SSC CGL 2026

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SSC CGL 2026 Tier 1 — General Awareness

English Medium · All 53 Shifts (30 Sep – 28 Oct 2026) · 1325 questions, chapter-wise, each question followed by its explanation — Prashant Solanki Sir · Toppers' Wisdom

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How to use this eBook: In every chapter, each question is followed directly by its answer and explanation. Click a chapter name in the Index to jump to it, and use the **GO TO INDEX** button at the top of every page to return here.

01
CHAPTER

History

Questions with Explanations *147 questions · 53 shifts*

PART A Ancient History

01 During which period were the 18 Puranas in their present form composed?

[SSC CGL 01 Oct 2026, Shift-I]

(a) Mauryan period (b) Gupta period
(c) Rig Vedic period (d) Vijayanagara period

ANSWER (b) Gupta period

The 18 Puranas assumed their present form during the Gupta period (roughly 4th to 6th century CE). Though their traditional material is older, they were compiled and edited into the existing texts in this age, when Brahmanical religion and temple worship flourished.

- The Puranas are traditionally classed as 18 Mahapuranas and 18 Upapuranas.
- They were composed in simple Sanskrit verse, in contrast to the Vedas.
- The Vishnu, Vayu, Matsya, Brahmanda and Bhagavata Puranas contain royal genealogies (vamshanucharita).

02 Which of the following is NOT one of the Rig Vedic Gods?

[SSC CGL 01 Oct 2026, Shift-II]

(a) Indra (b) Pasupathi
(c) Prithvi (d) Varuna

ANSWER (b) Pasupathi

Pasupathi (Pashupati) is not a Rig Vedic god. Indra, Prithvi and Varuna are all invoked in the hymns of the Rigveda, whereas Pashupati is associated with the seal of a horned, seated figure from the Harappan civilization and later became an epithet of Shiva.

- Indra, the chief Rig Vedic deity, has the largest number of hymns (about 250) addressed to him.
- Varuna was the god of water and moral (rita) order; Agni was the second most important god.
- In the Rigveda, Rudra is the deity later identified with Shiva.

03 In which period did humans first start making and using pottery?

[SSC CGL 01 Oct 2026, Shift-III]

(a) Neolithic Age (b) Mesolithic Age
(c) Palaeolithic Age (d) Chalcolithic Age

ANSWER (a) Neolithic Age

Humans first began making and using pottery in the Neolithic Age. Settled farming created a need to store grain and cook food, and so hand-made and later wheel-made pottery appeared with the Neolithic way of life.

- The Neolithic Age is marked by polished stone tools, agriculture and domestication of animals.
- Mehrgarh (Pakistan) shows early farming and pottery in the Indian subcontinent.
- The Palaeolithic people used unpolished stone tools and lived by hunting and food gathering.

04 To which of these groups did the ambassador Heliodorus, who built the pillar at Vidisha, belong?

[SSC CGL 01 Oct 2026, Shift-III]

(a) The Parthian Kingdom (b) The Kushan Kingdom
(c) The Indo-Greek Kingdom (d) The Indo-Scythian Kingdom

ANSWER (c) The Indo-Greek Kingdom

Heliodorus belonged to the Indo-Greek Kingdom. He came as an ambassador of the Indo-Greek king Antialcidas of Taxila to the court of the Shunga king

Bhagabhadra and erected a Garuda pillar at Besnagar (Vidisha).

- The pillar inscription calls Heliodorus a Bhagavata, a devotee of Vasudeva (Vishnu).
- The pillar is known as the Heliodorus Pillar or Khamba Baba, in Madhya Pradesh.
- It is one of the earliest pieces of evidence of the worship of Vasudeva-Krishna.

05 Who among the following was the last ruler of the Pallava dynasty?

[SSC CGL 05 Oct 2026, Shift-I]

(a) Narasimhavarman I
(b) Rajasimha
(c) Aparajita
(d) Nandivarman II

ANSWER (c) Aparajita

Aparajita was the last ruler of the Pallava dynasty. He was defeated by the Chola king Aditya I (about 897 CE), after which the Pallava power came to an end and Tondaimandalam passed to the Cholas.

- Narasimhavarman I (Mamalla) founded Mamallapuram (Mahabalipuram) and defeated Pulakeshin II.
- Rajasimha (Narasimhavarman II) built the Shore Temple at Mahabalipuram and the Kailasanatha Temple at Kanchipuram.
- Simhavishnu founded the Pallava power in the late 6th century; Kanchipuram was their capital.

06 Which Mahajanapada was located at the modern location of Rajori & Hajra (Kashmir) with its capital at Pooncha?

[SSC CGL 05 Oct 2026, Shift-I]

(a) The Vatsa Mahajanapada
(b) The Anga Mahajanapada
(c) The Magadh Mahajanapada
(d) The Kamboj Mahajanapada

ANSWER (d) The Kamboj Mahajanapada

The Kamboja Mahajanapada was located in the Rajouri-Hajra region of Kashmir with its capital at Poonch (Pooncha), as per the question's description. It lay in the north-west and was known for its excellent horses.

- Kamboja is one of the 16 Mahajanapadas listed in the Anguttara Nikaya.
- Gandhara, Kamboja and Kuru were north-western or northern Mahajanapadas.
- Vatsa had its capital at Kaushambi, Anga at Champa and Magadha at Rajagriha.

07 Which among the following Harappan cities was divided into three parts, unlike other cities that are usually divided into two parts?

[SSC CGL 06 Oct 2026, Shift-I]

(a) Harappa
(b) Dholavira
(c) Mohenjo-Daro
(d) Lothal

ANSWER (b) Dholavira

Dholavira was divided into three parts: the citadel, the middle town and the lower town. Other Harappan cities such as Harappa and Mohenjo-Daro were generally divided into two parts, a citadel on a higher mound and a lower town.

