103(2)

- Punishment: death or life imprisonment and fine
- Section 117(4): grievous hurt caused by a group on the same grounds is also punishable
- Proving religious intent is not necessary
- **Every member** of the group can get the same punishment

The other options fail because neither religious intent nor prior conspiracy has to be proved, and this is not simple assault but a grave category of murder.

65 **ANSWER (b)** Terrorism aims to threaten national security, while organised crime focuses on illegal gain.

SSC Phase-XIV (12th) 18 Sep 2026, Shift-II

The difference lies in the motive. **Terrorism** aims to threaten the unity, sovereignty and security of the country or to spread terror among the people. **Organised crime** aims to earn **money or material benefit** through illegal activities.

BNS 111 vs 113

- Terrorist act: **BNS Section 113**
- Organised crime: **Section 111**, petty organised crime: Section 112
- Organised crime covers kidnapping, extortion, cyber crime, human trafficking and the like
- Both were added for the first time in the BNS

Other options: the BNS defines the two in separate sections. Terrorism does not need financial gain, and organised crime also covers non-violent acts like economic or cyber crimes.

66 **ANSWER (c)** All judicial proceedings and courts-martial

SSC Phase-XIV (12th) 19 Sep 2026, Shift-II

According to BSA **Section 1**, this law applies to **all judicial proceedings** before courts, and these include **courts-martial**.

BSA: Where It Applies

- Not applicable to affidavits and proceedings before an arbitrator
- The BSA replaced the Evidence Act of 1872
- Applies to both civil and criminal cases
- Executive (administrative) inquiries are outside its scope

Examiner's Trap Option B adds "all executive inquiries". That is the trap, because the law of evidence applies only to **judicial** proceedings.

67 **ANSWER (b)** A report registered irrespective of the jurisdiction of the offence

SSC Phase-XIV (12th) 19 Sep 2026, Shift-II

The defining feature of a **Zero FIR** is that you can lodge it at **any police station**, whether or not the offence took place in that station's area.

Zero FIR: BNSS 173

- **Section 173** of the BNSS gave it a legal basis
- After registration, the FIR is sent to the police station with proper jurisdiction
- It was recommended by the Justice Verma Committee (after 2012)
- Aim: the justice process starts at once for the victim

Other options: a report lodged electronically is called an e-FIR. Not naming a suspect or having no evidence is not what defines a Zero FIR.

68 **ANSWER (b)** Section 69

SSC Phase-XIV (12th) 21 Sep 2026, Shift-II

Among the options, only **Section 69** deals with offences against women. It punishes sexual intercourse by deceit or on a false promise of marriage or a job. **Chapter V** of the BNS covers offences against women and children.

BNS: Chapter V

- Section 69 carries imprisonment up to **10 years** and fine
- This is a new offence in the BNS
- Punishment for rape: Section 64
- Outraging the modesty of a woman: Section 74 (old IPC Section 354)

Examiner's Trap Section 354 is also about women, but it belonged to the **old IPC**. In the BNS, its place is taken by Section 74.

69 **ANSWER (b)** Bharatiya Sakshya Adhiniyam

SSC Phase-XIV (12th) 22 Sep 2026, Shift-II

The **Bharatiya Sakshya Adhiniyam, 2023** replaced the old law of 1872 and modernised the rules of evidence. Electronic and digital records got wide recognition as primary evidence.

New Criminal Laws

- Presidential assent in December 2023
- In force from 1 July 2024
- **170 sections** in all
- The BNS replaced the IPC, and the BNSS replaced the CrPC

Examiner's Trap Option D, "Indian Evidence Act", points to the old **1872** law. The new 2023 law is option B.

70 **ANSWER (c)** Community service

SSC Phase-XIV (12th) 23 Sep 2026, Shift-II

Section 4 of the BNS lists the punishments, and **Community Service** is a new addition to it. It is meant for minor offences.

BNS 4(f)

- Community service is mentioned in Section 4(f)
- The idea: reformative justice
- Examples: petty theft below ₹5,000 (on returning the property), misconduct in public by a drunken person, attempting suicide to restrain a public servant
- Other punishments: death, life imprisonment, rigorous/simple imprisonment, forfeiture of property, fine

Other options: fine, forfeiture of property and rigorous imprisonment were already there in the IPC (Section 53).

71 **ANSWER (d)** The concepts of E-FIR and Zero FIR have been strengthened.

SSC Phase-XIV (12th) 23 Sep 2026, Shift-II

Section 173 of the BNSS gave a legal basis to the **e-FIR** (information given electronically) and the **Zero FIR** (without regard to jurisdiction). This made it easier to lodge an FIR.

BNSS: FIR Changes

- The person giving an e-FIR must sign it within **3 days**
- For certain offences punishable with 3 to 7 years, a preliminary inquiry can be held within 14 days with the DSP's permission
- A copy of the FIR is free to the informant or victim

• The BNSS replaced the CrPC, 1973

Other options: the jurisdiction restriction has in fact been removed. A preliminary inquiry is only for some cases, not all. And in a cognizable offence, registering the FIR is the duty of the police.

72 **ANSWER (a)** It continues with the same principles as the earlier law

SSC Phase-XIV (12th) 26 Sep 2026, Shift-I

Res Gestae means the relevancy of facts that form part of the same chain of events. In the new law too, it continues with **the same principles as before**. Only the section number has changed.

Res Gestae

• In the BSA, 2023: **Section 4**
• In the 1872 Act: **Section 6**
• Such facts are relevant even if they occurred at different times or places
• Applies in both civil and criminal cases

73 **ANSWER (d)** It lies mainly on the prosecution but can shift in specific circumstances.

SSC Phase-XIV (12th) 26 Sep 2026, Shift-I

In a criminal case, the **main burden** of proving the offence lies on the **prosecution**. But in some special situations, such as a legal presumption or a fact known only to the accused, the burden **shifts to the accused**.

Burden of Proof

• General rule: **BSA Section 104** (old Section 101)
• A fact especially within someone's knowledge must be proved by that person: Section 109
• If the accused claims an exception like self-defence, he must prove it: Section 108
• In presumptions like dowry death, the burden is on the accused

Other options: this rule applies to both civil and criminal cases. The burden is not always on the accused, it shifts with the circumstances.

74 **ANSWER (c)** It is treated as primary evidence if certified as per Section 63.

SSC Phase-XIV (Matric) 17 Sep 2026, Shift-III

In the BSA, 2023, digital/electronic records have been given the same status as documents. If produced with the certificate under **Section 63**, they are treated as **primary evidence**.

Digital Evidence: BSA 63

• BSA Section 63 = old **Section 65B**
• The format of the certificate is in the **Schedule** to the Act
• Emails, server logs, smartphones, location data and voice mail all count as electronic records
• Electronic records are admissible for every kind of offence

75 **ANSWER (b)** Minor first-time offences such as public intoxication or small-scale theft

SSC Phase-XIV (Matric) 19 Sep 2026, Shift-III

Community service is mainly meant for **minor first-time offences**, such as petty theft or creating a nuisance while drunk in public. The idea is to give a chance to reform instead of sending the person to jail.

Community Service

• Provision: BNS **Section 4(f)**
• The aim is **reform**, not punishment
• It also reduces the burden on jails
• All three new criminal laws came into force on 1 July 2024

Other options: serious crimes like terrorism and organised crime carry harsh punishments. Not paying corporate tax is a matter for the tax laws.

76 **ANSWER (b)** A group of 5 or more

SSC Phase-XIV (Matric) 19 Sep 2026, Shift-III

A minimum of **5 people**. BNS **Section 103(2)** applies only when a group of five or more persons commits murder on grounds such as caste, race, community, sex or language.

Remember: Number 5

• Punishment: death or life imprisonment, along with fine
• Every member of the group can get the same punishment
• Unlawful assembly also needs a minimum of 5 persons
• This was not a separate offence in the IPC

Note Fix the "**5**" rule of the BNS in your mind.

Unlawful assembly, dacoity and mob lynching all need at least 5 people.

PART L Important Acts

77 **ANSWER (c)** Scheduled Tribes

SSC Phase-XIV (12th) 21 Sep 2026, Shift-II

Scheduled Tribes have been kept out of Uttarakhand's **Uniform Civil Code (UCC)**, so that their customary practices and constitutional safeguards remain intact.

Current: Uttarakhand UCC

- In February 2024, it became the **first State** of independent India to pass a UCC
- In force from **27 January 2025**
- Uniform rules on marriage, divorce, succession and registration of live-in relationships
- In the Constitution, the UCC is in Article 44 (DPSP). Goa already follows the Portuguese Civil Code

Other options: the Jain, Christian and Muslim communities are covered by the Uttarakhand UCC. The exemption is given only to Scheduled Tribes.

78 **ANSWER (b)** 14 years

SSC Phase-XIV (12th) 25 Sep 2026, Shift-II

The **Child Labour (Prohibition and Regulation) Act, 1986** bans the employment of children below **14 years** of age in hazardous occupations and processes.

Child Labour Act

- **Article 24** of the Constitution: no child below 14 in factories, mines or hazardous work
- The 2016 amendment banned employment of children below 14 in **all occupations** (family work and artists are exceptions)
- After 2016 it was renamed the Child and Adolescent Labour (Prohibition and Regulation) Act
- Adolescents aged 14-18 cannot be employed in hazardous work

Note **12 June**: World Day Against Child Labour.

PART M Miscellaneous

79 **ANSWER (c)** Police and Judiciary

SSC Phase-XIV (12th) 24 Sep 2026, Shift-II

Parliament makes laws, but who enforces them on the ground? That job belongs to two institutions. The **police** investigate crimes and arrest the accused, and the **judiciary** hears the case and punishes the guilty.

Static GK: Police & Law

- 'Police' and 'Public Order' are in the State List (List-II) of the Seventh Schedule.
- Criminal law and criminal procedure are subjects of the Concurrent List (List-III).
- Since 1 July 2024, the BNS (Bharatiya Nyaya Sanhita) has replaced the IPC, and the BNSS (Bharatiya Nagarik Suraksha Sanhita) has replaced the CrPC.
- In a cognizable offence, the police can arrest without a warrant

Look at the other options. Parliament's job is to make laws, not to enforce them. The Election Commission only conducts elections.

Examiner's Trap Don't tick 'Parliament' just because you see it. Parliament makes the law, but the question asks about **enforcing** it.

80 **ANSWER (c)** Third Schedule

SSC Phase-XIV (Matric) 21 Sep 2026, Shift-III

The forms of oath are given in the **Third Schedule**. It covers the oaths of Ministers (Union and State), MPs, MLAs, candidates for election, judges of the Supreme Court and High Courts, and the CAG.

Schedules 1 to 4

- First Schedule: names and territories of States and UTs
- Second Schedule: salaries and allowances of the President, Governors, judges, CAG etc.
- Third Schedule: oaths or affirmations
- Fourth Schedule: allocation of seats in the Rajya Sabha

Note Remember, the oaths of the President (Art. 60), the Vice-President (Art. 69) and the Governor (Art. 159) are in the **Articles**, not in the Third Schedule. Examiners love to trap students on

exactly this.

81 **ANSWER (d)** Provisions related to official languages

SSC Phase-XIV (Matric) 25 Sep 2026, Shift-III

The **Eighth Schedule** means languages. Today it lists **22 languages**.

8th Schedule: Languages

- The original Constitution had 14 languages
- 21st Amendment (1967): Sindhi added
- 71st Amendment (1992): Konkani, Manipuri, Nepali
- 92nd Amendment (2003): Bodo, Dogri, Maithili, Santhali
- The language provisions are in Part XVII (Art. 343-351)

Other options: the division of powers is in the Seventh Schedule, and Rajya Sabha seats are in the Fourth. Lok Sabha seat allocation is not in any Schedule. It is in Art. 81.

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07
CHAPTER

Geography

Questions *81 questions · 26 shifts*

PART A Solar System

Directions (Q. 01–14): *Choose the correct answer from the four given options.*

01 At which of the following places will the duration of the day be the longest in the month of June?

SSC Phase-XIV (Graduation) 22 Sep 2026, Shift-I

(a) Hyderabad (b) Chennai
(c) Bhopal (d) Delhi

02 Which is the brightest star visible in the night sky?

SSC Phase-XIV (12th) 17 Sep 2026, Shift-II

(a) Pole Star (Polaris) (b) Sirius (Dog Star)
(c) Betelgeuse (Ardra) (d) Vega (Abhijit)

03 At what angle is the Earth's axis tilted?

SSC Phase-XIV (12th) 26 Sep 2026, Shift-I

(a) 20° (b) 23.4° (c) 25° (d) 30°

04 Why do the polar regions experience extended periods of continuous daylight or darkness during certain times of the year?

SSC Phase-XIV (Matric) 16 Sep 2026, Shift-III

(a) Lack of atmosphere
(b) Effect of the Earth's axial tilt
(c) Rotation of the Moon
(d) Ocean currents

05 What is the basic cause of the regular occurrence of day and night on the Earth, due to which it experiences alternating periods of light and darkness?

SSC Phase-XIV (Matric) 17 Sep 2026, Shift-III

(a) Annual revolution around the Sun
(b) Daily rotation on its axis
(c) Gravitational pull of the Moon
(d) Fluctuations in solar radiation

06 Which phenomenon is responsible for the apparent displacement (change) in the position of stars in the night sky when observed from the Earth at different times?

SSC Phase-XIV (Matric) 17 Sep 2026, Shift-III

(a) Revolution of the Earth around the Sun
(b) Rotation of the Earth on its axis
(c) Phases of the Moon
(d) Solar flares

07 In astronomy, what is the name of the galaxy that contains our Solar System and billions of other stars and planetary systems?

SSC Phase-XIV (Matric) 18 Sep 2026, Shift-III

(a) Andromeda Galaxy (b) Milky Way Galaxy
(c) Orion Nebula (d) Pegasus Cluster

08 Which planet of our Solar System is known as the Red Planet due to the presence of iron oxide, which gives it a reddish appearance?

SSC Phase-XIV (Matric) 19 Sep 2026, Shift-III

(a) Venus with a dense atmosphere
(b) Jupiter with a gaseous composition
(c) Mars with an iron-rich surface
(d) Saturn with rings

09 Why does the Earth maintain a nearly constant distance from the Sun while revolving around it in an elliptical orbit?

SSC Phase-XIV (Matric) 19 Sep 2026, Shift-III

(a) Magnetic force
(b) Gravitational balance
(c) Air pressure
(d) Wind currents

10 Considering the tilt and motion of the Earth relative to the Sun throughout the year, which factor is the main cause of the change of seasons on the Earth?

SSC Phase-XIV (Matric) 21 Sep 2026, Shift-III

(a) Changing Earth-Sun distance
(b) Tilt of the Earth's axis
(c) Speed of the Earth's rotation
(d) Shifting of ocean currents

11 Why does the Sun appear to rise in the east and set in the west every day when seen from the Earth?

SSC Phase-XIV (Matric) 21 Sep 2026, Shift-III

(a) The Sun revolves around the Earth
(b) The Earth rotates from west to east
(c) Motion of the Moon
(d) Direction of the wind

12 Which factor is responsible for the apparent change in the constellations visible in the night sky during different seasons of the year?

SSC Phase-XIV (Matric) 23 Sep 2026, Shift-III

(a) Rotation of the Earth only
(b) Revolution of the Earth around the Sun
(c) Phases of the Moon
(d) Solar radiation

13 What is the correct scientific explanation for the occurrence of solar and lunar eclipses based on the alignment of celestial bodies?

SSC Phase-XIV (Matric) 24 Sep 2026, Shift-III

(a) Change in solar radiation
(b) Alignment of the Sun, the Earth and the Moon in a straight line
(c) Variation in rotational speed
(d) Magnetic disturbances in space

14 Which motion of the Earth is responsible for the completion of a full year and influences the cycle of seasons globally?

SSC Phase-XIV (Matric) 24 Sep 2026, Shift-III

(a) Rotation on its axis
(b) Revolution around the Sun
(c) Tidal motion
(d) Magnetic displacement

PART B Earth's Interior and Plate Tectonics & Latitude and Longitude

Directions (Q. 15–23): *Choose the correct answer from the four given options.*

15 Which statement correctly describes the geoid shape of the Earth?

SSC Phase-XIV (Graduation) 24 Sep 2026, Shift-I

(a) The geoid remains exactly identical to the topographic surface.
(b) The geoid takes the shape of a perfect geometric sphere.
(c) The geoid changes based on atmospheric wind patterns.
(d) The geoid reflects global gravitational variations.

16 The term "nife" used for the Earth's core refers to the predominance of:

SSC Phase-XIV (12th) 16 Sep 2026, Shift-II

(a) Nickel and Feldspar
(b) Nitrogen and Iron
(c) Nickel and Iron
(d) Sodium and Iron

17 The Earth's crust is described as brittle in nature because:

SSC Phase-XIV (12th) 18 Sep 2026, Shift-II

(a) It contains molten magma
(b) It is made of soft minerals
(c) It breaks easily under stress or pressure
(d) It flows like a plastic material

18 In which physical state does the outer core of the Earth's interior exist?

SSC Phase-XIV (12th) 19 Sep 2026, Shift-II

(a) Solid state (b) Liquid state
(c) Gaseous state (d) Plasma state

19 Which type of seismic waves are similar to sound waves and can pass through gaseous, liquid and solid materials?

SSC Phase-XIV (12th) 22 Sep 2026, Shift-II

(a) S-waves (b) Surface waves
(c) P-waves (d) Rayleigh waves

20 Which seismic waves travel the fastest through the Earth?

SSC Phase-XIV (12th) 23 Sep 2026, Shift-II

(a) Primary waves which always arrive first
(b) Secondary waves which pass through solid materials
(c) Surface waves which cause severe destruction
(d) Love waves which shake the ground horizontally

21 Which layer of the Earth is the thickest?

SSC Phase-XIV (12th) 25 Sep 2026, Shift-II

(a) Crust (b) Mantle
(c) Outer core (d) Inner core

22 In Geomorphology, which of the following best describes the "Ogilvie-Gordon" theory or the concept of "Isostasy"?

SSC Phase-XIV (Matric) 16 Sep 2026, Shift-III

(a) Horizontal movement of tectonic plates due to mantle convection.
(b) The state of gravitational balance between the Earth's crust and mantle, where tectonic plates "float" at a certain height depending on their thickness and density.
(c) The process of disintegration of rocks due to chemical weathering in tropical climates.
(d) Formation of mid-ocean ridges through sea-floor spreading.

23 What causes the variation in time zones across different regions of the Earth based on longitudinal difference?

SSC Phase-XIV (Matric) 18 Sep 2026, Shift-III

(a) Revolution
(b) Rotation of the Earth
(c) Wind currents
(d) Ocean tides

PART C Rocks, Continents, and Oceans

Directions (Q. 24): *Choose the correct answer from the four given options.*

24 Which type of rocks are mainly found in the Deccan Trap region?

SSC Phase-XIV (Matric) 24 Sep 2026, Shift-III

(a) Sedimentary rocks (b) Igneous rocks
(c) Limestone rocks (d) Metamorphic rocks

PART D Landforms

Directions (Q. 25–26): *Choose the correct answer from the four given options.*

25 In which Indian state are the Shevaroy Hills located?

SSC Phase-XIV (Graduation) 17 Sep 2026, Shift-I

(a) Andhra Pradesh (b) Karnataka
(c) Kerala (d) Tamil Nadu

26 Which process explains the gradual wearing away of the Earth's surface over time by natural forces such as wind, water and ice?

SSC Phase-XIV (Matric) 25 Sep 2026, Shift-III

(a) Erosion (b) Rotation
(c) Revolution (d) Sedimentation

PART E Atmosphere

Directions (Q. 27–30): *Choose the correct answer from the four given options.*

27 Consider the following statements about the ionosphere:
1. Radio waves are transmitted back to the Earth from this layer due to the presence of magnetic particles.
2. The reflective property of the ionosphere makes long-distance radio communication possible on the Earth.

Which of the above statement(s) is/are correct?

SSC Phase-XIV (Graduation) 17 Sep 2026, Shift-I

(a) Only 1
(b) Only 2
(c) Both 1 and 2 are correct
(d) Neither 1 nor 2 is correct

28 Which of the following sets correctly represents the composition of the major gases in the Earth's atmosphere (dry air)?

SSC Phase-XIV (Graduation) 19 Sep 2026, Shift-I

(a) Nitrogen-78.1%, Oxygen 20.9%
(b) Nitrogen-68.1%, Oxygen 25.9%
(c) Nitrogen-78.1%, Oxygen 25.9%
(d) Nitrogen-68.1%, Oxygen 20.9%

29 Which of the following correctly lists trace gases in the Earth's atmosphere and their approximate concentrations?

SSC Phase-XIV (Graduation) 22 Sep 2026, Shift-I

(a) Neon-0.0018%, Helium-0.0005%, Ozone-0.00006%
(b) Neon-0.018%, Helium-0.005%, Ozone-0.0006%
(c) Neon-0.0005%, Helium-0.0018%, Ozone-0.0006%
(d) Neon-0.0028%, Helium-0.0055%, Ozone-0.006%

30 Why do different regions of the Earth experience different climates despite receiving energy from the same Sun?

SSC Phase-XIV (Matric) 25 Sep 2026, Shift-III

(a) Uniform distribution of sunlight
(b) Variation in the angle of sunlight
(c) Uniform atmospheric pressure
(d) Constant wind flow

PART F Wind, Ocean Current, and Cyclone

Directions (Q. 31–33): *Choose the correct answer from the four given options.*

31 By what name are the 'norwesters' of Assam known?

SSC Phase-XIV (Graduation) 21 Sep 2026, Shift-I

(a) Tropical cyclone
(b) Andhis
(c) Bardoli Chheerha
(d) Loo winds

32 In Oceanography, what is the primary driver of the thermohaline circulation (Global Conveyor Belt)?

SSC Phase-XIV (Matric) 16 Sep 2026, Shift-III

(a) Surface wind stress generated by the trade winds.
(b) Density differences due to temperature and salinity gradients.
(c) Gravitational pull of the Moon and the Sun that causes tides.
(d) Coastal upwelling due to the Coriolis effect.

33 With reference to the Walker Circulation and its impact on the Indian monsoon, what happens during a "strong" La Niña year?

SSC Phase-XIV (Matric) 21 Sep 2026, Shift-III

(a) The thermocline deepens in the eastern Pacific Ocean, causing drought in India.
(b) Enhanced convection over the western Pacific/ Indonesia strengthens the Indian monsoon.
(c) The trade winds weaken, reversing the flow of equatorial currents.
(d) Air subsides over the Maritime Continent, reducing rainfall over the Indian subcontinent.

PART G India and Its Location

Directions (Q. 34): *Choose the correct answer from the four given options.*

34 Which state has the longest coastline in India?

SSC Phase-XIV (12th) 22 Sep 2026, Shift-II

(a) Gujarat
(b) Maharashtra
(c) Andhra Pradesh
(d) Tamil Nadu

PART H Himalayas

Directions (Q. 35–38): *Choose the correct answer from the four given options.*

35 What is the approximate average height of the Shivalik Range?

SSC Phase-XIV (Graduation) 18 Sep 2026, Shift-I

(a) 300 to 1000 metres
(b) 600 to 1500 metres
(c) 700 to 1000 metres
(d) 1500 to 2000 metres

36 What is the northernmost range of the Himalayas commonly called?

SSC Phase-XIV (Matric) 18 Sep 2026, Shift-III

(a) Shivalik (b) Himadri
(c) Himachal (d) Purvanchal

37 What is another name for the Outer Himalaya?

SSC Phase-XIV (Matric) 21 Sep 2026, Shift-III

(a) Himadri Range (b) Shivalik Range
(c) Zaskar Range (d) Karakoram Range

38 When are avalanches most likely to occur?

SSC Phase-XIV (Matric) 23 Sep 2026, Shift-III

(a) When snow on the slopes starts melting rapidly
(b) When glaciers slowly slide downward over time
(c) When rivers overflow due to seasonal rainfall
(d) When rocks on river banks are gradually eroded

PART I Peninsular Plateau

Directions (Q. 39): *Choose the correct answer from the four given options.*

39 What is the main feature of the Peninsular Plateau of India?

SSC Phase-XIV (Graduation) 23 Sep 2026, Shift-I

(a) High snow-covered peaks
(b) Volcanic origin
(c) Extensive alluvial deposits
(d) Flat and marshy land

PART J Northern Plains and Islands

Directions (Q. 40–42): *Choose the correct answer from the four given options.*

40 What is the name of the narrow, flat belt of pebbles and gravel lying south of the Shivalik foothills?

SSC Phase-XIV (Graduation) 19 Sep 2026, Shift-I

(a) Terai (b) Dun (c) Khadar (d) Bhabar

41 What is the largest part of the Northern Plains, made of old alluvium, called?

SSC Phase-XIV (Matric) 16 Sep 2026, Shift-III

(a) Khadar (b) Bhabar
(c) Terai (d) Bhangar

42 The 'Jarawa' and 'Sentinelese' tribal groups are inhabitants of which State/Union Territory?

SSC Phase-XIV (Matric) 23 Sep 2026, Shift-III

(a) Andaman and Nicobar
(b) Daman and Diu
(c) Jharkhand
(d) Manipur

PART K Himalayan River System

Directions (Q. 43–44): *Choose the correct answer from the four given options.*

43 Through which pass does the Sutlej river enter India from Tibet?

SSC Phase-XIV (Graduation) 24 Sep 2026, Shift-I

(a) Nathu La (b) Shipki La
(c) Lipulekh (d) Zoji La

44 Where does the Indus river originate?

SSC Phase-XIV (Matric) 22 Sep 2026, Shift-III

(a) Glaciers of the Kailash range
(b) Peaks of the Nanda Devi hills
(c) Valleys of the Kashmir region
(d) Plains of the Punjab province

PART L Agriculture

Directions (Q. 45–58): *Choose the correct answer from the four given options.*

45 Which type of climate is most suitable for maize cultivation?

SSC Phase-XIV (Graduation) 17 Sep 2026, Shift-I

(a) Humid (b) Semi-arid

(c) Cold and snowy (d) Coastal and windy

46 Due to intensive paddy cultivation, which of the following regions is often called the "Rice Bowl of India"?

SSC Phase-XIV (Graduation) 21 Sep 2026, Shift-I

(a) Telangana
(b) Tamil Nadu
(c) Krishna-Godavari Delta
(d) Ganga-Yamuna Doab

47 Which Indian state is the largest producer of jowar?

SSC Phase-XIV (Graduation) 24 Sep 2026, Shift-I

(a) Punjab (b) Rajasthan
(c) Maharashtra (d) Gujarat

48 Approximately how much does Assam contribute to India's total tea production?

SSC Phase-XIV (12th) 19 Sep 2026, Shift-II

(a) About 45% (b) About 30%
(c) About 50% (d) About 75%

49 Which of the following cotton species is NOT grown in India?

SSC Phase-XIV (12th) 25 Sep 2026, Shift-II

(a) Gossypium arboreum
(b) Gossypium herbaceum
(c) Gossypium barbadense
(d) Gossypium tomentosum

50 In the northern states, which of the following pairs of crops is correctly matched with its cropping season?

SSC Phase-XIV (Matric) 16 Sep 2026, Shift-III

(a) Kharif - Wheat and gram
(b) Rabi - Rice and cotton
(c) Zaid - Vegetables and fodder
(d) Kharif - Toria and mustard

51 Groundnut accounts for nearly half of India's major oilseed production, mainly because:

SSC Phase-XIV (Matric) 17 Sep 2026, Shift-III

(a) It can be cultivated only in irrigated areas.
(b) It is widely grown as a kharif crop in many states.
(c) It requires very low temperatures for cultivation.
(d) It is produced specifically for export purposes.

52 Which of the following statements about rice cultivation in India is geographically and technically correct?

SSC Phase-XIV (Matric) 18 Sep 2026, Shift-III

(a) Ravi, Jethu and Sharat paddy are grown in Punjab
(b) Aus, Aman and Boro paddy are grown in West Bengal
(c) Neela, Pamba and Periyar paddy are grown in Kerala
(d) Suna, Rupa and Heera paddy are grown in Odisha

53 What is the primary objective of the Government of India in announcing the Minimum Support Price (MSP)?

SSC Phase-XIV (Matric) 19 Sep 2026, Shift-III

(a) To encourage imports of agricultural commodities.
(b) To protect farmers from exploitation by speculators and middlemen.
(c) To reduce the area under food crops.
(d) To promote the production of cash crops only.

54 Which of the following statements about tur (arhar) cultivation in India is correct?

SSC Phase-XIV (Matric) 21 Sep 2026, Shift-III

(a) It is mainly grown on highly fertile land
(b) Maharashtra produces one-third of the total production
(c) It accounts for ten percent of the total cropped area
(d) The crop needs heavy irrigation to survive

55 Which of the following crops is correctly matched with its primary production region?

SSC Phase-XIV (Matric) 22 Sep 2026, Shift-III

(a) Jowar - Maharashtra
(b) Bajra - West Bengal
(c) Wheat - Andhra Pradesh

(d) Maize - Coastal Kerala

56 Any land left fallow (uncultivated) for more than five years is classified as:

SSC Phase-XIV (Matric) 23 Sep 2026, Shift-III

(a) Current fallow
(b) Culturable wasteland
(c) Barren land
(d) Permanent pasture

57 The gradual reduction of water flow from 18-20 litres to 20-80 drops per minute mainly indicates:

SSC Phase-XIV (Matric) 23 Sep 2026, Shift-III

(a) High evaporation loss during transport
(b) Deliberate regulation for efficient irrigation of plants
(c) Leakage due to weak bamboo joints
(d) Seasonal shortage of spring water

58 The term "Jhumming" in India is specifically associated with which type of agricultural practice?

SSC Phase-XIV (Matric) 25 Sep 2026, Shift-III

(a) Terrace farming in Himalayan regions
(b) Plantation agriculture in coastal areas
(c) Slash-and-burn (jhum) cultivation in North-East India
(d) Commercial wheat farming in semi-arid regions

PART M Minerals

Directions (Q. 59–65): *Choose the correct answer from the four given options.*

59 Which of the following is NOT one of the iron ore belts of India?

SSC Phase-XIV (Graduation) 18 Sep 2026, Shift-I

(a) Durg-Bastar-Chandrapur belt
(b) Bellary-Chitradurga-Tumkur belt
(c) Maharashtra-Goa belt
(d) Ludhiana-Delhi-Kanpur belt

60 Which mineral is found in abundance in the Hazaribagh plateau region of Jharkhand?

SSC Phase-XIV (Graduation) 19 Sep 2026, Shift-I

(a) Bauxite (b) Mica (c) Copper (d) Iron ore

61 In which district of Chhattisgarh are uranium deposits found?

SSC Phase-XIV (Graduation) 22 Sep 2026, Shift-I

(a) Raipur (b) Bilaspur
(c) Durg (d) Bastar

62 The Chota Nagpur Plateau is often called the "storehouse of minerals" in India. What contributes to this title?

SSC Phase-XIV (Graduation) 25 Sep 2026, Shift-I

(a) Its high population density
(b) Heavy rainfall and forests
(c) Ancient rock formations and tectonic stability
(d) Presence of sacred rivers

63 Which of the following sets includes only non-metallic minerals that are commonly used in local markets of India?

SSC Phase-XIV (12th) 16 Sep 2026, Shift-II

(a) Limestone, Dolomite, Phosphate
(b) Coal, Petroleum, Natural gas
(c) Copper, Aluminium, Iron
(d) Uranium, Thorium, Copper

64 The north-western mineral belt of India is made up of areas of which of the following pairs of states?

SSC Phase-XIV (12th) 18 Sep 2026, Shift-II

(a) Gujarat and Maharashtra
(b) Rajasthan and Punjab
(c) Gujarat and Rajasthan
(d) Haryana and Rajasthan

65 Which of the following combinations best describes the spatial pattern of India's major coal, petroleum and natural gas resources?

SSC Phase-XIV (12th) 26 Sep 2026, Shift-I

(a) Coal everywhere, petroleum only in the Thar Desert, gas in the Indo-Gangetic plain
(b) Coal only in the Himalayas, petroleum in the plateaus, gas in the southern river deltas
(c) Coal, petroleum and gas in the same belt (Gujarat-West Bengal)
(d) Coal in eastern/central India, petroleum on the west coast and in Assam, gas along with onshore/offshore petroleum

PART N Human Geography

Directions (Q. 66–75): *Choose the correct answer from the four given options.*

66 The Net Reproduction Rate (NRR) is said to be 1 when

SSC Phase-XIV (Graduation) 21 Sep 2026, Shift-I

(a) the population doubles in 50 years
(b) the birth and death rates become equal
(c) a woman replaces herself in the population
(d) migration becomes equal to natural growth

67 Which of the following cities is the most important for India's diamond cutting and polishing industry?

SSC Phase-XIV (Graduation) 23 Sep 2026, Shift-I

(a) Pune (b) Rajkot (c) Surat (d) Jaipur

68 What does a high Crude Birth Rate (CBR) indicate about the demographic stage of a region?

SSC Phase-XIV (Graduation) 23 Sep 2026, Shift-I

(a) It is in an advanced demographic transition
(b) Its population is ageing
(c) It is in an early demographic transition
(d) It has a high population outflow

69 In demographic surveys, what is the main policy implication of India's growing youth population?

SSC Phase-XIV (Graduation) 23 Sep 2026, Shift-I

(a) It reduces the demand for jobs
(b) It lowers consumer spending
(c) It creates a need for investment in skills and employment
(d) It requires an expansion of pensions

70 Which of the following would be the most suitable indicator of demographic dependency?

SSC Phase-XIV (Graduation) 23 Sep 2026, Shift-I

(a) Crude birth rate
(b) Life expectancy at birth
(c) Dependency ratio
(d) Sex ratio

71 Which of these industries in India depends most on nearness to the market rather than to raw materials?

SSC Phase-XIV (Graduation) 25 Sep 2026, Shift-I

(a) Oil Refining
(b) Glass Manufacturing
(c) Bakery Products
(d) Cotton Spinning

72 Fill in the blank: The largest linguistic group in India belongs to the _____ language family.

SSC Phase-XIV (12th) 18 Sep 2026, Shift-II

(a) Austric (b) Dravidian
(c) Sino-Tibetan (d) Indo-Aryan

73 Why are aggregate statistics (such as death rates) considered social phenomena rather than merely individual data?

SSC Phase-XIV (Matric) 17 Sep 2026, Shift-III

(a) They ignore individual variations.
(b) They are calculated mathematically.
(c) They reflect patterns (trends) shaped by society.
(d) They are collected by the government.

74 If India fails to provide education and employment to its growing working-age population, what will happen to the demographic dividend?

SSC Phase-XIV (Matric) 23 Sep 2026, Shift-III

(a) It will increase automatically.
(b) It will turn into a demographic burden.
(c) It will further lower the dependency ratio.
(d) It will stabilise the population.

75 In the study of human settlements, which type of rural settlement is identified by a "dispersed" (scattered) pattern?

SSC Phase-XIV (Matric) 24 Sep 2026, Shift-III

(a) Isolated huts (b) Large villages
(c) Linear rows (d) Circular huts

PART O Transport

Directions (Q. 76–81): *Choose the correct answer from the four given options.*

76 Where is the Integral Coach Factory located in India?

SSC Phase-XIV (Graduation) 18 Sep 2026, Shift-I

(a) Chittaranjan (b) Varanasi
(c) Jamshedpur (d) Perambur

77 Which of the following committees or commissions recommended the setting up of the Railway Board in India, which finally led to its formation in 1905?

SSC Phase-XIV (Graduation) 21 Sep 2026, Shift-I

(a) Thomas Robertson Commission
(b) Thomas Raleigh Commission
(c) Sargent Commission
(d) Sadler Commission

78 What is the total length (approximately) of navigable waterways in India?

SSC Phase-XIV (12th) 21 Sep 2026, Shift-II

(a) 13,500 km (b) 14,500 km
(c) 13,700 km (d) 14,200 km

79 At present, how many National Waterways have been declared in India under the National Waterways Act, 2016?

SSC Phase-XIV (12th) 23 Sep 2026, Shift-II

(a) 111 (b) 121 (c) 212 (d) 132

80 What is the importance of technological advances in transport systems for improving connectivity and economic growth?

SSC Phase-XIV (Matric) 21 Sep 2026, Shift-III

(a) Slows down speed
(b) Improves efficiency
(c) Limits travel
(d) Reduces connectivity

81 The Shahid Beheshti Terminal, part of a long-term development agreement between India and Iran, is located at which port?

SSC Phase-XIV (Matric) 22 Sep 2026, Shift-III

(a) Gwadar (b) Sittwe
(c) Chabahar (d) Colombo

Answer Key *SSC official key*

Part A · Solar System (Q. 01–14)																			
01	(d)	**02**	(b)	**03**	(b)	**04**	(b)	**05**	(b)	**06**	(b)	**07**	(b)	**08**	(c)	**09**	(b)	**10**	(b)
11	(b)	**12**	(b)	**13**	(b)	**14**	(b)												
Part B · Earth's Interior and Plate Tectonics & Latitude and Longitude (Q. 15–23)																			
15	(d)	**16**	(c)	**17**	(c)	**18**	(b)	**19**	(c)	**20**	(a)	**21**	(b)	**22**	(b)	**23**	(b)		
Part C · Rocks, Continents, and Oceans (Q. 24)																			
24	(b)																		
Part D · Landforms (Q. 25–26)																			
25	(d)	**26**	(a)																
Part E · Atmosphere (Q. 27–30)																			
27	(b)	**28**	(a)	**29**	(a)	**30**	(b)												
Part F · Wind, Ocean Current, and Cyclone (Q. 31–33)																			
31	(c)	**32**	(c)	**33**	(b)														
Part G · India and Its Location (Q. 34)																			
34	(a)																		

Part H · Himalayas (Q. 35–38)																		
35	(b)	**36**	(b)	**37**	(b)	**38**	(a)											
Part I · Peninsular Plateau (Q. 39)																		
39	(b)																	
Part J · Northern Plains and Islands (Q. 40–42)																		
40	(d)	**41**	(d)	**42**	(a)													
Part K · Himalayan River System (Q. 43–44)																		
43	(b)	**44**	(a)															
Part L · Agriculture (Q. 45–58)																		
45	(b)	**46**	(c)	**47**	(c)	**48**	(c)	**49**	(d)	**50**	(c)	**51**	(b)	**52**	(b)	**53**	(b)	**54**	(b)
55	(a)	**56**	(b)	**57**	(b)	**58**	(c)											
Part M · Minerals (Q. 59–65)																		
59	(d)	**60**	(b)	**61**	(c)	**62**	(c)	**63**	(a)	**64**	(c)	**65**	(d)					
Part N · Human Geography (Q. 66–75)																		
66	(c)	**67**	(c)	**68**	(c)	**69**	(c)	**70**	(c)	**71**	(c)	**72**	(d)	**73**	(c)	**74**	(b)	**75**	(a)
Part O · Transport (Q. 76–81)																		
76	(d)	**77**	(a)	**78**	(b)	**79**	(a)	**80**	(b)	**81**	(c)							

Detailed Explanations रटना बंद, समझना शुरू

PART A Solar System

01 ANSWER (d) Delhi

SSC Phase-XIV (Graduation) 22 Sep 2026, Shift-I

In June, the Northern Hemisphere is tilted towards the Sun. So the further north you go, the longer the day. Among the given cities, **Delhi** (about 28.6° N) is the northernmost, so it gets the longest day.

Remember: 21 June

- 21 June is the Summer Solstice
- On that day the Sun shines directly over the Tropic of Cancer
- Latitude: Delhi ~28.6°, Bhopal ~23.3°, Hyderabad ~17.4°, Chennai ~13.1° N
- At the Equator, day and night are about 12 hours each all year round

02 ANSWER (b) Sirius (Dog Star)

SSC Phase-XIV (12th) 17 Sep 2026, Shift-II

The brightest star in the night sky is **Sirius**, also called Vyadh Tara or the Dog Star. It is very luminous in its own right and also close to us, which is why it looks so bright.

Facts (Sirius)

- It lies in the constellation Canis Major (the Great Dog)
- Distance from Earth: about 8.6 light years
- It is a binary system: Sirius A and the white dwarf Sirius B
- Canopus (Agastya) comes second

Other options: the Pole Star is famous for showing direction, not for its brightness. It ranks only around 48th. Betelgeuse and Vega are also dimmer than Sirius.

03 ANSWER (b) 23.4°

SSC Phase-XIV (12th) 26 Sep 2026, Shift-I

The Earth's axis is tilted about **23.4°** from the perpendicular to its orbital plane. Books often write it as 23½°.

Concept: Axial Tilt

• This tilt is called Obliquity
• The axis makes an angle of 66½° with the orbital plane
• This tilt is the real reason the seasons change
• The Tropic of Cancer (23½° N) and the Tropic of Capricorn (23½° S) are also fixed by it

04 **ANSWER (b)** Effect of the Earth's axial tilt

SSC Phase-XIV (Matric) 16 Sep 2026, Shift-III

Because the axis is tilted, for some months of the revolution one pole faces the Sun while the other faces away. The result is continuous day or continuous night at the poles. In short, it is the **effect of axial tilt**.

Polar Day / Night

• In June, the Midnight Sun is seen at the North Pole
• At the same time, the South Pole has Polar Night
• The Arctic and Antarctic Circles (66½°) mark the limit of the 24-hour day/night
• The poles get about 6 months of day and 6 months of night

05 **ANSWER (b)** Daily rotation on its axis

SSC Phase-XIV (Matric) 17 Sep 2026, Shift-III

The Earth completes one turn on its axis in about 24 hours. During this **daily rotation**, the part facing the Sun has day and the rest has night.

Rotation: Remember

• The Earth rotates from west to east
• One turn relative to the Sun = solar day (~24 hours)
• One turn relative to the stars = sidereal day (~23 hours 56 minutes)
• The line separating day and night is the Circle of Illumination

Look at the other options. Revolution gives us the year and the seasons, not day and night. The Moon's pull causes the tides.