- Dholavira is in Kutch district, Gujarat, on Khadir Bet, and was declared a UNESCO World Heritage Site in 2021.
- It is known for its sophisticated water conservation system with reservoirs.
- A large signboard with ten large Harappan letters was found at Dholavira.

08 Which of the following explains the meaning of the term “Sangam” in ancient South Indian history, as derived from Sanskrit?

[SSC CGL 06 Oct 2026, Shift-I]

(a) An association of poets
(b) A gathering of priests
(c) An assembly of warriors
(d) A collection of traders

ANSWER (a) An association of poets

The word Sangam is derived from the Sanskrit term for an association or assembly, and in ancient South Indian history it means an association of poets and scholars who composed Tamil literature under royal patronage, chiefly of the Pandya kings at Madurai.

- Three Sangams are traditionally mentioned; only the third, at Madurai, has surviving literature.
- Tolkappiyam, Ettuthokai and Pattuppattu belong to the Sangam literature.

- The Sangam age is generally dated from about 300 BCE to 300 CE.

09 What was the primary duty of the city mayor **(Nagara-Rakshaka or Pustapala)** in the Gupta dynasty's administration?

[SSC CGL 06 Oct 2026, Shift-II]

(a) Managing military security and palace guards.
(b) Supervising temple rituals and offerings.
(c) Recording land dimensions and urban governance.
(d) Leading merchant caravans on foreign trade missions.

ANSWER (c) Recording land dimensions and urban governance.

As per the official answer key, the Pustapala (record keeper) of the Gupta administration was mainly concerned with recording land dimensions and urban governance. The Gupta records speak of Pustapalas who maintained records of land measurement, sales and transactions, hence option C.

- Gupta inscriptions from Bengal (Damodarpur copper plates) mention the Pustapalas.
- Land-related officials kept registers of ownership, boundaries and grants.
- The Gupta provinces were called bhuktis and districts vishayas.

10 What underpins the modern academic consensus regarding the end of the Indus civilization?

[SSC CGL 07 Oct 2026, Shift-I]

(a) A single catastrophic tectonic event
(b) Explanations relying purely on human warfare
(c) A mixture of natural and human factors
(d) Total certainty regarding river diversion

ANSWER (c) A mixture of natural and human factors

The modern academic view is that no single cause ended the Indus civilization; a mixture of natural factors (climate change, weakening monsoon, drying or shifting of rivers such as the Ghaggar-Hakra) and human factors (decline of trade, over-use of resources) led to its decline.

- Older theories of Aryan invasion (Mortimer Wheeler) are no longer accepted.
- Floods and shifting of the Indus course are suggested for Mohenjo-Daro.
- The mature phase is generally dated about 2600 to 1900 BCE.

11 What is the name of the only commonly available school (Shaakha) of the Rigveda today?

[SSC CGL 07 Oct 2026, Shift-II]

(a) Maitrayani
(b) Kauthuma
(c) Shaakala
(d) Taittiriya

ANSWER (c) Shaakala

Shaakala (Shakala) is the only commonly available recension (shakha) of the Rigveda today. Of the many ancient shakhas, only the Shakala shakha has survived in a complete form.

- Kauthuma is a shakha of the Samaveda.
- Maitrayani and Taittiriya belong to the Krishna Yajurveda.
- The Rigveda has 10 mandalas and 1028 hymns (suktas).

12 Which of the following best describes the architectural layout of the roads and streets in the Lower Town of Mohenjo-Daro?

[SSC CGL 07 Oct 2026, Shift-II]

(a) Exact grid pattern
(b) Circular pattern
(c) Wavy lines pattern
(d) Sharp star pattern

ANSWER (a) Exact grid pattern

The roads and streets of the Lower Town of Mohenjo-Daro followed an exact grid pattern, cutting each other at right angles and dividing the town into rectangular blocks. This shows careful town planning.

- Mohenjo-Daro means "Mound of the Dead" and lies on the Indus in Sindh, Pakistan.
- The Great Bath and the Granary are found in the citadel.
- Houses were built of baked bricks and had an excellent drainage system.

13 Who authored the famous Prayaga Prashasti praising Samudragupta's achievements?

[SSC CGL 07 Oct 2026, Shift-III]

(a) Harisena
(b) Kalidasa
(c) Aryabhata
(d) Faxian

ANSWER (a) Harisena

The Prayaga Prashasti (Allahabad Pillar inscription) was composed by Harisena, the court poet and minister of Samudragupta. It is written in Sanskrit in the champu style and lists his conquests.

- The inscription is engraved on an Ashokan pillar now at Prayagraj.
- It describes Samudragupta's southern campaign (Dakshinapatha) and his policy towards the forest kings.
- Samudragupta is also called the "Napoleon of India" and the Kaviraja.

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14 Which Buddhist council was held during the rule of King Kalashoka, the successor of the Shishunaga dynasty?

[SSC CGL 07 Oct 2026, Shift-III]

(a) The first Buddhist council
(b) The second Buddhist council
(c) The third Buddhist council
(d) The fourth Buddhist council

ANSWER (b) The second Buddhist council

The Second Buddhist Council was held during the reign of Kalashoka (Kakavarna) at Vaishali, about a century after the Buddha's death, under the presidency of Sabakami (Sarvakamini).

- The First Council (Rajagriha) was held under Ajatashatru with Mahakassapa presiding.
- The Third Council (Pataliputra) was held under Ashoka with Moggaliputta Tissa presiding.
- The Fourth Council was held in Kashmir under Kanishka, with Vasumitra presiding.

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15 Who among the following rulers is known as the Napoleon of India?