06 **ANSWER (b)** Rotation of the Earth on its axis

SSC Phase-XIV (Matric) 17 Sep 2026, Shift-III

Within a single night, the stars appear to move from east to west. The stars are not really moving. We are. The Earth **rotates on its axis from west to east**, and that creates this apparent motion.

Diurnal Motion

• This daily apparent motion of celestial bodies is called Diurnal Motion
• In the Northern Hemisphere, stars appear to circle the Pole Star anticlockwise
• The Pole Star lies in line with the axis, so it looks almost fixed
• New constellations appearing over the months is due to revolution

Examiner's Trap Watch the wording. 'At different times' means within the same night, so the answer is rotation. If it says 'in different seasons', the answer is revolution. Both questions are asked separately.

07 **ANSWER (b)** Milky Way Galaxy

SSC Phase-XIV (Matric) 18 Sep 2026, Shift-III

Our Solar System, along with billions of other stars, is part of the **Milky Way** galaxy. Its shape is a barred spiral.

Facts (Milky Way)

• Diameter about 1 to 1.5 lakh light years
• At its centre is a supermassive black hole, Sagittarius A*
• The Solar System lies in the Orion Arm, about 26,000 light years from the centre
• The nearest large spiral galaxy is Andromeda (M31), about 25 lakh light years away

Other options: Andromeda is a separate galaxy. The Orion Nebula is a cloud of gas and dust that lies inside the Milky Way itself.

08 **ANSWER (c)** Mars with an iron-rich surface

SSC Phase-XIV (Matric) 19 Sep 2026, Shift-III

The soil and rocks of **Mars** are full of iron oxide, which in simple words is rust. That is what makes it look red and earns it the name 'Red Planet'.

Facts (Mars)

• Fourth planet from the Sun, second smallest in size
• Two moons: Phobos and Deimos
• Olympus Mons, the tallest volcano in the Solar System, is here
• India's Mangalyaan (MOM) reached its orbit in

September 2014
• Its thin atmosphere is ~95% CO_2

09 **ANSWER (b)** Gravitational balance

SSC Phase-XIV (Matric) 19 Sep 2026, Shift-III

Two things work together. The Sun's gravity pulls the Earth inwards, and the Earth's orbital motion (inertia) tries to carry it off in a straight line. The **gravitational balance** between the two keeps the Earth in its orbit.

Orbit: Remember

• The Sun's pull supplies the required Centripetal Force
• Kepler's laws explain the elliptical orbit
• Perihelion (~3 January): distance ~14.7 crore km
• Aphelion (~4 July): distance ~15.2 crore km

10 **ANSWER (b)** Tilt of the Earth's axis

SSC Phase-XIV (Matric) 21 Sep 2026, Shift-III

The real reason for the seasons is the **tilt of the Earth's axis** (~23½°). Throughout the revolution this tilt points in the same direction, so the angle of the Sun's rays and the length of the day keep changing over the year.

Solstice & Equinox

• The hemisphere tilted towards the Sun has summer, the other has winter
• 21 June: Sun directly over the Tropic of Cancer (Summer Solstice)
• 22 December: Sun directly over the Tropic of Capricorn (Winter Solstice)
• 21 March and 23 September: Equinox, day and night equal

Examiner's Trap The option on the 'changing Earth-Sun distance' is wrong. The Earth is closest to the Sun in January, yet it is winter in the Northern Hemisphere at that time.

11 **ANSWER (b)** The Earth rotates from west to east

SSC Phase-XIV (Matric) 21 Sep 2026, Shift-III

The Sun stays where it is. We are the ones moving. The Earth rotates on its axis from **west to east**, so the Sun **appears** to rise in the east and set in the west. It is only an apparent motion.

Rotation Facts

• One sidereal day is about 23 hours 56 minutes 4 seconds
• Because the Earth turns eastward, all celestial bodies appear to move westward
• Rotational speed at the Equator is about 1,670 km/h
• Venus and Uranus rotate in the opposite direction

12 **ANSWER (b)** Revolution of the Earth around the Sun

SSC Phase-XIV (Matric) 23 Sep 2026, Shift-III

As the Earth goes around the Sun, its night side faces different directions in space through the year. Because of this **revolution**, different constellations show up in the sky each season.

Rotation vs Revolution

• One revolution takes about 365¼ days
• The daily rising and setting of stars is due to Rotation
• The change of constellations with the season is due to Revolution
• Example: Orion (Mrigashira) in winter, Scorpius (Vrishchika) in summer

Other options: rotation alone shifts the stars within one night, not from season to season. The phases of the Moon and solar radiation have nothing to do with it.

13 **ANSWER (b)** Alignment of the Sun, the Earth and the Moon in a straight line

SSC Phase-XIV (Matric) 24 Sep 2026, Shift-III

An eclipse occurs when the **Sun, the Earth and the Moon come in a straight line**. If the Moon is in the middle, it is a solar eclipse. If the Earth is in the middle and its shadow falls on the Moon, it is a lunar eclipse.

Remember: Eclipses

• Three bodies lining up in this way is called Syzygy
• A solar eclipse occurs only on a new moon day (Amavasya), a lunar eclipse only on a full moon day (Purnima)
• The dark part of the shadow is the Umbra, the lighter part is the Penumbra

• The Moon's orbit is tilted ~5°, so an eclipse does not occur on every new moon and full moon

14 **ANSWER (b)** Revolution around the Sun

SSC Phase-XIV (Matric) 24 Sep 2026, Shift-III

One full trip around the Sun, that is, **revolution**, takes about 365¼ days. That is one year. Together with the tilted axis, this same motion drives the cycle of seasons.

Logic of the Leap Year

• One revolution = 365 days 5 hours 48 minutes 46 seconds (approx.)
• The leftover time adds 1 day to February every fourth year
• Day and night come from rotation (~24 hours)
• Perihelion ~3 January, Aphelion ~4 July

PART B Earth's Interior and Plate Tectonics & Latitude and Longitude

15 **ANSWER (d)** The geoid reflects global gravitational variations.

SSC Phase-XIV (Graduation) 24 Sep 2026, Shift-I

The **geoid** is an equipotential surface of the Earth's gravity field, roughly matching mean sea level. Mass inside the Earth is not evenly spread, so this surface rises in some places and dips in others. In other words, the geoid shows **global gravitational variations**.

Concept: Geoid

• 'Geoid' means 'Earth-like shape', that is, the true shape of the Earth
• The Reference Ellipsoid is an ideal mathematical shape, and the geoid differs from it
• The Earth is flattened at the poles and bulges at the Equator (Oblate Spheroid)
• The GRACE and GOCE satellites mapped the geoid precisely

Other options: the geoid does not follow hills and valleys, it is not a perfect sphere, and it does not change with wind patterns.

16 **ANSWER (c)** Nickel and Iron

SSC Phase-XIV (12th) 16 Sep 2026, Shift-II

The answer is hidden in the name itself. **NiFe** = Ni (Nickel) + Fe (Ferrum, that is, iron). These two metals dominate the Earth's core.

SiAl, SiMa, NiFe

• This classification was given by Eduard Suess
• SiAl = Silica + Aluminium, the continental crust
• SiMa = Silica + Magnesium, the oceanic crust and upper mantle
• The core has two parts: a liquid outer core and a solid inner core

17 **ANSWER (c)** It breaks easily under stress or pressure

SSC Phase-XIV (12th) 18 Sep 2026, Shift-II

The crust is cold and rigid. When the pressure on it goes beyond what it can bear, it does not bend. It **breaks**. This property is called brittleness.

Facts (Crust)

• The outermost and thinnest solid layer of the Earth
• Continental crust is thick and granitic (SiAl), oceanic crust is thin and basaltic (SiMa)
• When the brittle crust suddenly breaks and slips along faults, an earthquake occurs
• Between the crust and the mantle lies the Moho Discontinuity

Other options: molten magma and plastic-like flow are features of the asthenosphere in the mantle, not of the crust.

18 **ANSWER (b)** Liquid state

SSC Phase-XIV (12th) 19 Sep 2026, Shift-II

The **outer core is liquid**. The temperature there is above the melting point of iron-nickel, and the pressure is not high enough to make it solid.

Outer Core: Remember

• Depth about 2,900 to 5,150 km
• The boundary between the mantle and the outer core is the Gutenberg Discontinuity
• Convection currents of liquid iron produce the magnetic field through the 'Geodynamo'
• Evidence: S-waves cannot pass through liquid, and

they stop here

Examiner's Trap The inner core is even hotter, yet it is **solid** because of the enormous pressure. 'Solid state' is right for the inner core, not for the outer core.

19 ANSWER (c) P-waves

SSC Phase-XIV (12th) 22 Sep 2026, Shift-II

Like sound, **P-waves** are longitudinal. The particles vibrate back and forth in the direction of the wave, so these waves pass through solids, liquids and gases, all three.

Seismic Waves

- P-waves are the fastest and reach the seismograph first
- They create compressions and rarefactions
- S-waves are transverse and pass only through solids
- Surface waves (Love, Rayleigh) are the slowest but the most destructive

Other options: S-waves do not travel through liquids and gases. Surface waves and Rayleigh waves travel only near the surface.

20 ANSWER (a) Primary waves which always arrive first

SSC Phase-XIV (12th) 23 Sep 2026, Shift-II

The fastest are the **Primary (P) waves**. The name says it all. They are the first to be recorded in an earthquake.

Order of Speed

- Order: P > S > Surface waves
- In the crust, P-waves travel at about 5-8 km/s
- P-waves move through solids, liquids and gases
- Surface waves (Love, Rayleigh) cause the most damage

Examiner's Trap Don't mix up 'most destructive' and 'fastest'. Surface waves lead in destruction but come last in speed.

21 ANSWER (b) Mantle

SSC Phase-XIV (12th) 25 Sep 2026, Shift-II

The thickest layer is the **mantle**. It starts below the crust and goes down to a depth of about 2,900 km.

Facts (Mantle)

- ~84% of the Earth's volume and ~67% of its mass
- Moho Discontinuity above, Gutenberg Discontinuity below
- The semi-molten part of the upper mantle is the asthenosphere, on which the plates move
- The thinnest layer is the crust (~5 km under the oceans, ~30-70 km under the continents)

22 ANSWER (b) The state of gravitational balance between the Earth's crust and mantle, where tectonic plates "float" at a certain height depending on their thickness and density.

SSC Phase-XIV (Matric) 16 Sep 2026, Shift-III

Isostasy means gravitational balance between the crust and the mantle. Blocks of the crust 'float' on the denser layer below according to their thickness and density, just like a piece of ice floats on water.

Isostasy: Airy vs Pratt

- The term 'Isostasy' was given by Clarence Dutton in 1889
- Airy: same density, different depth, so high mountains have deep roots
- Pratt: same depth, different density, so higher parts are less dense
- The slow rise of land after glaciers melt (Isostatic Rebound) is an example

Other options: horizontal movement of plates is plate tectonics. Chemical weathering and sea-floor spreading are different processes.

23 ANSWER (b) Rotation of the Earth

SSC Phase-XIV (Matric) 18 Sep 2026, Shift-III

Work it out simply. The Earth turns 360° in 24 hours, so 15° in 1 hour and 4 minutes for every 1° of longitude. Because of this **rotation**, the Sun comes overhead at different times at different longitudes, and the local time changes.

Time Zone: IST

- 1° = 4 minutes, 15° = 1 hour
- East of Greenwich (0°) time is ahead, west of it time is behind
- IST is based on the 82°30' E longitude (near Mirzapur)

• IST is 5 hours 30 minutes ahead of GMT

PART C Rocks, Continents, and Oceans

24 ANSWER (b) Igneous rocks

SSC Phase-XIV (Matric) 24 Sep 2026, Shift-III

The Deccan Trap was formed from lava that poured out of cracks (fissure eruption). The lava cooled to form **basalt**, which is an **igneous rock**.

Facts (Deccan Trap)

• Formed about 6.6 crore years ago, at the end of the Cretaceous period
• Basalt is an extrusive igneous rock, rich in iron and magnesium
• Its breakdown produced black cotton soil (regur)
• Spread mainly over Maharashtra, Gujarat and Madhya Pradesh

PART D Landforms

25 ANSWER (d) Tamil Nadu

SSC Phase-XIV (Graduation) 17 Sep 2026, Shift-I

The **Shevaroy Hills** are in Tamil Nadu, near Salem, and are part of the Eastern Ghats. The famous hill station **Yercaud** sits on them.

Static GK: Hills

• Height about 1,200 to 1,600 m
• Highest peak: Solaikaradu/Sanyasimalai (~1,620 m)
• They are made of old charnockite rocks
• Other Eastern Ghats hills of Tamil Nadu: Javadi, Kalrayan, Pachamalai, Kollimalai

Other options: Andhra Pradesh has the Nallamala-Velikonda hills, Karnataka has the Baba Budan hills and Kerala has the Cardamom-Anamalai hills.

26 ANSWER (a) Erosion

SSC Phase-XIV (Matric) 25 Sep 2026, Shift-III

The wearing away of the surface by wind, water and ice, and the carrying of that material elsewhere, is **Erosion**. It is an exogenic process.

Weathering vs Erosion

• In weathering, rock breaks down in place. In erosion, the debris is carried away
• In humid regions, running water is the biggest agent: V-shaped valleys, gorges, canyons
• Glaciers form U-shaped valleys
• In deserts, wind forms Mushroom Rocks

Look at the other options. Rotation and revolution are motions of the Earth. Sedimentation is the deposition of worn-out material, which is the opposite job.

PART E Atmosphere

27 ANSWER (b) Only 2

SSC Phase-XIV (Graduation) 17 Sep 2026, Shift-I

Statement 1 is wrong. In the ionosphere, radio waves do not bounce back because of **magnetic particles**. They are reflected by **charged ions and free electrons**. Statement 2 is right, as this reflection is what makes long-distance radio communication possible. So the answer is **Only 2**.

Facts (Ionosphere)

• Height about 80 to 400 km (mesosphere-thermosphere)
• UV rays and X-rays from the Sun ionise the gases
• Medium-wave and short-wave radio waves bounce back from here and travel far
• Layers: D, E and F

28 ANSWER (a) Nitrogen-78.1%, Oxygen 20.9%

SSC Phase-XIV (Graduation) 19 Sep 2026, Shift-I

By volume, dry air has about **78.1% nitrogen** and **20.9% oxygen**. The remaining 1% or so is argon, CO_2 and other gases.

Gases of the Atmosphere

• Argon is third (~0.93%)
• CO_2 is only ~0.04% (~420 ppm), but it plays a big role in the greenhouse effect
• Water vapour ranges from 0 to ~4% depending on the place
• $N_2 + O_2$ together make up ~99%

Quick Method Remember 78 + 21 ≈ 99. Any option whose total goes above 100 (like 78.1 + 25.9 = 104) can be struck off at once.

29 **ANSWER (a)** Neon-0.0018%, Helium-0.0005%, Ozone-0.00006%

SSC Phase-XIV (Graduation) 22 Sep 2026, Shift-I

In dry air, the trace gases are roughly: **neon ~0.0018%**, **helium ~0.0005%** and **ozone ~0.00006%**. The amount of ozone varies with place and altitude.

Order of Trace Gases

- Decreasing order: N_2, O_2, argon, CO_2, neon, helium
- Argon is third at ~0.93%
- Neon, helium and argon are noble gases
- Most ozone sits in the ozone layer of the stratosphere (15-35 km)

Examiner's Trap Option C swaps the values of neon and helium. Make sure you remember that air has more neon than helium.

30 **ANSWER (b)** Variation in the angle of sunlight

SSC Phase-XIV (Matric) 25 Sep 2026, Shift-III

The Earth is round and its axis is tilted, so the rays strike each latitude at a **different angle**. Near the Equator, direct rays put more energy on a small area. Towards the poles, slanting rays spread over a larger area and become weaker.

Concept: Insolation

- Solar energy reaching the Earth = Insolation
- Its intensity depends mainly on the angle of incidence
- Because of the tilt, this angle changes through the year, and that creates the seasons
- Insolation is highest in the tropics

PART F Wind, Ocean Current, and Cyclone

31 **ANSWER (c)** Bardoli Chheerha

SSC Phase-XIV (Graduation) 21 Sep 2026, Shift-I

The violent thunderstorms (norwesters) that strike Assam before the monsoon, in April-May, are called **'Bardoli Chheerha'** (Bordoisila) there.

Pre-monsoon Showers

- In West Bengal, the same storms are called 'Kalbaisakhi'
- In Assam, their rain helps tea, jute and rice
- In Karnataka, 'Cherry Blossom' showers help coffee
- On the Kerala-Karnataka coast, they are 'Mango Showers'

Other options: Andhis and Loo are hot, dry winds of north-west India. Tropical cyclones are large systems that rise from the sea.

32 **ANSWER (c)** Gravitational pull of the Moon and the Sun that causes tides.

SSC Phase-XIV (Matric) 16 Sep 2026, Shift-III

The name itself tells you what drives it: 'thermo' means temperature and 'haline' means salinity. Cold, saltier water becomes heavy, sinks near the poles and flows slowly through the deep ocean. Textbooks treat this **difference in density** as the main cause.
In this question, though, the answer taken is the tidal pull. The reasoning is that most of the energy for the mixing that brings deep water back up comes from tides and wind.

Global Conveyor Belt

- One full cycle takes about 1,000 years
- Deep water forms in the North Atlantic (near Greenland) and near Antarctica
- When sea ice freezes, the salt is left behind, making the water saltier and heavier
- Surface currents are driven by wind, deep currents by density differences

Note In SSC, the answer usually accepted is 'density differences due to temperature and salinity'. If you see that option, take it seriously.

33 **ANSWER (b)** Enhanced convection over the western Pacific/Indonesia strengthens the Indian monsoon.

SSC Phase-XIV (Matric) 21 Sep 2026, Shift-III

In a strong **La Niña**, the eastern Pacific stays colder than usual and the trade winds get stronger. This strengthens the Walker Circulation. Air rises over the western Pacific and Indonesia, rainfall increases, and the Indian monsoon also gains strength.

ENSO: Remember

- La Niña is the cold phase of ENSO (El Niño-Southern Oscillation)

• In El Niño, the eastern Pacific is warm, and India often gets a weak monsoon or drought
• The Walker Circulation is an east-west air loop over the equatorial Pacific
• The Indian Ocean Dipole (IOD) also affects the monsoon

Other options: A, C and D all describe El Niño conditions, namely weak trade winds, a deep thermocline and sinking air over Indonesia.

PART G India and Its Location

34 ANSWER (a) Gujarat

SSC Phase-XIV (12th) 22 Sep 2026, Shift-II

Gujarat has the longest coastline. The new assessment (2024) puts it at about 2,340 km, against ~1,215 km in the older figures. The Gulfs of Kachchh and Khambhat and countless creeks make it so long.

Coastline 2024

• India's total coastline is now about 11,098 km (earlier 7,516.6 km)
• In the new assessment, Tamil Nadu is second (~1,068 km)
• In the older figures, Andhra Pradesh (~974 km) was second
• Major ports of Gujarat: Kandla (Deendayal), Mundra

PART H Himalayas

35 ANSWER (b) 600 to 1500 metres

SSC Phase-XIV (Graduation) 18 Sep 2026, Shift-I

The Shivaliks are the Outer Himalaya, the lowest range. Their height is usually given as 900 to 1,100 metres. Among the options, that falls within the range of **600 to 1500 metres**.

Facts (Shivalik)

• Width about 10 to 50 km
• The outermost, southern range of the Himalaya
• Made of loose sediments (pebbles, sand) brought by rivers
• The valleys between the Lesser Himalaya and the Shivaliks are called 'Duns', such as Dehradun

36 ANSWER (b) Himadri

SSC Phase-XIV (Matric) 18 Sep 2026, Shift-III

The northernmost, highest and most continuous range is the **Himadri**. It is also called the Great or Inner Himalaya.

3 Ranges of the Himalaya

• Average height of the Himadri is about 6,000 m
• Everest (8,848.86 m), Kanchenjunga and Nanga Parbat are here
• It has a granite core and stays snow-covered all year
• North to south: Himadri, then Himachal (Lesser), then Shivalik (Outer)

Other options: Himachal is the middle range, Shivalik is the southernmost, and Purvanchal is the group of hills in the North-East.

37 ANSWER (b) Shivalik Range

SSC Phase-XIV (Matric) 21 Sep 2026, Shift-III

The outermost and southernmost range of the Himalaya is what we call the Outer Himalaya. That is the **Shivalik**.

Outer Himalaya

• Height ~900-1,100 m, width 10-50 km
• The youngest range of the Himalaya
• 'Dun' valleys between the Lesser Himalaya and the Shivaliks: Dehradun, Kotli Dun, Patli Dun
• The Bhabar belt begins to its south

Other options: Himadri is the Great or Inner Himalaya. Zaskar and Karakoram are ranges of the Trans-Himalaya.

38 ANSWER (a) When snow on the slopes starts melting rapidly

SSC Phase-XIV (Matric) 23 Sep 2026, Shift-III

If the temperature on a slope rises suddenly and the snow starts melting fast, the bond between the snow layers loosens. Then a huge mass of snow slides down all at once. That is an **avalanche**.

Avalanche: Causes

• Mostly on steep slopes of 30° to 45°
• Heavy fresh snowfall, strong wind and vibrations (earthquakes, explosions) can also trigger them
• In India, J&K, Ladakh, Himachal and Uttarakhand

are the most affected
• Forecasting is done by DRDO's DGRE (earlier SASE)

Other options: the slow sliding of a glacier is glacial movement. River floods and bank erosion are different processes.

PART I Peninsular Plateau

39 ANSWER (b) Volcanic origin

SSC Phase-XIV (Graduation) 23 Sep 2026, Shift-I

Lava-formed basalt rocks, the Deccan Trap, cover a large part of the Peninsular Plateau. That is why its identity is linked here with **volcanic origin**.
Note that the whole plateau was not formed by volcanoes. Most of it is made of ancient Gondwana rocks, and the volcanic part is mainly the Deccan Trap. Still, among the given options, this one fits best.

Peninsular Plateau
• Part of Gondwanaland, India's oldest and most stable landmass
• The Deccan Trap formed ~6.6 crore years ago (end of the Cretaceous)
• Basalt gave rise to black (regur) soil, excellent for cotton
• Highest peak: Anamudi (2,695 m)

Other options: snow-covered peaks belong to the Himalaya, alluvial deposits to the Northern Plains, and marshy land to the Terai or the coast.

PART J Northern Plains and Islands

40 ANSWER (d) Bhabar

SSC Phase-XIV (Graduation) 19 Sep 2026, Shift-I

The belt of pebbles and stones, about 8 to 16 km wide, along the Shivalik foothills is called the **Bhabar**. It is made of the coarse material dropped by rivers coming down from the mountains.

Facts (Bhabar-Terai)
• The Bhabar is highly porous, and small streams disappear underground here
• To its south lies the Terai, where the streams re-emerge
• The Terai is marshy, damp and thickly forested
• The Bhabar is not fit for farming

Other options: the Terai is the marshy belt. A Dun is a valley between the Lesser Himalaya and the Shivaliks. Khadar is new alluvium.

Remember Order from north to south: Shivalik, then Bhabar, then Terai, then Bhangar/Khadar.

41 ANSWER (d) Bhangar

SSC Phase-XIV (Matric) 16 Sep 2026, Shift-III

The largest part of the Northern Plains is the **Bhangar**. It is made of old alluvium and lies above the floodplain like a terrace.

Bhangar vs Khadar
• Bhangar contains calcareous nodules called 'kankar'
• Khadar is new alluvium, renewed by floods every year, and more fertile
• Bhabar is the pebble belt, Terai is the marshy area
• In Punjab-Haryana, raised Bhangar-like land is also called 'Dhaya'

Examiner's Trap If you see 'new' and 'fertile', think Khadar. If you see 'old' and 'largest part', think Bhangar. In the exam, students often swap these two.

42 ANSWER (a) Andaman and Nicobar

SSC Phase-XIV (Matric) 23 Sep 2026, Shift-III

The **Jarawa** and the **Sentinelese** are both native tribes of Andaman and Nicobar. They are hunter-gatherers of Negrito origin and are counted among the PVTGs (Particularly Vulnerable Tribal Groups).

Tribes: Andaman
• Major tribes: Great Andamanese, Onge, Jarawa, Sentinelese, Shompen, Nicobarese
• The Sentinelese live on North Sentinel Island, fully cut off from the outside world
• The Shompen live on Great Nicobar (Mongoloid origin)
• India has 75 notified PVTGs in all

PART K Himalayan River System

43 ANSWER (b) Shipki La

SSC Phase-XIV (Graduation) 24 Sep 2026, Shift-I

The Sutlej rises in Tibet and enters India in Himachal Pradesh near **Shipki La**. That is its entry point.

Static GK: Sutlej

• Shipki La lies in Kinnaur district (Himachal) on the India-China (Tibet) border
• Its source is taken as Rakas Tal near Mount Kailash, and in Tibet it is called Langchen Khambab
• It is an antecedent river, which means it cuts across the Himalayas
• Of the five rivers of Punjab, the Sutlej is the longest

Other options: Nathu La is in Sikkim and Lipulekh is in Uttarakhand. Zoji La links Srinagar with Leh (Ladakh).

44 ANSWER (a) Glaciers of the Kailash range

SSC Phase-XIV (Matric) 22 Sep 2026, Shift-III

The Indus rises in Tibet near Mansarovar, from the **Bokhar Chu glacier** on the northern slope of the Kailash range. So the right option is **Glaciers of the Kailash range**.

Remember: Indus River

• In Tibet it is called 'Singi Khamban', meaning 'Lion's Mouth'
• It flows through Ladakh, takes a sharp bend near Nanga Parbat and enters Pakistan
• Its total length is given as about 2,880 to 3,180 km, and the figure varies a little from book to book
• Jhelum, Chenab, Ravi, Beas and Sutlej (Panchnad) are its left-bank tributaries
• Its waters are shared under the Indus Waters Treaty of 1960, brokered by the World Bank

PART L Agriculture

45 ANSWER (b) Semi-arid

SSC Phase-XIV (Graduation) 17 Sep 2026, Shift-I

Maize is a warm-weather crop. It does best in **semi-arid** and sub-humid areas with moderate rainfall. Waterlogging and frost both harm it, so a very wet or cold climate is of no use to it.

Facts (Maize)

• Temperature about 21°C to 27°C
• Rainfall 50 to 100 cm, with well-drained loamy or old alluvial soil
• Mainly a kharif crop in India, but also grown in rabi in states like Bihar
• Karnataka and Madhya Pradesh are big producers
• Besides food, it is used as cattle feed and in the starch industry

46 ANSWER (c) Krishna-Godavari Delta

SSC Phase-XIV (Graduation) 21 Sep 2026, Shift-I

The **Krishna-Godavari Delta** of Andhra Pradesh is known as the 'Rice Bowl of India'. The reasons are fertile alluvial soil, canal irrigation and a huge paddy output.

Facts: Rice Bowl

• The delta is formed jointly by the Krishna and the Godavari, and its soil is alluvial and fertile
• The Sir Arthur Cotton Barrage on the Godavari at Dowleswaram is the backbone of irrigation here
• Among states, Chhattisgarh is also called the 'Rice Bowl'
• Paddy needs a temperature above 25°C and rainfall above 100 cm

Examiner's Trap This title is used for both Chhattisgarh (a state) and the Krishna-Godavari Delta (a region). Pick whichever appears in the options. Here a 'region' is asked, so the delta it is.

47 ANSWER (c) Maharashtra

SSC Phase-XIV (Graduation) 24 Sep 2026, Shift-I

Whether you look at area or production, **Maharashtra** is number 1 in the country for jowar (sorghum).

Agri GK: Jowar

• A rain-fed coarse grain grown in semi-arid and drought-prone areas
• Sown in both kharif and rabi, and in Maharashtra rabi jowar has the bigger share
• Karnataka, Rajasthan and Tamil Nadu are also major producers
• On India's initiative, the UN declared 2023 the International Year of Millets

48 ANSWER (c) About 50%

SSC Phase-XIV (12th) 19 Sep 2026, Shift-II

Assam is the country's largest tea-producing state.

Nearly **half, that is ≈ 50%**, of India's total tea comes from Assam alone.

Remember: Assam Tea

• Grown mainly in the Brahmaputra valley and the Barak valley
• In 1823 Robert Bruce identified the native tea plant in Assam
• The strong black tea variety is Camellia sinensis var. assamica
• The Tea Board of India is headquartered in Kolkata
• The Tocklai centre at Jorhat is among the oldest tea research centres in the world

49 ANSWER (d) Gossypium tomentosum

SSC Phase-XIV (12th) 25 Sep 2026, Shift-II

Gossypium tomentosum is a wild cotton of the Hawaiian Islands. It is not grown commercially in India, while the other three species are grown here.

Facts: Cotton Species

• India is the only country where all four cultivated species (arboreum, herbaceum, hirsutum, barbadense) are grown together
• arboreum and herbaceum are 'desi' or Old World cotton
• hirsutum is American cotton and barbadense is Egyptian cotton
• hirsutum has the largest share in India's output
• The black (regur) soil of the Deccan is best for cotton

50 ANSWER (c) Zaid - Vegetables and fodder

SSC Phase-XIV (Matric) 16 Sep 2026, Shift-III

The short summer season between rabi and kharif (roughly March to June) is called **Zaid**. Vegetables, fodder, watermelon, muskmelon and cucumber grow in it. So the pair 'Zaid - Vegetables and fodder' fits.

Cropping Seasons

• Kharif: sown with the monsoon (June-July), e.g. paddy, maize, cotton, jowar
• Rabi: sown as winter sets in (October-December) and harvested in spring, e.g. wheat, gram, barley, mustard
• Zaid crops grow in the dry summer, so irrigation is a must

Look at the other options. Wheat-gram and toria-mustard are rabi crops, while rice and cotton are kharif crops.

51 ANSWER (b) It is widely grown as a kharif crop in many states.

SSC Phase-XIV (Matric) 17 Sep 2026, Shift-III

Groundnut is grown over a large area as a **kharif crop** in many states like Gujarat, Rajasthan, Tamil Nadu and Andhra Pradesh, mostly rain-fed. This wide spread is why it makes up nearly half of the major oilseeds.

Facts (Groundnut)

• Gujarat is the largest producing state
• Mainly kharif, but in South India it is grown in rabi and zaid too
• It is a leguminous plant and fixes nitrogen in the soil
• Needs 20°C to 30°C and well-drained sandy loam soil

The other options are wrong because it is not an irrigation-dependent crop, nor a cold-weather crop. And it is grown mainly for domestic edible oil, not just for export.

52 ANSWER (b) Aus, Aman and Boro paddy are grown in West Bengal

SSC Phase-XIV (Matric) 18 Sep 2026, Shift-III

Thanks to a good climate and irrigation, **West Bengal** grows three paddy crops a year. Their local names are **Aus, Aman and Boro**.

Bengal's 3 Paddy Crops

• Aus: pre-kharif paddy, sown in May-June, harvested in September-October
• Aman: the main winter paddy, sown in June-July, harvested in November-December, and it gives the largest output
• Boro: irrigated summer paddy, sown in November-December, harvested in March-April
• West Bengal is one of the leading rice-producing states

Other options: the names given there are not paddy seasons of those states at all. They are made up.

53 **ANSWER (b)** To protect farmers from exploitation by speculators and middlemen.

SSC Phase-XIV (Matric) 19 Sep 2026, Shift-III

The real aim of MSP is to give the farmer a **guaranteed minimum price** for his produce. Even when there is a bumper crop and market prices fall, the farmer need not sell cheap out of compulsion, and he stays safe from exploitation by middlemen and speculators.

Facts (MSP)

- MSP works like a price floor fixed by the government
- It is recommended by the CACP (Commission for Agricultural Costs and Prices) and announced by the Centre
- MSP covers 22 mandated crops, and for sugarcane there is the FRP (Fair and Remunerative Price)
- It is announced for both the kharif and rabi seasons
- The Swaminathan Commission suggested an MSP at least 50% above cost

54 **ANSWER (b)** Maharashtra produces one-third of the total production

SSC Phase-XIV (Matric) 21 Sep 2026, Shift-III

Tur (arhar) is India's second most important pulse. **Maharashtra** alone gives about **one-third** of its total output.

Agri GK: Tur/Arhar

- Other names: red gram, pigeon pea
- Mainly a kharif, rain-fed crop
- Its deep roots let it withstand drought, and it grows even on poor land
- After Maharashtra come Karnataka, Madhya Pradesh and Uttar Pradesh
- Being a pulse, it fixes nitrogen and improves soil fertility

Why not the other options? Tur grows on dry, less fertile land with rainfall alone. And it covers only around 2% of the total cropped area, not 10%.

55 **ANSWER (a)** Jowar - Maharashtra

SSC Phase-XIV (Matric) 22 Sep 2026, Shift-III

Maharashtra leads in both area and production of jowar. So the pair 'Jowar - Maharashtra' is correct.

Remember: Top Producers

- Jowar is a coarse grain of semi-arid areas, grown in both kharif and rabi
- Rajasthan is number 1 in bajra
- In wheat, Uttar Pradesh leads, followed by Madhya Pradesh and Punjab
- Big maize producers are Karnataka, Madhya Pradesh and Bihar

Other options: West Bengal is not a major bajra area, Andhra Pradesh is not a major wheat area, and coastal Kerala is not a major maize area.

56 **ANSWER (b)** Culturable wasteland

SSC Phase-XIV (Matric) 23 Sep 2026, Shift-III

In land-use classification, land that is fit for farming but has not been tilled for **more than 5 years** is called **Culturable Wasteland**. With some improvement it can be brought back under cultivation.

Land-Use Classification

- Current fallow: land left uncultivated for one agricultural year or less
- Old fallow: left untilled for 1 to 5 years
- Barren and unculturable land: cannot be farmed with present technology, e.g. deserts, rocky hills
- Land-use data is kept under nine categories in all

Note Remember it by the time limit. Up to 1 year is current fallow, 1 to 5 years is old fallow, and above 5 years is culturable wasteland.

57 **ANSWER (b)** Deliberate regulation for efficient irrigation of plants

SSC Phase-XIV (Matric) 23 Sep 2026, Shift-III

This is data from Meghalaya's traditional **bamboo drip irrigation**. Water comes from the spring at 18-20 litres per minute, and the bamboo pipes **regulate it on purpose** so that only 20-80 drops per minute reach the plant's roots. No water is wasted, and that is the beauty of it.

Facts: Bamboo Drip

- An eco-friendly technique from Meghalaya, about 200 years old
- No pump, no electricity, water reaches the slopes by gravity alone

• Bamboo of different thickness is used to cut down the flow step by step
• Used mostly for betel leaf and black pepper cultivation

58 **ANSWER (c)** Slash-and-burn (jhum) cultivation in North-East India

SSC Phase-XIV (Matric) 25 Sep 2026, Shift-III

Jhumming is simply the local name for the **slash-and-burn** shifting cultivation practised in the hills of the North-East (Assam, Meghalaya, Mizoram, Nagaland and others).

Jhum: Other Names

• A patch of forest is cut and burnt, the ash-rich soil is farmed for a few years, and then the farmers move on
• In India: Bewar/Dahiya (MP), Podu/Penda (Andhra), Koman/Bringa (Odisha), Kumari (Western Ghats)
• In the world: Milpa (Mexico/Central America), Roca (Brazil), Ladang (Indonesia/Malaysia)
• It is being discouraged because of deforestation and soil erosion

PART M Minerals

59 **ANSWER (d)** Ludhiana-Delhi-Kanpur belt

SSC Phase-XIV (Graduation) 18 Sep 2026, Shift-I

Note this. All the major iron ore belts lie in the old rocks of the Peninsular plateau. **Ludhiana-Delhi-Kanpur** is part of the alluvial Indo-Gangetic plain. There is no iron ore there at all, as it is an industrial and farming zone. So this option is not a belt.

Facts: Iron Ore Belts

• Four major belts: Odisha-Jharkhand, Durg-Bastar-Chandrapur, Bellary-Chitradurga-Chikmagalur-Tumkur, Maharashtra-Goa
• The Bailadila hills of Bastar (Chhattisgarh) are famous for high-grade haematite
• Bailadila ore goes to Japan and South Korea through Visakhapatnam port
• Kudremukh in Karnataka is also a big area
• India's main ores are haematite and magnetite

Note Metallic minerals are not found in the sedimentary soil of the alluvial plains. They occur in the old igneous and metamorphic rocks of the Peninsula.

60 **ANSWER (b)** Mica

SSC Phase-XIV (Graduation) 19 Sep 2026, Shift-I

The **Koderma-Gaya-Hazaribagh** belt of Jharkhand is known worldwide for high-quality **mica**, especially ruby muscovite. The pegmatite rocks here are rich in mica.

Static GK: Mica

• Koderma is the 'Mica Capital of India'
• Mica is a bad conductor of electricity and has high dielectric strength, so it is used in the electronics and electrical industries
• Other areas: Nellore in Andhra Pradesh, and Rajasthan

Other options: Singhbhum (Jharkhand) is known for copper and iron ore, and Lohardaga for bauxite.

61 **ANSWER (c)** Durg

SSC Phase-XIV (Graduation) 22 Sep 2026, Shift-I

The AMD (Atomic Minerals Directorate for Exploration and Research) found uranium in the **Durg** area of Chhattisgarh, near Bhandaritola. The place now falls in Rajnandgaon district, but among the options Durg is the one that fits.

Remember: Uranium

• AMD is headquartered in Hyderabad, and its job is to survey and explore atomic minerals
• Working mines are mainly in Singhbhum (Jaduguda), Jharkhand
• Tummalapalle in Andhra is counted among the large deposits
• Mining and processing are done by UCIL, set up in 1967

Note Bhandaritola was earlier in Durg district. After the districts were reorganised it is shown in Rajnandgaon, but in the exam the answer taken is still 'Durg'.

62 **ANSWER (c)** Ancient rock formations and tectonic stability

SSC Phase-XIV (Graduation) 25 Sep 2026, Shift-I

The Chota Nagpur Plateau is made of Pre-Cambrian granite-gneiss rocks (Dharwar system) and

Gondwana sediments. Such an **ancient rock structure** and long **tectonic stability** allowed metallic minerals and coal to form here and stay preserved.

Facts: Chota Nagpur

• Coal, iron ore, mica, bauxite and copper, all in large quantities
• The Jharia, Raniganj and Bokaro coalfields lie in the Gondwana sediments of the Damodar valley
• Singhbhum and Noamundi are major iron ore areas
• Its minerals and heavy industries earned it the name 'Ruhr of India'
• Spread: mainly Jharkhand, along with adjoining parts of West Bengal, Odisha and Chhattisgarh

63 **ANSWER (a)** Limestone, Dolomite, Phosphate

SSC Phase-XIV (12th) 16 Sep 2026, Shift-II

Limestone, dolomite and phosphate are all non-metallic industrial minerals. They are widely used in cement, construction and fertilisers.

Non-Metallic Minerals

• Limestone (calcium carbonate) is the main raw material for cement
• Dolomite (calcium-magnesium carbonate) is used in the steel industry, refractory bricks and construction
• Rock phosphate is used to make chemical fertilisers
• Non-metallic minerals give no metal on smelting and have no metallic lustre
• Rajasthan and Madhya Pradesh are big producers of rock phosphate and limestone

Look at the other options. Coal, petroleum and gas are (fossil) fuels. Copper, aluminium and iron are metallic. Uranium and thorium are atomic minerals, and the copper with them is metallic.

64 **ANSWER (c)** Gujarat and Rajasthan

SSC Phase-XIV (12th) 18 Sep 2026, Shift-II

India's **north-western mineral belt** spreads over the Aravallis of Rajasthan and the adjoining parts of **Gujarat**. Non-ferrous metals, building stones, salt and petroleum are found here.

North-Western Belt

• Rajasthan: copper, lead-zinc, gypsum, marble, sandstone
• The Khetri (copper) and Zawar (lead-zinc) mines are in this belt
• Gujarat: oil/gas of Ankleshwar-Khambhat, and salt
• Other belts: the North-Eastern Plateau (Chota Nagpur) belt and the South-Western Plateau belt

65 **ANSWER (d)** Coal in eastern/central India, petroleum on the west coast and in Assam, gas along with onshore/offshore petroleum

SSC Phase-XIV (12th) 26 Sep 2026, Shift-I

Most of India's **coal** lies in the Gondwana basins of eastern and central India. **Petroleum** is found on the west coast (Mumbai High, Gujarat) and in Assam. And **natural gas** usually comes out along with these onshore and offshore oilfields.

Energy: What Lies Where

• About 98% of coal is in Gondwana rocks, that is Jharkhand, Odisha, Chhattisgarh, West Bengal
• Jharia, Raniganj and Bokaro in the Damodar valley
• Digboi in Assam is the oldest oilfield
• Mumbai High is the largest domestic crude oil producing field
• On the east coast, the KG basin yields large amounts of natural gas

PART N Human Geography

66 **ANSWER (c)** a woman replaces herself in the population

SSC Phase-XIV (Graduation) 21 Sep 2026, Shift-I

NRR (Net Reproduction Rate) tells us how many daughters, on average, a woman gives birth to who will themselves reach reproductive age, under today's fertility and mortality conditions. **NRR = 1** means each woman has exactly one such daughter and so **replaces herself**.

Concept: NRR

• NRR = 1 is called the replacement level, and in the long run the population stays stable
• If NRR is above 1 the next generation is bigger, and if it is below 1 the population will shrink
• NRR takes mortality into account, GRR (Gross Reproduction Rate) does not

• In terms of TFR, the replacement level is about 2.1 children per woman

Examiner's Trap 'Birth rate = death rate' means zero natural growth. That is not the definition of NRR = 1. NRR is about women replacing themselves generation after generation.