[SSC CGL 08 Oct 2026, Shift-I]

(a) Samudragupta
(b) Chandragupta II
(c) Chandragupta Maurya
(d) Kanishka

ANSWER (a) Samudragupta

Samudragupta is known as the Napoleon of India, a title given to him by the historian V. A. Smith because of his extensive military conquests and the fact that he is not known to have lost any battle.

- His conquests are described in the Prayaga Prashasti composed by Harisena.
- He performed the Ashvamedha sacrifice and issued coins showing him playing the veena.
- He was the son of Chandragupta I and Kumaradevi (a Lichchhavi princess).

---

16 The Second Jain Council was held in 512 CE at Valabhi (Gujarat) under the chairmanship of which Jain acharya?

[SSC CGL 08 Oct 2026, Shift-I]

(a) Devardhigani Kshamashraman
(b) Acharya Bhadrabahu Swamy
(c) Acharya Sthulabhadra Muni
(d) Vardhamana Mahavira Swami

ANSWER (a) Devardhigani Kshamashraman

The Second Jain Council at Valabhi was presided over by Devardhigani Kshamashramana, who compiled and put the Jain Agamas (canonical texts) into written form.

- The First Jain Council was held at Pataliputra under Sthulabhadra (about 300 BCE).
- Bhadrabahu is associated with the migration of Jains to the south (Karnataka) and with the Digambara tradition.
- The Jain canon is known as the Agamas or Siddhanta, in Ardhamagadhi Prakrit.

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17 Which of the following inscriptions provides the earliest clear reference to the performance of the Ashvamedha sacrifice by a post-Mauryan ruler?

[SSC CGL 09 Oct 2026, Shift-I]

(a) Hathigumpha Inscription
(b) Junagadh Rock Inscription
(c) Besnagar Garuda Pillar Inscription
(d) Nasik Cave Inscription of Nahapana

ANSWER (a) Hathigumpha Inscription

SSC Key (a) · Disputed question

As per the official key, the Hathigumpha Inscription is the intended answer; it is the Prakrit record in Brahmi script of the Kalinga king Kharavela at Udayagiri near Bhubaneswar. The question is flawed because none of the options is a clean fit: the Hathigumpha inscription

is best known for Kharavela's Rajasuya sacrifice, while the classic Ashvamedha references are the Ayodhya inscription of Dhanadeva (Pushyamitra Shunga) and the Naneghat inscription of Naganika.

- Pushyamitra Shunga is said to have performed Ashvamedha sacrifices.
- The Besnagar Garuda Pillar was set up by the Greek envoy Heliodorus in honour of Vasudeva.
- The Junagadh Rock Inscription (c. 150 CE) of Rudradaman is the earliest major inscription in Sanskrit.

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18 Which evidence challenges an iron-based PGW (Painted Grey Ware) culture in Rigvedic culture?

[SSC CGL 09 Oct 2026, Shift-I]

(a) Presence of horse bones
(b) Discovery of mud houses
(c) Absence of iron objects
(d) Use of Harappan pottery

ANSWER (c) Absence of iron objects

The absence of iron objects challenges the idea that Rigvedic culture was an iron-based PGW culture. The Rigveda mentions only ayas (copper or bronze), and iron (shyama ayas or krishna ayas) appears in later Vedic texts, so the Rig Vedic phase is regarded as pre-iron.

- Iron use in north India is generally dated from about 1000 to 800 BCE, linked with the later Vedic age.
- PGW sites are found in the Upper Ganga basin and the Haryana-Punjab region.
- Later Vedic texts such as the Atharvaveda mention iron.

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19 The uniqueness of the Rigveda lies in its:

[SSC CGL 09 Oct 2026, Shift-II]

(a) Ritual procedures
(b) Multiperiod compilation
(c) Scientific content
(d) Use of Dravidian terms

ANSWER (b) Multiperiod compilation

As per the official answer key, the uniqueness of the Rigveda lies in its multiperiod compilation. Its ten mandalas were composed over a long span of time: the family books (Mandalas 2 to 7) are the oldest, while Mandalas 1, 8, 9 and 10 are later additions.

- Mandala 10 contains the Purusha Sukta, the earliest reference to the four varnas.
- Mandala 3 contains the Gayatri Mantra, addressed to Savitri.
- Mandala 9 is dedicated entirely to Soma.

---

20 What was a unique feature of the bricks used in the buildings of Mohenjo-Daro?

[SSC CGL 09 Oct 2026, Shift-II]

(a) Standardized dimensional ratio
(b) Brightly painted with natural dyes
(c) Completely spherical shape
(d) Made using glass

ANSWER (a) Standardized dimensional ratio

The bricks of Mohenjo-Daro and other Harappan cities were made in a standardized dimensional ratio, generally 4:2:1 (length : width : thickness), which shows a uniform system of planning and measurement.

- Both sun-dried and kiln-baked bricks were used.
- Harappans used a standard system of weights, mostly in multiples of 16.
- Burnt bricks were used in Harappan cities, in contrast to the mud-brick use in contemporary Mesopotamia.

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21 Langhnaj, Devnimori, and Tarsang are major excavated Mesolithic sites located in which Indian state?

[SSC CGL 09 Oct 2026, Shift-III]

(a) Gujarat
(b) Haryana
(c) Odisha
(d) Kerala

ANSWER (a) Gujarat

As per the question, these Mesolithic sites are in Gujarat. Langhnaj (Mehsana district) is the best-known Mesolithic site of Gujarat, where microliths, animal bones and human burials were found.

- Mesolithic tools are microliths, small stone tools often set in handles of wood or bone.
- Bagor (Rajasthan), Adamgarh (Madhya Pradesh) and Sarai Nahar Rai (Uttar Pradesh) are other Mesolithic sites.

- Bhimbetka has important Mesolithic rock paintings.

22 Which prominent dynasty maintained territorial control over significant sections of the ancient Silk Route?

[SSC CGL 09 Oct 2026, Shift-III]

(a) The Kushana dynasty
(b) The Maurya dynasty
(c) The Shunga dynasty
(d) The Gupta dynasty

ANSWER (a) The Kushana dynasty

The Kushana dynasty controlled significant sections of the ancient Silk Route. Their empire stretched from Central Asia to the Ganga valley, and this control brought them great income from the trade between China, India and the Roman world.

- Kanishka is the best-known Kushana ruler, whose capital was at Purushapura (Peshawar) with Mathura as another centre.
- The Kushanas issued the first large-scale gold coins in India.
- Kanishka started the Shaka era in 78 CE.

23 Which of the following pairs is INCORRECTLY matched about the four Vedas?

[SSC CGL 10 Oct 2026, Shift-I]

(a) Rigveda - Hymns of praise
(b) Yajurveda - Rituals and sacrificial prayers
(c) Samaveda - Philosophical teachings
(d) Atharvaveda - Spells to ward off evils and diseases

ANSWER (c) Samaveda - Philosophical teachings

The pair Samaveda - Philosophical teachings is incorrect. The Samaveda is a collection of melodies and chants (sung hymns) mostly taken from the Rigveda, and it is the source of Indian music; philosophical teachings are found in the Upanishads.

- The Rigveda contains hymns of praise to the gods.
- The Yajurveda contains formulae for sacrifices and is divided into Shukla and Krishna.
- The Atharvaveda has charms and spells for protection from evil and disease.

24 What happened to mature Harappan culture after around 1900 BC?

[SSC CGL 10 Oct 2026, Shift-I]

(a) Instant, total extinction
(b) Faded peripheral survival
(c) Core urban expansion
(d) Shift to metal weaponry

ANSWER (b) Faded peripheral survival

After about 1900 BCE the mature Harappan culture declined: its large cities were abandoned and the urban features faded away, but the culture survived in a faded, rural form in peripheral regions as the Late Harappan phase. It did not vanish suddenly.

- Late Harappan sites are found in Punjab, Haryana, western Uttar Pradesh and Gujarat.
- Script, standard weights and planned towns disappeared in the Late Harappan phase.
- The mature phase is dated about 2600 to 1900 BCE.

25 Choose the correctly matched pairs related to archaeological features.
1. Lothal – Dockyard
2. Ropar – Horse burial
3. Mehrgarh – Early agriculture

[SSC CGL 10 Oct 2026, Shift-II]

(a) 1 and 3 only
(b) 2 and 3 only
(c) 1 and 2 only
(d) 1, 2, and 3

ANSWER (a) 1 and 3 only

Pairs 1 and 3 are correct. Lothal (Gujarat) had a dockyard, and Mehrgarh shows the earliest farming in the subcontinent. Pair 2 is wrong because Ropar (Punjab) is known as the first Harappan site excavated after independence and for a dog buried with a human, not for a horse burial.

- Lothal is associated with a dockyard, a bead factory and rice husk evidence.
- Mehrgarh (Balochistan) shows wheat and barley cultivation from about 7000 BCE.
- Ropar (Rupnagar) is on the Sutlej river.

26 Which detail reflects women's public participation in early Rig Vedic society?

[SSC CGL 10 Oct 2026, Shift-II]

(a) They held hereditary positions as tribal chiefs.
(b) They alone managed all religious property.
(c) They actively attended the sabha and vidatha.
(d) They commanded separate military units.

ANSWER (c) They actively attended the sabha and vidatha.

In early Rig Vedic society women actively attended the sabha and vidatha, the tribal assemblies. Women also composed hymns, and some such as Lopamudra, Ghosha, Apala and Visvavara are named as poetesses.

- Vidatha was the earliest assembly, in which women also took part.
- Sabha and Samiti were the two other assemblies that advised the king (rajan).
- Child marriage and sati were not general practices in this age.

---

27 What was the capital of Avanti in the 6th century B.C?

[SSC CGL 12 Oct 2026, Shift-I]

(a) Taxila
(b) Pataliputra
(c) Ayodhya
(d) Ujjain

ANSWER (d) Ujjain

Ujjain (Ujjayini) was the capital of Avanti in the 6th century BCE. Avanti was one of the 16 Mahajanapadas, and its king Pradyota was a contemporary of the Buddha.

- Avanti was divided into north (Ujjain) and south (Mahishmati).
- Magadha later annexed Avanti under Shishunaga.
- Ujjain has been an important centre of astronomy and of the Kumbh Mela (Simhastha).

---

28 What was the primary purpose of the saddle querns discovered at Harappan sites?

[SSC CGL 12 Oct 2026, Shift-I]

(a) For making sharp weapons
(b) For grinding daily cereals
(c) For building tall houses
(d) For digging deep rivers

ANSWER (b) For grinding daily cereals

Saddle querns were stone grinding tools used for grinding daily cereals such as wheat and barley into flour. Many such querns have been found at Harappan sites.

- The Harappans cultivated wheat, barley, peas, sesame and mustard; rice at Lothal and Rangpur.
- Cotton was first cultivated by the Harappans, called sindon by the Greeks.
- Granaries were found at Harappa, Mohenjo-Daro and Lothal.

---

29 Which highly valued blue stone was procured by the Harappan Civilization from Shortughai in Afghanistan?

[SSC CGL 12 Oct 2026, Shift-III]

(a) Steatite
(b) Lapis lazuli
(c) Jasper
(d) Blue quartz

ANSWER (b) Lapis lazuli

Lapis lazuli, a highly valued blue stone, was obtained by the Harappans from the Shortughai (Afghanistan) region, where the Harappan trading colony was established near the Badakhshan mines.

- Shortughai on the Oxus (Amu Darya) river was a Harappan trading outpost.
- Harappans traded with Mesopotamia (Meluhha in Sumerian records).
- Carnelian came from Gujarat and steatite was used to make seals.