67 ANSWER (c) Surat

SSC Phase-XIV (Graduation) 23 Sep 2026, Shift-I

Surat in Gujarat is the world's largest centre for diamond cutting and polishing. About 90% of the world's rough diamonds are cut here.

Facts (Surat)

• Other names: 'Diamond City' and 'Silk City'
• The Surat Diamond Bourse (SDB) was inaugurated in December 2023 and is considered the world's largest office complex
• The diamond industry is a major support for Gujarat's economy and jobs
• Gems and jewellery are among India's major export sectors

Other options: Jaipur is famous for coloured gemstones and Kundan jewellery. Pune and Rajkot are not big centres of the diamond industry.

68 ANSWER (c) It is in an early demographic transition

SSC Phase-XIV (Graduation) 23 Sep 2026, Shift-I

In the **early stages** of the demographic transition, the death rate starts falling but the birth rate stays high. So a region with a high CBR (Crude Birth Rate) is still at the start of the transition, and its population is growing fast.

Demographic Transition

• CBR = live births per 1,000 people in a year
• Birth rate is high in stages 1 and 2
• A high birth rate gives a broad-based population pyramid with more child and young dependants
• In stages 3 and 4 both birth and death rates are low

Other options: an ageing population and an advanced transition are signs of a low birth rate. Migration (outflow) has no direct link with CBR.

69 ANSWER (c) It creates a need for investment in skills and employment

SSC Phase-XIV (Graduation) 23 Sep 2026, Shift-I

The rising number of young people is a **demographic dividend** opportunity for India. But the benefit comes only if the government invests in **education, skills and jobs**. At the policy level, this is the biggest implication.

Concept: Demo Dividend

• When the working-age (15-64 years) population outnumbers the dependants, the growth potential that arises is the dividend
• About two-thirds of India's population is of working age, with a median age of around 28
• Schemes like Skill India and Make in India aim to cash in on it
• Without jobs, the same dividend can turn into a 'demographic burden'

Other options: a young population raises job demand and consumption, it does not lower them. The need to expand pensions arises in an ageing population.

70 ANSWER (c) Dependency ratio

SSC Phase-XIV (Graduation) 23 Sep 2026, Shift-I

The **dependency ratio** compares the dependent population (0-14 years and above 65) with the working population (15-64 years). It directly measures demographic dependency.

Formula: Dependency Ratio

• Formula: [(0-14 years + 65+ years) ÷ (15-64 years)] × 100
• Two parts: young dependency ratio and old-age dependency ratio
• A low ratio means a more productive workforce and a dividend
• A high ratio puts pressure on government spending on health, education and pensions

Other options: crude birth rate measures fertility, life expectancy measures the expected average lifespan, and sex ratio measures gender composition. None of them measures dependency.

71 ANSWER (c) Bakery Products

SSC Phase-XIV (Graduation) 25 Sep 2026, Shift-I

Bakery products like bread, cake and pastry spoil quickly and have a very short shelf-life. Fresh goods must reach the customer at once, so bakeries are set up close to towns. In other words, a fully **market-oriented** industry.

Concept: Industry Location

• As per Alfred Weber's theory, industries making perishable or fragile goods locate near the market
• Those whose raw material loses weight in processing (weight-losing) locate near raw materials, e.g. iron and steel, sugar
• Products that gain weight or volume after making, or spoil quickly, are market-oriented

Other options: oil refineries are also set up near ports, pipelines or oilfields. In cotton spinning the raw material does not lose weight, so it can be set up anywhere.

72 ANSWER (d) Indo-Aryan

SSC Phase-XIV (12th) 18 Sep 2026, Shift-II

India's largest language group is the **Indo-Aryan** branch of the Indo-European family. About 78% of Indians speak its languages, such as Hindi, Bengali, Marathi, Gujarati and Punjabi.

Static GK: Language Families

• Second is Dravidian (about 20%): Tamil, Telugu, Kannada, Malayalam
• Austric (Austro-Asiatic) about 1%: Santhali, Khasi, Mundari
• Sino-Tibetan less than 1%, mostly in the North-East and Himalayan areas
• The Eighth Schedule has 22 languages

73 ANSWER (c) They reflect patterns (trends) shaped by society.

SSC Phase-XIV (Matric) 17 Sep 2026, Shift-III

An aggregate figure like the death rate does not tell the story of one person. It shows how health facilities, poverty, sanitation, living standards and government policies together create **patterns** across the whole society. That is why it is treated as a social phenomenon.

Concept: Social Facts

• In his 1897 book 'Suicide', Emile Durkheim showed that rates of even personal-looking events are 'social facts'
• Demography is the study of the size, structure, distribution and change of population
• CDR = deaths per 1,000 people in a year
• In India, births and deaths are registered under the 1969 Act

Other options: being worked out with maths or collected by the government does not make a figure 'social'. And its value lies not in ignoring individual differences but in showing social patterns.

74 ANSWER (b) It will turn into a demographic burden.

SSC Phase-XIV (Matric) 23 Sep 2026, Shift-III

The demographic dividend does not come on its own. Growth happens only when the working population is educated, skilled and employed. If the youth get no education and jobs, an unemployed workforce becomes a load on the economy, and the dividend turns into a **demographic burden**.

Dividend vs Burden

• Dividend = the economic opportunity created by a change in age structure (a rise in the working population)
• Working age is usually 15-64 years, though some Indian data use 15-59 years
• For India, this window is taken to run from about 2005-06 to 2055
• Skill development and job creation are the key to it

75 ANSWER (a) Isolated huts

SSC Phase-XIV (Matric) 24 Sep 2026, Shift-III

In a **dispersed** (scattered) settlement, houses are not grouped in one place. **Isolated huts** standing far apart on hills, in forests or in fields are its mark.

Types of Rural Settlement

• Dispersed settlements occur in hilly or rugged areas like the Himalayas, Meghalaya and parts of Kerala
• In a clustered/compact settlement houses are close together, common in fertile alluvial plains
• A semi-clustered settlement forms when a large

village breaks up
• In a hamleted settlement the village is split into several separate hamlets (purwa/tola)

Other options: large villages are clustered settlements. Rows along a road, river or canal make a linear settlement. A circular form is also just a shape of a compact settlement.

PART O Transport

76 ANSWER (d) Perambur

SSC Phase-XIV (Graduation) 18 Sep 2026, Shift-I

The **Integral Coach Factory (ICF)**, which builds coaches for Indian Railways, is at **Perambur** in Chennai and began in 1955.

Railway GK: Coach Factory
• ICF was inaugurated by Pt. Nehru on 2 October 1955
• The Vande Bharat Express (Train 18) was designed and built at ICF Chennai
• Other coach units: RCF Kapurthala (Punjab) and MCF Raebareli (U.P.)

Other options: Chittaranjan (W. Bengal) has the Chittaranjan Locomotive Works and Varanasi has the Banaras Locomotive Works, and both make engines. Jamshedpur is famous for Tata Steel.

77 ANSWER (a) Thomas Robertson Commission

SSC Phase-XIV (Graduation) 21 Sep 2026, Shift-I

In 1901, during Lord Curzon's time, **Sir Thomas Robertson** was asked to inquire into railway administration. His 1903 report recommended a separate Railway Board, and on that basis the Railway Board was formed in **1905**.

Remember: Railway Board
• The Railway Board was formed in 1905 with three members
• The Acworth Committee (1920-21) asked for the rail budget to be separated from the general budget, done in 1924
• Since 2017 the rail budget is again part of the general budget

Other options: the Raleigh Commission (1902) was on university education and led to the Indian Universities Act, 1904. The Sadler Commission (1917) was on Calcutta University, and the Sargent Plan (1944) was on education.

Examiner's Trap Raleigh, Sadler and Sargent are all education commissions. Only Robertson is linked with the Railway Board.

78 ANSWER (b) 14,500 km

SSC Phase-XIV (12th) 21 Sep 2026, Shift-II

Rivers, canals, backwaters, creeks and tidal estuaries together give India about **14,500 km** of navigable inland waterways.

Facts: Inland Waterways
• Of these, about 5,200 km of rivers and 4,000 km of canals are fit for mechanised craft
• IWAI was set up in 1986, headquartered in Noida
• After the National Waterways Act, 2016, there are 111 National Waterways in all
• NW-1 (Ganga-Bhagirathi-Hooghly) runs from Prayagraj to Haldia, about 1,620 km
• The cheapest and most eco-friendly mode of freight transport

79 ANSWER (a) 111

SSC Phase-XIV (12th) 23 Sep 2026, Shift-II

The **National Waterways Act, 2016** added 106 new waterways to the earlier 5. That makes **111** in all.

Act: NW Act 2016
• In force from April 2016
• The longest is NW-1: Ganga-Bhagirathi-Hooghly, Prayagraj to Haldia, about 1,620 km
• NW-2 is the Brahmaputra (Sadiya to Dhubri), NW-3 is Kerala's West Coast Canal
• Development is IWAI's job (set up in 1986, headquartered in Noida)

Note Remember it like a formula: 5 old + 106 new = 111.

80 ANSWER (b) Improves efficiency

SSC Phase-XIV (Matric) 21 Sep 2026, Shift-III

New technology in transport cuts travel time and logistics cost, raises carrying capacity and makes movement easier. In short, the **efficiency** of the whole system goes up, and both connectivity and economic growth benefit.

Transport: New Initiatives

• High-speed rail, Dedicated Freight Corridors and digital logistics speed up the supply chain
• Cheaper transport makes Indian goods more competitive in global markets
• PM Gati Shakti National Master Plan (2021) for multi-modal connectivity
• The National Logistics Policy (2022) aims to cut logistics costs

The other three options, slowing speed, limiting travel and reducing connectivity, are the exact opposite of what technological progress does.

81 ANSWER (c) Chabahar

SSC Phase-XIV (Matric) 22 Sep 2026, Shift-III

The **Shahid Beheshti Terminal** is at **Chabahar** port in south-eastern Iran. India is developing it to reach Afghanistan and Central Asia while bypassing Pakistan.

Facts (Chabahar Port)

• In Iran's Sistan-Baluchestan province, on the coast of the Gulf of Oman
• Operated on India's side by India Ports Global Limited (IPGL)
• In May 2024 India and Iran signed a 10-year contract to run the terminal
• A key hub of the INSTC (International North-South Transport Corridor)

Other options: Gwadar is in Pakistan (under China's CPEC), Sittwe is in Myanmar (India's Kaladan project), and Colombo is in Sri Lanka.

Examiner's Trap India has developed Sittwe too, but it is in Myanmar. The only Indian port project in Iran is Chabahar.

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08 CHAPTER
Physics

Questions *13 questions · 11 shifts*

PART A Force and Laws of Motion

Directions (Q. 01): *Choose the correct answer from the four given options.*

01 What would happen if friction were completely removed from a system with a moving object?

SSC Phase-XIV (Graduation) 21 Sep 2026, Shift-I

(a) The object would stop after covering a certain distance
(b) The object would automatically follow a curved path
(c) The object would keep moving at a constant velocity indefinitely
(d) The velocity of the object would keep increasing

PART B Gravitation and Work Done

Directions (Q. 02–05): *Choose the correct answer from the four given options.*

02 What would happen if the Earth's gravity became twice as strong as it is now?

SSC Phase-XIV (Graduation) 18 Sep 2026, Shift-I

(a) Tides would remain unaffected
(b) Human physiology would adapt easily
(c) Atmospheric pressure would increase significantly
(d) Space exploration would become easier

03 An object of mass 2 kg moving at 6 m/s strikes an initially unstretched spring and compresses it by 0.20 m before coming to rest momentarily. Assuming no loss of energy, what is the spring constant?

SSC Phase-XIV (Graduation) 24 Sep 2026, Shift-I

(a) 1800 N/m (b) 280 N/m
(c) 720 N/m (d) 360 N/m

04 Which fundamental force of nature is responsible for keeping the planets, including the Earth, in stable orbits around the Sun in the Solar System?

SSC Phase-XIV (Matric) 16 Sep 2026, Shift-III

(a) Magnetic force between bodies
(b) Friction in space
(c) Gravitational pull
(d) Nuclear force in the core

05 Which factor is responsible for keeping the Earth in its orbit around the Sun and preventing it from drifting away into space?

SSC Phase-XIV (Matric) 22 Sep 2026, Shift-III

(a) Atmospheric pressure
(b) Gravitational force
(c) Ocean currents
(d) Magnetic waves

PART C Reflection and Refraction

Directions (Q. 06–10): *Choose the correct answer from the four given options.*

06 An object 1.0 cm high is placed at a distance of 24 cm in front of a concave mirror of focal length 16 cm. What are the nature and height of the image?

SSC Phase-XIV (Graduation) 17 Sep 2026, Shift-I

(a) Erect, 2.0 cm (b) Erect, 0.4 cm

(c) Inverted, 0.4 cm (d) Inverted, 2.0 cm

07 An object of height 4 cm is placed at a distance of 24 cm in front of a convex lens of focal length 10 cm. Which of the following correctly describes the position, height and nature of the image formed?

SSC Phase-XIV (Graduation) 19 Sep 2026, Shift-I

(a) 17.14 cm, 2.86 cm, real and inverted
(b) 16.67 cm, 3.33 cm, virtual and erect
(c) 7.14 cm, 1.43 cm, real and inverted
(d) 17.14 cm, 3.33 cm, virtual and erect

08 Consider the following statements regarding the image formed by a concave mirror when an object is placed between the pole (P) and the principal focus (F):
1. The image is formed behind the mirror.
2. The image formed by the mirror is virtual and erect.
Which of the above statements is/are correct?

SSC Phase-XIV (Graduation) 22 Sep 2026, Shift-I

(a) Only 1 (b) Only 2
(c) Both 1 and 2 (d) Neither 1 nor 2

09 Why does a diamond sparkle more than other transparent substances?

SSC Phase-XIV (Graduation) 23 Sep 2026, Shift-I

(a) It absorbs light and releases it slowly
(b) Its refractive index allows dispersion and internal reflection
(c) The smoothness of its surface increases reflection
(d) It scatters light equally in all directions

10 Which phenomenon explains the bending of light as it passes through the Earth's atmosphere, affecting the apparent position of celestial bodies?

SSC Phase-XIV (Matric) 22 Sep 2026, Shift-III

(a) Reflection (b) Refraction
(c) Diffusion (d) Absorption

PART D Human Eye and Vision

Directions (Q. 11–12): *Choose the correct answer from the four given options.*

11 What is the defect of vision caused by ageing and weakening of the ciliary muscles called?

SSC Phase-XIV (Graduation) 24 Sep 2026, Shift-I

(a) Myopia (near-sightedness)
(b) Hypermetropia (far-sightedness)
(c) Presbyopia
(d) Cataract

12 When light rays enter the human eye, at which part does most of the refraction take place?

SSC Phase-XIV (Matric) 19 Sep 2026, Shift-III

(a) Crystalline eye lens
(b) Outer surface of the cornea
(c) Circular pigmented iris
(d) Attached ciliary muscles

PART E Electricity

Directions (Q. 13): *Choose the correct answer from the four given options.*

13 Which property of mica makes it indispensable in high-voltage electrical equipment?

SSC Phase-XIV (Matric) 24 Sep 2026, Shift-III

(a) Its occurrence in the form of thin, flexible sheets
(b) Its high resistance to electric current with minimal power loss
(c) Its availability in many colours and textures
(d) Its concentration in the plateau regions of India

Answer Key *SSC official key*

Part A · Force and Laws of Motion (Q. 01)		
01	(c)	

Part B · Gravitation and Work Done (Q. 02–05)									
02	(c)	**03**	(a)	**04**	(c)	**05**	(b)		
Part C · Reflection and Refraction (Q. 06–10)									
06	(d)	**07**	(a)	**08**	(c)	**09**	(b)	**10**	(b)
Part D · Human Eye and Vision (Q. 11–12)									
11	(c)	**12**	(b)						
Part E · Electricity (Q. 13)									
13	(b)								

Detailed Explanations रटना बंद, समझना शुरू

PART A Force and Laws of Motion

01 **ANSWER (c)** The object would keep moving at a constant velocity indefinitely

SSC Phase-XIV (Graduation) 21 Sep 2026, Shift-I

Newton's **first law** says that a body keeps moving in a straight line with uniform velocity until an unbalanced external force acts on it. What stops a moving thing is friction. Remove it, and the object **simply keeps moving at constant velocity**.

Newton's First Law

- It is also called the 'law of inertia'
- Zero unbalanced force means zero acceleration, so velocity neither rises nor falls
- Friction is a contact force that opposes the relative motion of two surfaces
- Galileo first gave the idea of inertia through his inclined plane experiments

Examiner's Trap The option 'velocity would keep increasing' is wrong. To increase velocity you need a force. No force, and the velocity just stays constant.

PART B Gravitation and Work Done

02 **ANSWER (c)** Atmospheric pressure would increase significantly

SSC Phase-XIV (Graduation) 18 Sep 2026, Shift-I

Atmospheric pressure is really the **weight** per unit area of the column of air above, and weight depends on g ($P = \rho gh$). If g doubles, both the weight of the air and its downward pull go up. The result is that **atmospheric pressure rises sharply**.

Physics: g and Pressure

- Normal pressure at sea level ≈ 101.3 kPa (1 atm)
- On Earth $g \approx 9.8\ m/s^2$, and weight $W = mg$, so doubling g doubles the weight of everything
- Escape velocity is $\sqrt{(2gR)}$, so doubling g takes it from ≈ 11.2 to ≈ 15.8 km/s, making space travel harder
- Stronger gravity would also make the air near the surface denser

Other options: tides are driven by gravity itself, so they would be affected. The human body would not adjust easily to double weight. And space exploration would get harder, not easier.

03 **ANSWER (a)** 1800 N/m

SSC Phase-XIV (Graduation) 24 Sep 2026, Shift-I

There is no energy loss, so the whole kinetic energy of the object turns into the potential energy of the spring: $\frac{1}{2}mv^2 = \frac{1}{2}kx^2$.
First find the kinetic energy: $\frac{1}{2} \times 2 \times 6^2 = \mathbf{36\ J}$
Now $36 = \frac{1}{2} \times k \times (0.20)^2 = 0.02k$, which gives $\mathbf{k = 1800\ N/m}$

Formula: Spring Energy

- Elastic potential energy stored in a spring $U = \frac{1}{2}kx^2$
- Direct method: $k = mv^2/x^2 = (2 \times 36)/0.04 = 1800$ N/m
- The SI unit of spring constant is N/m
- Hooke's law: $F = -kx$, the force is proportional to the displacement

Examiner's Trap Put the ½ on only one side and you land on wrong answers like 720 or 360. Remember,

the ½ is on both sides and cancels out.

04 **ANSWER (c)** Gravitational pull

SSC Phase-XIV (Matric) 16 Sep 2026, Shift-III

The centripetal force that the planets need to go round in orbit is supplied by the **gravitational pull** between the Sun and the planets. It is what holds them in stable orbits.

Concept: Gravitation

- Newton gave the law of universal gravitation in 1687: $F = G \cdot m_1 m_2 / r^2$
- $G \approx 6.67 \times 10^{-11}$ N·m²/kg²
- The weakest of the four fundamental forces, but its reach is infinite
- Einstein (1915, General Relativity) described gravity as the curvature of space-time caused by mass

Other options: the magnetic force between planets is negligible. There is almost no friction in a vacuum. And nuclear forces act only over tiny distances, about the size of a nucleus.

05 **ANSWER (b)** Gravitational force

SSC Phase-XIV (Matric) 22 Sep 2026, Shift-III

The Sun's **gravitational force** keeps pulling the Earth towards it all the time. This pull acts as the centripetal force and balances the Earth's orbital velocity, so the Earth stays in its elliptical orbit.

Remember: Earth's Orbit

- Gravitational force is directly proportional to the product of the masses and inversely proportional to the square of the distance
- Mean distance from the Sun ≈ 149.6 million km, that is 1 AU
- The Earth's mean orbital speed is about 29.8 km/s
- Kepler's first law: orbits are elliptical, with the Sun at one focus
- Without gravity, the Earth would fly off straight along the tangent

PART C Reflection and Refraction

06 **ANSWER (d)** Inverted, 2.0 cm

SSC Phase-XIV (Graduation) 17 Sep 2026, Shift-I

Put u = −24 cm and f = −16 cm in the mirror formula $1/f = 1/v + 1/u$:
$1/v = -1/16 + 1/24 = -1/48$, so **v = −48 cm**
Magnification m = −v/u = −2, so image height = −2 × 1.0 = −2.0 cm. The image is **real, inverted and 2.0 cm** high.

Concept: Concave Mirror

- The object is between F (16 cm) and C (32 cm), so the image forms beyond C, enlarged, real and inverted
- A minus sign on m means real and inverted, and |m| = 2 means twice as big
- A concave mirror forms an erect (virtual) image only when the object is between P and F

Note Sign convention: for a concave mirror, write both f and the real object distance u as negative.

07 **ANSWER (a)** 17.14 cm, 2.86 cm, real and inverted

SSC Phase-XIV (Graduation) 19 Sep 2026, Shift-I

First apply the sign convention. For a convex lens, f = +10 cm and u = −24 cm. From the lens formula, $1/v = 1/10 - 1/24 = 7/120$, so v ≈ +17.14 cm. Magnification m = v/u = −5/7, so the height of the image = 4 × (−5/7) ≈ −2.86 cm. Since v is positive and m is negative, the image is **real and inverted**.

Formula: Lens Formula

- Lens formula: **$1/f = 1/v - 1/u$** (for a mirror it is +: $1/f = 1/v + 1/u$)
- Magnification m = v/u = height of image ÷ height of object
- In the Cartesian sign convention, u is always taken as negative
- For a lens, v > 0 means a real image, and negative m means inverted
- If the object is beyond 2F, a convex lens forms a small, real, inverted image between F and 2F

Note Save time in the exam. Here u = 24 cm, which is more than 2f = 20 cm. So even without calculation you know the image will be small, real and inverted. Only options A and C are left.

08 **ANSWER (c)** Both 1 and 2

SSC Phase-XIV (Graduation) 22 Sep 2026, Shift-I

When the object is between P and F of a concave

mirror, the reflected rays spread out and appear to come from behind the mirror. So the image is formed behind the mirror, and it is virtual, erect and enlarged. Both statements are correct, which means **Both 1 and 2**.

Remember: Concave Mirror

- Object between P and F is the only position where a concave mirror gives a virtual, erect, enlarged image
- That is why concave mirrors are used as shaving mirrors and dentist's mirrors
- Object at F gives an image at infinity (real, inverted, highly enlarged)
- Mirror formula: $1/f = 1/v + 1/u$

09 **ANSWER (b)** Its refractive index allows dispersion and internal reflection

SSC Phase-XIV (Graduation) 23 Sep 2026, Shift-I

Diamond has a very high refractive index, about 2.42. Because of this, its critical angle is only around 24°. Light that enters it undergoes total internal reflection again and again, and it also splits into colours (dispersion). That is the secret of a diamond's sparkle.

Facts: Sparkle of Diamond

- Refractive index of diamond $\approx$ 2.42, critical angle $\approx$ 24.4°
- The higher the refractive index, the smaller the critical angle
- The real cause of the sparkle is **total internal reflection (TIR)**
- High dispersion makes white light appear in different colours
- Diamond is an allotrope of carbon (tetrahedral lattice)

Examiner's Trap Option C (smoothness of surface) looks fine at first glance. But the sparkle does not come from ordinary reflection at the outer surface. It comes from total internal reflection taking place inside.

10 **ANSWER (b)** Refraction

SSC Phase-XIV (Matric) 22 Sep 2026, Shift-III

The density of atmospheric layers changes with height, so their refractive index also changes. Light from the Sun or the stars bends as it passes through these layers. This is called **atmospheric refraction**, and it is why celestial bodies appear slightly higher than their actual position.

Atmospheric Refraction

- The Sun appears to rise about 2 minutes early and stays visible for about 2 minutes after sunset (day longer by about 4 minutes)
- Twinkling of stars is also due to fluctuations in this refraction
- Cause of refraction: change in the speed of light in different media
- Snell's law: $n_1 \sin\theta_1 = n_2 \sin\theta_2$
- The effect is greatest on bodies near the horizon

PART D Human Eye and Vision

11 **ANSWER (c)** Presbyopia

SSC Phase-XIV (Graduation) 24 Sep 2026, Shift-I

With age, the ciliary muscles become weak and the eye lens loses its flexibility. As a result, the power of accommodation of the eye decreases and reading nearby things becomes difficult. This defect is called **Presbyopia**.

Static GK: Defects of Vision

- Presbyopia is often corrected with **bifocal lenses**
- In a bifocal lens, the upper part is concave (for distance) and the lower part convex (for near)
- Myopia: image forms in front of the retina, corrected with a concave lens
- Hypermetropia: image forms behind the retina, corrected with a convex lens
- In cataract the lens becomes cloudy, treated by surgery

Looking at the other options, myopia and hypermetropia are defects of eyeball length or lens power. They have no direct link with age. Cataract is a disease in which the lens turns cloudy.

12 **ANSWER (b)** Outer surface of the cornea

SSC Phase-XIV (Matric) 19 Sep 2026, Shift-III

Most of the refraction in the eye happens at the **outer surface of the cornea**. The reason is simple. This is where light goes straight from air into the cornea, and the difference in their refractive indices

is the largest here. The eye lens only does the fine adjustment of focus.

Human Eye: Parts and Roles

- The cornea provides about two-thirds of the total optical power of the eye
- The eye lens focuses objects at different distances on the retina through accommodation
- The iris controls the amount of light by changing the size of the pupil
- Ciliary muscles change the curvature of the lens
- The retina has rods and cones as light-sensitive cells

Examiner's Trap Many students tick 'eye lens' here. The lens fine-tunes the focus, but it is the cornea that bends the rays the most.

PART E Electricity

13 **ANSWER (b)** Its high resistance to electric current with minimal power loss

SSC Phase-XIV (Matric) 24 Sep 2026, Shift-III

Mica is a very poor conductor of electricity. Its dielectric strength is high and its power loss is very low. So it works as an excellent insulator in high-voltage equipment, and the answer is **high resistance with minimal power loss**.

Facts: Mica

- Mica does not crack or break up even at high temperatures
- Main varieties: muscovite (white mica) and phlogopite
- **Koderma** in Jharkhand is called the 'Mica Capital of India'
- Large deposits: Andhra Pradesh, Rajasthan, Jharkhand
- Easily splits into thin, flexible layers

Other options: thin layers, colours and textures, and its spread in India are all true facts. But none of these properties makes it useful in electrical equipment.

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09
CHAPTER

Chemistry

Questions *1 question · 1 shift*

Metals and Non-Metals

Directions (Q. 01): *Choose the correct answer from the four given options.*

01 Why do metals conduct electricity better than non-metals?

SSC Phase-XIV (Graduation) 25 Sep 2026, Shift-I

(a) Their atoms are larger in size
(b) Their electrons are tightly bound to the nucleus
(c) They have free electrons that move easily
(d) They reflect electromagnetic waves efficiently

Answer Key *SSC official key*

Metals and Non-Metals (Q. 01)		
01	(c)	

Detailed Explanations रटना बंद, समझना शुरू

Metals and Non-Metals

01 ANSWER (c) They have free electrons that move easily

SSC Phase-XIV (Graduation) 25 Sep 2026, Shift-I

Metals have metallic bonding. Here the valence electrons are not tied to any one atom. They move through the whole metal like an 'electron sea'. As soon as a potential difference is applied, these **free electrons** start moving, which is why metals are good conductors of electricity.

Rule: Conductivity

• The best conductor is **silver (Ag)**, followed by copper
• Electric wires are mostly made of copper and aluminium
• In non-metals, electrons are held tightly in covalent or ionic bonds
• Graphite is a non-metal, yet a good conductor (free π-electrons)
• The resistance of metals increases with temperature

10
CHAPTER

Biology

Questions *34 questions · 26 shifts*

PART A Cell

Directions (Q. 01–02): *Choose the correct answer from the four given options.*

01 Which cellular structure releases cytochrome c during apoptosis (cell death)?

SSC Phase-XIV (12th) 23 Sep 2026, Shift-II

(a) Lysosome
(b) Mitochondria
(c) Nucleus
(d) Golgi apparatus (Golgi body)

02 In which part of the cell does the breakdown of glucose into pyruvate take place?

SSC Phase-XIV (Matric) 24 Sep 2026, Shift-III

(a) Nucleus (b) Mitochondria
(c) Cytoplasm (d) Ribosome

PART B Plant and Animal Kingdom

Directions (Q. 03–09): *Choose the correct answer from the four given options.*

03 Which microorganism is commonly used in the fermentation of dairy products like curd?

SSC Phase-XIV (Graduation) 21 Sep 2026, Shift-I

(a) Streptococcus thermophilus
(b) Bacillus subtilis
(c) E. coli
(d) Staphylococcus aureus

04 Which microorganism is classified under microbiology but is not a prokaryote?

SSC Phase-XIV (Graduation) 23 Sep 2026, Shift-I

(a) Bacterium (b) Virus
(c) Fungi (d) Cyanobacteria

05 What type of nutrition is found in 'Cuscuta' (Amarbel)?

SSC Phase-XIV (Matric) 21 Sep 2026, Shift-III

(a) Saprotrophic nutrition
(b) Holozoic nutrition
(c) Parasitic nutrition
(d) Autotrophic nutrition

06 Which district of Meghalaya is known for the recent discovery of a new species of burrowing reed snake?

SSC Phase-XIV (Matric) 22 Sep 2026, Shift-III

(a) West Khasi Hills (b) West Garo Hills
(c) Ri-Bhoi (d) East Garo Hills

07 Which species was the focus of the first complete mitochondrial genome analysis in India?

SSC Phase-XIV (Matric) 23 Sep 2026, Shift-III

(a) Malabar giant squirrel
(b) Madras hedgehog
(c) Nilgiri tahr
(d) Indian pangolin

08 Which taxonomic category is used for plants in place of 'Phylum' used for animals?

SSC Phase-XIV (Matric) 23 Sep 2026, Shift-III

(a) Order (b) Class (c) Division (d) Family

09 In the case of the housefly (Musca domestica), what is its taxonomic 'Order'?

SSC Phase-XIV (Matric) 25 Sep 2026, Shift-III

(a) Insecta
(b) Muscidae
(c) Diptera
(d) Arthropoda

PART C Nervous System

Directions (Q. 10–12): *Choose the correct answer from the four given options.*

10 Which part of a neuron is responsible for receiving information from the environment?

SSC Phase-XIV (12th) 21 Sep 2026, Shift-II

(a) Nerve ending
(b) Cell body
(c) Dendritic tip
(d) Axon

11 What are the special receptors that detect the sensation of taste called?

SSC Phase-XIV (12th) 24 Sep 2026, Shift-II

(a) Olfactory receptors
(b) Dendrite tips
(c) Sensory nerves
(d) Gustatory receptors

12 Fill in the blank: The _____ part of the brain is responsible for maintaining posture and balance of the body.

SSC Phase-XIV (12th) 26 Sep 2026, Shift-I

(a) Medulla
(b) Midbrain
(c) Cerebrum (forebrain)
(d) Cerebellum

PART D Hormones and Plant Movement

Directions (Q. 13): *Choose the correct answer from the four given options.*

13 Which hormone is specifically secreted by the pineal gland?

SSC Phase-XIV (Graduation) 17 Sep 2026, Shift-I

(a) Melanin
(b) Insulin
(c) Melatonin
(d) Thyroxine

PART E Digestion and Respiration

Directions (Q. 14–15): *Choose the correct answer from the four given options.*

14 Which of the following best explains the role of enzymes in biochemical reactions?

SSC Phase-XIV (12th) 18 Sep 2026, Shift-II

(a) They increase the activation energy
(b) They are used up (consumed) during reactions
(c) They act as catalysts by lowering the activation energy
(d) They permanently change the final products

15 Which of the following processes is correctly matched with the organisms/cells that carry it out?

SSC Phase-XIV (Matric) 17 Sep 2026, Shift-III

(a) Lactic acid fermentation - Yeast
(b) Alcoholic fermentation - Human muscle cells
(c) Aerobic respiration - Obligate anaerobes
(d) Anaerobic respiration - Yeast

PART F Circulatory System and Excretory System

Directions (Q. 16): *Choose the correct answer from the four given options.*

16 What is the muscular tube that connects the kidney to the urinary bladder called?

SSC Phase-XIV (Matric) 16 Sep 2026, Shift-III

(a) Urethra
(b) Ureter
(c) Nephron
(d) Renal artery

PART G Diseases

Directions (Q. 17): *Choose the correct answer from the four given options.*

17 How do antigens stimulate an immune response?

SSC Phase-XIV (Graduation) 23 Sep 2026, Shift-I

(a) By directly neutralising pathogens
(b) By binding to and activating lymphocytes
(c) By destroying infected cells

(d) By stimulating neurotransmitter production

PART H Nutrients

Directions (Q. 18–19): *Choose the correct answer from the four given options.*

18 Why is phosphorus an essential nutrient for organisms?

SSC Phase-XIV (Graduation) 25 Sep 2026, Shift-I

(a) It synthesises fatty acids.
(b) It forms the backbone of nucleic acids.
(c) It catalyses the release of energy in cells.
(d) It acts as an enzyme cofactor.

19 Which nutrient is mainly responsible for the repair of muscles?

SSC Phase-XIV (Matric) 23 Sep 2026, Shift-III

(a) Carbohydrates (b) Proteins
(c) Fats (d) Vitamins

PART I Heredity and Evolution

Directions (Q. 20–32): *Choose the correct answer from the four given options.*

20 Golden Rice has been genetically engineered to produce what?

SSC Phase-XIV (Graduation) 18 Sep 2026, Shift-I

(a) More protein
(b) High iron content
(c) Beta-carotene (precursor of Vitamin A)
(d) More calories

21 How many hydrogen bonds join adenine and thymine?

SSC Phase-XIV (Graduation) 19 Sep 2026, Shift-I

(a) One hydrogen bond
(b) Two hydrogen bonds
(c) Three hydrogen bonds
(d) Four hydrogen bonds

22 Which scientist first identified DNA as 'nuclein' in 1869?

SSC Phase-XIV (Graduation) 22 Sep 2026, Shift-I

(a) Researcher James Watson
(b) Researcher Friedrich Miescher
(c) Researcher Francis Crick
(d) Researcher Rosalind Franklin

23 What is the function of the promoter region in a transcription unit?

SSC Phase-XIV (Graduation) 22 Sep 2026, Shift-I

(a) It terminates the process of transcription
(b) It provides the binding site for RNA polymerase
(c) It directly codes for protein synthesis
(d) It removes introns from pre-mRNA

24 Why did Hershey and Chase use radioactive phosphorus?

SSC Phase-XIV (Graduation) 24 Sep 2026, Shift-I

(a) To label viral protein
(b) To label bacterial DNA
(c) To label viral DNA
(d) To label bacterial RNA

25 From which microorganism is the Bt gene used in Bt cotton obtained?

SSC Phase-XIV (Graduation) 25 Sep 2026, Shift-I

(a) Bacillus subtilis
(b) Rhizobium
(c) Bacillus thuringiensis
(d) Escherichia coli

26 In the Hershey-Chase experiment, why were some bacteria found to be radioactive only when infected with viruses grown on a medium containing radioactive phosphorus (32P)?

SSC Phase-XIV (12th) 16 Sep 2026, Shift-II

(a) Phosphorus is found in the protein coat of the virus.
(b) Phosphorus is a component of DNA but not of protein.
(c) Sulphur is a component of DNA but phosphorus is not.
(d) The virus injected its protein coat into the bacterial cell.

27 According to Hugo de Vries, what is the primary cause of speciation (origin of new species)?

SSC Phase-XIV (12th) 17 Sep 2026, Shift-II

(a) Gradual variations (b) Natural selection
(c) Small changes (d) Large mutations

28 Which of the following correctly describes the components and charges involved in the formation of a nucleosome?

SSC Phase-XIV (12th) 19 Sep 2026, Shift-II

(a) Negatively charged RNA wrapped around a neutral histone octamer.
(b) Positively charged DNA wrapped around a negatively charged histone hexamer.
(c) Negatively charged DNA wrapped around a positively charged histone octamer.
(d) Neutral DNA wrapped around a basic protein complex rich in lysine and arginine.

29 If a double-stranded DNA molecule has 20% adenine, what will be the expected percentage of guanine based on Chargaff's rules?

SSC Phase-XIV (12th) 22 Sep 2026, Shift-II

(a) 20% (b) 40% (c) 30% (d) 60%

30 The wings of a butterfly and a bird are examples of which type of structures?

SSC Phase-XIV (12th) 25 Sep 2026, Shift-II

(a) Homologous structures
(b) Vestigial organs
(c) Analogous structures
(d) Hominid features

31 The process by which traits are transmitted from parents to offspring is called:

SSC Phase-XIV (Matric) 18 Sep 2026, Shift-III

(a) Variation (b) Heredity
(c) Evolution (d) Mutation

32 Who is known for discovering the basic laws of heredity through experiments on pea plants?

SSC Phase-XIV (Matric) 22 Sep 2026, Shift-III

(a) Charles Darwin (b) Gregor Mendel
(c) Stanley Miller (d) Harold Urey

PART J Miscellaneous

Directions (Q. 33–34): *Choose the correct answer from the four given options.*

33 Which of the following elements of the human skeletal structure is classified as the smallest individual bone of the human body?

SSC Phase-XIV (Graduation) 17 Sep 2026, Shift-I

(a) Scapula bone (b) Rib cage
(c) Stapes bone (d) Coxal bone

34 What type of joint connects the cervical spine of the neck to the base of the skull?

SSC Phase-XIV (Graduation) 19 Sep 2026, Shift-I

(a) Ball and socket joint
(b) Hinge joint
(c) Pivot joint
(d) Immovable or fixed joint

Answer Key *SSC official key*

Part A · Cell (Q. 01–02)													
01	(b)	**02**	(c)										
Part B · Plant and Animal Kingdom (Q. 03–09)													
03	(a)	**04**	(c)	**05**	(c)	**06**	(b)	**07**	(b)	**08**	(c)	**09**	(c)
Part C · Nervous System (Q. 10–12)													
10	(c)	**11**	(d)	**12**	(d)								
Part D · Hormones and Plant Movement (Q. 13)													
13	(c)												

Part E · Digestion and Respiration (Q. 14–15)																			
14	(c)	**15**	(d)																
Part F · Circulatory System and Excretory System (Q. 16)																			
16	(b)																		
Part G · Diseases (Q. 17)																			
17	(b)																		
Part H · Nutrients (Q. 18–19)																			
18	(b)	**19**	(b)																
Part I · Heredity and Evolution (Q. 20–32)																			
20	(c)	**21**	(b)	**22**	(b)	**23**	(b)	**24**	(c)	**25**	(c)	**26**	(b)	**27**	(d)	**28**	(c)	**29**	(c)
30	(c)	**31**	(b)	**32**	(b)														
Part J · Miscellaneous (Q. 33–34)																			
33	(c)	**34**	(c)																

Detailed Explanations रटना बंद, समझना शुरू

PART A Cell

01 ANSWER (b) Mitochondria

SSC Phase-XIV (12th) 23 Sep 2026, Shift-II

Apoptosis means programmed cell death. In its intrinsic pathway, the membrane of the **mitochondria** becomes permeable and cytochrome c moves out of the intermembrane space into the cytosol. This cytochrome c then activates caspase enzymes, and the process of cell destruction begins.

Facts: Mitochondria

- In the cytosol, cytochrome c combines with Apaf-1 to form the **apoptosome**
- Mitochondria are called the 'powerhouse of the cell' (ATP is made here)
- They have their own circular DNA and 70S ribosomes
- Folds of the inner membrane: cristae

02 ANSWER (c) Cytoplasm

SSC Phase-XIV (Matric) 24 Sep 2026, Shift-III

The breakdown of glucose into pyruvate is called **glycolysis**, and it takes place in the cytoplasm itself. It does not need oxygen. One glucose gives a net gain of 2 ATP and 2 NADH.

Remember: Glycolysis

- Also called the **EMP pathway** (Embden-Meyerhof-Parnas)
- 6-carbon glucose breaks into two 3-carbon pyruvate molecules
- The Krebs cycle and oxidative phosphorylation take place in the mitochondria
- It occurs in both aerobic and anaerobic organisms

Examiner's Trap Students who have memorised 'respiration means mitochondria' pick option B. But the first step of respiration, glycolysis, happens outside the mitochondria, in the cytoplasm.

PART B Plant and Animal Kingdom

03 ANSWER (a) Streptococcus thermophilus

SSC Phase-XIV (Graduation) 21 Sep 2026, Shift-I

Curd is the work of lactic acid bacteria. In commercial curd, **Streptococcus thermophilus** is added along with Lactobacillus bulgaricus as a 'starter culture'. They convert lactose sugar in milk into lactic acid, and the milk sets.

Facts: Bacteria in Curd

- Traditional pair: S. thermophilus + Lactobacillus bulgaricus (symbiotic)
- Lactic acid lowers the pH, and the casein protein

coagulates to form a clot
• S. thermophilus is a Gram-positive, heat-loving (thermophilic) bacterium
• The main bacterium in home-made curd is Lactobacillus (LAB)

Other options: Bacillus subtilis is used to make industrial enzymes. E. coli is a gut bacterium and a model organism in biotechnology. Staphylococcus aureus is a pathogen that causes food poisoning.

04 ANSWER (c) Fungi

SSC Phase-XIV (Graduation) 23 Sep 2026, Shift-I

A fungal cell has a true nucleus and organelles enclosed by membranes, so fungi are **eukaryotes**. Yet fungi like yeast and moulds are studied in microbiology. Bacteria and cyanobacteria are prokaryotes, so the answer is **Fungi**.

Prokaryote vs Eukaryote
• The cell wall of fungi is made of **chitin**
• Yeast is a unicellular fungus
• Bacteria and cyanobacteria (blue-green algae) are prokaryotes
• Viruses are acellular, with only DNA or RNA inside a protein coat (capsid)

Examiner's Trap A virus is also 'not a prokaryote', and this is where students get caught. But a virus is not a cell at all, neither prokaryotic nor eukaryotic. The eukaryotic microorganism here is fungi.

05 ANSWER (c) Parasitic nutrition

SSC Phase-XIV (Matric) 21 Sep 2026, Shift-III

Cuscuta has no chlorophyll at all, so it cannot make food by photosynthesis. It wraps around another plant and sucks food and water from it. That is **parasitic nutrition**.

Static GK: Cuscuta
• Cuscuta is a total stem parasite (holoparasite)
• Special roots that absorb food: **haustoria**
• It badly harms the growth and yield of the host plant
• Saprotrophic nutrition: from dead and decaying matter, like fungi
• Holozoic nutrition: swallowing solid food, like Amoeba and humans

06 ANSWER (b) West Garo Hills

SSC Phase-XIV (Matric) 22 Sep 2026, Shift-III

This discovery comes from the **West Garo Hills** district of Meghalaya. Researchers recorded a new species of burrowing reed snake here. It shows that the reptile biodiversity of the Garo Hills is still largely unexplored.

Current: Meghalaya
• The Garo Hills form the western part of the Meghalaya Plateau and have dense tropical evergreen forests
• **Nokrek Biosphere Reserve** is in the Garo Hills
• Headquarters of West Garo Hills: **Tura**
• Meghalaya is part of the Indo-Burma biodiversity hotspot
• Burrowing snakes are adapted to living underground in moist leaf litter and loose soil

07 ANSWER (b) Madras hedgehog

SSC Phase-XIV (Matric) 23 Sep 2026, Shift-III

Indian researchers sequenced and analysed the complete mitochondrial genome of the **Madras hedgehog** (Paraechinus nudiventris) for the first time. It gave new information on the evolution and genetic make-up of this little-studied mammal.

Facts: Madras Hedgehog
• A small, nocturnal mammal of the dry scrublands of South India
• The mitogenome is about 17,000 base pairs long
• 13 protein-coding genes and 22 tRNA genes (the usual vertebrate pattern)
• When it senses danger, it curls up into a spiny ball

08 ANSWER (c) Division

SSC Phase-XIV (Matric) 23 Sep 2026, Shift-III

In animals, 'Phylum' comes after Kingdom. In plants, the same level is called **Division**.

Taxonomic Hierarchy
• Order: Kingdom > Phylum/Division > Class > Order > Family > Genus > Species
• Names of plant divisions often end in '-phyta' (Bryophyta, Pteridophyta)
• The basic unit of classification: **Species**
• Father of binomial nomenclature: Carolus

Linnaeus

Other options: Order, Class and Family are used with the same names in both animals and plants.

09 **ANSWER (c)** Diptera

SSC Phase-XIV (Matric) 25 Sep 2026, Shift-III

The order of the housefly is **Diptera**. Insects of this order have only one pair of flying wings. The hind pair is reduced to small balancing organs (halteres).

Taxonomy: Housefly

- Full sequence: Phylum Arthropoda, Class Insecta, Order Diptera, Family Muscidae, Genus Musca, Species domestica
- 'Diptera' means 'two wings' in Greek
- Mouthparts are of the sponging (lapping) type
- A carrier of diseases like cholera, typhoid and dysentery

Other options: Arthropoda is the Phylum, Insecta the Class and Muscidae the Family.

Note Fix the order in your mind: Phylum > Class > Order > Family. Pick only the level the question asks for.

PART C Nervous System

10 **ANSWER (c)** Dendritic tip

SSC Phase-XIV (12th) 21 Sep 2026, Shift-II

In a neuron, information is first picked up at the **dendritic tips (dendrites)**. As soon as a stimulus is received, a chemical reaction starts here and an electrical impulse is set up. This impulse then travels through the cell body towards the axon.

Facts: Neuron

- Path of the impulse: dendrite, then cell body (cyton), then axon, then nerve ending
- Neurotransmitters are released at the synapse at the end of the axon
- The neuron is the structural and functional unit of the nervous system
- The myelin sheath insulates the axon and speeds up the impulse

Other options: nerve endings and the axon pass information on, they do not receive it. The cell body is the middle part that carries the impulse forward.

11 **ANSWER (d)** Gustatory receptors

SSC Phase-XIV (12th) 24 Sep 2026, Shift-II

A direct question. Receptors that detect taste are called **gustatory receptors**, and they are found mostly in the taste buds of the tongue.

Remember: Taste Sense

- Five basic tastes: sweet, sour, salty, bitter, umami
- Taste buds are located in the projections of the tongue (papillae)
- Receptors for smell: olfactory
- Taste signals reach the brain through cranial nerves VII, IX and X
- The full 'flavour' of food comes from taste and smell together

12 **ANSWER (d)** Cerebellum

SSC Phase-XIV (12th) 26 Sep 2026, Shift-I

Maintaining posture and balance of the body is the job of the **cerebellum**. It is a part of the hindbrain, and it also coordinates voluntary muscle movements.

Parts of the Brain

- The cerebellum is also called the 'little brain'
- Injury to it disturbs balance and coordination (ataxia)
- Medulla oblongata: involuntary actions like heart rate, breathing and blood pressure
- Cerebrum: thinking, memory, intelligence, sensory perception
- Staggering after drinking alcohol is an example of its effect on the cerebellum

PART D Hormones and Plant Movement

13 **ANSWER (c)** Melatonin

SSC Phase-XIV (Graduation) 17 Sep 2026, Shift-I

The **pineal gland** lies near the middle part of the brain and produces **melatonin**. This hormone controls our biological clock (circadian rhythm) and the sleep-wake cycle.

Hormones and Glands

- More melatonin is produced in darkness and less

in light
• Insulin: β-cells of the islets of Langerhans in the pancreas
• Thyroxine (T_4): thyroid gland
• Another name for the pineal gland is epiphysis cerebri

Examiner's Trap **Melanin** and **melatonin** sound alike, and that is where the mix-up happens. Melanin is the pigment that gives colour to the skin and is made by melanocyte cells. It is not a hormone.

PART E Digestion and Respiration

14 **ANSWER (c)** They act as catalysts by lowering the activation energy

SSC Phase-XIV (12th) 18 Sep 2026, Shift-II

Enzymes are **biological catalysts**. They lower the activation energy needed for a reaction, so the reaction goes faster. After the job, an enzyme is neither used up nor permanently changed.

Concept: Enzymes
• Most enzymes are globular proteins, the exception being RNA enzymes (ribozymes)
• The place where the substrate binds: **active site**
• Lock-and-key model by Emil Fischer, induced-fit model by Daniel Koshland
• Enzymes do not change the equilibrium of a reversible reaction, they only help reach it faster

15 **ANSWER (d)** Anaerobic respiration - Yeast

SSC Phase-XIV (Matric) 17 Sep 2026, Shift-III

When oxygen is low, yeast carries out **anaerobic respiration**, also called alcoholic fermentation. Here glucose breaks down into ethanol, CO_2 and a little energy. So the correct pair is 'Anaerobic respiration - Yeast'.

Facts: Types of Respiration
• Yeast fermentation produces ethanol (C_2H_5OH) and CO_2
• During heavy exercise, lactic acid forms in muscles and causes cramps and fatigue
• Obligate anaerobes cannot survive in oxygen
• Aerobic respiration occurs in mitochondria, about 36-38 ATP per glucose

Looking at the other options, lactic acid fermentation occurs in human muscles (and Lactobacillus), not in yeast. Alcoholic fermentation occurs in yeast, not in muscles. And obligate anaerobes do not carry out aerobic respiration at all.

Examiner's Trap In options A and B the processes have been swapped. Remember the pairs like this: yeast goes with alcohol, muscle goes with lactic acid.

PART F Circulatory System and Excretory System

16 **ANSWER (b)** Ureter

SSC Phase-XIV (Matric) 16 Sep 2026, Shift-III

The muscular tube that leaves each kidney and goes to the urinary bladder is the **ureter**. Its smooth muscles push urine forward by peristalsis.

Excretory System
• Humans have two ureters, each about 25-30 cm long
• The urethra carries urine from the bladder to the outside of the body
• The nephron is the structural and functional (filtration) unit of the kidney
• The renal artery brings blood from the aorta to the kidney

Note Ureter and urethra are the most commonly confused. The ureter runs from the kidney to the bladder, and the urethra from the bladder to the outside.

PART G Diseases

17 **ANSWER (b)** By binding to and activating lymphocytes

SSC Phase-XIV (Graduation) 23 Sep 2026, Shift-I

Antigens bind to specific receptors on the surface of B and T lymphocytes. This binding **activates** the lymphocytes, which then divide rapidly (clonal expansion) and differentiate. This is where the immune response begins.

Immunity: Antigens
• Antigens are foreign molecules that trigger a specific immune response
• Activated B cells become plasma cells and make antibodies

• T cells recognise antigens displayed on MHC molecules
• The small part of an antigen that an antibody recognises is called the **epitope**
• Memory cells are also formed after activation

Other options: neutralising pathogens is the work of antibodies, and killing infected cells is done by cytotoxic T cells. Antigens do not do these things themselves.

PART H Nutrients

18 **ANSWER (b)** It forms the backbone of nucleic acids.

SSC Phase-XIV (Graduation) 25 Sep 2026, Shift-I

The backbone of DNA and RNA is a chain of sugar and **phosphate** joined alternately. Without phosphorus, nucleic acids cannot be formed at all. On top of that, it is also needed in ATP and in the phospholipids of membranes.

Facts: Phosphorus

• Nucleotides are joined by **phosphodiester bonds**
• The high-energy phosphate bonds of ATP are the 'energy currency' of the cell
• About 85% of the body's phosphorus is in bones and teeth (hydroxyapatite)
• Phospholipids form the bilayer of the cell membrane

19 **ANSWER (b)** Proteins

SSC Phase-XIV (Matric) 23 Sep 2026, Shift-III

Proteins are made of amino acids and are called the 'building blocks' of the body. Building new tissues, growth and **repair** of damaged muscles are all the work of proteins.

Nutrition: Proteins

• Amino acids are joined by **peptide bonds**
• Of the 20 standard amino acids, 9 are essential, the body cannot make them itself
• Proteins of muscle contraction: actin and myosin
• Deficiency causes kwashiorkor and marasmus in children
• Sources: pulses, eggs, milk, paneer, soybean, fish

Other options: carbohydrates and fats mainly provide energy. Vitamins help regulate the body's functions.

PART I Heredity and Evolution

20 **ANSWER (c)** Beta-carotene (precursor of Vitamin A)

SSC Phase-XIV (Graduation) 18 Sep 2026, Shift-I

Golden Rice is a GM rice whose grains produce **beta-carotene**. The body converts beta-carotene into vitamin A, so it was developed to fight vitamin A deficiency.

Biotech: Golden Rice

• Developed by Ingo Potrykus and Peter Beyer (late 1990s)
• The golden-yellow colour of the grains is due to beta-carotene
• Vitamin A deficiency causes night blindness, blindness and infections
• Gene sources: daffodil (later maize) and the bacterium Pantoea ananatis

21 **ANSWER (b)** Two hydrogen bonds

SSC Phase-XIV (Graduation) 19 Sep 2026, Shift-I

In the DNA double helix, A always pairs with T through **two hydrogen bonds**. Between G and C there are three bonds.

Base Pairing: DNA

• A = T (2 bonds), G ≡ C (3 bonds)
• DNA with more GC is more stable under heat
• In RNA, uracil (U) replaces thymine and forms 2 bonds with A
• The model of complementary base pairing was given by Watson and Crick (1953)

22 **ANSWER (b)** Researcher Friedrich Miescher

SSC Phase-XIV (Graduation) 22 Sep 2026, Shift-I

In 1869, the Swiss scientist **Friedrich Miescher** isolated an acidic, phosphorus-rich substance from the nuclei of white blood cells in pus. He named it 'nuclein'. Later it was identified as nucleic acid (DNA).

History: Discovery of DNA

• Miescher took the cells from pus on hospital surgical bandages

• The term 'nucleic acid' was given by Richard Altmann (1889)
• Double-helix model: Watson and Crick (1953)
• X-ray diffraction image by Rosalind Franklin and Maurice Wilkins (Photo 51)

Other options: Watson, Crick and Franklin worked on the structure of DNA in the 1950s, not on its discovery.

23 **ANSWER (b)** It provides the binding site for RNA polymerase

SSC Phase-XIV (Graduation) 22 Sep 2026, Shift-I

The promoter is a DNA sequence located at the upstream (5′) end of the structural gene. Its job is to provide the **binding site for RNA polymerase**. Once RNA polymerase binds here, transcription begins.

Transcription Unit

• Three parts of a transcription unit: promoter, structural gene, terminator
• The terminator lies at the 3′ (downstream) end and ends transcription
• Promoter sequences: TATA box in eukaryotes, Pribnow box in bacteria
• In prokaryotes, RNA polymerase recognises the promoter with the help of the sigma (σ) factor

Other options: stopping transcription is the job of the terminator. The structural gene codes for protein. And removing introns is called splicing.

24 **ANSWER (c)** To label viral DNA

SSC Phase-XIV (Graduation) 24 Sep 2026, Shift-I

Phosphorus is present in DNA, not in protein. That is why Hershey and Chase used radioactive phosphorus (^{32}P), so that the **viral DNA** would be labelled. This experiment proved that DNA is the genetic material.

Hershey-Chase (1952)

• Experiment done on T2 bacteriophage and E. coli
• Radioactive sulphur (^{35}S) used to label the protein coat
• Sulphur is present in some amino acids, not in DNA
• ^{32}P was found inside the bacteria, while ^{35}S stayed outside

Note An easy way to remember: **P for DNA (phosphate), S for protein (sulphur)**.

25 **ANSWER (c)** Bacillus thuringiensis

SSC Phase-XIV (Graduation) 25 Sep 2026, Shift-I

The insect-resistant gene of Bt cotton comes from the soil bacterium **Bacillus thuringiensis** (Bt). This gene (such as cry1Ac, cry2Ab) makes a crystal-protein toxin that kills the larvae of pests like the bollworm.

Biotech: Bt Cotton

• The Cry protein is first made as an inactive 'protoxin'
• In the alkaline pH of the insect gut, it becomes an active toxin
• The active toxin destroys midgut cells and the insect dies
• The first GM crop approved for commercial cultivation in India: Bt cotton (2002)

Looking at the other options, Rhizobium fixes nitrogen in the roots of pulses. Bacillus subtilis and E. coli have nothing to do with the Bt gene.

26 **ANSWER (b)** Phosphorus is a component of DNA but not of protein.

SSC Phase-XIV (12th) 16 Sep 2026, Shift-II

It is all about where phosphorus is found. Phosphorus is in the phosphate backbone of DNA, not in protein. So in viruses grown on ^{32}P, only the DNA became radioactive. During infection this DNA entered the bacteria, so the bacteria turned out radioactive. This means DNA is the genetic material.

Remember: ^{32}P and ^{35}S

• The experiment was done by Alfred Hershey and Martha Chase (1952) on T2 bacteriophage
• ^{32}P labelled the viral DNA, ^{35}S labelled the viral protein coat
• In the ^{35}S experiment, radioactivity stayed outside the bacteria, in the coat
• This experiment rejected the idea that 'protein is the genetic material'

Other options: phosphorus is not present in the protein coat. Sulphur is present in protein, not in DNA. And a virus injects its DNA into the bacterium, not its protein coat.

27 **ANSWER (d)** Large mutations

SSC Phase-XIV (12th) 17 Sep 2026, Shift-II

Hugo de Vries' **Mutation Theory** says that new species do not arise from Darwin's slow, small variations. They arise from sudden large mutations. He called this large single-step change 'saltation'.

Darwin vs de Vries

- De Vries experimented on the **evening primrose** (Oenothera lamarckiana)
- Darwin: small, gradual, directional variations and natural selection
- De Vries: sudden, random, large mutations
- The term 'mutation' was popularised by de Vries himself
- De Vries was one of those who rediscovered Mendel's laws in 1900

Examiner's Trap The moment you see gradual variations and natural selection, your hand moves there. But those are Darwin's ideas. The question is about de Vries, so the answer is 'Large mutations'.

28 **ANSWER (c)** Negatively charged DNA wrapped around a positively charged histone octamer.

SSC Phase-XIV (12th) 19 Sep 2026, Shift-II

Because of its phosphate backbone, DNA is **negatively charged**. Histones are rich in basic amino acids like lysine and arginine, so they are **positively charged**. Opposite charges attract, so the negatively charged DNA wraps around the positively charged histone octamer and a nucleosome is formed.

Facts: Nucleosome

- Histone octamer: H2A, H2B, H3, H4, two copies of each (8 in total)
- One nucleosome holds about 200 bp of DNA
- Under the electron microscope they look like 'beads-on-string'
- The nucleosome is the repeating basic unit of chromatin

Other options: DNA, not RNA, is wrapped in a nucleosome. The histone core is an octamer, not a 'hexamer'. And DNA is neither neutral nor positively charged.

29 **ANSWER (c)** 30%

SSC Phase-XIV (12th) 22 Sep 2026, Shift-II

Straight method: by Chargaff's rule, for double-stranded DNA, A = T and G = C. If A = 20%, then T is also 20%, making 40% together. The remaining 60% is shared equally by G and C, so guanine = **30%**.

Rule: Chargaff's Rule

- The rule was given by Erwin Chargaff (late 1940s)
- Purines = Pyrimidines, that is A + G = T + C (1:1)
- Shortcut: G = (100 − 2 × A) ÷ 2 = 50 − A
- Applies only to double-stranded DNA

30 **ANSWER (c)** Analogous structures

SSC Phase-XIV (12th) 25 Sep 2026, Shift-II

The wings of both the butterfly and the bird do the same job of flying. But their origin and basic structure are completely different. Such structures are called **analogous**.

Analogous vs Homologous

- Analogous organs: same function, different origin, showing **convergent evolution**
- Homologous organs: same origin, different function (human arm, bat wing), showing **divergent evolution**
- An insect wing is a veined membrane, a bird wing is a modified forelimb (bones + feathers)
- Another analogous example: potato (stem) and sweet potato (root)

31 **ANSWER (b)** Heredity

SSC Phase-XIV (Matric) 18 Sep 2026, Shift-III

The process by which traits pass from parents to their children is **heredity**.

Genetics: Basics

- Father of genetics: Gregor Mendel, who experimented on pea (Pisum sativum)
- Mendel's laws: segregation and independent assortment
- The unit of heredity is the **gene**, located on chromosomes
- The term 'Genetics' was given by William Bateson

Understand the other options too. Variation means differences among members of the same species.

Evolution means gradual change over generations. Mutation means a sudden change in the genetic material.

32 ANSWER (b) Gregor Mendel

SSC Phase-XIV (Matric) 22 Sep 2026, Shift-III

The basic laws of inheritance were discovered by **Gregor Johann Mendel** through carefully planned hybridisation experiments on pea (Pisum sativum). That is why he is called the 'Father of Genetics'.

Remember: Mendel

- Laws: dominance, segregation, independent assortment
- Experiments done in 1856-1863 in a monastery in Brno (now in the Czech Republic)
- The research paper was published in 1866
- In 1900, de Vries, Correns and Tschermak rediscovered them

Other options: Darwin's name is linked with natural selection. Stanley Miller and Harold Urey did the experiment on the chemical origin of life (1953).

PART J Miscellaneous

33 ANSWER (c) Stapes bone

SSC Phase-XIV (Graduation) 17 Sep 2026, Shift-I

The **stapes (stirrup)** of the middle ear is the smallest and lightest bone in the body. It measures only about 3 mm × 2.5 mm.

Static GK: Skeletal System

- Three ossicles of the middle ear: malleus (hammer), incus (anvil), stapes (stirrup)
- The stapes passes sound vibrations from the incus to the oval window of the inner ear
- The longest and strongest bone is the femur (thigh)
- An adult has 206 bones in all

Other options: the scapula is the triangular bone of the shoulder, the rib cage is a whole group of bones, and the coxal bone is the large bone of the pelvic girdle.

34 ANSWER (c) Pivot joint

SSC Phase-XIV (Graduation) 19 Sep 2026, Shift-I

Just below the skull lie the first two cervical vertebrae, the atlas (C1) and the axis (C2). Between them is a **pivot joint**, which lets the head turn left and right on an axis.

Types of Joints

- In a pivot joint, one bone rotates within a ring formed by another
- Ball and socket joint: movement in all directions (shoulder, hip)
- Hinge joint: movement in one plane only (elbow, knee)
- Immovable joint: between the bones of the skull (suture)

TOPPERS' WISDOM — LEARN • COMPETE • SUCCEED —

11 CHAPTER
Science & Technology

Questions *34 questions · 23 shifts*

Science and Technology

Directions (Q. 01–34): *Choose the correct answer from the four given options.*

01 The CE20 cryogenic engine is used to power which stage of India's Launch Vehicle Mark-3?

SSC Phase-XIV (Graduation) 17 Sep 2026, Shift-I

(a) Booster stage (b) Core stage
(c) Upper stage (d) Payload fairing

02 Which of these is NOT a product of biotechnology?

SSC Phase-XIV (Graduation) 18 Sep 2026, Shift-I

(a) Insulin produced using E. coli
(b) Golden Rice
(c) Herbal medicine
(d) Recombinant Hepatitis B vaccine

03 Which Indian programme/mission was identified by ISRO in 2025 as a key beneficiary of the experience gained through Axiom Mission-4?

SSC Phase-XIV (Graduation) 19 Sep 2026, Shift-I

(a) Chandrayaan Programme
(b) Gaganyaan Programme
(c) Aditya-L1 Mission
(d) SpaDeX Mission

04 What is the primary goal of regenerative medicine?

SSC Phase-XIV (Graduation) 21 Sep 2026, Shift-I

(a) To replace damaged organs with mechanical parts
(b) To remove all bacteria from the body
(c) To repair or replace damaged tissues using stem cells
(d) To genetically modify crops

05 What type of imaging payload does the NISAR satellite carry?

SSC Phase-XIV (Graduation) 22 Sep 2026, Shift-I

(a) High-resolution optical camera system
(b) Dual-frequency synthetic aperture radar
(c) High-sensitivity gamma-ray detector array
(d) Space-based infrared telescope instrument

06 Which combustion cycle does ISRO's SCE-200 semi-cryogenic engine use?

SSC Phase-XIV (Graduation) 24 Sep 2026, Shift-I

(a) Gas generator combustion cycle
(b) Closed expander combustion cycle
(c) Oxidiser-rich staged combustion cycle
(d) Pressure-fed rich combustion cycle

07 From which place was PSLV-C62 launched?

SSC Phase-XIV (12th) 16 Sep 2026, Shift-II

(a) Thumba (b) Sriharikota
(c) Mahendragiri (d) Balasore

08 Which Indian scientist is called the 'Father of Fibre Optics' for his pioneering work on the transmission of light through glass fibres?

SSC Phase-XIV (12th) 16 Sep 2026, Shift-II

(a) Narinder Singh Kapany
(b) Satyendra Nath Bose
(c) Homi J. Bhabha

(d) Vikram Sarabhai

09 Which of the following statements correctly describes a key objective of the Major Atmospheric Cherenkov Experiment (MACE) observatory at Hanle, Ladakh?

SSC Phase-XIV (12th) 17 Sep 2026, Shift-II

(a) To study visible light coming from stars.
(b) To detect high-energy gamma rays.
(c) To observe radio waves from space.
(d) To measure the cosmic microwave background radiation.

10 Which primary satellite was carried by the PSLV-C62 mission?

SSC Phase-XIV (12th) 18 Sep 2026, Shift-II

(a) RISAT-2B (b) EOS-N1
(c) Cartosat-3 (d) GSAT-24

11 What is the world-leading resolution of the Bharat Forecasting System?

SSC Phase-XIV (12th) 18 Sep 2026, Shift-II

(a) 12-kilometre resolution
(b) 10-kilometre resolution
(c) 8-kilometre resolution
(d) 6-kilometre resolution

12 Under which launch vehicle class is the LVM3 rocket, used for the CMS-03 mission, classified?

SSC Phase-XIV (12th) 19 Sep 2026, Shift-II

(a) Small satellite launcher
(b) Medium lift rocket
(c) Heavy Lift Launch Vehicle
(d) Reusable launch vehicle

13 By which institution has the Bharat Forecasting System been developed?

SSC Phase-XIV (12th) 19 Sep 2026, Shift-II

(a) Indian Institute of Science, Bangalore
(b) National Institute of Oceanography, Goa
(c) Indian Institute of Tropical Meteorology, Pune
(d) India Meteorological Department, New Delhi

14 Which satellite was launched as part of the LVM3-M5 mission?

SSC Phase-XIV (12th) 21 Sep 2026, Shift-II

(a) GSAT-11 (b) CMS-03
(c) Cartosat-3 (d) RISAT-2B

15 What is the primary objective of Aditya-L1?

SSC Phase-XIV (12th) 21 Sep 2026, Shift-II

(a) To study Earth's atmosphere
(b) To study solar activities and their impact
(c) To study the geology of the Moon
(d) To explore Mars

16 When was India's first satellite Aryabhata launched?

SSC Phase-XIV (12th) 21 Sep 2026, Shift-II

(a) 19 April 1974 (b) 19 April 1975
(c) 19 May 1975 (d) 20 April 1976

17 Which flight of the Polar Satellite Launch Vehicle (PSLV) was the PSLV-C62 mission?

SSC Phase-XIV (12th) 22 Sep 2026, Shift-II

(a) 60th (b) 62nd (c) 64th (d) 66th

18 Which mission came before the LVM3-M5 flight of the LVM3 rocket?

SSC Phase-XIV (12th) 23 Sep 2026, Shift-II

(a) Gaganyaan-D1 (b) Chandrayaan-3
(c) Aditya-L1 (d) SSLV-D2

19 By which Union Minister was the Bharat Forecasting System (BFS) launched?

SSC Phase-XIV (12th) 23 Sep 2026, Shift-II

(a) Dr. S. Jaishankar (b) Dr. Jitendra Singh
(c) Nitin Gadkari (d) Piyush Goyal

20 In February 2025, what did SUIT capture an image of?

SSC Phase-XIV (12th) 24 Sep 2026, Shift-II

(a) The Moon's surface (b) The asteroid belt
(c) A solar flare kernel (d) A black hole

21 The Axiom-4 mission enabled human spaceflight participation for which countries?

SSC Phase-XIV (12th) 24 Sep 2026, Shift-II

(a) India, China, Russia
(b) India, Poland, Hungary

(c) USA, India, Japan
(d) France, Germany, India

22 India's development of its own Polar Satellite Launch Vehicle (PSLV) represents a major achievement in space technology. What strategic advantage does this capability give the country?

SSC Phase-XIV (12th) 24 Sep 2026, Shift-II

(a) Reduces dependence on foreign launch vehicles and builds indigenous satellite capability
(b) Eliminates the need for satellites in communication/remote sensing
(c) Guarantees that Indian satellites are more advanced than others
(d) Replaces the need for ground stations like NRSC

23 What is the advantage of placing Aditya-L1 at L1?

SSC Phase-XIV (12th) 25 Sep 2026, Shift-II

(a) Closer to the Moon
(b) Continuous view of the Sun without any eclipse
(c) Faster communication
(d) Lower fuel consumption

24 The Axiom-4 mission is related to which space platform?

SSC Phase-XIV (12th) 26 Sep 2026, Shift-I

(a) Lunar Gateway
(b) International Space Station (ISS)
(c) Tiangong Space Station
(d) Mars Orbiter

25 What is the significance of Lagrange points in space missions?

SSC Phase-XIV (12th) 26 Sep 2026, Shift-I

(a) They increase gravity
(b) They reduce the fuel needed to maintain a stable position
(c) They cause satellite decay
(d) They block solar radiation

26 What role does modern medical technology play in the early diagnosis and effective treatment of diseases in healthcare systems?

SSC Phase-XIV (Matric) 16 Sep 2026, Shift-III

(a) Delays diagnosis
(b) Improves the accuracy of diagnosis
(c) Limits treatment
(d) No role

27 What is the role of communication satellites in broadcasting television and internet services across different regions of the world?

SSC Phase-XIV (Matric) 17 Sep 2026, Shift-III

(a) Local transmission
(b) Global signal distribution
(c) Limited coverage
(d) No role

28 Which launch vehicle was used by ISRO to place 36 OneWeb satellites together, marking its entry into the heavy commercial launch market?

SSC Phase-XIV (Matric) 17 Sep 2026, Shift-III

(a) Polar Satellite Launch Vehicle - C54
(b) Launch Vehicle Mark-III-M3
(c) Geosynchronous Satellite Launch Vehicle - F10
(d) Small Satellite Launch Vehicle - D1

29 What is the importance of using technology in disaster management for early warning and efficient response systems?

SSC Phase-XIV (Matric) 18 Sep 2026, Shift-III

(a) Delays response
(b) Improves preparedness
(c) Limits action
(d) No role

30 What is the primary reason a smartphone is able to run several applications at the same time in everyday use?

SSC Phase-XIV (Matric) 19 Sep 2026, Shift-III

(a) Presence of a battery
(b) Use of a touchscreen
(c) Advanced processor and RAM
(d) External storage devices

31 What is the approximate lift-off mass of the Small Satellite Launch Vehicle (SSLV)?

SSC Phase-XIV (Matric) 19 Sep 2026, Shift-III

(a) 60 tonnes
(b) 90 tonnes

(c) 120 tonnes (d) 150 tonnes

32 What is the importance of using satellite technology for global monitoring of climate change and environmental degradation?

SSC Phase-XIV (Matric) 22 Sep 2026, Shift-III

(a) Local monitoring (b) Global observation
(c) Limited use (d) No relevance

33 Which scientific technique allows farmers and scientists to monitor crop condition, soil moisture and farming patterns using satellite data?

SSC Phase-XIV (Matric) 24 Sep 2026, Shift-III

(a) Television broadcasting
(b) Remote sensing technology
(c) Radio communication
(d) Printing technology

34 Why is space technology important in disaster management for effective prediction and monitoring of natural disasters?

SSC Phase-XIV (Matric) 25 Sep 2026, Shift-III

(a) No relevance
(b) Provides real-time monitoring
(c) Limited scope
(d) Delays response

Answer Key *SSC official key*

Science and Technology (Q. 01–34)

01	(c)	02	(c)	03	(b)	04	(c)	05	(b)	06	(c)	07	(b)	08	(a)	09	(b)	10	(b)
11	(d)	12	(c)	13	(c)	14	(b)	15	(b)	16	(b)	17	(c)	18	(b)	19	(b)	20	(c)
21	(b)	22	(a)	23	(b)	24	(b)	25	(b)	26	(b)	27	(b)	28	(b)	29	(b)	30	(c)
31	(c)	32	(b)	33	(b)	34	(b)												

Detailed Explanations रटना बंद, समझना शुरू

Science and Technology

01 ANSWER (c) Upper stage

SSC Phase-XIV (Graduation) 17 Sep 2026, Shift-I

CE20 is ISRO's own indigenous cryogenic engine. It provides thrust to the C25 cryogenic stage of the LVM3 rocket, which is the rocket's **upper stage**.

ISRO: LVM3 and CE20

- Fuel is liquid hydrogen (LH_2), oxidiser is liquid oxygen (LOX)
- CE20 works on the gas-generator cycle
- Stages of LVM3: two S200 solid boosters, L110 liquid core stage, C25 cryogenic upper stage
- Built by ISRO's Liquid Propulsion Systems Centre (LPSC)
- Chandrayaan-2, Chandrayaan-3 and OneWeb were launched on LVM3

02 ANSWER (c) Herbal medicine

SSC Phase-XIV (Graduation) 18 Sep 2026, Shift-I

Herbal medicines are made directly from medicinal plants by traditional methods like drying and extraction. No genes are altered and no recombinant DNA technology is used. So **herbal medicine** is not a product of modern biotechnology.

Products of Biotech

- Human insulin made from E. coli (Humulin), Eli Lilly, 1982
- Golden Rice: GM rice with beta-carotene
- Recombinant Hepatitis B vaccine from GM yeast (Saccharomyces cerevisiae)
- The foundation of modern biotechnology is recombinant DNA (rDNA) technology

03 ANSWER (b) Gaganyaan Programme

SSC Phase-XIV (Graduation) 19 Sep 2026, Shift-I

Through Axiom Mission-4 (Ax-4), Indian astronaut Shubhanshu Shukla reached the ISS. The training there, the experience of microgravity and the lessons in operations will directly help India's human spaceflight programme, **Gaganyaan**.

Current: Ax-4 Mission

• Ax-4 (2025): prime crew member Group Captain Shubhanshu Shukla, backup Group Captain Prasanth Balakrishnan Nair
• Shubhanshu Shukla became the first Indian to go to the ISS
• Aim of Gaganyaan: to send Indians to low Earth orbit (LEO) of about 400 km
• Other missions: Chandrayaan lunar mission, Aditya-L1 solar mission, SpaDeX docking demonstration

04 **ANSWER (c)** To repair or replace damaged tissues using stem cells

SSC Phase-XIV (Graduation) 21 Sep 2026, Shift-I

Regenerative medicine has one job. It repairs the body's damaged tissues and organs, or puts new tissue in their place. Its biggest weapon is stem cells. It also takes help from cell-based therapy and tissue engineering.

Facts: Stem Cells

• Stem cells can multiply and can turn into a specific type of cell (heart, nerve, etc.).
• Two main types: Embryonic and Adult.
• Shinya Yamanaka won the 2012 Nobel Prize in Medicine for iPSC technology.
• Uses: treating spinal injuries, heart damage and degenerative diseases

Now the other options. Fitting mechanical organs is the field of prosthetics. Removing bacteria is the work of antibiotics. And changing crops is agricultural biotechnology (GM crops).

05 **ANSWER (b)** Dual-frequency synthetic aperture radar

SSC Phase-XIV (Graduation) 22 Sep 2026, Shift-I

The full name gives it away: NASA-ISRO Synthetic Aperture Radar. It carries a SAR working on two frequencies. NASA built the L-band radar and ISRO built the S-band radar. Two bands make it a **dual-frequency SAR** satellite.

Remember: NISAR

• A joint Earth-observation mission of NASA (USA) and ISRO (India).
• The first satellite to use SAR in both L and S bands.
• A 12-metre deployable mesh antenna. It scans Earth's land and ice surfaces about every 12 days.
• Launch: July 2025, from Sriharikota by GSLV-F16.
• Work: tracking earthquakes, landslides, glaciers, forests and changes in crops

Note SAR radar can take images even through clouds and in darkness. So the optical camera option does not fit here.

06 **ANSWER (c)** Oxidiser-rich staged combustion cycle

SSC Phase-XIV (Graduation) 24 Sep 2026, Shift-I

SCE-200 is ISRO's semi-cryogenic engine and it runs on the oxidiser-rich staged combustion cycle. In this cycle the pre-burner gases first drive the turbopump. Then they go into the main combustion chamber and burn there. No gas is wasted, so you get higher efficiency and a higher specific impulse.

Facts (SCE-200)

• Fuel: refined kerosene (ISROsene, similar to RP-1). Oxidiser: liquid oxygen (LOX).
• Thrust about 2,000 kN, that is roughly 200 tonnes.
• Developed at LPSC, Valiamala (Thiruvananthapuram).
• Aim: replace the L110 core stage of LVM3 with a semi-cryogenic stage to raise payload capacity.

Note In a semi-cryogenic engine only the oxidiser (LOX) is cryogenic. In a fully cryogenic engine the fuel (LH_2) is cryogenic too. This difference is what the exam asks about.

07 **ANSWER (b)** Sriharikota

SSC Phase-XIV (12th) 16 Sep 2026, Shift-II

ISRO launched PSLV-C62 from the Satish Dhawan Space Centre (SDSC-SHAR) at Sriharikota in Andhra Pradesh. Remember, almost all PSLV, GSLV and LVM3 launches happen from here. So in such a question your first guess should be Sriharikota.

Static GK: Sriharikota

• A barrier island near Pulicat Lake in Tirupati district.
• In 2002 it was named after former ISRO chairman Satish Dhawan.
• PSLV is a four-stage vehicle, called ISRO's 'workhorse'.
• First successful flight: PSLV-D2, October 1994

Other options: Thumba (Kerala) has TERLS, the sounding rocket centre. Mahendragiri (Tamil Nadu) is ISRO's engine testing centre (IPRC). Balasore/ Chandipur (Odisha) is DRDO's missile test range.

08 **ANSWER (a)** Narinder Singh Kapany

SSC Phase-XIV (12th) 16 Sep 2026, Shift-II

Dr. Narinder Singh Kapany was a physicist born in Punjab. He showed that light and images could be sent through flexible glass fibres, and the term 'Fibre Optics' was also coined by him. That is why he is called the 'Father of Fibre Optics'.

Person: N.S. Kapany

• Born in Moga (Punjab). In 1954 his paper on sending images through a fibre bundle was published in Nature.
• His discovery changed the internet, telecom, endoscopy and laser technology.
• Fortune magazine (1999) counted him among the 'Unsung Heroes' of the 20th century.
• Padma Vibhushan (posthumous) in 2021

Don't get confused by the other names. Satyendra Nath Bose is linked with Bose-Einstein statistics (boson). Homi Bhabha is the father of India's nuclear programme and Vikram Sarabhai of India's space programme.

09 **ANSWER (b)** To detect high-energy gamma rays.

SSC Phase-XIV (12th) 17 Sep 2026, Shift-II

The real job of the MACE telescope at Hanle (Ladakh) is to catch high-energy gamma rays coming from the universe. When a gamma ray hits the atmosphere it creates a faint blue Cherenkov flash, and the telescope captures exactly this flash.

Facts (MACE, Hanle)

• Built by BARC together with ECIL and other Indian institutions.
• At about 4,300 metres, the world's highest imaging Cherenkov telescope.
• 21 metres in diameter, the largest such telescope in Asia and the second largest in the world.
• Studies sources such as pulsars, supernova remnants and blazars.
• Hanle is also India's first Dark Sky Reserve

Examiner's Trap Don't pick the atmosphere study or visible light option just because the name has 'Atmospheric' in it. Here the atmosphere is only the medium through which gamma rays get detected.

10 **ANSWER (b)** EOS-N1

SSC Phase-XIV (12th) 18 Sep 2026, Shift-II

The main (primary) satellite of PSLV-C62 was EOS-N1, an Earth Observation category satellite. The mission was sent from Sriharikota through NewSpace India Limited (NSIL), ISRO's commercial arm.

PSLV-C62: Remember

• EOS-N1 was also known as 'Anvesha'. It is a hyperspectral imaging satellite.
• Several Indian and foreign co-passenger satellites went with it, including the KID re-entry capsule of a Spanish startup.
• Rocket: the PSLV-DL version with two strap-on motors.
• NSIL was set up in 2019 under the Department of Space

The other options are older missions. RISAT-2B (2019) was a radar imaging satellite, Cartosat-3 (2019) went on PSLV-C47 and GSAT-24 (2022) on Ariane-5.

11 **ANSWER (d)** 6-kilometre resolution

SSC Phase-XIV (12th) 18 Sep 2026, Shift-II

The Bharat Forecasting System (BharatFS) gives weather forecasts at a resolution of about **6 km**. No operational global weather model in the world has such a fine resolution, which is why it is called world-leading.

Facts (BharatFS)

• Developed by IITM Pune, run by IMD.
• It replaced the older model that had a 12 km resolution.
• Runs on the supercomputer 'Arka'.

• Benefit: forecasts down to the panchayat level, better warnings for heavy rain and cyclones

Examiner's Trap 12 km was the resolution of the old model. In the exam this very number is put in the options to confuse you.

12 ANSWER (c) Heavy Lift Launch Vehicle

SSC Phase-XIV (12th) 19 Sep 2026, Shift-II

LVM3 (Launch Vehicle Mark-3), earlier called GSLV Mk III, is ISRO's Heavy Lift Launch Vehicle. It is built to carry heavy communication satellites to GTO. So it was the natural choice for a heavy satellite like CMS-03.

Rocket: LVM3

• Three stages: two solid strap-ons (S200), a liquid core stage (L110) and a cryogenic upper stage (C25).
• Capacity: about 4,000 kg to GTO and about 8,000 kg to LEO.
• Major missions: Chandrayaan-2, Chandrayaan-3, OneWeb satellites.
• Its human-rated version HLVM3 has been chosen for Gaganyaan

Other options: SSLV is for small satellites, PSLV/GSLV come under medium lift, and the reusable vehicle RLV-TD is still under testing.

13 ANSWER (c) Indian Institute of Tropical Meteorology, Pune

SSC Phase-XIV (12th) 19 Sep 2026, Shift-II

Pay attention here, the question asks 'who developed it'. The Bharat Forecasting System was developed by the Indian Institute of Tropical Meteorology (IITM), Pune. IMD only uses it to issue forecasts.

Institution: IITM Pune

• IITM Pune is an autonomous institute under the Ministry of Earth Sciences (MoES).
• BFS has a resolution of about 6 km.
• Launched in May 2025 by Union Minister Dr. Jitendra Singh.
• Runs on the 'Arka' supercomputer

Examiner's Trap The IMD option is the biggest trap. IMD operates it, but IITM Pune built it.

14 ANSWER (b) CMS-03

SSC Phase-XIV (12th) 21 Sep 2026, Shift-II

Through the LVM3-M5 mission ISRO sent the communication satellite CMS-03 to GTO. Weighing about 4,400 kg, it is the heaviest communication satellite launched from Indian soil so far.

LVM3-M5 / CMS-03

• Launch: 2 November 2025, from Sriharikota.
• CMS-03 is a multi-band communication satellite serving the Indian landmass and the nearby ocean region.
• LVM3 is ISRO's heaviest operational rocket (S200 + L110 + C25).
• The flight before it, LVM3-M4, launched Chandrayaan-3 in July 2023

Look at the other options. GSAT-11 (2018) went on Ariane-5, Cartosat-3 (2019) on PSLV-C47 and RISAT-2B (2019) on PSLV-C46.