---

30 Which of the following is the **correct** order of Stone Age periods?

[SSC CGL 12 Oct 2026, Shift-III]

(a) Mesolithic → Palaeolithic → Neolithic
(b) Neolithic → Mesolithic → Palaeolithic
(c) Palaeolithic → Mesolithic → Neolithic
(d) Palaeolithic → Neolithic → Mesolithic

ANSWER (c) Palaeolithic → Mesolithic → Neolithic

The correct order of the Stone Age is Palaeolithic (Old Stone Age), then Mesolithic (Middle Stone Age), then Neolithic (New Stone Age). The Chalcolithic (copper-stone) phase follows the Neolithic.

- Palaeolithic: hunting and food gathering, use of fire, unpolished tools.
- Mesolithic: microliths and domestication of animals begins.
- Neolithic: agriculture, pottery and polished stone tools.

---

31 What distinguishes the Harappan bronze female figurine from the steatite statue?

[SSC CGL 13 Oct 2026, Shift-I]

(a) She wears detailed garments.
(b) She lacks any body jewellery.
(c) She has short hair fillets.
(d) She is largely unclad.

ANSWER (d) She is largely unclad.

The famous bronze figurine, the "Dancing Girl" of Mohenjo-Daro, is largely unclad, wearing only bangles on one arm and a necklace, whereas the steatite "Priest King" statue is shown draped in a shawl with a trefoil pattern.

- The Dancing Girl was made by the lost-wax (cire perdue) technique.
- The Priest King statue was found at Mohenjo-Daro.
- Harappans were skilled in bronze casting.

---

32 Which of the following pairs are correctly matched?

1. Rigveda – Oldest Vedic text
2. Dholavira – Evidence of water reservoirs
3. Ashvamedha – Post-Mauryan ritual

[SSC CGL 13 Oct 2026, Shift-II]

(a) 1 and 2 only
(b) 2 and 3 only
(c) 1 and 3 only
(d) 1, 2, and 3

ANSWER (a) 1 and 2 only

Pairs 1 and 2 are correct. The Rigveda is the oldest Vedic text and Dholavira shows large water reservoirs. Pair 3 is wrong because the Ashvamedha is a Vedic ritual, mentioned in the Vedic texts; it was only revived by later rulers such as the Shungas and the Guptas.

- Pushyamitra Shunga and Samudragupta performed the Ashvamedha sacrifice.
- Dholavira's reservoirs were cut into stone and fed by seasonal streams.
- The Rigveda was composed approximately from 1500 to 1000 BCE.

---

33 What is a distinctive feature of the pillars erected by Emperor Ashoka?

[SSC CGL 13 Oct 2026, Shift-II]

(a) Topped with lotus-shaped capitals
(b) Decorated with bronze animal figures
(c) Carved with floral and tribal motifs
(d) Crowned with animal figures

ANSWER (d) Crowned with animal figures

Ashoka's pillars are crowned with animal figures such as the lion, bull, elephant and horse, standing on a bell-shaped lotus base. The lion capital of Sarnath is the best-known example.

- The shaft is a monolith of polished Chunar sandstone.
- The Sarnath lion capital is India's national emblem.
- The Lauriya-Nandangarh pillar has a single lion; the Rampurva pillars have a bull and a lion.

---

34 What was the main source of revenue or support for the rajan in early Rigvedic society?

[SSC CGL 13 Oct 2026, Shift-II]

(a) Royal judicial fines
(b) Land tax collection
(c) Voluntary bali offerings
(d) Mandatory currency tribute

ANSWER (c) Voluntary bali offerings

In early Rigvedic society the rajan was supported mainly by voluntary offerings called bali, which people gave to the chief. There was no regular system of taxation, and coinage did not exist.

- Bali was a voluntary tribute, later became a compulsory tax.
- The rajan was assisted by the purohita and the senani.
- Spies were called spasa and the village head was gramani.

---

35 Which Mahajanapada was located at the modern location of Munger and Bhagalpur with its capital at Champa?

[SSC CGL 14 Oct 2026, Shift-II]

(a) The Vatsa Mahajanapada
(b) The Anga Mahajanapada
(c) The Magadh Mahajanapada
(d) The Kasi Mahajanapada

ANSWER (b) The Anga Mahajanapada

The Anga Mahajanapada lay in the Munger-Bhagalpur region of Bihar with its capital at Champa (Champapuri). It was later annexed by Magadha under Bimbisara.

- Champa was a major trade centre and port on the Ganga.

- Kashi had its capital at Varanasi, and Vatsa at Kaushambi.
- Magadha's early capital was Rajagriha (Girivraja).

36 Which of the following best describes the principal subject matter of the Charaka Samhita?

[SSC CGL 14 Oct 2026, Shift-II]

(a) Surgery, anatomy, and surgical procedures
(b) Medicine, diagnosis, and internal medicine
(c) Astronomy, planetary studies, and celestial observations
(d) Warfare, military tactics, and strategic planning

ANSWER (b) Medicine, diagnosis, and internal medicine

The Charaka Samhita is the classical Ayurvedic text on medicine, diagnosis and internal medicine (kayachikitsa). It is traditionally attributed to Charaka, the royal physician of the Kushana king Kanishka.

- Sushruta Samhita deals with surgery and is attributed to Sushruta.
- Aryabhatiya by Aryabhata deals with astronomy and mathematics.
- Both Charaka and Sushruta Samhitas are in Sanskrit.

37 The important Neolithic site of Mehrgarh is located on the bank of which river?

[SSC CGL 14 Oct 2026, Shift-III]

(a) Indus
(b) Bolan
(c) Ghagra
(d) Belan

ANSWER (b) Bolan

Mehrgarh is located on the bank of the Bolan river in the Kachi plain of Balochistan (Pakistan). It shows the earliest evidence of farming and herding in the Indian subcontinent.