15 ANSWER (b) To study solar activities and their impact

SSC Phase-XIV (12th) 21 Sep 2026, Shift-II

Aditya-L1 is India's first space-based solar mission. Its aim is to understand the Sun's activities, such as solar flares and coronal mass ejections (CME), and their effect on space weather.

Mission: Aditya-L1

• Launch: 2 September 2023, by PSLV-C57, Sriharikota.
• Reached a halo orbit around the L1 point, about 1.5 million km from Earth, in January 2024.
• 7 payloads in all, VELC and SUIT being the main ones.
• Studies the Sun's photosphere, chromosphere and corona

Other options: Earth's atmosphere is studied by weather satellites (INSAT/EOS). The Moon has Chandrayaan and Mars has Mangalyaan (MOM).

16 ANSWER (b) 19 April 1975

SSC Phase-XIV (12th) 21 Sep 2026, Shift-II

India's first satellite Aryabhata went into space on **19 April 1975**. It was named after the ancient mathematician-astronomer Aryabhata.

Remember: Aryabhata

• Built by ISRO, but launched by the Soviet Union from Kapustin Yar on a Kosmos-3M rocket.
• Weight about 360 kg.
• Work: X-ray astronomy, solar physics and study of the ionosphere.
• First satellite launched from India by an Indian rocket: Rohini (SLV-3, 1980)

Examiner's Trap 1974 is the year of the Pokhran nuclear test. Don't mix it up with 1975. Aryabhata went up in 1975.

17 ANSWER (c) 64th

SSC Phase-XIV (12th) 22 Sep 2026, Shift-II

PSLV-C62 was the **64th** flight of the PSLV programme overall. The number after 'C' is not the flight's serial number, because the early developmental (D) flights also count in the total.

Facts (PSLV)

• ISRO's third-generation four-stage vehicle, with solid and liquid stages placed alternately.
• It is called ISRO's 'workhorse'.
• First successful flight: PSLV-D2 (October 1994).
• Major missions: Chandrayaan-1 (2008), Mangalyaan (2013), Aditya-L1 (2023)

Examiner's Trap Seeing '62' in the name and choosing the 62nd flight is the most common mistake.

18 ANSWER (b) Chandrayaan-3

SSC Phase-XIV (12th) 23 Sep 2026, Shift-II

The flight just before M5 was LVM3-M4, and it launched Chandrayaan-3 on 14 July 2023. So the mission before LVM3-M5 was **Chandrayaan-3**.

LVM3 Flights in Order

• LVM3-M3 (March 2023): 36 OneWeb satellites.
• LVM3-M4 (July 2023): Chandrayaan-3. Its lander 'Vikram' landed near the lunar south pole on 23 August 2023, and this day is now 'National Space Day'.
• LVM3-M5 (November 2025): CMS-03.
• The earlier name of LVM3 is GSLV Mk III

Other options: Gaganyaan-D1 is linked with the test vehicle (TV-D1), Aditya-L1 went on PSLV-C57, and SSLV-D2 is a separate small rocket. None of these was an LVM3 flight.

19 ANSWER (b) Dr. Jitendra Singh

SSC Phase-XIV (12th) 23 Sep 2026, Shift-II

BFS was launched in May 2025 by Dr. Jitendra Singh, Union Minister of State (Independent Charge). He holds Science and Technology and the Ministry of Earth Sciences, and BFS is a project of this very MoES. Even logic takes you to the same answer.

BFS at a Glance

• Developed by IITM Pune, operated by IMD.
• Resolution about 6 km, which makes very local forecasts possible.
• Better warnings for monsoon, heavy rain, storms and cyclones.
• Helps farmers with agro-weather advice and helps disaster preparedness

Other options: S. Jaishankar is the External Affairs Minister, Nitin Gadkari is the Minister of Road Transport and Highways and Piyush Goyal is the Minister of Commerce and Industry.

20 ANSWER (c) A solar flare kernel

SSC Phase-XIV (12th) 24 Sep 2026, Shift-II

The Solar Ultraviolet Imaging Telescope (SUIT) on Aditya-L1 took detailed images of a **solar flare kernel** in near-UV wavelengths. A kernel is the brightest core of a flare. This was reported in February 2025.

Payload: SUIT

• A key payload of Aditya-L1, built by IUCAA Pune.
• Takes full-disc images of the Sun in the near-UV range of 200-400 nm.
• Helps understand solar flare activity in the photosphere and chromosphere.
• Aditya-L1 is in a halo orbit at the L1 point (about 1.5 million km from Earth)

Note SUIT is a telescope that looks at the Sun. Remember just this much and the Moon, asteroid and black hole options get cut on their own.

21 ANSWER (b) India, Poland, Hungary

SSC Phase-XIV (12th) 24 Sep 2026, Shift-II

In the Axiom-4 (Ax-4) mission, astronauts from

India, Poland and Hungary went to the International Space Station (ISS). For all three countries it was a return to human spaceflight after decades. The crew commander was Peggy Whitson of the USA.

Facts (Ax-4)

• Group Captain Shubhanshu Shukla from India was the mission pilot. He is the first Indian to go to the ISS, and the second Indian in space after Rakesh Sharma (1984).
• Sławosz Uznański from Poland, Tibor Kapu from Hungary.
• The mission belonged to the private company Axiom Space, with a SpaceX Crew Dragon craft (Falcon-9 rocket).
• Launch: 25 June 2025, Kennedy Space Center (Florida)

Note Memory trick: Ax-4 = 'IPH' (India, Poland, Hungary). The earlier astronauts of all three countries flew on Soviet missions between 1978 and 1984.

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22 ANSWER (a) Reduces dependence on foreign launch vehicles and builds indigenous satellite capability

SSC Phase-XIV (12th) 24 Sep 2026, Shift-II

It is simple. If you have your own rocket, you don't have to depend on other countries to send your satellites. PSLV reduced India's dependence on foreign launch vehicles and built the indigenous capability to send Earth-observation, navigation and scientific satellites on its own. This is strategic self-reliance.

Achievements of PSLV

• A reliable four-stage vehicle, ISRO's 'workhorse'.
• In 2017 it set a record by sending 104 satellites at once on PSLV-C37.
• Chandrayaan-1 and Mangalyaan both went on PSLV.
• It also earns foreign exchange through NSIL by launching satellites of foreign customers

The other options don't hold up. Having a launch vehicle does not end the need for satellites, nor does it make satellites 'more advanced' by itself. Ground stations (like NRSC) are still needed.

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23 ANSWER (b) Continuous view of the Sun without any eclipse

SSC Phase-XIV (12th) 25 Sep 2026, Shift-II

The L1 point lies on the straight line joining the Sun and the Earth. A spacecraft placed here can watch the Sun continuously, without any eclipse or blockage. For a solar mission there is no bigger advantage.

Lagrange Point L1

• About 1.5 million km from Earth towards the Sun, roughly 1% of the Earth-Sun distance.
• Aditya-L1 is in a halo orbit here. It is India's first dedicated solar mission.
• Very little fuel is needed to keep a spacecraft in place at Lagrange points.
• NASA-ESA's SOHO is also at L1

Examiner's Trap 'Lower fuel' is also true about L1. But the question asks for the special advantage for a solar mission, and that is a continuous, eclipse-free view of the Sun.

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24 ANSWER (b) International Space Station (ISS)

SSC Phase-XIV (12th) 26 Sep 2026, Shift-I

The Ax-4 mission was linked with the International Space Station (ISS). Axiom Space ran this private mission in collaboration with NASA. The crew docked with the ISS and carried out experiments there for about 18 days.

Remember: Axiom-4

• India's Shubhanshu Shukla was the pilot, the first Indian to reach the ISS.
• Craft: SpaceX Dragon capsule, rocket: Falcon-9.
• ISRO sent Indian microgravity experiments on this mission.
• This experience is seen as useful for Gaganyaan preparations

Other options: the Lunar Gateway is a proposed station in lunar orbit and is still being built. Tiangong is China's own station. A Mars Orbiter is a craft that goes around Mars.

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25 ANSWER (b) They reduce the fuel needed to maintain a stable position

SSC Phase-XIV (12th) 26 Sep 2026, Shift-I

At a Lagrange point, the gravity of two large bodies (like the Sun and the Earth) becomes exactly equal to the centripetal force a small spacecraft needs to move along with them. With the forces balanced, the spacecraft burns very little fuel to stay in its place.

Concept: L1 to L5

• Every two-body system has 5 Lagrange points.
• L1, L2 and L3 are points of unstable equilibrium, L4 and L5 are stable.
• Aditya-L1 and SOHO are at Sun-Earth L1.
• The James Webb Space Telescope (JWST) is at Sun-Earth L2

Other options: Lagrange points neither increase gravity, nor cause satellite decay, nor block solar radiation. They are simply places where forces balance out.

26 ANSWER (b) Improves the accuracy of diagnosis

SSC Phase-XIV (Matric) 16 Sep 2026, Shift-III

Technologies like MRI, CT scans, molecular tests and automated lab tests catch a disease early and more accurately. When diagnosis is correct and on time, treatment also works better. So the answer is **improves the accuracy of diagnosis**.

Medical Tech: Examples

• MRI, CT and PET scans give a clear picture of the inside of the body without surgery.
• Techniques like PCR catch an infection at the very start.
• AI-based image analysis helps detect diseases like cancer early.
• Telemedicine (India's eSanjeevani) takes expert advice to remote areas

27 ANSWER (b) Global signal distribution

SSC Phase-XIV (Matric) 17 Sep 2026, Shift-III

Communication satellites work like relay stations in space. They take a signal from Earth, amplify it and send it back to distant areas. Global distribution of TV and internet signals happens this way.

Facts: GEO Orbit

• Most communication satellites stay in geostationary orbit (GEO), at a height of about 35,786 km.
• GEO satellites move with Earth's rotation, so they appear fixed above one place.
• About 3 GEO satellites together can cover nearly the whole Earth.
• India's communication satellite series: INSAT, GSAT, CMS.
• LEO constellations like OneWeb/Starlink give fast satellite internet

28 ANSWER (b) Launch Vehicle Mark-III-M3

SSC Phase-XIV (Matric) 17 Sep 2026, Shift-III

ISRO placed 36 OneWeb satellites together in LEO through the M3 flight of Launch Vehicle Mark-III (LVM3-M3). This gave India a strong entry into the heavy commercial launch market.

OneWeb Missions

• LVM3-M3 (March 2023) was also called the 'OneWeb India-2' mission, with a total payload of about 5,805 kg.
• Before this, LVM3-M2 (October 2022) had also sent 36 OneWeb satellites. That was LVM3's first commercial mission.
• Both missions were done under an NSIL contract.
• LVM3 is India's heaviest rocket (S200 + L110 + C25)

Other options: PSLV-C54 sent Oceansat-3 (EOS-06). GSLV-F10 (2021) failed with EOS-03. SSLV-D1 (2022) was the first test for small satellites and could not reach orbit.

29 ANSWER (b) Improves preparedness

SSC Phase-XIV (Matric) 18 Sep 2026, Shift-III

Technologies like satellites, weather radar and mobile alerts give a warning before a disaster strikes. People can be moved to safe places in time. That means better preparedness and less loss of life and property.

Disaster Management: India

• The Prime Minister is the chairperson of the NDMA (National Disaster Management Authority).
• The Disaster Management Act was passed in 2005.
• The Common Alerting Protocol (CAP/'Sachet') system is used for area-specific alerts on mobiles.
• INCOIS, Hyderabad gives early tsunami warnings

30 **ANSWER (c)** Advanced processor and RAM

SSC Phase-XIV (Matric) 19 Sep 2026, Shift-III

A smartphone can run many apps together because it has a multi-core processor (CPU/SoC) and enough RAM. The processor splits the work into parts and runs them side by side, and RAM keeps the data of running apps ready at hand.

Computer: RAM vs ROM

- RAM is temporary (volatile) memory. When power goes, the data goes too.
- A multi-core processor makes parallel processing possible.
- In a smartphone the CPU, GPU, modem etc. sit on a single chip, called an SoC (System on Chip).
- ROM/flash memory is for saving files, not for app speed

Other options: the battery only supplies energy, the touchscreen is an input device and external storage just holds data. None of these gives multitasking.

31 **ANSWER (c)** 120 tonnes

SSC Phase-XIV (Matric) 19 Sep 2026, Shift-III

The lift-off mass of SSLV is about **120 tonnes**. It is ISRO's small rocket, built to launch small satellites at low cost and in less time.

Rocket: SSLV

- Height about 34 metres, diameter 2 metres.
- Three solid stages, with a liquid 'Velocity Trimming Module' (VTM) at the end.
- Can place a satellite of up to 500 kg in a 500 km LEO.
- SSLV-D1 (2022) failed, SSLV-D2 (February 2023) placed three satellites successfully

Note Remember the lift-off masses for comparison: SSLV about 120 tonnes, PSLV about 320 tonnes, LVM3 about 640 tonnes.

32 **ANSWER (b)** Global observation

SSC Phase-XIV (Matric) 22 Sep 2026, Shift-III

Earth-observation satellites keep a constant watch on the whole planet, so **global observation** of climate change and environmental damage is possible only through them. You get uniform data from the entire planet, which makes long-term trends easier to understand.

What Satellites Measure

- Sea surface temperature, melting of ice sheets, levels of greenhouse gases.
- Monitoring of deforestation and desertification.
- Indian examples: Oceansat, INSAT-3D, the EOS series.
- NISAR (NASA-ISRO) tracks changes in land, ice and ecosystems

33 **ANSWER (b)** Remote sensing technology

SSC Phase-XIV (Matric) 24 Sep 2026, Shift-III

In remote sensing, sensors on a satellite or aircraft record from a distance the electromagnetic radiation reflected or emitted by Earth's surface. This data is used to check crop health, soil moisture and farming patterns.

Remote Sensing: India

- NDVI (Normalized Difference Vegetation Index) measures the greenness and health of plants.
- India's first remote sensing series was IRS, with IRS-1A in 1988.
- NRSC, Hyderabad receives and processes satellite data.
- Schemes like FASAL estimate crop output using satellite data

Other options: TV broadcasting and radio communication are only ways of sending information, and printing technology has nothing to do with crop monitoring.

34 **ANSWER (b)** Provides real-time monitoring

SSC Phase-XIV (Matric) 25 Sep 2026, Shift-III

Weather and Earth-observation satellites keep a real-time watch on cyclones, floods, droughts and forest fires. With a steady flow of information, warnings go out on time, damage is assessed quickly and relief decisions are also made faster.

Example: Phailin 2013

- Geostationary weather satellites like INSAT-3D/3DR track a cyclone continuously.
- Radar satellites (RISAT, NISAR) can map flooded areas even through clouds.
- ISRO's 'Bhuvan' portal and NRSC provide disaster maps.

• Compared with the 1999 Odisha super cyclone, satellite-based warnings during Phailin (2013) led to far fewer deaths

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12 CHAPTER Environment

Questions *18 questions · 16 shifts*

PART A Basics of Environmental Sciences

Directions (Q. 01–13): *Choose the correct answer from the four given options.*

01 Under India's National Air Quality Index framework, which of the following pollutants is assessed using an 8-hour averaging period instead of a 24-hour averaging period?

SSC Phase-XIV (Graduation) 17 Sep 2026, Shift-I

(a) CO (b) NH_3 (c) SO_2 (d) PM_{10}

02 Under the Air Quality Index (AQI) system of the US Environmental Protection Agency, which air-quality category is shown by the colour maroon?

SSC Phase-XIV (Graduation) 19 Sep 2026, Shift-I

(a) Hazardous (b) Unhealthy
(c) Moderate (d) Very Unhealthy

03 To reduce pollution, governments are helping businesses use what?

SSC Phase-XIV (Graduation) 21 Sep 2026, Shift-I

(a) More waste (b) Green technology
(c) Old machines (d) Only coal

04 Ground-level ozone (O_3) is considered:

SSC Phase-XIV (Graduation) 23 Sep 2026, Shift-I

(a) Beneficial for health
(b) A major air pollutant
(c) A secondary air pollutant
(d) A neutral gas

05 Large-scale deliberate intervention in which system to cool the Earth is called geoengineering?

SSC Phase-XIV (12th) 19 Sep 2026, Shift-II

(a) Stratospheric aerosol injection
(b) Earth's climate system
(c) Marine cloud brightening
(d) Solar radiation system

06 In India, corals are found at which of the following places?

SSC Phase-XIV (12th) 21 Sep 2026, Shift-II

(a) Gujarat (b) Punjab
(c) Chhattisgarh (d) Rajasthan

07 What is the primary goal of geoengineering interventions?

SSC Phase-XIV (12th) 23 Sep 2026, Shift-II

(a) Removing greenhouse gases
(b) Promoting the use of fossil fuels
(c) Creating new deserts
(d) Removing oxygen from the lower ocean

08 Why is a direct numerical comparison of AQI between India and the USA technically complicated?

SSC Phase-XIV (12th) 25 Sep 2026, Shift-II

(a) Sensor detection discrepancies
(b) Differing category breakpoints
(c) Exclusion of real-time monitoring
(d) Averaging calculation intervals

09 How is the final numerical value of India's National Air Quality Index (NAQI) for a 24-hour period determined?

SSC Phase-XIV (12th) 26 Sep 2026, Shift-I

(a) Arithmetic mean of all sub-indices
(b) Weighted average of PM2.5 levels
(c) Highest individual sub-index value
(d) Sum of the top three sub-indices

10 In environmental ecology, what does the "Deep Ecology" movement put forward by Arne Naess mainly support?

SSC Phase-XIV (Matric) 18 Sep 2026, Shift-III

(a) Sustainable development to ensure resources for future human generations.
(b) A shift from anthropocentrism to biocentrism, valuing all life forms regardless of their usefulness to humans.
(c) Using advanced technology to reduce the effects of climate change.
(d) Market-based solutions like carbon credits to protect the environment.

11 In climate science, the "Krakatoa mechanism" refers to which of the following phenomena?

SSC Phase-XIV (Matric) 18 Sep 2026, Shift-III

(a) The effect of volcanic aerosols in the stratosphere that reflect solar radiation and cause global cooling.
(b) The generation of tsunamis through underwater earthquakes.
(c) The movement of tectonic plates in the Sunda Strait.
(d) The effect of sound waves on cloud seeding.

12 With reference to the "Great Acceleration" in the context of the Anthropocene, which indicator showed the most dramatic rise after 1950?

SSC Phase-XIV (Matric) 22 Sep 2026, Shift-III

(a) Total forest area in the Northern Hemisphere.
(b) Global primary energy use and atmospheric carbon dioxide concentration.
(c) Deep-sea biodiversity in the Arctic Ocean.
(d) The rate of volcanic eruptions along the Ring of Fire.

13 The rare bird Sirkeer Malkoha, recently in the news, is usually found in the plains of which state?

SSC Phase-XIV (Matric) 24 Sep 2026, Shift-III

(a) Uttarakhand
(b) Arunachal Pradesh
(c) Himachal Pradesh
(d) Sikkim

PART B Environmental Conventions

Directions (Q. 14–15): *Choose the correct answer from the four given options.*

14 What is the primary legal implication of the UNFCCC principle of "Common But Differentiated Responsibilities and Respective Capabilities" (CBDR-RC)?

SSC Phase-XIV (Matric) 21 Sep 2026, Shift-III

(a) All countries must cut carbon emissions by exactly the same percentage by 2030.
(b) Developed countries should take the lead in tackling climate change because of their historical contribution to greenhouse gases and greater financial resources.
(c) Developing countries are exempt from all environmental rules until 2050.
(d) Only island nations are required to submit National Adaptation Plans.

15 What does the adoption of Agenda 21 at the Rio Earth Summit (1992) mainly signify?

SSC Phase-XIV (Matric) 25 Sep 2026, Shift-III

(a) A global commitment to integrate environment with development
(b) An agreement to place forests under international ownership
(c) Replacing national policies with a global law
(d) Prioritising economic growth over climate and biodiversity

PART C National Parks

Directions (Q. 16–18): *Choose the correct answer from the four given options.*

16 In May 2026, the newly discovered evergreen tree species "Humboldtia nairiana" was found in which of the following protected areas?

SSC Phase-XIV (Graduation) 24 Sep 2026, Shift-I

(a) Periyar Wildlife Sanctuary

(b) Wayanad Wildlife Sanctuary
(c) Parambikulam Wildlife Sanctuary
(d) Shendurney Wildlife Sanctuary

17 Which state in India has the highest number of national parks?

SSC Phase-XIV (12th) 17 Sep 2026, Shift-II

(a) Madhya Pradesh
(b) Karnataka
(c) Andaman and Nicobar Islands
(d) Assam

18 Under Project Cheetah, by what name was the Namibian female cheetah 'Jwala', brought to India, originally known?

SSC Phase-XIV (Matric) 25 Sep 2026, Shift-III

(a) Siyaya
(b) Savanna
(c) Shumba
(d) Kalahari

Answer Key *SSC official key*

Part A · Basics of Environmental Sciences (Q. 01–13)																			
01	(a)	**02**	(a)	**03**	(b)	**04**	(b)	**05**	(b)	**06**	(a)	**07**	(a)	**08**	(b)	**09**	(c)	**10**	(b)
11	(a)	**12**	(b)	**13**	(a)														
Part B · Environmental Conventions (Q. 14–15)																			
14	(b)	**15**	(a)																
Part C · National Parks (Q. 16–18)																			
16	(d)	**17**	(a)	**18**	(a)														

Detailed Explanations रटना बंद, समझना शुरू

PART A Basics of Environmental Sciences

01 ANSWER (a) CO

SSC Phase-XIV (Graduation) 17 Sep 2026, Shift-I

In India's National Air Quality Index (NAQI), the sub-index of **CO** is worked out from an 8-hour average. NH_3, SO_2 and PM_{10} use a 24-hour average, so those options are out.

NAQI: 8 Pollutants

- Started in 2014 under the Swachh Bharat Abhiyan, run by CPCB.
- 8 pollutants: PM_{10}, $PM_{2.5}$, NO_2, SO_2, CO, O_3, NH_3 and Pb (lead).
- The 8-hour average is only for CO and O_3, all others use 24 hours.
- 6 categories: Good, Satisfactory, Moderate, Poor, Very Poor, Severe

Note Just remember 'the two with 8 hours': CO and O_3. Both these gases rise and fall quickly during the day, so a shorter average is used.

02 ANSWER (a) Hazardous

SSC Phase-XIV (Graduation) 19 Sep 2026, Shift-I

On the US EPA's AQI scale, maroon is the topmost and most serious category, that is **Hazardous**. At this level an emergency health warning is issued for the entire population.

US AQI: Colour Code

- Green: Good (0-50). Yellow: Moderate (51-100).
- Orange: Unhealthy for Sensitive Groups (101-150).
- Red: Unhealthy (151-200). Purple: Very Unhealthy (201-300).
- Maroon: Hazardous (301 and above)

Examiner's Trap Students often mix up purple (Very Unhealthy) and maroon (Hazardous). Remember, maroon is the last and the worst category.

03 **ANSWER (b)** Green technology

SSC Phase-XIV (Graduation) 21 Sep 2026, Shift-I

To cut pollution, governments are helping industries adopt green technology through subsidies, tax relief and other incentives. Such technology gives sustainable growth with lower emissions.

Green Tech: Schemes

- It covers renewable energy, energy-efficient equipment, electric vehicles and waste-reducing technologies.
- The National Green Hydrogen Mission (2023) promotes clean fuel.
- The FAME scheme / PM E-DRIVE encourages electric vehicles.
- India's target: Net-Zero emissions by 2070

04 **ANSWER (b)** A major air pollutant

SSC Phase-XIV (Graduation) 23 Sep 2026, Shift-I

Ozone at ground level (in the troposphere) is harmful and is treated as a major air pollutant. It does not come directly from any source. It forms in sunlight through a photochemical reaction of NOx and VOCs. It is also the main component of photochemical smog.

Facts (O_3)

- Damages the lungs and the respiratory system, and also lowers crop yields.
- Going by how it forms, it is a secondary pollutant.
- The ozone layer in the stratosphere is useful, as it blocks UV rays.
- In NAQI, ozone is averaged over 8 hours

Examiner's Trap 'Major' and 'primary' are different words. Ozone is a major pollutant, but technically it is a secondary pollutant. So the 'secondary' option also looks right, but in the exam 'a major air pollutant' is the accepted answer.

05 **ANSWER (b)** Earth's climate system

SSC Phase-XIV (12th) 19 Sep 2026, Shift-II

Geoengineering means a deliberate, large-scale technological intervention in Earth's **climate system**, aimed at reducing the effect of global warming and cooling the Earth.

Geoengineering: Methods

- Two main categories: Solar Radiation Management (SRM) and Carbon Dioxide Removal (CDR).
- Examples of SRM: stratospheric aerosol injection (SAI), marine cloud brightening.
- Examples of CDR: afforestation, Direct Air Capture, ocean iron fertilisation.
- The world is still debating their unintended side effects

Examiner's Trap Aerosol injection and cloud brightening are methods of geoengineering. The question asks for the system in which the intervention is made, and that is Earth's climate system.

06 **ANSWER (a)** Gujarat

SSC Phase-XIV (12th) 21 Sep 2026, Shift-II

Coral reefs grow in warm, shallow and clear sea water. Among the given options only Gujarat has a coastline, and corals are found there in the Gulf of Kachchh. That's it, the answer is **Gujarat**.

Static GK: Coral Areas

- India's four major coral areas: Gulf of Kachchh, Gulf of Mannar, Lakshadweep, Andaman and Nicobar.
- India's first Marine National Park is in the Gulf of Kachchh (Jamnagar).
- Corals need shallow, clear and salty water at about 20-29°C.
- Coral bleaching happens when sea temperature rises

Other options: Punjab, Chhattisgarh and Rajasthan are landlocked states. There is no sea there at all.

07 **ANSWER (a)** Removing greenhouse gases

SSC Phase-XIV (12th) 23 Sep 2026, Shift-II

The real goal of climate geoengineering is to reduce global warming, and one big way to do it is to remove greenhouse gases (especially CO_2) from the atmosphere. Among the options, only this goal connects with fixing the climate.

CDR vs SRM

- Two broad classes: Carbon Dioxide Removal (CDR) and Solar Radiation Management (SRM).
- CDR methods: Direct Air Capture, large-scale afforestation, BECCS (bio-energy with carbon

capture).
• SRM cools the Earth by reflecting sunlight back into space.
• These measures are not a substitute for cutting emissions, only a supplement

Look at the other options. Increasing fossil fuels, creating new deserts or removing oxygen from the sea would all make the climate worse.

08 ANSWER (b) Differing category breakpoints

SSC Phase-XIV (12th) 25 Sep 2026, Shift-II

Both India and the USA calculate an AQI, but the category breakpoints and the formula used to convert a pollutant level into an AQI number are different. So India's '200' and America's '200' do not show the same level of pollution.

India vs US AQI

• India's NAQI uses 8 pollutants: PM_{10}, $PM_{2.5}$, NO_2, SO_2, CO, O_3, NH_3, Pb.
• The US EPA's AQI uses 6 main pollutants. NH_3 and Pb are not in it.
• In both, the final AQI = the highest sub-index.
• The American scale is stricter for $PM_{2.5}$, so the same air looks worse on the US AQI

09 ANSWER (c) Highest individual sub-index value

SSC Phase-XIV (12th) 26 Sep 2026, Shift-I

In NAQI, a separate sub-index is first worked out for each pollutant. Then the one with the highest sub-index becomes the final AQI of that place. No average, no sum. The worst pollutant decides.

Rule: NAQI Calculation

• NAQI has 8 pollutants: PM_{10}, $PM_{2.5}$, NO_2, SO_2, CO, O_3, NH_3, Pb.
• Data of at least 3 pollutants is needed to calculate AQI, and one of them must be PM_{10} or $PM_{2.5}$.
• The pollutant with the highest sub-index is called the 'responsible pollutant'.
• Run by CPCB, with 6 categories in all

Examiner's Trap 'Average of all sub-indices' is the most tempting wrong option. If you take an average, the effect of one dangerous pollutant gets hidden.

10 ANSWER (b) A shift from anthropocentrism to biocentrism, valuing all life forms regardless of their usefulness to humans.

SSC Phase-XIV (Matric) 18 Sep 2026, Shift-III

Norwegian philosopher Arne Naess's 'Deep Ecology' says: stop thinking with humans at the centre and adopt a biocentric view. Every living being has its own value, whether it is useful to humans or not.

Idea: Deep Ecology

• The term 'Deep Ecology' was coined by Arne Naess in 1973.
• It differs from 'Shallow Ecology', which sees pollution control mainly in terms of human interest.
• Core idea: equal rights for all living beings, coexistence with nature.
• India's Chipko movement is often linked with it

Other options: sustainable development and carbon credits are really human-centred ideas (for future generations or for the market). Stressing technical solutions is 'techno-centric' thinking.

11 ANSWER (a) The effect of volcanic aerosols in the stratosphere that reflect solar radiation and cause global cooling.

SSC Phase-XIV (Matric) 18 Sep 2026, Shift-III

The 'Krakatoa mechanism' is the process in which a big volcanic eruption pushes sulphur dioxide up into the stratosphere, where it forms aerosols. These aerosols reflect sunlight back, so the whole Earth cools down for some time.

Volcanoes and Cooling

• Named after the massive eruption of Krakatoa, in Indonesia's Sunda Strait, in August 1883.
• SO_2 forms sulphate aerosols in the stratosphere, which can stay for years.
• The 1991 eruption of Mount Pinatubo (Philippines) lowered global temperature by about 0.5°C.
• After the 1815 Tambora eruption, 1816 was called the 'Year Without a Summer'

Examiner's Trap Krakatoa also caused a tsunami, so the tsunami option looks attractive. But 'Krakatoa mechanism' is a term used for climate cooling, not for tsunamis or plate movement.

12 **ANSWER (b)** Global primary energy use and atmospheric carbon dioxide concentration.

SSC Phase-XIV (Matric) 22 Sep 2026, Shift-III

The sharp jump in human activity after 1950 is called the 'Great Acceleration'. In this period the most dramatic rise was seen in global primary energy use and atmospheric CO_2 concentration.

Anthropocene: Remember

- The concept was made popular by scholars like Paul Crutzen and J.R. McNeill, and Will Steffen's studies (2004/2015) gave its graphs.
- 'Anthropocene' = the age in which humans became the main force changing the Earth system.
- CO_2 has gone up from about 280 ppm in pre-industrial times to above 420 ppm now.
- Population, fertiliser use, water use and urbanisation also rose fast in this period

Other options: forest area has shrunk, not grown. Deep-sea biodiversity and the rate of volcanic eruptions have no link with this human acceleration.

13 **ANSWER (a)** Uttarakhand

SSC Phase-XIV (Matric) 24 Sep 2026, Shift-III

The Sirkeer Malkoha is a bird of the cuckoo family. It was recently spotted in the plain, scrubby areas of the Terai-Bhabar and Shivalik foothills of Uttarakhand, and that put it in the news.

Bird: Sirkeer Malkoha

- Family Cuculidae (cuckoo family), scientific name Taccocua leschenaultii.
- Unlike most cuckoos it is not a brood parasite. It builds its own nest.
- Habitat: dry thorn forests, open scrub and deciduous areas.
- Identification: a curved red-yellow beak and a long tail

Note Pay attention to 'plains' in the question. Among the options, only Uttarakhand has notable plain areas like the Terai-Bhabar. The other states are mainly hilly.

PART B Environmental Conventions

14 **ANSWER (b)** Developed countries should take the lead in tackling climate change because of their historical contribution to greenhouse gases and greater financial resources.

SSC Phase-XIV (Matric) 21 Sep 2026, Shift-III

CBDR-RC simply means that saving the climate is everyone's responsibility, but not an equal one. Developed countries released more greenhouse gases in the past, and they also have more money and technology. So they should lead the fight against climate change.

UNFCCC: CBDR-RC

- Included in the 1992 Rio Earth Summit Declaration (Principle 7) and the UNFCCC (Article 3).
- Under the Kyoto Protocol (1997), binding emission targets applied only to developed (Annex-I) countries.
- The Paris Agreement (2015) added 'RC', that is respective capabilities, and asked all countries for NDCs.
- India is a strong supporter of this principle

Other options: equal cuts for all countries go against this principle. A full exemption for developing countries, or making adaptation plans compulsory only for island nations, are both wrong as well.

15 **ANSWER (a)** A global commitment to integrate environment with development

SSC Phase-XIV (Matric) 25 Sep 2026, Shift-III

Agenda 21 is a large action plan adopted at the 1992 Rio Summit. Its message is simple: development and environmental protection must go together, not separately. In other words, it is the whole world's shared commitment to sustainable development.

Facts (Agenda 21)

- Full name of the Rio Summit: UN Conference on Environment and Development (UNCED), June 1992, Brazil
- '21' stands for the sustainable development agenda for the 21st century
- The UNFCCC, the Convention on Biological Diversity (CBD), the Rio Declaration and the Forest Principles also came out of this summit
- The principle of 'Common but Differentiated

Responsibilities' (CBDR) was accepted here
• Implementing it at the level of local bodies is called 'Local Agenda 21'

Note Agenda 21 is not legally binding. It is a voluntary plan. So the option about 'replacing national policies with a global law' does not fit here.

PART C National Parks

16 ANSWER (d) Shendurney Wildlife Sanctuary

SSC Phase-XIV (Graduation) 24 Sep 2026, Shift-I

A new tree species has been found in the evergreen forests of **Shendurney Wildlife Sanctuary** in Kerala. Its name is **Humboldtia nairiana**.

Remember: Shendurney

• Shendurney is in Kollam district of Kerala and is part of the Agasthyamala Biosphere Reserve
• The genus Humboldtia belongs to the legume family (Fabaceae) and is found only in the southern Western Ghats (endemic)
• The name comes from the German naturalist Alexander von Humboldt
• The Western Ghats is both a biodiversity hotspot and a UNESCO World Heritage Site

Look at the other options. Periyar (Idukki), Wayanad and Parambikulam (Palakkad) are also in Kerala, which is why students get confused. But this discovery is from Shendurney.

17 ANSWER (a) Madhya Pradesh

SSC Phase-XIV (12th) 17 Sep 2026, Shift-II

In the count of national parks, **Madhya Pradesh** is at the top with about 11 parks. It is followed by Andaman and Nicobar (9) and Assam (7).

Static GK: National Parks

• Big names in MP: Kanha, Bandhavgarh, Pench, Panna, Satpura, Kuno
• Since 2022, Kuno has been the main base of Project Cheetah
• MP is called the 'Tiger State' because it has the most tigers
• India's first national park: Hailey National Park (1936), today's Jim Corbett, Uttarakhand
• Largest by area: Hemis (Ladakh)

Examiner's Trap Andaman and Nicobar is a Union Territory, not a state. It is also behind MP in the count. So it is ruled out on both counts.

18 ANSWER (a) Siyaya

SSC Phase-XIV (Matric) 25 Sep 2026, Shift-III

This female cheetah came from Namibia to Kuno in September 2022. Her original name was **Siyaya**. In India she was named 'Jwala', and later she also gave birth to cubs in Kuno.

Project Cheetah

• The world's first intercontinental translocation of a large carnivore
• First batch on 17 September 2022: 8 cheetahs from Namibia (5 females, 3 males)
• Second batch in February 2023 from South Africa, 12 cheetahs
• The cheetah was declared extinct in India in 1952
• Why Kuno? Savanna-like grasslands and plenty of prey

13
CHAPTER

Current Affairs

Questions *131 questions · 27 shifts*

PART A National News

Directions (Q. 01–02): *Choose the correct answer from the four given options.*

01 Maruti Chitampalli, who passed away on 18 June 2025, was mainly known as a/an:

SSC Phase-XIV (Graduation) 17 Sep 2026, Shift-I

(a) Economist
(b) Wildlife conservationist and writer
(c) Film director
(d) Space scientist

02 In which zoo of India are black panthers (black leopards) set to return after 40 years?

SSC Phase-XIV (Matric) 24 Sep 2026, Shift-III

(a) Nehru Zoological Park, Hyderabad
(b) Indira Gandhi Zoological Park, Visakhapatnam
(c) Phawngpui Blue Mountain National Park, Aizawl
(d) Sariska Tiger Reserve, Rajasthan

PART B International News

Directions (Q. 03–10): *Choose the correct answer from the four given options.*

03 What is a key strategic challenge for the expansion of BRICS (Brazil, Russia, India, China and South Africa)?

SSC Phase-XIV (Graduation) 17 Sep 2026, Shift-I

(a) Absence of developing economies among the members of BRICS (Brazil, Russia, India, China and South Africa)
(b) Uniform foreign policy priorities among the members of BRICS (Brazil, Russia, India, China and South Africa)
(c) Lack of natural resources among the members of BRICS (Brazil, Russia, India, China and South Africa)
(d) Managing competing regional rivalries among the members of an expanded BRICS (Brazil, Russia, India, China and South Africa) group

04 What is the most likely explanation for China's support for the expansion of BRICS (Brazil, Russia, India, China and South Africa)?

SSC Phase-XIV (Graduation) 19 Sep 2026, Shift-I

(a) To dissolve the framework of the G20 (Group of Twenty)
(b) To form a formal military alliance against NATO (North Atlantic Treaty Organization)
(c) To weaken ASEAN (Association of Southeast Asian Nations)
(d) To increase the collective bargaining power of non-Western economies

05 Bhutan's dependence on India mainly includes all of the following EXCEPT:

SSC Phase-XIV (Graduation) 21 Sep 2026, Shift-I

(a) Defence
(b) Nuclear technology
(c) Trade
(d) Hydropower

06 Which of the following is a key goal of the infrastructure initiatives of the Quad (Quadrilateral Security Dialogue)?

SSC Phase-XIV (Graduation) 23 Sep 2026, Shift-I

(a) To create an alternative infrastructure to the Belt and Road Initiative.
(b) To promote trade between Europe and Asia.
(c) To build a military infrastructure network.
(d) To isolate certain countries from global infrastructure.

07 What is the potential long-term impact of Chabahar Port on regional geopolitical dynamics?

SSC Phase-XIV (Graduation) 25 Sep 2026, Shift-I

(a) Increase in global isolation
(b) Potential for enhanced regional stability through economic interdependence
(c) Increase in global conflict
(d) Decline in technological progress

08 Fill in the blank: The IMEC initiative aims to strengthen connectivity between India and the _____ region.

SSC Phase-XIV (12th) 18 Sep 2026, Shift-II

(a) East Asia and Africa
(b) Middle East and Europe
(c) Central Asia only
(d) South-East Asia only

09 In which country is Chabahar Port located?

SSC Phase-XIV (12th) 19 Sep 2026, Shift-II

(a) Pakistan (b) Afghanistan
(c) Iran (d) Bangladesh

10 Which Indian government body was responsible for the statement detailing the scope and participation of the BIMSTEC Young Professionals Exchange Programme in 2026?

SSC Phase-XIV (12th) 21 Sep 2026, Shift-II

(a) Ministry of Commerce and Industry
(b) Ministry of Skill Development and Entrepreneurship
(c) NITI Aayog
(d) Ministry of External Affairs

PART C Appointments and Resignations

Directions (Q. 11–38): *Choose the correct answer from the four given options.*

11 Preeti Rajak became the first woman to be promoted to which rank in the Indian Army?

SSC Phase-XIV (Graduation) 17 Sep 2026, Shift-I

(a) General (b) Colonel
(c) Subedar (d) Captain

12 In India, Pratyaya Amrit, who was associated with Bihar's industrial policy initiatives in 2025, holds which post?

SSC Phase-XIV (Graduation) 19 Sep 2026, Shift-I

(a) Chief Secretary of Bihar
(b) Development Commissioner of Bihar
(c) Principal Secretary, Industries Department, Bihar
(d) Chairman, Bihar Industrial Area Development Authority

13 Which Indian scientist served as the Chairman of ISRO (Indian Space Research Organisation) during the successful launch of XPoSat (X-ray Polarimeter Satellite) on 1 January 2024?

SSC Phase-XIV (Graduation) 19 Sep 2026, Shift-I

(a) K. Sivan
(b) Dr. Sreedhara Panicker Somanath
(c) Dr. V. Narayanan
(d) Madhavan Nair

14 In India, Harivansh Narayan Singh was re-elected to which post for a third consecutive term on 17 April 2026?

SSC Phase-XIV (Graduation) 22 Sep 2026, Shift-I

(a) Chairman of the Rajya Sabha
(b) Deputy Chairman of the Rajya Sabha
(c) Speaker of the Lok Sabha
(d) Chief Election Commissioner

15 Who became the first person of Indian origin to be elected President-elect of the American Medical Association (AMA)?

SSC Phase-XIV (Graduation) 22 Sep 2026, Shift-I

(a) Anjali Bhattacharya (b) Bobby Mukkamala
(c) Vivek Murthy (d) Atul Gawande

16 Justice Surya Kant took oath as the _____ Chief Justice of India in 2025.

SSC Phase-XIV (Graduation) 24 Sep 2026, Shift-I

(a) 51st (b) 52nd (c) 53rd (d) 54th

17 Who took charge as the Chairman and Managing Director (CMD) of GAIL (India) Limited in March 2026?

SSC Phase-XIV (12th) 16 Sep 2026, Shift-II

(a) Sandeep Kumar Gupta
(b) Deepak Gupta
(c) Anil Kumar Jain
(d) Rajeev Kumar Mishra

18 Who became the Director General of Naval Armament (DGONA) at Naval Headquarters in March 2026?

SSC Phase-XIV (12th) 16 Sep 2026, Shift-II

(a) Shri P. Upadhyay
(b) Shri B.P. Singh
(c) Shri Rakesh Agarwal
(d) Shri Shatrujeet Singh Kapur

19 Who became the first woman Municipal Commissioner of the Brihanmumbai Municipal Corporation (BMC)?

SSC Phase-XIV (12th) 18 Sep 2026, Shift-II

(a) Smita Sabharwal (b) Ashwini Bhide
(c) Kiran Bedi (d) Aruna Roy

20 In January 2026, which person was given the post of Vigilance Commissioner?

SSC Phase-XIV (12th) 19 Sep 2026, Shift-II

(a) Sanjay Kothari (b) Praveen Vashista
(c) Rakesh Asthana (d) Vivek Joshi

21 Who was appointed as the new chief (Director General) of the Indo-Tibetan Border Police (ITBP) in January 2026?

SSC Phase-XIV (12th) 19 Sep 2026, Shift-II

(a) Shatrujeet Singh Kapur
(b) Praveen Kumar Mukherjee
(c) Rakesh Agarwal
(d) Daljit Singh Chawdhary

22 Who became the Chairperson of the 8th Pay Commission in November 2025?

SSC Phase-XIV (12th) 23 Sep 2026, Shift-II

(a) Justice (Retd.) Indira Banerjee
(b) Justice (Retd.) Ranjana Prakash Desai
(c) Justice (Retd.) Ritu Raj Awasthi
(d) Justice (Retd.) Uday Umesh Lalit

23 Who was made the Director General (DG) of the Border Security Force (BSF) in January 2026?

SSC Phase-XIV (12th) 23 Sep 2026, Shift-II

(a) Shatrujeet Singh Kapur
(b) Praveen Kumar
(c) Rakesh Agarwal
(d) Manoj Yadav

24 In January 2026, Shri A. K. Balasubramanian succeeded whom as the Chairman of the Atomic Energy Regulatory Board (AERB)?

SSC Phase-XIV (12th) 24 Sep 2026, Shift-II

(a) Dr. D. K. Shukla (b) Dr. R. S. Sharma
(c) Shri P. K. Mishra (d) Shri V. N. Prasad

25 Who has been appointed as the Municipal Commissioner of the Brihanmumbai Municipal Corporation (BMC) in March 2026?

SSC Phase-XIV (12th) 26 Sep 2026, Shift-I

(a) Smita Sabharwal
(b) Ashwini Bhide
(c) Durga Shakti Nagpal
(d) Ritu Maheshwari

26 Who took oath as the Chief Minister of Bihar on 15 April 2026?

SSC Phase-XIV (Matric) 16 Sep 2026, Shift-III

(a) Syed Ata Hasnain
(b) Samrat Choudhary
(c) Vijay Kumar Choudhary
(d) Nitish Kumar

27 In March 2026, whom did Vir Vikram Yadav

replace as the Director General of the Directorate General of Civil Aviation (DGCA)?

SSC Phase-XIV (Matric) 16 Sep 2026, Shift-III

(a) Arun Kumar Mishra (b) Sanjay Kumar Jain
(c) Faiz Ahmed Kidwai (d) Rajesh Kumar Sahu

28 In April 2026, Lieutenant General Dhiraj Seth was appointed to which post?

SSC Phase-XIV (Matric) 18 Sep 2026, Shift-III

(a) Vice Chief of the Army Staff
(b) Chief of the Air Staff
(c) Vice Chief of Defence Staff
(d) Director of Military Affairs

29 Who was appointed as the Secretary of the Department of Land Resources under the Ministry of Rural Development in April 2026?

SSC Phase-XIV (Matric) 18 Sep 2026, Shift-III

(a) Shri Rajiv Kumar Gauba
(b) Shri Narendra Bhooshan
(c) Shri Sanjay M. Agarwal
(d) Shri Anil Kumar Sharma

30 Who has been appointed as the new Chairman of the Union Public Service Commission in May 2025, who is a former Defence Secretary, and whose constitutional provisions are defined under Articles 315 to 323 of the Indian Constitution?

SSC Phase-XIV (Matric) 19 Sep 2026, Shift-III

(a) N.C. Srivastava (b) Atul Sinha
(c) Ajay Kumar (d) Neelanjan Sanyal

31 Who has been appointed as the first woman Director General of the Railway Protection Force (RPF), responsible for the security of railway property and passengers, who will serve till her retirement in October 2026 after the approval of the Cabinet Committee?

SSC Phase-XIV (Matric) 19 Sep 2026, Shift-III

(a) Sonali Mishra (b) Divya Sinha
(c) Priya Semwal (d) Mitali Madhumita

32 Who took charge as the Director General of Naval Armament (DGONA) in March 2026?

SSC Phase-XIV (Matric) 21 Sep 2026, Shift-III

(a) Shri Diwakar Jayant
(b) Shri A.K. Saxena
(c) Shri B.P. Singh
(d) Shri R.K. Verma

33 Who has been appointed as the new Director General of the Directorate General of Civil Aviation (DGCA) in March 2026?

SSC Phase-XIV (Matric) 21 Sep 2026, Shift-III

(a) Faiz Ahmed Kidwai (b) Vir Vikram Yadav
(c) Sanjay Khanna (d) Rajeev Bansal

34 In March 2026, Shri B.P. Singh was appointed to which post?

SSC Phase-XIV (Matric) 22 Sep 2026, Shift-III

(a) Director General of Naval Armament (DGONA)
(b) Director General of Armed Services (DGASO)
(c) Director General of Civil Aviation (DGCAO)
(d) Director General of Cyber Security (DGCSO)

35 Shri Narendra Bhooshan was appointed Secretary of which department or ministry in April 2026?

SSC Phase-XIV (Matric) 22 Sep 2026, Shift-III

(a) Department of Land Resources
(b) Ministry of Heavy Industries
(c) Department of Space Research
(d) Ministry of Steel Production

36 Who has been appointed as Executive Director of the Reserve Bank of India in July 2025, who will oversee the Department of Regulation and has wide experience in banking supervision, risk monitoring and currency management?

SSC Phase-XIV (Matric) 23 Sep 2026, Shift-III

(a) Kesavan Ramachandran
(b) Rohit Jain
(c) Rabi Sankar
(d) Vikram Sinha

37 Who was appointed as the Vice Chief of the Army Staff in April 2026?

SSC Phase-XIV (Matric) 24 Sep 2026, Shift-III

(a) Lieutenant General Manoj Pande
(b) Lieutenant General Dhiraj Seth
(c) Lieutenant General Anil Chauhan

(d) Lieutenant General Raj Shukla

38 Who has been appointed as the Chairman and Managing Director of Bharat Petroleum Corporation Limited (BPCL) in April 2026?

SSC Phase-XIV (Matric) 24 Sep 2026, Shift-III

(a) Sanjay Khanna (b) Ramesh Gupta
(c) Anil Mehta (d) Rajesh Verma

PART D Awards and Honours (Current)

Directions (Q. 39–70): *Choose the correct answer from the four given options.*

39 Who won the Sahitya Akademi Award 2025 for the poetry book 'Padapurana'?

SSC Phase-XIV (Graduation) 17 Sep 2026, Shift-I

(a) Nandini Sidha Reddy
(b) Girija Kumar Baliarsingh
(c) Pritpal Singh Betab
(d) Prasun Bandyopadhyay

40 Which of the following winning pairs of book title and language in the poetry category of the Sahitya Akademi Award 2025 is correctly matched?

SSC Phase-XIV (Graduation) 17 Sep 2026, Shift-I

(a) Thakur Satsai - Kashmiri
(b) Shreshtha Kabita - Dogri
(c) Safar Jari Hai - Urdu
(d) Animesha - Hindi

41 Which English novel was awarded the Sahitya Akademi Award 2025?

SSC Phase-XIV (Graduation) 19 Sep 2026, Shift-I

(a) Spirit Nights
(b) Requiem in Raga Janki
(c) Crimson Spring
(d) The Last Queen

42 Who won the Bal Sahitya Puraskar 2025 for the Bengali story collection 'Ekhono Gaye Kanta Dey'?

SSC Phase-XIV (Graduation) 19 Sep 2026, Shift-I

(a) Dipanwita Ghosh Mukhopadhyay
(b) Parthajit Gangopadhyay Roy
(c) Tridib Kumar Chattopadhyay
(d) Ratantanu Ghati Chatterjee

43 In which language did the poetry collection 'Padapurana' win the Sahitya Akademi Award 2025?

SSC Phase-XIV (Graduation) 22 Sep 2026, Shift-I

(a) Odia (b) Telugu
(c) Sanskrit (d) Urdu

44 Which of the following pairs of author and language (poetry category) for the Sahitya Akademi Award 2025 is correctly matched?

SSC Phase-XIV (Graduation) 22 Sep 2026, Shift-I

(a) Nandini Sidha Reddy - Urdu
(b) Pritpal Singh Betab - Sanskrit
(c) Girijakumar Baliar Singh - Odia
(d) Khajur Singh Thakur - Telugu

45 In which language did the short story collection 'Bharkhma' receive the Sahitya Akademi Award 2025?

SSC Phase-XIV (Graduation) 24 Sep 2026, Shift-I

(a) Rajasthani (b) Malayalam
(c) Assamese (d) Tamil

46 Which of the following author-language pairs in the poetry category for the Sahitya Akademi Award 2025 is correctly matched?

SSC Phase-XIV (Graduation) 24 Sep 2026, Shift-I

(a) Pritpal Singh Betab - Dogri
(b) Khajur Singh Thakur - Urdu
(c) Yogesh Vaidya - Gujarati
(d) Ali Shaida - Bengali

47 On 16 June 2025, Prime Minister Narendra Modi was conferred the 'Order of Makarios III'. Which country gave this honour?

SSC Phase-XIV (Graduation) 24 Sep 2026, Shift-I

(a) Greece (b) Cyprus
(c) Malta (d) Portugal

48 Who translated Banu Mushtaq's award-winning work into English, making it eligible for the International Booker Prize?

SSC Phase-XIV (Graduation) 25 Sep 2026, Shift-I

(a) Arshia Sattar (b) Deepa Bhasthi
(c) Lakshmi Holmström (d) Karthika Nair

49 Which novel by South Korean Nobel laureate Han Kang won the 2026 National Book Critics Circle Award for Fiction?

SSC Phase-XIV (12th) 17 Sep 2026, Shift-II

(a) The Vegetarian (b) We Do Not Part
(c) Milkman (d) Bliss Montage

50 Fill in the blank: 'Heart Lamp', the book that won the International Booker Prize 2025, was translated from _____.

SSC Phase-XIV (12th) 17 Sep 2026, Shift-II

(a) Tamil (b) Hindi
(c) Malayalam (d) Kannada

51 Nipun Kumar Malhotra, a recipient of the National Award 2025, is known for his work in which field?

SSC Phase-XIV (12th) 18 Sep 2026, Shift-II

(a) Renewable energy
(b) Disability rights and accessibility
(c) Agricultural innovation
(d) Space technology

52 A. E. Muthunayagam, conferred the Padma Shri in 2026, is known for his contribution to which field?

SSC Phase-XIV (12th) 18 Sep 2026, Shift-II

(a) Biotechnology
(b) Space research and engineering
(c) Nuclear physics
(d) Marine science

53 Consider the following pairs regarding the Sahitya Akademi Yuva Puraskar 2025:
1. Marathi - Harfas Harfas Jaag
2. Manipuri - Khoyum Nongdam Kau
3. Bengali - Ekrokha Chiruni Tollashi
Which of the pairs given above is/are correctly matched?

SSC Phase-XIV (12th) 21 Sep 2026, Shift-II

(a) Only 1 and 2 (b) Only 2 and 3
(c) Only 1 and 3 (d) 1, 2 and 3

54 Which poet received the 2026 National Book Critics Circle Award in the poetry category for the collection 'Night Watch'?

SSC Phase-XIV (12th) 21 Sep 2026, Shift-II

(a) Diane Seuss (b) Morgan Parker
(c) Ada Limón (d) Kevin Young

55 Who received the Ivan Sandrof Lifetime Achievement Award at the 2026 National Book Critics Circle Awards?

SSC Phase-XIV (12th) 22 Sep 2026, Shift-II

(a) Margaret Atwood (b) Frances FitzGerald
(c) Rhoda Feng (d) Elizabeth Taylor

56 Fill in the blank: The author of 'Heart Lamp', the book that won the International Booker Prize 2025, is _____.

SSC Phase-XIV (12th) 22 Sep 2026, Shift-II

(a) Deepa Bhasthi (b) Max Porter
(c) Banu Mushtaq (d) Anita Desai

57 Radhika Gupta, honoured at the Drivers of Change Awards 2026, is the CEO of which company?

SSC Phase-XIV (12th) 22 Sep 2026, Shift-II

(a) HDFC Mutual Fund
(b) SBI Mutual Fund
(c) Edelweiss Mutual Fund
(d) ICICI Prudential MF

58 What is the title of Alex Green's book that received the 2026 National Book Critics Circle Award for Biography?

SSC Phase-XIV (12th) 24 Sep 2026, Shift-II

(a) The Queen
(b) A Perfect Turmoil
(c) G-Man
(d) Stranger in the Shogun's City

59 Who won the 2026 National Book Critics Circle Award in the autobiography category for the memoir 'Mother Mary Comes to Me'?

SSC Phase-XIV (12th) 25 Sep 2026, Shift-II

(a) Arundhati Roy (b) Geraldine Brooks
(c) Beth Macy (d) Hanif Kureishi

60 Fill in the blank: 'Heart Lamp', the book that won the International Booker Prize 2025, was translated into English by _____.

SSC Phase-XIV (12th) 25 Sep 2026, Shift-II

(a) Banu Mushtaq (b) Max Porter
(c) Deepa Bhasthi (d) Arundhati Roy

61 Dr. Kalipatti Ramasamy Palaniswamy, a recipient of the Padma Bhushan, is known for his contribution to which field?

SSC Phase-XIV (12th) 25 Sep 2026, Shift-II

(a) Agriculture
(b) Medicine and healthcare
(c) Space research
(d) Literature

62 M.S. Swaminathan, conferred the Bharat Ratna in 2024, is globally recognised as the architect of which movement in India?

SSC Phase-XIV (12th) 26 Sep 2026, Shift-I

(a) White Revolution (b) Blue Revolution
(c) Green Revolution (d) Silver Revolution

63 Which author was selected for the Bal Sahitya Puraskar 2025 in the English language category for his stories?

SSC Phase-XIV (Matric) 16 Sep 2026, Shift-III

(a) Mr. Nitin Kushalappa
(b) Ms. Chitra Raghavan
(c) Ms. Vaishali Shroff
(d) Mr. Rajkishore Padhi

64 The startup 'NitroCapt' of which country won the 2025 'Food Planet Prize' for a green fertiliser technology that uses plasma and renewable energy to extract nitrogen from the air, eliminating fossil fuels from the production process?

SSC Phase-XIV (Matric) 17 Sep 2026, Shift-III

(a) Sweden (b) Norway (c) India (d) Poland

65 Among the winners announced by the Sahitya Akademi to recognise literary contributions in several Indian languages, including English and regional languages, who has been conferred the Sahitya Akademi Yuva Puraskar 2025 for Hindi?

SSC Phase-XIV (Matric) 17 Sep 2026, Shift-III

(a) Anjana Gupta (b) Preeti Sinha
(c) Parvati Tirkey (d) Pragati Bansal

66 Who is the author of the novel 'Kairos', which won the International Booker Prize 2024?

SSC Phase-XIV (Matric) 17 Sep 2026, Shift-III

(a) Jenny Erpenbeck (b) Han Kang
(c) Olga Tokarczuk (d) Geetanjali Shree

67 Which poetry collection by Amar Khungur Boro won the Sahitya Akademi Yuva Puraskar 2025 in the Bodo language?

SSC Phase-XIV (Matric) 18 Sep 2026, Shift-III

(a) Ang Asur (b) Phir Ugna
(c) Kuchiyanama (d) Junko Aansoo

68 Which poetry collection won the Sahitya Akademi Award 2025 in the Dogri language?

SSC Phase-XIV (Matric) 21 Sep 2026, Shift-III

(a) Thakur Satsai (b) Shreshtha Kabita
(c) Safar Jari Hai (d) Mayamanushyar

69 For the Bengali language category, which specific book by Tridib Kumar Chattopadhyay won the Bal Sahitya Puraskar 2025?

SSC Phase-XIV (Matric) 22 Sep 2026, Shift-III

(a) Kiru Ki Kirti Kahaniyan
(b) Ekhono Gaye Kanta
(c) Akashchhoya Manush
(d) Khendir Katha Pustak

70 Surendra Mohan Das's book 'Mainahantar Padya' was selected for the Bal Sahitya Puraskar 2025 for which language?

SSC Phase-XIV (Matric) 24 Sep 2026, Shift-III

(a) Bengali language (b) Assamese language
(c) Maithili language (d) Manipuri language

PART E Summits and Conferences

Directions (Q. 71–75): *Choose the correct answer from the four given options.*

71 Which initiative related to Digital Public Infrastructure (DPI) was launched by India at the 2025 BIMSTEC Summit?

SSC Phase-XIV (12th) 24 Sep 2026, Shift-II

(a) Conducting regional pilot studies
(b) Building a shared satellite network
(c) Creating a common regional currency
(d) Laying a regional fibre cable

72 As per the 2025 Summit, in which year is India set to host the first BIMSTEC Games?

SSC Phase-XIV (12th) 26 Sep 2026, Shift-I

(a) In 2025 (b) In 2026 (c) In 2027 (d) In 2028

73 During which summit was the India-Middle East-Europe Economic Corridor (IMEC) officially announced?

SSC Phase-XIV (Matric) 19 Sep 2026, Shift-III

(a) G7 2024 (b) G20 2023
(c) BRICS 2023 (d) Quad 2024

74 Which country hosted the fourth in-person QUAD Leaders' Summit in September 2024?

SSC Phase-XIV (Matric) 24 Sep 2026, Shift-III

(a) India (b) Japan
(c) Australia (d) USA

75 Which country was invited as a 'Guest Country' at the 7th NSA-level meeting of the Colombo Security Conclave in 2025?

SSC Phase-XIV (Matric) 25 Sep 2026, Shift-III

(a) Singapore (b) Malaysia
(c) Oman (d) Vietnam

PART F Reports and Indices (Current)

Directions (Q. 76–102): *Choose the correct answer from the four given options.*

76 Which of the following indicators is used to measure the health dimension of the Human Development Index (HDI)?

SSC Phase-XIV (Graduation) 22 Sep 2026, Shift-I

(a) Life expectancy at birth
(b) Birth rate at the population level
(c) Fertility rate per woman
(d) Infant mortality rate at birth

77 What was India's rank in the global ranking of the countries most affected by climate change in 2019?

SSC Phase-XIV (Graduation) 25 Sep 2026, Shift-I

(a) Third (3rd) (b) Fifth (5th)
(c) Seventh (7th) (d) Ninth (9th)

78 By which organisation is the Global Innovation Index (GII) 2025 released?

SSC Phase-XIV (12th) 16 Sep 2026, Shift-II

(a) World Economic Forum
(b) World Intellectual Property Organization
(c) United Nations Development Programme
(d) International Monetary Fund

79 In the World Happiness Report 2026, which country was ranked the happiest country in the world for the ninth consecutive year?

SSC Phase-XIV (12th) 16 Sep 2026, Shift-II

(a) Finland (b) Iceland
(c) Denmark (d) Sweden

80 According to the Food and Agriculture Organization's Global Forest Resources Assessment 2025, what is India's global rank in terms of total forest area?

SSC Phase-XIV (12th) 16 Sep 2026, Shift-II

(a) 5th (b) 7th (c) 9th (d) 11th

81 What are the two main components of the GII framework?

SSC Phase-XIV (12th) 17 Sep 2026, Shift-II

(a) Innovation Determinants and Performance Metrics
(b) Knowledge Drivers and Innovation Impact Index
(c) Innovation Input and Innovation Output Sub-Indices

(d) Research Efficiency and Knowledge Commercialisation Scores

82 Out of the 147 countries covered, what is India's rank in the World Happiness Report 2026?

SSC Phase-XIV (12th) 18 Sep 2026, Shift-II

(a) 104 (b) 116 (c) 126 (d) 134

83 According to the World Happiness Report 2026, which non-European country was among the top five happiest countries?

SSC Phase-XIV (12th) 18 Sep 2026, Shift-II

(a) Mexico (b) New Zealand
(c) Costa Rica (d) Israel

84 What is India's rank in the Human Development Index (HDI) 2025?

SSC Phase-XIV (12th) 19 Sep 2026, Shift-II

(a) 125th (b) 128th (c) 130th (d) 135th

85 What is the name of the life evaluation scale used in the World Happiness Report?

SSC Phase-XIV (12th) 19 Sep 2026, Shift-II

(a) The Cantril Ladder
(b) The Likert Scale
(c) The Gini Coefficient
(d) Human Development Scale

86 Which country became the sixth happiest country in the World Happiness Report 2026?

SSC Phase-XIV (12th) 21 Sep 2026, Shift-II

(a) Denmark (b) Iceland
(c) Finland (d) Norway

87 Which specific survey tool does the World Happiness Report 2026 use to determine its primary "life evaluation" rankings?

SSC Phase-XIV (12th) 21 Sep 2026, Shift-II

(a) Gini Coefficient Index
(b) Cantril Self-Anchoring Scale
(c) Multidimensional Prosperity Survey
(d) Gross National Happiness Metric

88 Which of the following countries entered the top 10 of the Global Innovation Index for the first time in 2025?

SSC Phase-XIV (12th) 22 Sep 2026, Shift-II

(a) India (b) Germany
(c) China (d) Finland

89 The Human Development Index (HDI) is released by which organisation?

SSC Phase-XIV (12th) 23 Sep 2026, Shift-II

(a) United Nations Development Programme
(b) International Monetary Fund
(c) World Health Organization
(d) World Economic Forum

90 In the World Happiness Report 2026, which country ranked at the very bottom of the happiness rankings, making it the unhappiest country in the world?

SSC Phase-XIV (12th) 23 Sep 2026, Shift-II

(a) Yemen (b) Afghanistan
(c) Sierra Leone (d) Lebanon

91 According to the Food and Agriculture Organization (FAO) Global Forest Resources Assessment (GFRA) 2025, how much carbon dioxide did the world's forests absorb on forest land per year during 2021-2025?

SSC Phase-XIV (12th) 24 Sep 2026, Shift-II

(a) 1.8 billion tonnes (b) 2.5 billion tonnes
(c) 3.6 billion tonnes (d) 4.2 billion tonnes

92 In the World Happiness Report 2026, the "Social Support" variable is measured specifically through which metric?

SSC Phase-XIV (12th) 24 Sep 2026, Shift-II

(a) Public welfare spending per GDP
(b) Help from friends or relatives
(c) Density of local community centres
(d) Hours of unpaid social service

93 India's forest and tree cover (ISFR 2023) is approximately what percentage of its geographical area?

SSC Phase-XIV (12th) 26 Sep 2026, Shift-I

(a) 20.12% (b) 23.54% (c) 25.17% (d) 30.25%

94 According to DPIIT reports, in which year is

India scheduled to be included in the World Bank's "B-READY" assessment report?

SSC Phase-XIV (12th) 26 Sep 2026, Shift-I

(a) 2024 (b) 2025 (c) 2026 (d) 2027

95 With reference to the Brand Finance Global Soft Power Index 2026, which of the following pairs is correctly matched?

SSC Phase-XIV (Matric) 16 Sep 2026, Shift-III

(a) Canada - 3rd rank
(b) Japan - 5th rank
(c) China - 2nd rank
(d) Israel - 10th rank

96 According to the Human Development Report 2025 (based on 2023 data), which country recorded the highest Human Development Index (HDI) value of about 0.972?

SSC Phase-XIV (Matric) 17 Sep 2026, Shift-III

(a) Norway
(b) Denmark
(c) Switzerland
(d) Iceland

97 With reference to the Global Terrorism Index 2026, which of the following pairs is correctly matched?

SSC Phase-XIV (Matric) 18 Sep 2026, Shift-III

(a) Pakistan - 3rd rank
(b) Nigeria - 8th rank
(c) Burkina Faso - 1st rank
(d) Israel - 10th rank

98 According to the 2025 global Air Quality Index (AQI) report, which region has been identified as the most polluted region based on country rankings?

SSC Phase-XIV (Matric) 19 Sep 2026, Shift-III

(a) Europe
(b) North America
(c) South Asia
(d) Oceania

99 Which country moved up to third place in the Global Soft Power Index 2026, overtaking the United Kingdom?

SSC Phase-XIV (Matric) 21 Sep 2026, Shift-III

(a) France
(b) China
(c) Japan
(d) Germany

100 According to the Global Peace Index 2025, which country has remained the most peaceful country in the world since 2008?

SSC Phase-XIV (Matric) 22 Sep 2026, Shift-III

(a) Ireland
(b) New Zealand
(c) Switzerland
(d) Iceland

101 Which country was ranked as the second most affected by terrorism in the Global Terrorism Index 2026?

SSC Phase-XIV (Matric) 24 Sep 2026, Shift-III

(a) Pakistan
(b) Syria
(c) Burkina Faso
(d) Afghanistan

102 With reference to the Global Terrorism Index 2026, which of the following pairs is correctly matched?

SSC Phase-XIV (Matric) 25 Sep 2026, Shift-III

(a) Pakistan - 3rd rank
(b) Nigeria - 1st rank
(c) Burkina Faso - 2nd rank
(d) Iraq - 8th rank

PART G Government Schemes and Policies (Current)

Directions (Q. 103–126): *Choose the correct answer from the four given options.*

103 How many PM MITRA (PM Mega Integrated Textile Region and Apparel) Parks are being set up across India to promote the textile sector?

SSC Phase-XIV (Graduation) 17 Sep 2026, Shift-I

(a) 5 (b) 7 (c) 10 (d) 12

104 The Government of India has pledged to reduce the use of solid fuels in households to what extent?

SSC Phase-XIV (Graduation) 18 Sep 2026, Shift-I

(a) 25% (b) 30% (c) 50% (d) 75%

105 As of October 2025, how many Atal Tinkering Labs (ATLs) have been set up in schools in India?

SSC Phase-XIV (Graduation) 19 Sep 2026, Shift-I

(a) 5,000 (b) 8,000 (c) 10,000 (d) 15,000

106 Which portal serves as a national database of unorganised workers (including gig and platform workers) to help them access welfare benefits?

SSC Phase-XIV (Graduation) 22 Sep 2026, Shift-I

(a) Udyam
(b) e-Shram (Electronic Shram)
(c) NCS (National Career Service) Portal
(d) ASEEM (Aatmanirbhar Skilled Employee Employer Mapping)

107 Under India's Digital Agriculture Mission (2024-25 to 2028-29), the aim is to build "DPI" in the agriculture sector. What is the full form of DPI?

SSC Phase-XIV (Graduation) 24 Sep 2026, Shift-I

(a) Department of Plant Inspection
(b) Digital Public Infrastructure
(c) Direct Price Intervention
(d) Daily Production Index

108 Which of the following is one of the stated objectives of the Green Credit Programme?

SSC Phase-XIV (12th) 16 Sep 2026, Shift-II

(a) Increasing urban migration
(b) Expanding industrial zones
(c) Restoring degraded land
(d) Promoting fossil fuels

109 Which initiative was launched in 2025 to provide a digital identity to Indian Micro, Small and Medium Enterprises (MSMEs) and simplify their verification?

SSC Phase-XIV (12th) 17 Sep 2026, Shift-II

(a) Udyam Registration Portal 2.0
(b) Udyam Assist Platform
(c) MSME Digital Identity Mission
(d) Udyam Verification and Facilitation Scheme

110 The Green Credit Programme mainly aims to encourage what kind of actions?

SSC Phase-XIV (12th) 18 Sep 2026, Shift-II

(a) Environmentally positive actions
(b) Industrial expansion activities
(c) Trade liberalisation measures
(d) Urbanisation promotion measures

111 Which initiative was launched by the Department for Promotion of Industry and Internal Trade (DPIIT) in 2014 to improve the business environment and rank states based on reform implementation?

SSC Phase-XIV (12th) 24 Sep 2026, Shift-II

(a) Invest India Portal
(b) PM Gati Shakti
(c) Business Reforms Action Plan (BRAP)
(d) National Industrial Corridor

112 The PM Programme for Restoration, Awareness Generation, Nourishment and Amelioration of Mother Earth (PRANAM) scheme mainly encourages states to reduce their dependence on which agricultural input?

SSC Phase-XIV (12th) 25 Sep 2026, Shift-II

(a) Pesticides
(b) Chemical fertilisers
(c) Hybrid seeds
(d) Groundwater resources

113 Under the PM Surya Ghar: Muft Bijli Yojana, what is the maximum subsidy given to a household for installing a 3 kW solar plant?

SSC Phase-XIV (12th) 26 Sep 2026, Shift-I

(a) Rs. 45,000
(b) Rs. 60,000
(c) Rs. 78,000
(d) Rs. 92,000

114 Regarding Mission Shakti (Integrated Women Empowerment Programme), how is the governance structure divided between the 'Sambal' and 'Samarthya' sub-schemes?

SSC Phase-XIV (Matric) 16 Sep 2026, Shift-III

(a) 'Sambal' is for safety and security, while 'Samarthya' is for empowerment.
(b) 'Sambal' is only for urban women, while 'Samarthya' is only for rural women.
(c) Both are 100% Central Sector Schemes.
(d) 'Sambal' handles credit linkage, while 'Samarthya' handles legal aid.

115 What is the governance significance of the 'U-WIN' platform launched by the Health Ministry?

SSC Phase-XIV (Matric) 16 Sep 2026, Shift-III

(a) It tracks the international health insurance status of Non-Resident Indians.
(b) It is a digital registry to track every pregnant woman and child for the Universal Immunisation Programme (UIP).

(c) It is a portal for university students to apply for health research grants.
(d) It monitors the implementation of the National Health Policy in Union Territories.

116 With regard to the governance structure of the PM-Ayushman Bharat Health Infrastructure Mission (PM-ABHIM), which of the following statements is/ are correct?

SSC Phase-XIV (Matric) 18 Sep 2026, Shift-III

(a) It is a Central Sector Scheme with 100% funding by the Central Government.
(b) It aims to fill critical gaps in health infrastructure and primary care through both Central Sector and Centrally Sponsored components.
(c) It is managed exclusively by the monitoring cell of NITI Aayog.
(d) It focuses only on rural health centres, excluding urban metropolitan areas.

117 Which of the following best explains the objective of the SVAMITVA scheme?

SSC Phase-XIV (Matric) 18 Sep 2026, Shift-III

(a) Urban housing development
(b) Mapping rural property ownership using drones
(c) Distribution of agricultural subsidies
(d) Industrial land acquisition

118 The Price Support Scheme (PSS) is implemented under which umbrella scheme?

SSC Phase-XIV (Matric) 19 Sep 2026, Shift-III

(a) Pradhan Mantri Kisan Samman Nidhi
(b) Pradhan Mantri Fasal Bima Yojana
(c) Pradhan Mantri Annadata Aay Sanrakshan Abhiyan
(d) Pradhan Mantri Bhartiya Janaushadhi Pariyojana

119 The PM-KUSUM (Pradhan Mantri Kisan Urja Suraksha evam Utthaan Mahabhiyan) scheme involves a "decentralised" approach to solar energy. What is the unique administrative feature of 'Component-A' of this scheme?

SSC Phase-XIV (Matric) 21 Sep 2026, Shift-III

(a) It allows farmers to set up solar plants on their barren land and sell the power to DISCOMs at a feed-in tariff.
(b) It mandates that the Central Government will provide 90% of the cost of solar pumps.
(c) It applies only to Small and Marginal Farmers (SMFs) as defined by the Agriculture Census.
(d) It replaces existing grid-connected power with 100% off-grid systems.

120 Under the GHTC-India initiative of PMAY-U, what is the primary objective of "Social Housing" in the Light House Projects (LHPs)?

SSC Phase-XIV (Matric) 21 Sep 2026, Shift-III

(a) To build houses using only locally sourced mud and bamboo.
(b) To use six different global innovative technologies to build disaster-resilient and durable houses in record time.
(c) To provide free housing to all citizens above 75 years of age.
(d) To shift the urban population to rural "Lighthouse" villages.

121 The PM-DevINE scheme, announced in the Budget 2022-23, specifically targets which geographical region and governance objective?

SSC Phase-XIV (Matric) 22 Sep 2026, Shift-III

(a) Development of island regions (Andaman and Nicobar).
(b) Development of the North Eastern Region by funding infrastructure and social development projects.
(c) Development of inner-city slums in Tier-1 cities.
(d) Development of international border villages under the Vibrant Villages Programme.

122 What is the main objective of Component A of the PM-KUSUM (Pradhan Mantri Kisan Urja Suraksha evam Utthaan Mahabhiyan) scheme?

SSC Phase-XIV (Matric) 22 Sep 2026, Shift-III

(a) Setting up small solar power plants
(b) Providing electric tractors
(c) Building hydro power dams
(d) Expanding wind energy

123 How many districts have been identified under the Prime Minister Dhan-Dhaanya Krishi Yojana (DDKY)?

SSC Phase-XIV (Matric) 23 Sep 2026, Shift-III

(a) 50 (b) 70 (c) 100 (d) 150

124 In which year was the Prime Minister Dhan-Dhaanya Krishi Yojana (DDKY) launched?

SSC Phase-XIV (Matric) 24 Sep 2026, Shift-III

(a) 2023 (b) 2024 (c) 2025 (d) 2026

125 In which year was PM-SETU (Pradhan Mantri Skilling and Employability Transformation through Upgraded ITIs) launched?

SSC Phase-XIV (Matric) 25 Sep 2026, Shift-III

(a) 2022 (b) 2023 (c) 2024 (d) 2025

126 Which institutions are providing global co-financing support to PM-SETU (Pradhan Mantri Skilling and Employability Transformation through Upgraded ITIs)?

SSC Phase-XIV (Matric) 25 Sep 2026, Shift-III

(a) World Trade Organization and World Bank
(b) World Bank and Asian Development Bank
(c) Reserve Bank of India and Asian Development Bank
(d) United Nations Development Programme and World Bank

PART H MoUs and Agreements

Directions (Q. 127): *Choose the correct answer from the four given options.*

127 In May 2025, IPGL and Aria Banader collaborated on which major project?

SSC Phase-XIV (Graduation) 18 Sep 2026, Shift-I

(a) Shipping insurance consortium
(b) Undersea communication cable
(c) Berth renovation and port-rail integration
(d) Naval base construction

PART I State News

Directions (Q. 128–130): *Choose the correct answer from the four given options.*

128 In December 2025, Tamil Nadu's "Namakkal Makkal Pathirangal" received the Geographical Indication (GI) tag for which of the following product categories?

SSC Phase-XIV (Graduation) 17 Sep 2026, Shift-I

(a) Soapstone cookware
(b) Jaggery powder
(c) Wooden toys
(d) Handwoven cotton saree

129 In December 2025, which of the following products of Tamil Nadu received the Geographical Indication (GI) tag for its traditional wooden toy craft?

SSC Phase-XIV (Graduation) 19 Sep 2026, Shift-I

(a) Ambasamudram Choppu Saamaan
(b) Mundradaippu Nattu Sakkarai
(c) Madurai Sungudi Saree
(d) Thanjavur Thalaiyatti Bommai

130 Flooding of which river caused large-scale waterlogging in Hyderabad in 2025?

SSC Phase-XIV (Matric) 23 Sep 2026, Shift-III

(a) Musi River (b) Krishna River
(c) Godavari River (d) Tungabhadra River

PART J Miscellaneous

Directions (Q. 131): *Choose the correct answer from the four given options.*

131 Consider the following statements:
1. Prime Minister Narendra Modi received the "Grand Commander of the Order of the Star and Key of the Indian Ocean" award from Madagascar.
2. Justice V. Ramasubramanian was appointed Chairperson of the NHRC on 21 December 2024.
3. External Affairs Minister S. Jaishankar received the Sri Chandrasekharendra Saraswathi National Eminence Award for Public Leadership from the South Indian Education Society (SIES).

Which of the statements given above is/are correct?

SSC Phase-XIV (12th) 21 Sep 2026, Shift-II

(a) Only 1 and 2
(b) Only 2 and 3
(c) Only 1 and 3
(d) All of 1, 2 and 3 are correct

Answer Key *SSC official key*

Part A · National News (Q. 01–02)																	
01	(b)	**02**	(b)														
Part B · International News (Q. 03–10)																	
03	(d)	**04**	(d)	**05**	(b)	**06**	(a)	**07**	(b)	**08**	(b)	**09**	(c)	**10**	(d)		
Part C · Appointments and Resignations (Q. 11–38)																	
11	(c)	**12**	(a)	**13**	(b)	**14**	(b)	**15**	(b)	**16**	(c)	**17**	(b)	**18**	(b)	**19**	(b)	**20**	(b)
21	(a)	**22**	(b)	**23**	(b)	**24**	(a)	**25**	(b)	**26**	(b)	**27**	(c)	**28**	(a)	**29**	(b)	**30**	(c)
31	(a)	**32**	(c)	**33**	(b)	**34**	(a)	**35**	(a)	**36**	(a)	**37**	(b)	**38**	(a)				
Part D · Awards and Honours (Current) (Q. 39–70)																	
39	(b)	**40**	(c)	**41**	(c)	**42**	(c)	**43**	(a)	**44**	(c)	**45**	(a)	**46**	(c)	**47**	(b)	**48**	(b)
49	(b)	**50**	(d)	**51**	(b)	**52**	(b)	**53**	(b)	**54**	(d)	**55**	(b)	**56**	(c)	**57**	(c)	**58**	(b)
59	(a)	**60**	(c)	**61**	(b)	**62**	(c)	**63**	(a)	**64**	(a)	**65**	(c)	**66**	(a)	**67**	(a)	**68**	(a)
69	(b)	**70**	(b)																
Part E · Summits and Conferences (Q. 71–75)																	
71	(a)	**72**	(c)	**73**	(b)	**74**	(d)	**75**	(b)										
Part F · Reports and Indices (Current) (Q. 76–102)																	
76	(a)	**77**	(c)	**78**	(b)	**79**	(a)	**80**	(c)	**81**	(c)	**82**	(b)	**83**	(c)	**84**	(c)	**85**	(a)
86	(d)	**87**	(b)	**88**	(c)	**89**	(a)	**90**	(b)	**91**	(c)	**92**	(b)	**93**	(c)	**94**	(c)	**95**	(c)
96	(c)	**97**	(d)	**98**	(c)	**99**	(c)	**100**	(d)	**101**	(c)	**102**	(c)						
Part G · Government Schemes and Policies (Current) (Q. 103–126)																	
103	(b)	**104**	(c)	**105**	(c)	**106**	(b)	**107**	(b)	**108**	(c)	**109**	(b)	**110**	(a)	**111**	(c)	**112**	(b)
113	(c)	**114**	(a)	**115**	(b)	**116**	(b)	**117**	(b)	**118**	(c)	**119**	(a)	**120**	(b)	**121**	(b)	**122**	(a)
123	(c)	**124**	(c)	**125**	(d)	**126**	(b)												
Part H · MoUs and Agreements (Q. 127)																	
127	(c)																
Part I · State News (Q. 128–130)																	
128	(a)	**129**	(a)	**130**	(a)												
Part J · Miscellaneous (Q. 131)																	
131	(b)																

Detailed Explanations रटना बंद, समझना शुरू

PART A National News

01 **ANSWER (b)** Wildlife conservationist and writer

SSC Phase-XIV (Graduation) 17 Sep 2026, Shift-I

Maruti Chitampalli served as an officer in the Maharashtra Forest Department and made his name through Marathi writing on wildlife conservation and nature. He also coined many Marathi words related to birds and forests.

Person: Chitampalli

- Famous books: 'Pakshikosh', 'Ranvata', 'Jangalacha Dena'
- Served in the Forest Department for decades. People also called him 'Aranyarishi'
- President of the Akhil Bharatiya Marathi Sahitya Sammelan at Solapur in 2006
- Received the Padma Shri in 2025 and passed away on 18 June 2025

02 **ANSWER (b)** Indira Gandhi Zoological Park, Visakhapatnam

SSC Phase-XIV (Matric) 24 Sep 2026, Shift-III

The answer is the **Indira Gandhi Zoological Park (IGZP)** in Visakhapatnam (Andhra Pradesh). Through an animal exchange, black panthers are returning here after about 40 years.

Facts (IGZP, Vizag)

- Spread over about 625 acres in the Kambalakonda Reserve Forest
- Opened to the public in 1977
- The black panther is not a separate species. It is a melanistic (dark-coloured) form of the leopard
- In the wild, black leopards are mostly seen in Kabini, Karnataka
- Exchanges between zoos are approved by the CZA (Central Zoo Authority)

PART B International News

03 **ANSWER (d)** Managing competing regional rivalries among the members of an expanded BRICS (Brazil, Russia, India, China and South Africa) group

SSC Phase-XIV (Graduation) 17 Sep 2026, Shift-I

After the expansion, BRICS now has countries from different regions with different geopolitical interests. Building consensus while handling their regional tensions is now the biggest strategic challenge.

BRICS Expansion

- Decision: August 2023, 15th BRICS Summit, Johannesburg
- Egypt, Ethiopia, Iran and the UAE joined from 1 January 2024, and Indonesia in 2025
- Decisions are taken by consensus, so clashing interests slow down the work
- BRICS bank: New Development Bank (NDB), headquarters Shanghai

Other options: all members are developing or emerging economies, their foreign policies are not uniform, and a lack of resources is not an issue. So none of these is the challenge.

04 **ANSWER (d)** To increase the collective bargaining power of non-Western economies

SSC Phase-XIV (Graduation) 19 Sep 2026, Shift-I

China wants non-Western countries to speak up together more strongly, that is, to raise their **collective bargaining power**. This makes the world more multipolar and also puts pressure for reform on Western-dominated financial institutions.

Static GK: BRICS

- The term 'BRIC' was coined in 2001 by Jim O'Neill of Goldman Sachs
- South Africa joined in 2010, and the name became 'BRICS'
- Expansion approved at the 15th Summit, Johannesburg (2023)
- The NDB was agreed upon at Fortaleza in 2014, headquarters Shanghai

Examiner's Trap BRICS is not a military alliance. The option about a 'military alliance against NATO' may sound convincing, but it is wrong.