- It was excavated by a French team led by Jean-Francois Jarrige.
- Mehrgarh shows a continuity from Neolithic to the early Harappan phase.
- The Belan valley (Uttar Pradesh) has Palaeolithic to Neolithic sites such as Koldihwa.

38 What major doctrinal change occurred during the fourth Buddhist council held under the reign of the King Kanishka?

[SSC CGL 14 Oct 2026, Shift-III]

(a) Abolished the varna system
(b) Split Buddhism in two sects
(c) Adopted the Middle Path
(d) Banned all animal sacrifices

ANSWER (b) Split Buddhism in two sects

At the Fourth Buddhist Council in Kashmir under Kanishka, Buddhism was formally split into two sects, Hinayana and Mahayana. The council was presided over by Vasumitra, with Ashvaghosha as his deputy.

- Mahayana accepted image worship of the Buddha and the idea of Bodhisattva.
- Sarvastivadin texts were compiled in Sanskrit at this council.
- Kanishka also patronised Gandhara and Mathura art.

39 The Jataka stories, which narrate the previous lives of the Buddha, are included in which Pitaka of the Pali Canon?

[SSC CGL 14 Oct 2026, Shift-III]

(a) Vinaya Pitaka
(b) Sutta Pitaka
(c) Abhidhamma Pitaka
(d) Jataka Pitaka

ANSWER (b) Sutta Pitaka

The Jataka stories are included in the Sutta Pitaka of the Pali Canon, specifically in its Khuddaka Nikaya. They narrate the previous births of the Buddha as a Bodhisattva.

- The Tripitaka consists of the Vinaya, Sutta and Abhidhamma Pitakas.
- The Vinaya Pitaka has the rules of monastic discipline.
- The Abhidhamma Pitaka deals with the philosophy and doctrine of Buddhism.

40 Which site in Tamil Nadu has produced notable evidence of the South Indian Neolithic culture?

[SSC CGL 16 Oct 2026, Shift-I]

(a) Utnur
(b) Kupgal
(c) Paiyyampalli
(d) Sanganakallu

ANSWER (c) Paiyyampalli

Paiyyampalli (in Vellore district, Tamil Nadu) has produced notable evidence of the South Indian Neolithic culture. Utnur, Kupgal and Sanganakallu are

also Neolithic sites, but they lie in Andhra Pradesh and Karnataka.

- Sanganakallu (Ballari) and Brahmagiri (Chitradurga) are in Karnataka.
- Utnur is in Andhra Pradesh.
- Ash mounds are a special feature of the South Indian Neolithic culture.

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41 In which Neolithic site did people live in deep pits to stay warm during the cold winter?

[SSC CGL 16 Oct 2026, Shift-I]

(a) Burzahom
(b) Mehrgarh
(c) Palavoy
(d) Brahmagiri

ANSWER (a) Burzahom

At Burzahom (Kashmir) Neolithic people lived in pit-dwellings dug deep into the ground to stay warm in the bitter cold. Burzahom is also known for dogs buried with their masters.

- Burzahom lies near Srinagar, Jammu and Kashmir.
- Bone tools and pit houses with hearths were found here.
- Gufkral is another Neolithic site in Kashmir.

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42 Why is post-collapse continuity rejected in harappan culture?

[SSC CGL 16 Oct 2026, Shift-II]

(a) Cities and script vanished
(b) Kushans invaded immediately
(c) North India was abandoned
(d) Writing evolved smoothly

ANSWER (a) Cities and script vanished

As per the official answer key, continuity after the collapse is rejected because the cities and the script vanished. After the decline, urban planning, standard weights and seals disappeared, and the Harappan script was not used afterwards.

- The Harappan script remains undeciphered and is mostly pictographic.
- It is written from right to left, generally on seals.
- The Brahmi script appears in India only much later, around the 3rd century BCE.

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43 Which feature most clearly reflects the shared Indo-European cultural tradition?

[SSC CGL 22 Oct 2026, Shift-I]

(a) Fire and soma cults
(b) Iron city fortifications
(c) Temple-based worship
(d) Maritime trade routes

ANSWER (a) Fire and soma cults

The fire and soma cults most clearly reflect the shared Indo-European cultural tradition. Fire worship (Agni in the Rigveda, Atar in the Iranian Avesta) and the soma/haoma ritual are common to Indo-Aryan and Iranian peoples.

- Haoma in the Avesta is the equivalent of Soma in the Rigveda.
- Indo-European languages include Sanskrit, Avestan, Greek and Latin.
- Mandala 9 of the Rigveda is devoted to Soma Pavamana.

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44 Which tiny settlement of the Harappan Civilization was almost exclusively devoted to craft production, including bead-making?

[SSC CGL 22 Oct 2026, Shift-II]

(a) Mohenjodaro
(b) Chanhudaro
(c) Kalibangan
(d) Banawali

ANSWER (b) Chanhudaro

Chanhudaro (Sindh, Pakistan) was a tiny Harappan settlement almost exclusively devoted to craft production, including bead-making, shell-cutting, metal-working, seal-making and weight-making.

- Chanhudaro is about 130 km south of Mohenjo-Daro.
- It is the only Harappan city without a citadel.
- Kalibangan (Rajasthan) is known for fire altars and a ploughed field.

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45 In which modern-day country is the Neolithic site of Mehrgarh located?

[SSC CGL 22 Oct 2026, Shift-II]

(a) India
(b) Iran
(c) Pakistan
(d) Afghanistan

ANSWER (c) Pakistan

Mehrgarh is located in Pakistan, in the Kachi plain of Balochistan near the Bolan Pass. It is one of the earliest farming sites in South Asia.