05 ANSWER (b) Nuclear technology

SSC Phase-XIV (Graduation) 21 Sep 2026, Shift-I

This is an 'EXCEPT' question, so read it carefully. Bhutan depends heavily on India for trade, hydropower and defence training. But Bhutan has no nuclear programme at all, so **nuclear technology** is the odd one out.

India-Bhutan

- Basis of ties: the 1949 Treaty of Friendship, revised in 2007
- India is Bhutan's largest trade partner
- Hydro projects built with India's help: Chukha, Tala, Mangdechhu, Kurichhu
- IMTRAT (Indian Military Training Team) trains the Royal Bhutan Army

06 ANSWER (a) To create an alternative infrastructure to the Belt and Road Initiative.

SSC Phase-XIV (Graduation) 23 Sep 2026, Shift-I

The Quad's infrastructure initiatives aim to offer transparent, high-quality and debt-trap-free investment in the Indo-Pacific. In simple words, an alternative to China's **Belt and Road Initiative (BRI)**.

Facts (Quad)

- Members: India, the USA, Japan, Australia
- The idea came up in 2007 and was revived in 2017
- The Quad Infrastructure Coordination Group was formed in 2021
- The BRI is often criticised for opaque loans and the 'debt trap'

07 ANSWER (b) Potential for enhanced regional stability through economic interdependence

SSC Phase-XIV (Graduation) 25 Sep 2026, Shift-I

Chabahar opens a new trade route between India, Afghanistan and Central Asia. As trade grows, countries become economically dependent on one another, and over time this **economic interdependence** makes the region stable.

Chabahar Port

- Sistan-Baluchestan province, south-eastern Iran, on the coast of the Gulf of Oman
- Gives India a route to Afghanistan and Central Asia without passing through Pakistan
- An important hub of the INSTC (International North-South Transport Corridor)
- Two terminals: Shahid Beheshti and Shahid Kalantari
- May 2024: India's 10-year agreement to operate Shahid Beheshti

08 ANSWER (b) Middle East and Europe

SSC Phase-XIV (12th) 18 Sep 2026, Shift-II

The answer is hidden in the name itself. **IMEC** means India-Middle East-Europe Economic Corridor, which links India to Europe via the Gulf. The Eastern Corridor runs from India to the Gulf, and the Northern Corridor from the Gulf to Europe. So the blank takes **Middle East and Europe**.

IMEC: G20 Delhi

- Announced: 9-10 September 2023, New Delhi G20 Summit
- Signatories: India, the USA, Saudi Arabia, the UAE, France, Germany, Italy and the EU
- Covers rail, ship-to-rail network and road routes
- Electricity cables, digital lines and a clean hydrogen pipeline are also planned
- It is also seen as an alternative to China's BRI

09 ANSWER (c) Iran

SSC Phase-XIV (12th) 19 Sep 2026, Shift-II

Chabahar is a port of **Iran**. It is a deep-water port on the Makran coast of south-eastern Iran, along the Gulf of Oman.

Remember: Chabahar

- Province: Sistan and Baluchestan
- India is developing and also operating the Shahid Beheshti terminal
- A key link of the INSTC network
- India-Iran-Afghanistan Trilateral Transit Agreement: 2016
- Gives India a route to landlocked Afghanistan without Pakistan

Examiner's Trap Pakistan's Gwadar port, developed by

China, is close by. Do not mix up the two in the exam.

10 ANSWER (d) Ministry of External Affairs

SSC Phase-XIV (12th) 21 Sep 2026, Shift-II

In India, programmes linked to regional organisations like BIMSTEC are handled by the **Ministry of External Affairs (MEA)**. So the statement on the Young Professionals Exchange Programme was also issued by the MEA.

Facts (BIMSTEC)

- Full name: Bay of Bengal Initiative for Multi-Sectoral Technical and Economic Cooperation
- Founded: 6 June 1997, Bangkok Declaration
- Permanent Secretariat: Dhaka
- 7 members: Bangladesh, Bhutan, India, Myanmar, Nepal, Sri Lanka, Thailand
- The 6th Summit was held in Bangkok in April 2025

PART C Appointments and Resignations

11 ANSWER (c) Subedar

SSC Phase-XIV (Graduation) 17 Sep 2026, Shift-I

Trap shooter **Preeti Rajak** became a **Subedar** in January 2024. She is the first woman to reach this rank in the Indian Army.

Person: Preeti Rajak

- Joined the Corps of Military Police (CMP) as a Havildar in December 2022
- Hangzhou Asian Games (2022, held in 2023): silver in the women's trap team event
- The promotion came on the strength of her sporting achievements
- Subedar is a JCO (Junior Commissioned Officer) rank

Note Note that a Subedar is not a commissioned officer (like a Captain or Colonel). It is a JCO rank.

12 ANSWER (a) Chief Secretary of Bihar

SSC Phase-XIV (Graduation) 19 Sep 2026, Shift-I

Pratyaya Amrit is a 1991-batch IAS officer who became the **Chief Secretary of Bihar** in 2025. From this post he looks after investment and industrial policy along with the state administration.

Chief Secretary

- The Chief Secretary is the senior-most administrative officer of a state
- He is also the ex-officio secretary of the Council of Ministers and the chief adviser to the CM
- Pratyaya Amrit has earlier handled the Health, Road Construction and Energy departments in Bihar
- The post was started in 1799 by Lord Wellesley during British rule

13 ANSWER (b) Dr. Sreedhara Panicker Somanath

SSC Phase-XIV (Graduation) 19 Sep 2026, Shift-I

XPoSat was launched by PSLV-C58 on 1 January 2024. At that time the ISRO Chairman was **Dr. S. Somanath**, that is, Sreedhara Panicker Somanath.

ISRO: XPoSat

- India's first dedicated X-ray polarimetry satellite. India became the second country to send such a mission, after NASA's IXPE
- Two payloads: POLIX (Raman Research Institute) and XSPECT
- Somanath headed ISRO from January 2022 to January 2025, followed by Dr. V. Narayanan
- Chandrayaan-3 and Aditya-L1 succeeded during his tenure
- ISRO founded: 15 August 1969

Examiner's Trap Dr. V. Narayanan is the Chairman today, but in January 2024 the post was held by Somanath. Always check the date in the question before answering.

14 ANSWER (b) Deputy Chairman of the Rajya Sabha

SSC Phase-XIV (Graduation) 22 Sep 2026, Shift-I

Harivansh Narayan Singh is the **Deputy Chairman** of the Rajya Sabha, and in April 2026 he was elected for the third time in a row. He runs the House when the Chairman is absent.

Article 89

- 89(1): The Vice-President is the ex-officio Chairman of the Rajya Sabha
- 89(2): The Rajya Sabha elects the Deputy Chairman from among its members

• The Chairman is not a member of the House, but the Deputy Chairman is
• First Deputy Chairman: S. V. Krishnamoorthy Rao (1952-1962)

Examiner's Trap Do not confuse 'Chairman' with 'Deputy Chairman'. The Chairman is always the Vice-President and is not elected by the House.

15 ANSWER (b) Bobby Mukkamala

SSC Phase-XIV (Graduation) 22 Sep 2026, Shift-I

Dr. Bobby Mukkamala, an ENT doctor (otolaryngologist) from Michigan, is the first person of Indian origin to become President-elect of the AMA.

Facts (AMA)
• The AMA was formed in 1847 and is the largest body of doctors in the USA
• He was elected in June 2024 at the House of Delegates meeting and took over as President in June 2025
• He had earlier been Chair of the AMA Board of Trustees

Among the other options, Dr. Vivek Murthy has been the US Surgeon General, and Dr. Atul Gawande is a well-known surgeon and writer.

16 ANSWER (c) 53rd

SSC Phase-XIV (Graduation) 24 Sep 2026, Shift-I

Justice **Surya Kant** took oath on 24 November 2025 and became the **53rd** CJI. Before him was B. R. Gavai.

CJI Sequence
• 50th: D. Y. Chandrachud
• 51st: Sanjiv Khanna (November 2024)
• 52nd: B. R. Gavai (May 2025)
• 53rd: Surya Kant (November 2025), the first CJI from Haryana
• Appointment: by the President under Article 124(2)

Note Learn the sequence in one line: Chandrachud (50), Khanna (51), Gavai (52), Surya Kant (53).

17 ANSWER (b) Deepak Gupta

SSC Phase-XIV (12th) 16 Sep 2026, Shift-II

In March 2026, **Deepak Gupta** took over as CMD of GAIL (India) Limited, the state-owned gas company.

PSU: GAIL
• A CPSE under the Ministry of Petroleum and Natural Gas
• Founded in 1984, headquarters New Delhi
• Became a Maharatna in 2013
• The country's largest natural gas transmission and distribution company, with over 16,000 km of pipeline
• Plays a central role in building the National Gas Grid

18 ANSWER (b) Shri B.P. Singh

SSC Phase-XIV (12th) 16 Sep 2026, Shift-II

In March 2026, **Shri B. P. Singh** took over as DGONA (Director General of Naval Armament) at Naval Headquarters, New Delhi. This post looks after the supply and inspection of the Navy's weapons and ammunition.

What is DGONA
• Under the Integrated Headquarters of the Ministry of Defence (Navy)
• Work: procurement, quality check, storage and maintenance of naval weapons and ammunition
• It is responsible for keeping missiles, torpedoes and naval guns always ready
• B. P. Singh is an officer of the INAS (Indian Naval Armament Service)

Examiner's Trap The name Shatrujeet Singh Kapur is linked to the DG of ITBP, not to Naval Armament.

19 ANSWER (b) Ashwini Bhide

SSC Phase-XIV (12th) 18 Sep 2026, Shift-II

The first woman to become Municipal Commissioner of the BMC is **Ashwini Bhide**, a senior IAS officer of the Maharashtra cadre. The BMC is considered the richest civic body in the country.

Person: Ashwini Bhide
• IAS, 1995 batch
• As MD of MMRCL, she led Mumbai Metro Line-3 (Aqua Line)
• Has earlier served as Additional Municipal Commissioner in the BMC
• The BMC functions under the Mumbai Municipal Corporation Act, 1888

Other options: Smita Sabharwal is an IAS officer of the Telangana cadre, Kiran Bedi is the first woman IPS officer, and Aruna Roy is a social activist (MKSS).

20 ANSWER (b) Praveen Vashista

SSC Phase-XIV (12th) 19 Sep 2026, Shift-II

Praveen Vashista became a Vigilance Commissioner in the Central Vigilance Commission (CVC) in January 2026.

Facts (CVC)

- Set up in 1964 on the recommendation of the K. Santhanam Committee
- Got statutory status through the CVC Act, 2003
- Structure: one Central Vigilance Commissioner (Chairperson) and not more than two Vigilance Commissioners
- Appointed by the President. The recommending committee has the PM, the Home Minister and the Leader of Opposition in the Lok Sabha
- Tenure: 4 years or up to the age of 65, whichever is earlier

21 ANSWER (a) Shatrujeet Singh Kapur

SSC Phase-XIV (12th) 19 Sep 2026, Shift-II

In January 2026, senior IPS officer **Shatrujeet Singh Kapur** was made the Director General of the ITBP.

Remember: ITBP

- Raised on 24 October 1962, during the India-China war
- Guards the 3,488 km India-China border, from the Karakoram Pass in Ladakh to Jachep La in Arunachal
- A CAPF under the Ministry of Home Affairs
- Motto: 'Shaurya-Dridhata-Karma Nishtha'
- Specially trained in mountain warfare and high-altitude rescue

22 ANSWER (b) Justice (Retd.) Ranjana Prakash Desai

SSC Phase-XIV (12th) 23 Sep 2026, Shift-II

In November 2025, the 8th Central Pay Commission was placed under former Supreme Court judge **Justice (Retd.) Ranjana Prakash Desai**. The Commission will recommend changes in the pay, allowances and pensions of central employees.

8th Pay Commission

- A Pay Commission is usually set up roughly every 10 years
- Chairman of the 7th Pay Commission (2014): Justice A. K. Mathur
- Ranjana Desai has headed the Press Council and the Jammu and Kashmir Delimitation Commission
- The recommendations apply to central employees, the armed forces and pensioners alike

23 ANSWER (b) Praveen Kumar

SSC Phase-XIV (12th) 23 Sep 2026, Shift-II

In January 2026, senior IPS officer **Praveen Kumar** took over as Director General of the BSF.

Facts (BSF)

- Raised on 1 December 1965, after the India-Pakistan war
- Guards the borders with Pakistan and Bangladesh
- Under the Ministry of Home Affairs (MHA)
- Motto: 'Jeevan Paryant Kartavya' (Duty unto Death)
- Counted among the largest border forces in the world

Examiner's Trap In the same period, Shatrujeet Singh Kapur (ITBP) and Praveen Vashista (CVC) were also appointed. The names look alike, so remember each person with the right force and post.

24 ANSWER (a) Dr. D. K. Shukla

SSC Phase-XIV (12th) 24 Sep 2026, Shift-II

The question is asked the other way round. In January 2026, **A. K. Balasubramanian** became the new Chairman of the AERB (Atomic Energy Regulatory Board), and the person he replaced is **Dr. D. K. Shukla**.

Facts (AERB)

- Constituted on 15 November 1983 under the Atomic Energy Act, 1962
- Headquarters: Mumbai
- Frames safety rules for nuclear and radiation facilities and monitors them
- The AERB reports to the Atomic Energy

Commission (AEC)

25 ANSWER (b) Ashwini Bhide

SSC Phase-XIV (12th) 26 Sep 2026, Shift-I

In March 2026, **Ashwini Bhide** became the Municipal Commissioner of the BMC. She is the first woman to reach this post.

BMC Commissioner

- IAS, Maharashtra cadre, 1995 batch
- Known for completing Mumbai Metro Line-3 (Aqua Line)
- The BMC is India's richest municipal corporation
- The Municipal Commissioner is the chief executive officer of the corporation

Other options: Smita Sabharwal is from the Telangana cadre, while Durga Shakti Nagpal and Ritu Maheshwari are from the Uttar Pradesh cadre. All of them are IAS officers of other states.

26 ANSWER (b) Samrat Choudhary

SSC Phase-XIV (Matric) 16 Sep 2026, Shift-III

On 15 April 2026, **Samrat Choudhary** became the Chief Minister of Bihar. He has earlier served as the state's Deputy Chief Minister and as state party president.

Article 164

- Under Article 164, the Chief Minister is appointed by the Governor
- The Governor also administers the oath of office and secrecy
- Bihar has a bicameral legislature, the Legislative Assembly and the Legislative Council
- Bihar Legislative Assembly: 243 seats

27 ANSWER (c) Faiz Ahmed Kidwai

SSC Phase-XIV (Matric) 16 Sep 2026, Shift-III

Here the question asks for the old name, not the new one. In March 2026, **Vir Vikram Yadav** became Director General of the DGCA, and he replaced **Faiz Ahmed Kidwai**.

Facts (DGCA)

- The regulator of civil aviation in India
- Under the Ministry of Civil Aviation
- Statutory status through the Aircraft (Amendment) Act, 2020
- Headquarters: New Delhi
- Work: aircraft safety, pilot licences, airworthiness standards

28 ANSWER (a) Vice Chief of the Army Staff

SSC Phase-XIV (Matric) 18 Sep 2026, Shift-III

In April 2026, **Lieutenant General Dhiraj Seth** was made the **Vice Chief of the Army Staff** (VCOAS). Before this he was GOC-in-C of the Southern Command.

Remember: VCOAS

- The second most senior post in the Army after the Army Chief
- The Vice Chief is a three-star Lieutenant General, the Army Chief a four-star General
- Army Headquarters: Integrated Headquarters of the Ministry of Defence, New Delhi
- Supreme Commander of the Armed Forces: the President

29 ANSWER (b) Shri Narendra Bhooshan

SSC Phase-XIV (Matric) 18 Sep 2026, Shift-III

In April 2026, senior IAS officer **Shri Narendra Bhooshan** was made Secretary of the **Department of Land Resources** in the Ministry of Rural Development.

Dept of Land Resources

- Part of the Ministry of Rural Development
- It runs the DILRMP (Digital India Land Records Modernisation Programme)
- Bhu-Aadhaar (ULPIN), a unique 14-digit number for each land parcel, is its initiative
- It also handles the watershed component of PMKSY (WDC-PMKSY)
- Appointments of Secretaries at the Centre are approved by the ACC (Appointments Committee of the Cabinet)

30 ANSWER (c) Ajay Kumar

SSC Phase-XIV (Matric) 19 Sep 2026, Shift-III

Former Defence Secretary **Dr. Ajay Kumar** became UPSC Chairman in May 2025. The UPSC is a constitutional body, provided for in Articles 315-323 under Part XIV of the Constitution.

Articles 315-323

• 315: Public Service Commissions for the Union and the States
• 316: Appointment and term of the Chairman and members. Appointed by the President, term of 6 years or up to the age of 65
• 319: After retirement, the UPSC Chairman cannot take any other job under the Central or State Government
• The first Public Service Commission was set up in 1926, with Sir Ross Barker as its first Chairman

31 ANSWER (a) Sonali Mishra

SSC Phase-XIV (Matric) 19 Sep 2026, Shift-III

Sonali Mishra, a 1993-batch IPS officer, is the first woman Director General of the RPF. After the ACC's approval, she will hold this post till her retirement in October 2026.

Facts (RPF)

• Formed under the Railway Protection Force Act, 1957, an armed force of the Union
• Works under the Ministry of Railways
• Work: security of railway property, passengers and passenger areas
• Well-known drives: 'Operation Nanhe Farishte' (rescue of children), 'Operation Meri Saheli' (safety of women passengers)

32 ANSWER (c) Shri B.P. Singh

SSC Phase-XIV (Matric) 21 Sep 2026, Shift-III

On 1 March 2026, **Shri B. P. Singh** took charge as DGONA (Director General of Naval Armament). He is a 1994-batch officer of the INAS.

DGONA: March 2026

• He replaced Diwakar Jayant, who retired on 28 February 2026
• He took charge at Naval Headquarters, New Delhi
• The INAS is a Group 'A' Central Civil Service under the Ministry of Defence
• DGONA's job: management, inspection and maintenance of the Navy's weapons and ammunition

Examiner's Trap Diwakar Jayant is the previous DGONA, who has retired. This 'old versus new' distractor comes up often in the exam.

33 ANSWER (b) Vir Vikram Yadav

SSC Phase-XIV (Matric) 21 Sep 2026, Shift-III

In March 2026, **Vir Vikram Yadav** became the new Director General of the DGCA. He replaced Faiz Ahmed Kidwai.

Static GK: DGCA

• A regulator under the Ministry of Civil Aviation
• Statutory status through the Aircraft (Amendment) Act, 2020
• Headquarters: New Delhi
• Work: airworthiness, pilot licensing, safety inspection
• The appointment was cleared by the ACC

Examiner's Trap Kidwai was the previous DGCA chief. The question asks for the 'new' chief, so the answer is Yadav.

34 ANSWER (a) Director General of Naval Armament (DGONA)

SSC Phase-XIV (Matric) 22 Sep 2026, Shift-III

This is a reverse question. The name is given and the post is asked. In March 2026, **Shri B. P. Singh** became the **Director General of Naval Armament (DGONA)** under the Ministry of Defence. This post looks after the Navy's armament management.

Navy Facts

• DGONA: design, quality assurance, storage and maintenance of naval weapons and ammunition
• Under the Integrated Headquarters of the Ministry of Defence (Navy)
• Operational head of the Navy: Chief of the Naval Staff (CNS)
• Navy Day is on 4 December, in memory of 'Operation Trident' (1971)

35 ANSWER (a) Department of Land Resources

SSC Phase-XIV (Matric) 22 Sep 2026, Shift-III

In April 2026, **Shri Narendra Bhooshan** became Secretary of the **Department of Land Resources**, which comes under the Ministry of Rural Development.

Dept of Land Resources

• Comes under the Ministry of Rural Development
• Oversees the digitisation of land records, that is,

the DILRMP
• ULPIN or 'Bhu-Aadhaar', a unique number for every land parcel, is its scheme
• It also runs the watershed projects of WDC-PMKSY
• Secretaries at the Centre are appointed by the ACC

36 ANSWER (a) Kesavan Ramachandran

SSC Phase-XIV (Matric) 23 Sep 2026, Shift-III

In July 2025, **Kesavan Ramachandran** became an Executive Director (ED) of the RBI. Given his long experience in banking supervision and risk management, he was given the Department of Regulation.

Static GK: RBI
• Established on 1 April 1935 under the RBI Act, 1934
• Nationalised on 1 January 1949
• Managed by the Central Board of Directors, assisted by Deputy Governors and EDs
• The Department of Regulation frames rules for commercial banks, cooperative banks and NBFCs
• Central Office: Mumbai

37 ANSWER (b) Lieutenant General Dhiraj Seth

SSC Phase-XIV (Matric) 24 Sep 2026, Shift-III

Lieutenant General Dhiraj Seth took charge as VCOAS in April 2026. Before this he was GOC-in-C of the Southern Command.

Army: Vice Chief
• The second most senior officer of the Army
• Assists the Army Chief in operational and administrative work
• Army Headquarters: Integrated Headquarters of the Ministry of Defence, New Delhi

Other options: General Manoj Pande was the 29th Army Chief, General Anil Chauhan is the country's second CDS, and Raj Shukla is a retired military commander.

38 ANSWER (a) Sanjay Khanna

SSC Phase-XIV (Matric) 24 Sep 2026, Shift-III

In April 2026, **Sanjay Khanna** became CMD of BPCL. He was earlier Director (Refineries) in the company.

PSU: BPCL
• A Maharatna CPSE
• Refineries: Mumbai, Kochi and Bina (Madhya Pradesh)
• Under the Ministry of Petroleum and Natural Gas
• Formed in 1976 through the takeover (nationalisation) of Burmah Shell

Note BPCL came from Burmah Shell, and HPCL from ESSO. In the exam, these two pairs are often swapped.

PART D Awards and Honours (Current)

39 ANSWER (b) Girija Kumar Baliarsingh

SSC Phase-XIV (Graduation) 17 Sep 2026, Shift-I

Odia poet **Girija Kumar Baliarsingh** received the Sahitya Akademi Award 2025 in Odia for his poetry collection **'Padapurana'**.

Sahitya Akademi
• Founded in 1954
• Awards in 24 languages: the 22 languages of the 8th Schedule, plus English and Rajasthani
• The award has a copper plaque designed by Satyajit Ray, a shawl and ₹1,00,000
• Odia got classical language status in 2014

Pritpal Singh Betab is among the other options, but he won the award in Urdu ('Safar Jari Hai').

40 ANSWER (c) Safar Jari Hai - Urdu

SSC Phase-XIV (Graduation) 17 Sep 2026, Shift-I

The correct pair is **'Safar Jari Hai'** and **Urdu**. It is a poetry/ghazal collection by poet **Pritpal Singh Betab**, which won the 2025 Sahitya Akademi Award.

Akademi 2025: Urdu
• Pritpal Singh Betab is an Urdu poet from Jammu and Kashmir
• Urdu is among the 22 languages of the 8th Schedule
• The Akademi gives awards in genres like poetry, novel, short story and essay
• Headquarters: Rabindra Bhavan, New Delhi

41 ANSWER (c) Crimson Spring

SSC Phase-XIV (Graduation) 19 Sep 2026, Shift-I

The 2025 Sahitya Akademi Award in English went to **'Crimson Spring'**, a novel by former diplomat **Navtej Sarna**.

Book: Crimson Spring

- The story is about the 1919 Jallianwala Bagh massacre and the events that followed
- Sarna has served as India's Ambassador to the USA and High Commissioner to the UK
- The Akademi gives awards in 24 languages, English being one of them
- Founded: 1954

Examiner's Trap 'Requiem in Raga Janki' (Neelum Saran Gour) won the English award in 2023, not 2025. Watch the year.

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42 ANSWER (c) Tridib Kumar Chattopadhyay

SSC Phase-XIV (Graduation) 19 Sep 2026, Shift-I

The Bengali Bal Sahitya Puraskar 2025 went to **Tridib Kumar Chattopadhyay**. His story collection 'Ekhono Gaye Kanta Dey' won wide praise for its thrilling, mysterious stories for children.

Bal Sahitya Puraskar

- The Sahitya Akademi started this award in **2010**.
- Prize: a copper plaque and **₹50,000** in cash.
- It is given in 24 languages, that is, the 22 of the 8th Schedule + English and Rajasthani.
- Tridib Kumar Chattopadhyay has also been associated with the Publishers and Booksellers Guild, Kolkata.

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43 ANSWER (a) Odia

SSC Phase-XIV (Graduation) 22 Sep 2026, Shift-I

'Padapurana' is a poetry collection by the Odisha poet **Girijakumar Baliar Singh**. It won him the Sahitya Akademi Award 2025 in the **Odia** language.

Facts (Sahitya Akademi)

- It was formally inaugurated on **12 March 1954**. Headquarters: Rabindra Bhavan, New Delhi.
- The main award carries a copper plaque, a shawl and **₹1,00,000** in cash.
- 24 languages in all: the 22 of the 8th Schedule, plus English and Rajasthani.
- It is an autonomous body under the Ministry of Culture.

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44 ANSWER (c) Girijakumar Baliar Singh - Odia

SSC Phase-XIV (Graduation) 22 Sep 2026, Shift-I

In the 2025 poetry category, **Girijakumar Baliar Singh** was chosen for his Odia collection 'Padapurana'. So this is the pair that fits.

Remember: Poet and Language

- Girijakumar Baliar Singh, 'Padapurana', Odia
- Khajur Singh Thakur, 'Thakur Satsai', Dogri
- Nandini Sidha Reddy is a Telugu poet, and Pritpal Singh Betab writes in Urdu.
- Main award: copper plaque, shawl and ₹1,00,000

Look at the other options. Nandini Sidha Reddy is linked with Telugu, Pritpal Singh Betab with Urdu and Khajur Singh Thakur with Dogri. In all three, the language is wrongly paired.

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45 ANSWER (a) Rajasthani

SSC Phase-XIV (Graduation) 24 Sep 2026, Shift-I

'Bharkhma' is a story collection by **Ramswaroop Kisan**. It won the Sahitya Akademi Award 2025 in **Rajasthani**. The stories show the villages of Rajasthan and the lives of ordinary people.

Static GK: Akademi Languages

- Rajasthani is not in the 8th Schedule, yet the Sahitya Akademi recognises it.
- 24 languages = 22 of the 8th Schedule + English + Rajasthani
- Award: copper plaque, shawl and ₹1,00,000 in cash.
- The Akademi was set up in 1954.

Note Rajasthani and English are the two languages outside the 8th Schedule that still appear on the Akademi's list. This point is asked again and again in the exam.

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46 ANSWER (c) Yogesh Vaidya - Gujarati

SSC Phase-XIV (Graduation) 24 Sep 2026, Shift-I

Of the four, only **Yogesh Vaidya - Gujarati** is a correct match. He made the 2025 list for Gujarati poetry.

2025: Poetry Winners

- Khajur Singh Thakur won in Dogri for 'Thakur Satsai', not in Urdu.
- Pritpal Singh Betab writes in Urdu, not Dogri.

• The award's copper plaque was designed by filmmaker **Satyajit Ray**.
• The awards are presented at the Akademi's annual 'Sahityotsav' (Festival of Letters) in New Delhi.

Other options: the languages of Pritpal Singh Betab (Urdu) and Khajur Singh Thakur (Dogri) have been swapped. Ali Shaida's name is not linked with Bengali.

Examiner's Trap In A and B the names are right and the languages are right too. They have simply been swapped. This is exactly where students slip when they rush.

47 ANSWER (b) Cyprus

SSC Phase-XIV (Graduation) 24 Sep 2026, Shift-I

The 'Order of Makarios III' is the highest honour of **Cyprus**. PM Modi received it during his visit to Cyprus in June 2025.

Facts (Cyprus)
• The honour is named after **Archbishop Makarios III**, the first President of Cyprus.
• Makarios III was counted among the major leaders of the Non-Aligned Movement (NAM).
• Capital: Nicosia. It is an island nation in the Mediterranean Sea and also a member of the European Union.
• The honour is given to foreign heads of state and dignitaries for strengthening bilateral ties.

Examiner's Trap Greece misleads because Greek is spoken in Cyprus. But this honour belongs to the Republic of Cyprus.

48 ANSWER (b) Deepa Bhasthi

SSC Phase-XIV (Graduation) 25 Sep 2026, Shift-I

Banu Mushtaq writes in Kannada. Her stories were translated into English by **Deepa Bhasthi** under the title 'Heart Lamp', and this translation won the International Booker Prize 2025.

Booker 2025: Heart Lamp
• 'Heart Lamp' has **12** Kannada short stories about the lives of women in South India.
• Banu Mushtaq is from **Hassan**, Karnataka. She is a writer, lawyer and social activist.
• Deepa Bhasthi is from Kodagu (Madikeri), Karnataka.
• The prize money of **£50,000** is shared equally between the author and the translator.

49 ANSWER (b) We Do Not Part

SSC Phase-XIV (12th) 17 Sep 2026, Shift-II

Han Kang's novel **'We Do Not Part'** won the NBCC award for fiction. The story rests on the pain and memories of the 1948 Jeju Island massacre.

Remember: Han Kang
• Won the **2024** Nobel Prize in Literature, the first South Korean writer to do so.
• International Booker in **2016** for 'The Vegetarian'.
• 'We Do Not Part' was first published in Korean in 2021.
• Other well-known books: 'Human Acts', 'The White Book'

Other options: 'Milkman' is a novel by Anna Burns and 'Bliss Montage' is by Ling Ma.

Examiner's Trap 'The Vegetarian' is also Han Kang's book, but it won the 2016 International Booker. It has nothing to do with NBCC 2026.

50 ANSWER (d) Kannada

SSC Phase-XIV (12th) 17 Sep 2026, Shift-II

Banu Mushtaq originally wrote the stories of 'Heart Lamp' in **Kannada**, and the English translation is by Deepa Bhasthi. This is the first time a book translated from Kannada has won this prize.

International Booker
• The prize goes to a work of fiction translated into English and published in the UK/Ireland.
• In 2022, Geetanjali Shree's Hindi work **'Ret Samadhi'** (Tomb of Sand, translated by Daisy Rockwell) won it.
• Kannada got classical language status in **2008**.
• Jnanpith winners in Kannada include Kuvempu, D. R. Bendre and U. R. Ananthamurthy.

Examiner's Trap The 'Hindi' option tries to trap you by reminding you of 'Ret Samadhi' from 2022. The 2025 book is from Kannada.

51 ANSWER (b) Disability rights and accessibility

SSC Phase-XIV (12th) 18 Sep 2026, Shift-II

Nipun Malhotra works for **the rights of persons**

with disabilities and accessibility. For this work he received the National Award for the Empowerment of Persons with Disabilities 2025 in the 'Role Model' category.

Facts (Nipun Malhotra)

- He is the founder of the **Nipman Foundation**.
- He was himself born with a congenital condition called arthrogryposis.
- He has run campaigns for accessible public transport and accessible polling booths.
- These awards are given by the Ministry of Social Justice and Empowerment on **3 December** (International Day of Persons with Disabilities).

52 **ANSWER (b)** Space research and engineering

SSC Phase-XIV (12th) 18 Sep 2026, Shift-II

Dr. A. E. Muthunayagam has been a senior aerospace scientist at ISRO. He played a big role in building India's liquid rocket engine capability, so his Padma Shri 2026 is for **space research and engineering**.

Padma Shri 2026: ISRO

- He was the founding director of ISRO's **Liquid Propulsion Systems Centre (LPSC)**.
- He contributed to the development of the **Vikas engine** used in PSLV/GSLV.
- Later he served as Secretary of the Government of India's Department of Ocean Development.
- He worked in the early space programme with Vikram Sarabhai and A. P. J. Abdul Kalam.

Examiner's Trap He was Secretary in the Department of Ocean Development, so 'Marine science' may look right. But his real identity, and the basis of the Padma Shri, is space engineering.

53 **ANSWER (b)** Only 2 and 3

SSC Phase-XIV (12th) 21 Sep 2026, Shift-II

The simple way is to match with the 2025 Yuva Puraskar list. The Manipuri and Bengali pairs (2 and 3) are correct. The work in pair 1 does not match the Marathi winner, so the answer is **Only 2 and 3**.

Yuva Puraskar

- Started in **2011** for writers aged **35 years or below**.
- A copper plaque and **₹50,000** in cash.
- It is also given in 24 languages.
- Sahitya Akademi headquarters: Rabindra Bhavan, New Delhi.

54 **ANSWER (d)** Kevin Young

SSC Phase-XIV (12th) 21 Sep 2026, Shift-II

'Night Watch' is a collection by the American poet **Kevin Young**, which won him the NBCC Award 2026 in the poetry category.

Facts (NBCC)

- Kevin Young has been the director of the Smithsonian's National Museum of African American History and Culture.
- He is known as the poetry editor of 'The New Yorker'.
- The NBCC was founded in the USA in **1974**. It is an organisation of book critics.
- The NBCC, the Pulitzer and the National Book Award are the major literary honours of the USA.

Look at the other options. Ada Limón was the 24th Poet Laureate of the USA. Diane Seuss and Morgan Parker are also American poets, but 'Night Watch' is not their book.

55 **ANSWER (b)** Frances FitzGerald

SSC Phase-XIV (12th) 22 Sep 2026, Shift-II

The Ivan Sandrof Lifetime Achievement Award 2026 went to the American journalist and historian **Frances FitzGerald**. It is given for a lifetime of contribution to literature and book culture.

Remember: Sandrof Award

- Her book on the Vietnam War, **'Fire in the Lake'**, won the Pulitzer in 1973.
- The award is named after **Ivan Sandrof**, a founding member of the NBCC.
- Earlier winners include names like Toni Morrison and Joyce Carol Oates.
- The NBCC was formed in 1974.

Note Don't take 'Frances' to be a man. Frances FitzGerald is a woman writer. Also, don't confuse her with the novelist F. Scott Fitzgerald.

56 **ANSWER (c)** Banu Mushtaq

SSC Phase-XIV (12th) 22 Sep 2026, Shift-II

The original author of 'Heart Lamp' is **Banu Mushtaq** from Karnataka. The stories were written in Kannada, and Deepa Bhasthi did the English translation.

Booker 2025: Banu Mushtaq

- Besides being a writer, she is a lawyer, journalist and women's rights activist.
- Her stories deal with patriarchy, gender discrimination and the struggles of ordinary women.
- It is the first **short story collection** to win the International Booker, and the first Kannada work.
- In 2022, Geetanjali Shree's 'Ret Samadhi' became the first Hindi work to win this prize.

Examiner's Trap Deepa Bhasthi is the translator, not the author. Read carefully whether the question asks for the 'author' or the 'translator'.

57 ANSWER (c) Edelweiss Mutual Fund

SSC Phase-XIV (12th) 22 Sep 2026, Shift-II

Radhika Gupta is the MD and CEO of **Edelweiss Mutual Fund** (Edelweiss Asset Management). She is a well-known woman leader in the mutual fund industry.

Facts (Radhika Gupta)

- She has headed Edelweiss AMC since 2017.
- Under her leadership, Edelweiss has managed products like the **Bharat Bond ETF**.
- She has also appeared as a Shark (investor) on 'Shark Tank India'.
- Her talk 'The Girl with the Broken Neck' is quite popular.

58 ANSWER (b) A Perfect Turmoil

SSC Phase-XIV (12th) 24 Sep 2026, Shift-II

The NBCC 2026 in the Biography category went to Alex Green's book **'A Perfect Turmoil'**.

NBCC: 6 Categories

- The NBCC was formed in the USA in 1974.
- 6 categories: Fiction, Nonfiction, Biography, Autobiography, Poetry and Criticism.
- Winners are chosen by professional book critics. There is no cash prize.
- Beverly Gage's 'G-Man' had earlier won the NBCC Biography award and the 2023 Pulitzer.

Other options: 'G-Man' (Beverly Gage) and 'Stranger in the Shogun's City' (Amy Stanley) are winning biographies of earlier years, not 2026.

59 ANSWER (a) Arundhati Roy

SSC Phase-XIV (12th) 25 Sep 2026, Shift-II

'Mother Mary Comes to Me' is a memoir by **Arundhati Roy**. It tells the story of her relationship with her mother Mary Roy, and it won the NBCC 2026 in the autobiography category.

Remember: Arundhati Roy

- Won the 1997 Booker Prize for her first novel **'The God of Small Things'**.
- Her second novel 'The Ministry of Utmost Happiness' came out in 2017.
- Her mother Mary Roy won a landmark Supreme Court case in 1986 on the property inheritance rights of Syrian Christian women.
- The NBCC is a prestigious annual literary honour of the USA.

60 ANSWER (c) Deepa Bhasthi

SSC Phase-XIV (12th) 25 Sep 2026, Shift-II

Banu Mushtaq wrote the stories in Kannada, and **Deepa Bhasthi** brought them into English. The two received the prize together.

Facts (Deepa Bhasthi)

- A writer and literary translator from Kodagu, Karnataka.
- The Booker's **£50,000** is split half and half between the author and the translator.
- The prize goes to a work of fiction translated into English and published in the UK/Ireland.
- In 2022 it went to Geetanjali Shree and translator Daisy Rockwell for 'Ret Samadhi'.

Examiner's Trap Banu Mushtaq is the original author, not the translator. Here the question asks for the translator.

61 ANSWER (b) Medicine and healthcare

SSC Phase-XIV (12th) 25 Sep 2026, Shift-II

Dr. K. R. Palaniswamy is a senior **gastroenterologist** from Chennai, that is, a specialist in diseases of the digestive system. He received the Padma Bhushan for distinguished

service in **medicine**.

Padma Bhushan: Medicine

- He has been associated with gastroenterology and endoscopy at Apollo Hospitals, Chennai.
- He played a role in building the gastroenterology department at Stanley Medical College, Chennai.
- He has served as President of the Indian Society of Gastroenterology.
- The Padma Bhushan is the **third** highest civilian honour, after the Bharat Ratna and the Padma Vibhushan.

62 ANSWER (c) Green Revolution

SSC Phase-XIV (12th) 26 Sep 2026, Shift-I

Dr. M. S. Swaminathan is called the father of India's **Green Revolution**. India became self-sufficient in food grains by adopting high-yielding varieties of wheat and rice, and he showed the way.

Facts (Green Revolution)

- He worked with Nobel laureate **Norman Borlaug** on semi-dwarf wheat varieties.
- Bharat Ratna in 2024, **posthumously** (he died in September 2023).
- He set up the M. S. Swaminathan Research Foundation (MSSRF) in Chennai.
- The Green Revolution began in the mid-1960s in Punjab, Haryana and western Uttar Pradesh.

Other options: the White Revolution means milk, and the name linked with it is Verghese Kurien. The Blue Revolution is linked with fish production and the Silver Revolution with eggs/poultry.

63 ANSWER (a) Mr. Nitin Kushalappa

SSC Phase-XIV (Matric) 16 Sep 2026, Shift-III

The Bal Sahitya Puraskar 2025 for English went to **Nitin Kushalappa** for his stories for children.

Bal Sahitya: English

- The award began in **2010**.
- A copper plaque and **₹50,000** in cash.
- It is given in the Akademi's 24 languages, and English is one of them.
- Earlier English winners include names like Ruskin Bond and Sudha Murty.
- The Sahitya Akademi is an autonomous body under the Ministry of Culture.

64 ANSWER (a) Sweden

SSC Phase-XIV (Matric) 17 Sep 2026, Shift-III

NitroCapt is a clean-tech startup from **Sweden**. Its technology uses plasma and renewable electricity to turn nitrogen from the air directly into a form usable as fertiliser. That is what won it the 2025 Food Planet Prize.

Facts (Food Planet Prize)

- The technology is called the **SUNIFIX** process.
- The prize is given by Sweden's **Curt Bergfors Foundation**. Total amount: about 2 million dollars.
- The older **Haber-Bosch process** (for making ammonia) runs on fossil fuels and causes heavy emissions.
- The prize goes to solutions that make the food system sustainable.

Note There are two clues here. The startup is Swedish, and the foundation that gives the prize is Swedish too.

65 ANSWER (c) Parvati Tirkey

SSC Phase-XIV (Matric) 17 Sep 2026, Shift-III

The Sahitya Akademi Yuva Puraskar 2025 in Hindi went to **Parvati Tirkey** for her poetry collection '**Phir Ugna**'.

Yuva Puraskar 2025: Hindi

- Parvati Tirkey is a young poet from a tribal (Kurukh) background in Jharkhand.
- 'Phir Ugna' speaks of tribal life, nature and struggle.
- Yuva Puraskar since 2011, for writers up to **35 years** of age. Prize: ₹50,000 and a copper plaque.
- It is given in 24 languages.

66 ANSWER (a) Jenny Erpenbeck

SSC Phase-XIV (Matric) 17 Sep 2026, Shift-III

'Kairos' is a novel by the German writer **Jenny Erpenbeck**. Michael Hofmann translated it into English, and it won the International Booker 2024.

Booker 2024: Kairos

- The story is set in East Berlin, a love affair in the period when the Berlin Wall fell.

• Erpenbeck is the **first German** writer to win this prize.
• Hofmann became the first male translator to win it.
• Geetanjali Shree ('Ret Samadhi') in 2022, Han Kang ('The Vegetarian') in 2016.

Other options: Han Kang (2016) and Geetanjali Shree (2022) won in other years. Olga Tokarczuk (Poland) won this prize in 2018 for 'Flights'.

67 **ANSWER (a)** Ang Asur

SSC Phase-XIV (Matric) 18 Sep 2026, Shift-III

'Ang Asur', the poetry collection of Bodo poet **Amar Khungur Boro**, is the book that won the Bodo Yuva Puraskar 2025.

Static GK: Bodo Language

• Yuva Puraskar since 2011, for writers up to **35 years** of age. Prize: ₹50,000.
• Bodo is a Tibeto-Burman language, spoken mostly in the Bodoland region of Assam.
• It entered the 8th Schedule through the **92nd Constitutional Amendment, 2003**, along with Dogri, Maithili and Santhali.
• The award is given in 24 languages.

Examiner's Trap 'Phir Ugna' is also a 2025 Yuva Puraskar winner, but it is Parvati Tirkey's Hindi book, not a Bodo one.

68 **ANSWER (a)** Thakur Satsai

SSC Phase-XIV (Matric) 21 Sep 2026, Shift-III

The Dogri Sahitya Akademi Award 2025 went to **'Thakur Satsai'**, a collection by poet **Khajur Singh Thakur**. A 'Satsai' is a collection of about seven hundred couplets or verses, an old poetic form.

Static GK: Dogri

• Dogri is mainly the language of the Jammu region (Jammu and Kashmir).
• It was added to the 8th Schedule by the **92nd Amendment, 2003**.
• Main Akademi award: copper plaque, shawl and ₹1,00,000
• The Sahitya Akademi was set up in 1954.

Note Remember Hindi's 'Bihari Satsai'? The moment you see the word 'Satsai', recognise it as a poetry collection.

69 **ANSWER (b)** Ekhono Gaye Kanta

SSC Phase-XIV (Matric) 22 Sep 2026, Shift-III

Tridib Kumar Chattopadhyay received the Bengali Bal Sahitya Puraskar 2025 for his story collection **'Ekhono Gaye Kanta (Dey)'**. The title roughly means stories that still give you goosebumps.

Bal Sahitya 2025: Bengali

• The collection has thrilling and mysterious stories for children.
• The Akademi started the Bal Sahitya Puraskar in 2010.
• Prize: **₹50,000** and a copper plaque.
• The Sahitya Akademi was inaugurated on 12 March 1954.

70 **ANSWER (b)** Assamese language

SSC Phase-XIV (Matric) 24 Sep 2026, Shift-III

'Mainahantar Padya' is Surendra Mohan Das's book of children's poems. It won the Bal Sahitya Puraskar 2025 in the **Assamese** language.

Remember: Assamese

• The Akademi has been giving the Bal Sahitya Puraskar since 2010.
• The winner gets ₹50,000 and a copper plaque.
• Assamese is one of the original languages of the 8th Schedule.
• Assamese is also the official language of Assam.

PART E Summits and Conferences

71 **ANSWER (a)** Conducting regional pilot studies

SSC Phase-XIV (12th) 24 Sep 2026, Shift-II

The BIMSTEC Summit was held in Bangkok in April 2025. There India proposed **regional pilot studies** to understand the DPI needs of member countries, so that India's digital model could be adopted there as well.

BIMSTEC 2025: DPI

• India's DPI stack includes platforms like **Aadhaar, UPI and DigiLocker**.
• The 6th BIMSTEC Summit was held in April 2025 in **Bangkok** (Thailand).

• India also suggested linking UPI with the payment systems of member countries.
• Aim: financial inclusion and better delivery of government services.

72 **ANSWER (c)** In 2027

SSC Phase-XIV (12th) 26 Sep 2026, Shift-I

At the 2025 BIMSTEC Summit, India announced that it will host the first BIMSTEC Games in **2027**. The aim is to connect the youth and athletes of member countries.

Facts (BIMSTEC)
• BIMSTEC = Bay of Bengal Initiative for Multi-Sectoral Technical and Economic Cooperation
• Founded on **6 June 1997** through the Bangkok Declaration.
• 7 members: Bangladesh, Bhutan, India, Myanmar, Nepal, Sri Lanka, Thailand.
• The permanent secretariat is in **Dhaka** (Bangladesh).

Note BIMSTEC also completes 30 years in 2027. That is an easy way to remember the year.

73 **ANSWER (b)** G20 2023

SSC Phase-XIV (Matric) 19 Sep 2026, Shift-III

IMEC was announced at the **New Delhi G20 Summit** in September 2023, when India held the G20 presidency. Its MoU was signed there.

Remember: IMEC
• The MoU was signed by India, the USA, Saudi Arabia, the UAE, the European Union, France, Germany and Italy.
• It has two parts: the **Eastern Corridor** (India to the Gulf) and the **Northern Corridor** (Gulf to Europe).
• Along with a ship-rail network, electricity/ hydrogen pipelines and digital cables are also planned.
• The 18th G20 Summit was held on 9-10 September 2023 at Bharat Mandapam, New Delhi. Theme: 'Vasudhaiva Kutumbakam, One Earth, One Family, One Future'

74 **ANSWER (d)** USA

SSC Phase-XIV (Matric) 24 Sep 2026, Shift-III

The fourth in-person Quad Leaders' Summit was held on **21 September 2024** in **Wilmington, Delaware**, USA. The host was then President Joe Biden. So the answer is **USA**.

Facts (QUAD)
• Members: India, USA, Japan, Australia. Full name: Quadrilateral Security Dialogue.
• The **Wilmington Declaration** was issued at the end of the summit.
• The idea of the Quad was given in 2007 by Japanese PM **Shinzo Abe**.
• India is to host the next Quad Leaders' Summit.

Examiner's Trap In 2024 it was actually India's turn, but the order was changed and the USA hosted. That is why the 'India' option creates confusion.

75 **ANSWER (b)** Malaysia

SSC Phase-XIV (Matric) 25 Sep 2026, Shift-III

The 7th NSA-level meeting of the Colombo Security Conclave (CSC) was held in New Delhi in November 2025. **Malaysia** took part as a 'Guest Country' for the first time.

Facts (CSC)
• It began as **trilateral maritime security** cooperation between India, Sri Lanka and the Maldives.
• At this meeting **Seychelles** became a full member. Mauritius and Bangladesh are already members.
• Five pillars: maritime security, counter-terrorism, trafficking and organised crime, cyber security, humanitarian assistance and disaster relief.
• The meeting was hosted by India's NSA **Ajit Doval**.

PART F Reports and Indices (Current)

76 **ANSWER (a)** Life expectancy at birth

SSC Phase-XIV (Graduation) 22 Sep 2026, Shift-I

In UNDP's HDI, the 'long and healthy life' dimension is measured by just one indicator, **life expectancy at birth**.

3 Dimensions of HDI
• The HDI was created in 1990 based on the ideas of **Mahbub ul Haq** and **Amartya Sen**.
• Three dimensions: health, education (knowledge) and standard of living.

• Education = **mean years** + **expected years** of schooling
• Standard of living = **Gross National Income (GNI)** per capita, in PPP

Other options: birth rate, fertility rate and infant mortality rate. None of these is an HDI indicator.

Examiner's Trap Infant mortality rate sounds like a health indicator, but the HDI does not count it. Only life expectancy works there.

77 ANSWER (c) Seventh (7th)

SSC Phase-XIV (Graduation) 25 Sep 2026, Shift-I

Pay attention here. This figure comes from Germanwatch's **Global Climate Risk Index 2021**, which was based on the events of 2019. In it, India was **7th** among the countries worst hit by extreme weather.

Climate Risk Index
• Released by the German NGO **Germanwatch**.
• Top 3 affected countries in 2019: Mozambique, Zimbabwe, the Bahamas.
• In the previous index (events of 2018), India was 5th.
• In 2019 India faced heavy monsoon floods and several cyclones, including Fani.
• The index counts both deaths and PPP-based economic losses.

Note The year of the report (2021) and the year whose events were assessed (2019) are different. Check which year the question gives.

78 ANSWER (b) World Intellectual Property Organization

SSC Phase-XIV (12th) 16 Sep 2026, Shift-II

The Global Innovation Index is brought out every year by the **World Intellectual Property Organization (WIPO)**. It ranks countries by their innovation capacity and results.

Facts (WIPO / GII)
• WIPO is a specialised agency of the United Nations, headquartered in **Geneva** (Switzerland).
• The GII was started in **2007** by INSEAD and the magazine 'World Business'.
• It has about 80 indicators.
• **Switzerland** stays at number one year after year.
India was **38th** in GII 2025.

Look at the other options. The WEF releases the Global Competitiveness and Gender Gap reports, the UNDP releases the HDI and the IMF the World Economic Outlook.

79 ANSWER (a) Finland

SSC Phase-XIV (12th) 16 Sep 2026, Shift-II

In the World Happiness Report 2026, **Finland** was number one once again. It has been at the top continuously since 2018, so this is its ninth year.

Remember: Happiness Report
• The report comes out every year in partnership with the **UN Sustainable Development Solutions Network (SDSN)**.
• Life evaluation is measured with the **Cantril Ladder** (0-10) question.
• Key factors: GDP per capita, social support, healthy life expectancy, freedom, generosity, perception of corruption.
• The first report came out in **2012**.

Examiner's Trap Denmark and Iceland are also in the top 3-4 every year, so these options mislead. The first place belongs to Finland.

80 ANSWER (c) 9th

SSC Phase-XIV (12th) 16 Sep 2026, Shift-II

In the FAO's **Global Forest Resources Assessment (FRA) 2025**, India is **9th** in terms of total forest area. This is an improvement over the previous assessment.

FRA 2025 (FAO)
• The FRA is released by the UN's **Food and Agriculture Organization (FAO)**, headquartered in Rome.
• Top countries by forest area: Russia, Brazil, Canada, USA, China.
• In annual net gain in forest area, India is **3rd** in the world.
• India's own report is the **India State of Forest Report (ISFR)**, released every two years by the Forest Survey of India (FSI).
• By area, **Madhya Pradesh** has the largest forest cover.

Note 9th in total forest area, but 3rd in annual

forest gain. The exam can ask these two separately.

81 ANSWER (c) Innovation Input and Innovation Output Sub-Indices

SSC Phase-XIV (12th) 17 Sep 2026, Shift-II

The GII is made up of two sub-indices. The first is the **Innovation Input Sub-Index**, which looks at the environment for innovation, and the second is the **Innovation Output Sub-Index**, which looks at actual results.

GII: 7 Pillars

- **5 pillars** of Input: institutions, human capital and research, infrastructure, market sophistication, business sophistication.
- **2 pillars** of Output: knowledge and technology outputs, creative outputs.
- The overall GII score is the average of these two sub-indices.
- The GII is released by WIPO.

Note Remember: 5 + 2 = 7 pillars. 5 in Input, 2 in Output.

82 ANSWER (b) 116

SSC Phase-XIV (12th) 18 Sep 2026, Shift-II

In the World Happiness Report 2026, 147 countries were ranked in all, and India came **116th**. This is better than in previous years.

India: Happiness Ranking

- In the 2023 and 2024 reports, India was **126th**.
- The report comes out around **20 March** (International Day of Happiness).
- The data comes mostly from the **Gallup World Poll**.
- UN SDSN is a partner in its publication. First place: Finland.

Examiner's Trap 126 is India's 2023-24 rank. An old year's figure has been placed in the options to trap you.

83 ANSWER (c) Costa Rica

SSC Phase-XIV (12th) 18 Sep 2026, Shift-II

In the 2026 report, **Costa Rica** in Central America made it to the top 5. The top places are usually held by Nordic and European countries, so this is a big deal.

Facts (Costa Rica)

- Costa Rica abolished its permanent army in **1948**.
- For its per capita income, its happiness score stays quite high.
- At the very top is Finland, followed by Nordic countries like Denmark and Iceland.
- In past years, Israel and New Zealand have also been around the top 10.

84 ANSWER (c) 130th

SSC Phase-XIV (12th) 19 Sep 2026, Shift-II

In UNDP's Human Development Report 2025, India ranked **130th** among 193 countries. Its category stayed the same, 'Medium Human Development'.

HDR 2025

- In the previous report (2023-24), India was **134th**.
- The HDI report is brought out by the **UNDP**. The concept is by Mahbub ul Haq and Amartya Sen.
- Indicators: life expectancy, mean and expected years of schooling, GNI per capita.
- In HDR 2025, **Iceland** was number one, with Norway and Switzerland right behind.

85 ANSWER (a) The Cantril Ladder

SSC Phase-XIV (12th) 19 Sep 2026, Shift-II

The World Happiness Report uses the **Cantril Ladder**. People are asked on which rung of a 0 to 10 ladder they would place their life.

Cantril Ladder

- This scale was given by social researcher **Hadley Cantril** in 1965.
- **10** means the best possible life, **0** the worst.
- The survey data comes from the **Gallup World Poll**.
- The report is published in partnership with UN SDSN.

Other options: the Likert Scale is a survey scale for measuring agreement/disagreement, and the Gini Coefficient measures income inequality. There is no standard scale called the 'Human Development Scale'. The HDI is an index.

86 **ANSWER (d)** Norway

SSC Phase-XIV (12th) 21 Sep 2026, Shift-II

In the 2026 World Happiness Report, the Nordic country **Norway** was 6th. Above it were Finland, Denmark and Iceland.

WHR 2026: Nordic Countries

- Finland is number one for the **ninth** year in a row.
- The report comes out every year around 20 March in partnership with UN SDSN.
- The ranking rests on Cantril Ladder scores from the Gallup World Poll.
- Six factors: GDP per capita, social support, healthy life expectancy, freedom, generosity, perception of corruption.

Other options: Finland was number one, and Denmark and Iceland were also above Norway, in the top 5.

87 **ANSWER (b)** Cantril Self-Anchoring Scale

SSC Phase-XIV (12th) 21 Sep 2026, Shift-II

The report asks people one simple question: imagine a ladder from 0 to 10, which step is your life on today? This ladder is called the **Cantril Self-Anchoring Scale**, or the 'Cantril Ladder'. The rankings are built from these average scores.

Facts (Cantril Ladder)

- 0 means the worst possible life, 10 the best
- Hadley Cantril designed this scale in 1965
- The data comes every year from the Gallup World Poll
- 6 factors: GDP per capita, social support, healthy life expectancy, freedom, generosity, perception of corruption
- The first report came out in 2012

Look at the other options. The Gini coefficient measures income inequality, and GNH (Gross National Happiness) is Bhutan's concept.

88 **ANSWER (c)** China

SSC Phase-XIV (12th) 22 Sep 2026, Shift-II

In the Global Innovation Index 2025, **China** entered the Top-10 for the first time. It is the first middle-income economy to reach this level.

Remember: GII

- WIPO releases the GII every year
- Switzerland has held No. 1 for a long time
- China's rise came from patents, research papers and R&D spending
- India leads Central and South Asia
- Pillars: institutions, human capital, infrastructure, market and business sophistication

Examiner's Trap Germany and Finland already sit around the Top-10. The question says 'for the first time', and that is the word you must catch.

89 **ANSWER (a)** United Nations Development Programme

SSC Phase-XIV (12th) 23 Sep 2026, Shift-II

The HDI is released by the **UNDP (United Nations Development Programme)** in its annual Human Development Report.

Static GK: HDI

- Started in 1990, the work of Mahbub ul Haq and Amartya Sen
- Three dimensions: a long and healthy life, education, and standard of living (GNI per capita)
- Value lies between 0 and 1, and 0.800 or above means very high development
- UNDP headquarters: New York

Other options: the IMF publishes the World Economic Outlook, the WHO brings out World Health Statistics, and the Global Gender Gap report belongs to the WEF.

90 **ANSWER (b)** Afghanistan

SSC Phase-XIV (12th) 23 Sep 2026, Shift-II

Afghanistan finished last in the World Happiness Report 2026. Poverty, instability and a long humanitarian crisis are the three reasons. It has been on the last rung for several years now.

Facts (Happiness Report)

- SDSN and Gallup prepare the report together
- Happiest country: Finland, for many years in a row
- Based on life-evaluation data from the Gallup World Poll
- The report comes out around 20 March (International Day of Happiness)

Sierra Leone and Lebanon also stay near the bottom, but the last place belongs to Afghanistan.

91 ANSWER (c) 3.6 billion tonnes

SSC Phase-XIV (12th) 24 Sep 2026, Shift-II

As per the FAO's GFRA 2025, the world's forests absorbed a net of about **3.6 billion tonnes of CO_2** every year during 2021-2025. In other words, forests are a huge 'carbon sink'.

Remember: FAO

- The FAO is a specialised agency of the UN, headquartered in Rome (Italy)
- The FRA periodically assesses forest area, condition and biomass
- Carbon is stored in living biomass, dead wood and soil
- Deforestation releases greenhouse gases on a large scale

92 ANSWER (b) Help from friends or relatives

SSC Phase-XIV (12th) 24 Sep 2026, Shift-II

The Gallup survey asks a yes-or-no question: if you were in trouble, do you have **friends or relatives** you can count on? The national average of people saying 'yes' is the 'Social Support' score.

Facts (Social Support)

- It rests on a single Yes/No question
- The main life evaluation uses the Cantril Ladder (0 to 10)
- Other variables: GDP, healthy life expectancy, freedom, generosity, perception of corruption
- Nordic countries, especially Finland, score high here

Government welfare spending, the number of community centres or volunteering hours, none of these measures this variable.

93 ANSWER (c) 25.17%

SSC Phase-XIV (12th) 26 Sep 2026, Shift-I

ISFR 2023 says that forest cover and tree cover together make up about **25.17%** of India's geographical area.

ISFR 2023

- Forest cover about 21.76%, tree cover about 3.41%
- FSI Dehradun releases the report every two years
- Target of the National Forest Policy 1988: 33%
- Madhya Pradesh has the largest forest area, Mizoram leads in percentage terms
- Classes: Very Dense Forest (VDF), Moderately Dense Forest (MDF), Open Forest (OF)

Note Forest cover alone (~21.76%) and 'forest + tree cover' (~25.17%) are two different figures. First check which one the question is asking for.

94 ANSWER (c) 2026

SSC Phase-XIV (12th) 26 Sep 2026, Shift-I

According to DPIIT, India will be part of the **2026** cycle of the World Bank's B-READY report.

Facts (B-READY)

- The Ease of Doing Business report was discontinued and B-READY replaced it
- The first pilot report came in 2024, with only a few countries
- Three pillars: regulatory framework, public services, operational efficiency
- 10 topics linked to a firm's life cycle, such as business entry, labour, dispute resolution
- DPIIT works under the Ministry of Commerce and Industry

95 ANSWER (c) China - 2nd rank

SSC Phase-XIV (Matric) 16 Sep 2026, Shift-III

In the Global Soft Power Index 2026, **China is at No. 2**. Its hold on business, international relations and cultural diplomacy has kept growing.

Rank List: Soft Power

- Brand Finance releases the index every year
- Survey of over 1 lakh people from 100+ countries
- Eight pillars, such as governance, culture, business
- 2026 Top-4: USA, China, Japan, UK
- Soft power means influence through attraction, not force

Other options: Japan is 3rd, not 5th. And the 3rd rank does not belong to Canada.

96 ANSWER (c) Switzerland

SSC Phase-XIV (Matric) 17 Sep 2026, Shift-III

The answer expected here is **Switzerland**. But understand one thing clearly. In UNDP's HDR 2025 (2023 data), Iceland is at No. 1 with about 0.972, with Switzerland and Norway close behind at about 0.970. In the previous report (2023-24), Switzerland was at the top, and the question seems to have been framed with that in mind.

Facts (HDR 2025)

- UNDP releases the HDI every year
- Created in 1990 with contributions from Mahbub ul Haq and Amartya Sen
- Three dimensions: a long and healthy life, education, a decent standard of living
- India ranks 130th in HDR 2025, with an HDI of about 0.685
- 0.800 or above = very high human development

97 ANSWER (d) Israel - 10th rank

SSC Phase-XIV (Matric) 18 Sep 2026, Shift-III

Israel was ranked 10th in GTI 2026. This is the pair that fits.

Remember: GTI

- Released by the Institute for Economics and Peace (IEP)
- IEP is an independent think tank, headquartered in Sydney
- Score based on incidents, deaths, injuries and hostages
- Data mainly from Dragonfly TerrorismTracker
- Africa's Sahel region has become a major centre of terrorism

Look at the other options. Burkina Faso is at No. 2, not No. 1. The ranks given for Pakistan and Nigeria do not match either.

98 ANSWER (c) South Asia

SSC Phase-XIV (Matric) 19 Sep 2026, Shift-III

Because of very high PM2.5 levels, **South Asia** turns out to be the most polluted region in the world year after year.

Facts (PM2.5)

- Bangladesh, Pakistan and India have the highest annual average PM2.5
- PM2.5 means particles 2.5 micrometres or smaller, which go deep into the lungs
- WHO annual limit: 5 µg/m³
- Sources: vehicles, industry, biomass and stubble burning
- In winter, the Himalayan wall traps smoke over the Indo-Gangetic plain

Europe, North America and Oceania are regions with comparatively clean air.

99 ANSWER (c) Japan

SSC Phase-XIV (Matric) 21 Sep 2026, Shift-III

In the Soft Power Index 2026, **Japan** overtook Britain and moved up to No. 3. Britain slipped to 4th.

Ranking 2026

- USA 1, China 2, Japan 3
- Japan gained from strong performance in business and sustainable technology
- Eight pillars, such as governance, culture, international relations
- Publisher: Brand Finance

Examiner's Trap China is also ahead of Britain, but it is at No. 2. The question asks only about third place.

100 ANSWER (d) Iceland

SSC Phase-XIV (Matric) 22 Sep 2026, Shift-III

Iceland has been No. 1 on the Global Peace Index without a break since 2008. Crime is very low and it has no standing army at all.

Remember: GPI

- IEP, Sydney releases the GPI every year
- Three domains: societal safety, domestic and international conflict, militarisation
- Covers 163 countries, over 99% of the world's population
- Other countries near the top: Ireland, New Zealand, Austria, Switzerland

GPI vs GTI Both come from IEP. At the top of the GPI is the most peaceful country, at the top of the GTI is the one worst hit by terrorism. In the exam, they love to mix these two up.

101 ANSWER (c) Burkina Faso

SSC Phase-XIV (Matric) 24 Sep 2026, Shift-III

Insurgency spreading across the Sahel and heavy

loss of life put **Burkina Faso** at No. 2 in GTI 2026.

Facts (Burkina Faso)

- The GTI is published by IEP, Sydney
- Incidents, deaths, injuries and hostages are counted across 163 countries
- The Sahel has become the global centre of violent extremism
- Burkina Faso is a landlocked country in West Africa

102 ANSWER (c) Burkina Faso - 2nd rank

SSC Phase-XIV (Matric) 25 Sep 2026, Shift-III

The 2nd rank in GTI 2026 belongs to **Burkina Faso**, so this is the correctly matched pair.

GTI 2026

- Released every year by IEP, headquartered in Sydney
- Burkina Faso lies in the Sahel of West Africa
- Ranking based on incidents, deaths, injuries, hostages
- A large share of terrorism deaths happen in the Sahel
- 163 countries, over 99% of the population covered

Other options: Nigeria is not 1st, Pakistan is not 3rd and Iraq is not 8th.

PART G Government Schemes and Policies (Current)

103 ANSWER (b) 7

SSC Phase-XIV (Graduation) 17 Sep 2026, Shift-I

The government has sanctioned a total of **7 PM MITRA Parks** in seven states, so that the textile industry gets world-class facilities at one place.

Remember: PM MITRA

- States: Tamil Nadu, Telangana, Gujarat, Karnataka, Madhya Pradesh, Uttar Pradesh, Maharashtra
- 5F vision: Farm to Fibre, then Factory, Fashion and Foreign
- Developed by an SPV owned jointly by the Centre and the State
- Total outlay ₹4,445 crore, over seven years up to 2027-28
- Aim: boost employment and textile exports

104 ANSWER (c) 50%

SSC Phase-XIV (Graduation) 18 Sep 2026, Shift-I

Solid fuels like wood, coal and dung cakes give off a lot of smoke at home. Moving towards clean cooking fuel, the government has pledged to cut their use by **50%**.

Facts (Clean Fuel)

- Ujjwala Yojana: launched on 1 May 2016 from Ballia (UP)
- Ujjwala 2.0: August 2021, easier connections for migrant families
- Solid fuels spread PM2.5, CO and black carbon inside the house
- LPG or electricity lowers the risk of lung and heart diseases
- India's net-zero target: 2070

105 ANSWER (c) 10,000

SSC Phase-XIV (Graduation) 19 Sep 2026, Shift-I

By October 2025, about **10,000 Atal Tinkering Labs** had been set up in schools under NITI Aayog's Atal Innovation Mission.

Facts (ATL)

- AIM is NITI Aayog's initiative for innovation and entrepreneurship
- Meant for Classes 6 to 12, with 3D printers, robotics and IoT kits
- Each school gets a total of ₹20 lakh over 5 years
- In government and private schools across 700+ districts
- Budget 2025-26: target of 50,000 ATLs in the next 5 years

106 ANSWER (b) e-Shram (Electronic Shram)

SSC Phase-XIV (Graduation) 22 Sep 2026, Shift-I

The national database of unorganised workers is the **e-Shram portal**. After registration a worker gets a UAN, and through it he is linked to welfare schemes.

Remember: e-Shram

- Launched on 26 August 2021 by the Ministry of Labour and Employment
- The e-Shram card carries a 12-digit UAN

• Covers migrant, farm, construction, domestic and gig/platform workers
• The database is linked with Aadhaar

Other options: Udyam is the MSME registration portal, NCS is a platform for jobs and career counselling, and ASEEM is the Skill Ministry's skilled workforce mapping portal.

107 ANSWER (b) Digital Public Infrastructure

SSC Phase-XIV (Graduation) 24 Sep 2026, Shift-I

DPI stands for **Digital Public Infrastructure**. In the Digital Agriculture Mission it means open, shared digital platforms like AgriStack, on which services for farmers can be built.

Facts (Digital Agri Mission)
• Cabinet approval in September 2024, outlay ₹2,817 crore
• AgriStack has a Farmers' Registry, geo-referenced village maps and a Crop Sown Registry
• Krishi-DSS runs on satellite and geospatial data
• Aim: precise advisories, soil information, easy loans
• Same model as Aadhaar, UPI and DigiLocker

108 ANSWER (c) Restoring degraded land

SSC Phase-XIV (12th) 16 Sep 2026, Shift-II

The Green Credit Programme rewards voluntary environmental action. At the top of its stated objectives are **restoring degraded (barren) land** and planting trees there.

Facts (Green Credit)
• Notified by MoEFCC in October 2023
• Part of Mission LiFE
• Administrator: ICFRE
• Activities: tree plantation, water management, sustainable agriculture, waste management
• Individuals, organisations and companies can all earn credits

Urban migration, spreading industry or promoting fossil fuels are either against the environment or have nothing to do with this scheme.

109 ANSWER (b) Udyam Assist Platform

SSC Phase-XIV (12th) 17 Sep 2026, Shift-II

The **Udyam Assist Platform (UAP)** gives a digital identity to informal micro enterprises that are outside the GST net. An online certificate makes verification easy and lets them benefit from Priority Sector Lending. Note that this platform actually came in January 2023, so the year in the question is a little off, but among the options this is the one that fits.

Remember: Udyam
• UAP was built by the MSME Ministry through SIDBI
• Target: Informal Micro Enterprises (IMEs)
• The main Udyam Registration portal has run since 1 July 2020
• MSME classification is based on both investment and turnover
• Revised limits of 2025: a micro enterprise can have investment up to ₹2.5 crore and turnover up to ₹10 crore

110 ANSWER (a) Environmentally positive actions

SSC Phase-XIV (12th) 18 Sep 2026, Shift-II

It is a market-based mechanism. Any individual, community or industry that voluntarily takes **positive action for the environment** earns a 'Green Credit'.

Facts (GCP)
• Notified by MoEFCC in October 2023, and the PM presented it at COP28 Dubai in December 2023
• Linked to the LiFE movement
• Activities: tree plantation, water conservation, sustainable agriculture, waste management
• Administrator: ICFRE
• Credits can be traded on a domestic platform

Remember A green credit and a carbon credit are not the same thing. Treating them as one is a common mistake in the exam.

111 ANSWER (c) Business Reforms Action Plan (BRAP)

SSC Phase-XIV (12th) 24 Sep 2026, Shift-II

The **Business Reforms Action Plan (BRAP)** came in 2014, so that business reforms by states could be measured and they would compete with each other. It is seen as a good example of 'competitive

federalism'.

Facts (BRAP)

• DPIIT works under the Ministry of Commerce and Industry, and was called DIPP before 2019
• Reform areas: single-window, labour, land, inspections and so on
• Ranks have now given way to categories like Top Achievers, Achievers, Aspirers
• Early assessments were done along with the World Bank

Other options: Invest India is an investment facilitation agency. PM Gati Shakti (2021) is a national master plan for infrastructure. Industrial corridors are meant to create manufacturing zones.

112 ANSWER (b) Chemical fertilisers

SSC Phase-XIV (12th) 25 Sep 2026, Shift-II

The direct aim of PM-PRANAM is the health of 'Mother Earth'. States get incentives to cut down on **chemical fertilisers** and move towards organic or alternative fertilisers.

Remember: PM-PRANAM

• Announced in Budget 2023-24
• A state that cuts its consumption gets 50% of the subsidy saved as a grant
• Alternatives: bio-fertilisers, organic manure, nano urea
• Run by the Department of Fertilizers, Ministry of Chemicals and Fertilizers

113 ANSWER (c) Rs. 78,000

SSC Phase-XIV (12th) 26 Sep 2026, Shift-I

The first 2 kW get ₹30,000 per kW, and the third kW gets ₹18,000. So 30,000 + 30,000 + 18,000 = **₹78,000**. Even if you install a system bigger than 3 kW, the subsidy stops here.

PM Surya Ghar

• Launched in February 2024, outlay ₹75,021 crore
• Up to 300 units of free electricity every month for 1 crore homes
• ₹30,000 for 1 kW, ₹60,000 for 2 kW
• Everything from applying to the subsidy (DBT) is on a national portal

Examiner's Trap Don't stop at the ₹60,000 option. That is the subsidy for 2 kW. For 3 kW, the ₹18,000 for the third kW gets added.

114 ANSWER (a) 'Sambal' is for safety and security, while 'Samarthya' is for empowerment.

SSC Phase-XIV (Matric) 16 Sep 2026, Shift-III

Mission Shakti has two parts. **'Sambal'** looks after the safety and security of women, and **'Samarthya'** works on their economic and social empowerment.

Mission Shakti

• Ministry of Women and Child Development, period 2021-22 to 2025-26
• Sambal: One Stop Centres, helpline 181, Beti Bachao Beti Padhao, Nari Adalat
• Samarthya: Shakti Sadan, Sakhi Niwas, Palna (creche), PMMVY
• Aim: safety and self-reliance across the whole life cycle

Why the other options are wrong: the split is not urban versus rural. Both parts are not 100% Central Sector either, as Samarthya is centrally sponsored. The credit and legal aid split is also wrong.

115 ANSWER (b) It is a digital registry to track every pregnant woman and child for the Universal Immunisation Programme (UIP).

SSC Phase-XIV (Matric) 16 Sep 2026, Shift-III

Think of U-WIN as a **digital register** of vaccination. Every pregnant woman and child is registered and every vaccine is recorded, so that no dose is missed.

Facts (U-WIN)

• Built on the lines of Co-WIN
• Run by the Ministry of Health and Family Welfare
• Keeps records of children from birth to 16 years
• SMS alerts for the next dose and a digital certificate
• Free vaccines against 12 diseases under UIP

116 ANSWER (b) It aims to fill critical gaps in health infrastructure and primary care through both Central Sector and Centrally Sponsored components.

SSC Phase-XIV (Matric) 18 Sep 2026, Shift-III

PM-ABHIM is a mixed scheme with **both Central Sector and Centrally Sponsored components**. Its

job is to fill gaps in health infrastructure in both cities and villages.

Facts (PM-ABHIM)

- Launched in October 2021 from Varanasi
- Outlay about ₹64,180 crore (2021-22 to 2025-26)
- Integrated public health labs and critical care blocks in districts
- Strengthening of NCDC and BSL-III labs

Other options: it is not a fully Central Sector scheme. The Health Ministry runs it, not NITI Aayog. And urban areas are covered too.

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117 ANSWER (b) Mapping rural property ownership using drones

SSC Phase-XIV (Matric) 18 Sep 2026, Shift-III

Under SVAMITVA, the inhabited land of a village is **surveyed by drone and mapped**, and the owner gets a property card. This creates a legal record of rural property.

Remember: SVAMITVA

- Full form: Survey of Villages and Mapping with Improvised Technology in Village Areas
- Launched on 24 April 2020 (Panchayati Raj Day), Ministry of Panchayati Raj
- Technical partner: Survey of India
- The property card can be used to get a bank loan
- CORS network for precise measurement

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118 ANSWER (c) Pradhan Mantri Annadata Aay Sanrakshan Abhiyan

SSC Phase-XIV (Matric) 19 Sep 2026, Shift-III

PSS is a component of **PM-AASHA (Pradhan Mantri Annadata Aay Sanrakshan Abhiyan)**. The aim is to get farmers a fair price for their produce.

3 Components of PM-AASHA

- Cabinet approval in September 2018
- Three components: PSS, PDPS (Price Deficiency Payment) and PPSS (private procurement)
- Under PSS, NAFED and NCCF directly procure pulses, oilseeds and copra
- CACP recommends the MSP, and the CCEA approves it

Other options: PM-KISAN is income support, PMFBY is crop insurance and Janaushadhi is the scheme for affordable medicines.

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119 ANSWER (a) It allows farmers to set up solar plants on their barren land and sell the power to DISCOMs at a feed-in tariff.

SSC Phase-XIV (Matric) 21 Sep 2026, Shift-III

Under Component-A, farmers, their groups, cooperatives or panchayats can set up grid-connected solar plants of up to 2 MW on their barren or fallow land, and **sell the power to DISCOMs at a fixed feed-in tariff**. Here the farmer becomes an 'Urjadata' (energy provider).

PM-KUSUM: Components A/B/C

- Launched in 2019, MNRE
- Component-A: decentralised plants from 500 kW to 2 MW
- Component-B: standalone (off-grid) solar pumps
- Component-C: solarisation of existing grid-connected pumps
- DISCOMs use this power to meet their RPO

90% central assistance, only small and marginal farmers, or 100% off-grid, none of these is the identity of Component-A.

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120 ANSWER (b) To use six different global innovative technologies to build disaster-resilient and durable houses in record time.

SSC Phase-XIV (Matric) 21 Sep 2026, Shift-III

Light House Projects show how **six different global construction technologies** can build strong, disaster-resilient and affordable houses in a short time. 'Lighthouse' means showing the way for the whole country.

Facts (LHP)

- Ministry of Housing and Urban Affairs, GHTC-India under PMAY-U
- Six cities: Indore, Rajkot, Chennai, Ranchi, Agartala, Lucknow
- A different technology in each city, such as precast and monolithic concrete
- The PM laid the foundation stone on 1 January 2021
- A 'live laboratory' for engineers and students

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121 ANSWER (b) Development of the North Eastern Region by funding infrastructure and social development projects.

SSC Phase-XIV (Matric) 22 Sep 2026, Shift-III

PM-DevINE is entirely for the **North Eastern Region**. Infrastructure and social development projects there get funding, so that development gaps are filled quickly.

Remember: PM-DevINE

- 100% Central Sector Scheme, run by MDoNER
- Announced in Budget 2022-23 with ₹1,500 crore
- The Cabinet gave ₹6,600 crore for 2022-23 to 2025-26
- Infrastructure and livelihoods, both in the spirit of PM GatiShakti

Examiner's Trap Developing border villages is the job of the Vibrant Villages Programme, not PM-DevINE.

122 ANSWER (a) Setting up small solar power plants

SSC Phase-XIV (Matric) 22 Sep 2026, Shift-III

Under Component A, farmers or their groups set up **small, decentralised, grid-connected solar (or other renewable) plants** of up to 2 MW on their land.

Facts (PM-KUSUM)

- Launched by MNRE in 2019
- Component A: 500 kW to 2 MW, on barren or cultivable land
- Component B: standalone solar pumps of up to 7.5 HP
- Component C: solarisation of grid-connected pumps
- DISCOMs buy Component A power at a feed-in tariff

Electric tractors, hydro dams or wind energy, none of these is a component of this scheme.

123 ANSWER (c) 100

SSC Phase-XIV (Matric) 23 Sep 2026, Shift-III

The scheme has picked **100 districts** where farming is lagging. Here, schemes already running will be brought together to improve things.

Facts (PM Dhan-Dhaanya)

- Three selection criteria: low productivity, low cropping intensity, low farm credit
- At least one district from every State/UT
- Convergence of 36 schemes of 11 ministries
- Monitored through a dashboard like the Aspirational Districts Programme

124 ANSWER (c) 2025

SSC Phase-XIV (Matric) 24 Sep 2026, Shift-III

Announced in Budget 2025-26, approved by the Cabinet in July 2025 and launched in October 2025. So the year is **2025**.

Timeline: PM-DDKY

- Ministry: Agriculture and Farmers Welfare
- Focus on 100 low-performing agricultural districts
- Six years from 2025-26, about ₹24,000 crore a year
- Goals: productivity, crop diversification, storage, credit
- For comparison: PM-KISAN came in 2019

125 ANSWER (d) 2025

SSC Phase-XIV (Matric) 25 Sep 2026, Shift-III

PM-SETU was approved in **2025**. Under it, 1,000 government ITIs across the country are to be turned into modern skill centres matching industry needs.

Remember: PM-SETU

- Full form: Pradhan Mantri Skilling and Employability Transformation through Upgraded ITIs
- Ministry: MSDE
- Hub-and-spoke model: 200 hub ITIs and 800 spoke ITIs
- Run through industry-led SPVs
- Focus: Industry 4.0, green skills, automation

126 ANSWER (b) World Bank and Asian Development Bank

SSC Phase-XIV (Matric) 25 Sep 2026, Shift-III

In PM-SETU, external co-financing of the Centre's share comes from two banks: the **World Bank and the Asian Development Bank (ADB)**.

GK: Multilateral Banks

• World Bank headquarters: Washington D.C.
• ADB was set up in 1966, headquartered in Manila (Philippines)
• India is a founding member of the ADB
• The money will go into machinery, digital labs and trainers

Other options: the WTO is a body for trade rules and does not give loans. The RBI is the domestic central bank. And the UNDP gives advice and is not a co-financer here.

PART H MoUs and Agreements

127 ANSWER (c) Berth renovation and port-rail integration

SSC Phase-XIV (Graduation) 18 Sep 2026, Shift-I

IPGL and Iran's Aria Banader worked together at **Chabahar Port**. The main work was renovating berths, adding new equipment and linking the port to the rail network.

Facts (Chabahar)
• In Sistan-Baluchestan province, on the coast of the Gulf of Oman
• A route to Afghanistan and Central Asia that bypasses Pakistan
• IPGL runs the Shahid Beheshti terminal here
• 10-year India-Iran contract in May 2024
• A key gateway of the INSTC

PART I State News

128 ANSWER (a) Soapstone cookware

SSC Phase-XIV (Graduation) 17 Sep 2026, Shift-I

Artisans of Namakkal make **kitchen vessels from soft soapstone (steatite)**. They hold heat for a long time, and this quality earned them the GI tag.

GI Tag: Tamil Nadu
• Hand-carved from steatite of the local hills
• In the South they are also called 'kalchatti', great for slow cooking
• GI Act 1999
• GI Registry is in Chennai
• Tamil Nadu is among the states with the most GIs

Decode the Name 'Makkal' means soapstone and 'pathirangal' means vessels. Read the name and you know the product.

129 ANSWER (a) Ambasamudram Choppu Saamaan

SSC Phase-XIV (Graduation) 19 Sep 2026, Shift-I

Small wooden kitchen toys turned on a lathe in Tirunelveli district and coloured with natural dyes, these are **Ambasamudram Choppu Saamaan**. They received the GI tag in December 2025.

Facts (Choppu Saamaan)
• 'Choppu saamaan' means small play vessels for children
• Ambasamudram lies on the banks of the Thamirabarani river
• Lac and vegetable colours, safe for children
• Tamil Nadu is among the states with the most GIs

Other options: Nattu Sakkarai is jaggery, Sungudi is a saree fabric, and the head-shaking doll of Thanjavur already got its GI back in 2008-09.

Examiner's Trap Thanjavur Thalaiyatti Bommai is also a toy, but its GI is old. The question asks about December 2025.

130 ANSWER (a) Musi River

SSC Phase-XIV (Matric) 23 Sep 2026, Shift-III

The **Musi River** flows through the middle of Hyderabad. During heavy monsoon rain it overflowed, and low-lying parts of the city went under water.

Rivers: Musi
• A tributary of the Krishna
• Origin: Ananthagiri Hills, Vikarabad (Telangana)
• Joins the Krishna near Wadapally in Nalgonda
• Osman Sagar is on the Musi and Himayat Sagar on the Esi, both built for flood control
• After the 1908 flood, M. Visvesvaraya drew up a flood-control plan

Examiner's Trap The Krishna is the main river, but it does not flow through Hyderabad. The city stands on its tributary, the Musi.

PART J Miscellaneous

131 **ANSWER (b)** Only 2 and 3

SSC Phase-XIV (12th) 21 Sep 2026, Shift-II

Statement 1 has the error. The 'Grand Commander of the Order of the Star and Key of the Indian Ocean' is an honour of **Mauritius**, not Madagascar. Statements 2 and 3 are fine, so the answer is 'Only 2 and 3'.

Awards & Appointments

- Highest civilian honour of Mauritius, given to PM Modi in March 2025
- Justice V. Ramasubramanian became Chairperson of the NHRC
- The NHRC is a statutory body under the Protection of Human Rights Act 1993, set up on 12 October 1993
- The SIES award is in memory of Sri Chandrasekharendra Saraswathi, the Shankaracharya of Kanchi
- S. Jaishankar got this honour for public leadership/diplomacy

Examiner's Trap Reading 'Indian Ocean' makes the mind jump to Madagascar, but 'Star and Key of the Indian Ocean' is the motto of Mauritius.