- It lies on the bank of the Bolan river.

- Excavations were led by Jean-Francois Jarrige from 1974.
- The settlement dates from about 7000 BCE.

46 Which ritual practice was common among all early Indo-European peoples?

[SSC CGL 22 Oct 2026, Shift-III]

(a) Direct sea burials
(b) Monotheistic worship
(c) Animal sacrifice
(d) Iron tool making

ANSWER (c) Animal sacrifice

As per the official answer key, animal sacrifice was the ritual practice common among early Indo-European peoples. Animal sacrifice (the horse, bull and others) is seen in Vedic yajnas, and also in Greek, Roman and Iranian traditions.

- The Ashvamedha (horse sacrifice) is a Vedic example.
- Early Indo-Europeans worshipped many gods (polytheism).
- Rigvedic sacrifices were performed to please gods such as Indra and Agni.

47 Which fertile region received diverted river water from the "Grand Anicut" developed during the period of the Chola king Karikala?

[SSC CGL 23 Oct 2026, Shift-I]

(a) The Kaveri delta region
(b) The Krishna delta region
(c) The Godavari delta region
(d) The Mahanadi delta region

ANSWER (a) The Kaveri delta region

The Grand Anicut (Kallanai), traditionally attributed to the Chola king Karikala, diverted the water of the Kaveri (Cauvery) to irrigate the fertile Kaveri delta region in Tamil Nadu.

- Kallanai is one of the oldest water-regulation structures still in use.
- It is built across the Kaveri near Tiruchirappalli.
- Karikala's capital was Uraiyur, and he won the battle of Venni.

48 What does the absence of the term janapada in the Rig Veda suggest?

[SSC CGL 23 Oct 2026, Shift-I]

(a) Weak tribal ties
(b) Urban political control
(c) Iron-based kingdoms
(d) Lack of territorial states

ANSWER (d) Lack of territorial states

The absence of the term janapada in the Rigveda suggests a lack of territorial states. Rig Vedic polity was tribal, built around the jana (tribe), and loyalty was to the tribe and not to a territory.

- Janapada (territory) appears in later Vedic literature, when tribes settled and territorial kingdoms formed.
- The Rig Vedic tribal units were jana, vish and grama.
- Janapadas later developed into the 16 Mahajanapadas.

49 Under what unusual circumstances did Gopala establish the Pala dynasty?

[SSC CGL 23 Oct 2026, Shift-I]

(a) He was selected by regional chiefs to restore political order in Bengal.
(b) He was chosen by hereditary nobles to succeed the last ruler of Bengal.
(c) He was proclaimed by military commanders after defeating a rival kingdom.
(d) He was nominated by religious leaders to establish their authority in Bengal.

ANSWER (a) He was selected by regional chiefs to restore political ...

Gopala founded the Pala dynasty (about 750 CE) in unusual circumstances: he was elected by the regional chiefs of Bengal to end anarchy (matsyanyaya, "law of the fish") and restore political order.

- Gopala's successor Dharmapala founded Vikramshila University.
- The Palas were Buddhists and patronised Nalanda and Odantapuri.
- The Palas fought the Gurjara-Pratiharas and Rashtrakutas in the tripartite struggle for Kannauj.

50 What archaeological evidence from the Swat Valley points to the arrival of Aryan herdsmen around 1400 BC?

[SSC CGL 23 Oct 2026, Shift-II]

(a) Pre-Aryan proto-urban ruins
(b) Decorative swastika temple walls
(c) Advanced iron smelting furnaces
(d) Horse remains and burials

ANSWER (d) Horse remains and burials

Horse remains and burials in the Swat Valley (graveyards of Ghalegai and Katelai, Pakistan) point to the arrival of Aryan herdsmen around 1400 BCE. These graves have remains of horses and are linked with the Gandhara Grave Culture.

- The horse was very important in Rigvedic society, with the word ashva occurring many times.
- The Swat Valley is in Khyber Pakhtunkhwa, Pakistan.
- Gandhara grave culture is dated about 1600 to 500 BCE.

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51 Which archaeological absence at Bhagwanpura suggests its association with an early pre-Iron phase of Rig Vedic culture?

[SSC CGL 24 Oct 2026, Shift-I]

(a) The absence of iron objects
(b) The complete absence of horse and cattle remains
(c) The absence of Painted Grey Ware pottery
(d) The absence of multi-roomed mud structures

ANSWER (a) The absence of iron objects

The absence of iron objects at Bhagwanpura (Haryana) links it with an early pre-iron phase of Rig Vedic culture. The site has Late Harappan and Painted Grey Ware levels, and iron is not found in the earlier levels.

- Bhagwanpura is in Kurukshetra district, Haryana.
- It has a multi-roomed mud-house structure, said to be linked with the Rig Vedic age.
- Rigveda mentions ayas (copper or bronze), not iron.

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52 Where is the Mauryan rock-cut architecture known as the Lomasa Rishi cave located in modern India ?

[SSC CGL 24 Oct 2026, Shift-II]

(a) Ajanta caves
(b) Ellora caves
(c) Barabar hills
(d) Udayagiri hills

ANSWER (c) Barabar hills

The Lomas Rishi cave, a Mauryan-period rock-cut cave, is located in the Barabar hills near Gaya in Bihar. It is famous for the elaborately carved horseshoe-arch entrance (chaitya arch) imitating wooden architecture.

- The Barabar group includes Sudama, Lomas Rishi, Karan Chaupar and Vishwa Zopri caves.
- The Barabar caves were given by Ashoka and his grandson Dasharatha to the Ajivika sect.
- These caves have highly polished interiors (Mauryan polish).

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53 Which Gupta dynasty's fiscal term is correctly matched with its meaning?

[SSC CGL 27 Oct 2026, Shift-I]

(a) Dhanya – levy on precious metals
(b) Hiranya – gold/cash tax
(c) Vaishthika – share of produce
(d) Bhaga – penalty for offences

ANSWER (b) Hiranya – gold/cash tax

Hiranya was a tax paid in gold or cash in the Gupta period. So the pair Hiranya - gold/cash tax is correctly matched.

- Bhaga was the king's share of the produce, generally one-sixth.
- Dhanya meant grain and Vishti meant forced labour.
- Bhoga was a periodic supply of fruits, firewood and flowers to the king.

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54 At which specific Harappan site have archaeologists discovered traces of canals used for irrigation?

[SSC CGL 27 Oct 2026, Shift-II]

(a) Kalibangan
(b) Dholavira
(c) Shortughai
(d) Banawali

ANSWER (c) Shortughai

Traces of canals used for irrigation have been found at Shortughai in Afghanistan, a Harappan site near the Oxus river in a dry region where irrigation was needed for agriculture.

- Shortughai was a Harappan trading colony for lapis lazuli.
- Shortughai is the northernmost known site of the Harappan civilization.

- Dholavira is known for reservoirs and Kalibangan for a ploughed field.

55 Which of the following is a prominent Middle Palaeolithic site located in Pakistan?

[SSC CGL 27 Oct 2026, Shift-II]

(a) Chirki Nevasa (b) Kalpi
(c) Didwana (d) Sanghao cave

ANSWER (d) Sanghao cave

Sanghao Cave (near Mardan, Khyber Pakhtunkhwa, Pakistan) is a prominent Middle Palaeolithic site, where Mousterian-type flake tools were found.

- Chirki-Nevasa (Maharashtra), Kalpi (Uttar Pradesh) and Didwana (Rajasthan) are in India.
- The Middle Palaeolithic was dominated by flake tools.
- Soan valley is the best-known Palaeolithic region of Pakistan.

56 Which of the following is a prominent Mesolithic site located in Rajasthan?

[SSC CGL 28 Oct 2026, Shift-I]

(a) Chirki Nevasa (b) Bagor
(c) Didwana (d) Sanghao cave

ANSWER (b) Bagor

Bagor (Bhilwara district, on the Kothari river in Rajasthan) is a prominent Mesolithic site. It shows microliths and evidence of animal domestication (sheep and goat).

- Bagor is one of the largest Mesolithic sites in India.
- Didwana (Rajasthan) is a Palaeolithic site.
- Chirki-Nevasa is a Palaeolithic site in Maharashtra.

57 Which Harappan site is especially noted for extensive stone construction?

[SSC CGL 28 Oct 2026, Shift-I]

(a) Harappa (b) Mohenjo-daro
(c) Kalibangan (d) Dholavira

ANSWER (d) Dholavira

Dholavira is especially noted for extensive stone construction. Unlike most Harappan cities built of mud-brick or burnt brick, Dholavira used locally available stone for its fortification, buildings and reservoirs.

- Dholavira, in Kutch (Gujarat), is on the island of Khadir.
- It was inscribed as a UNESCO World Heritage Site in 2021.
- The city had three divisions, an elaborate water-harvesting system and a signboard.

58 What are the two primary branches into which the Shukla Yajurveda is divided?

[SSC CGL 28 Oct 2026, Shift-II]

(a) Taittiriya and Katha (b) Shakala and Baskala
(c) Madhyandina and Kanva (d) Shaunaka and Paippalada

ANSWER (c) Madhyandina and Kanva

The Shukla (White) Yajurveda has two main branches (shakhas), Madhyandina and Kanva. Its text is the Vajasaneyi Samhita.

- Taittiriya and Katha are branches of the Krishna (Black) Yajurveda.
- Shakala and Baskala are Rigveda shakhas, of which only Shakala survives.
- Shaunaka and Paippalada are the two recensions of the Atharvaveda.

PART B Medieval History

59 The construction of Taj Mahal was completed in which year?

[SSC CGL 30 Sep 2026, Shift-II]

(a) 1631 (b) 1643
(c) 1653 (d) 1666

ANSWER (c) 1653

The correct answer is option C. The construction of the Taj Mahal, built by Shah Jahan at Agra in memory of his wife Mumtaz Mahal, was completed in 1653 (the main mausoleum was finished earlier, around 1643, and the entire complex of mosque, guest house and gateway around 1653). Work began in about 1632, after Mumtaz Mahal's death in 1631.

- Ustad Ahmad Lahori is traditionally regarded as the chief architect.
- The Taj Mahal is built in white marble on the bank of the Yamuna and was declared a UNESCO World Heritage Site in 1983.

- The Taj Mahal combines Persian, Islamic and Indian architectural elements.

60 Aurangzeb issued the Fatawa-i-Alamgiri in which year?

[SSC CGL 01 Oct 2026, Shift-I]

(a) 1675 CE (b) 1667 CE
(c) 1680 CE (d) 1670 CE

ANSWER (a) 1675 CE

SSC Key (a) · Disputed question

Fatawa-i-Alamgiri is a large digest of Islamic (Hanafi) law compiled under the orders of Mughal emperor Aurangzeb, and the key gives 1675 CE as the intended year. This question is debatable: sources differ on the date, with some placing the compilation between 1664 and 1672 and many Indian textbooks giving c. 1667–1675.

- It was compiled by a committee of scholars headed by Shaikh Nizam Burhanpuri.
- It is also known as Fatawa-i-Hindiyya and codified Hanafi jurisprudence.
- Aurangzeb reimposed jizya in 1679.

61 What does the term “jama” refer to in the Mughal revenue system?

[SSC CGL 01 Oct 2026, Shift-III]

(a) Actual revenue collected during the year.
(b) Estimated revenue assessed from an area.
(c) Tax-free land grant to religious institutions.
(d) Revenue assigned to jagirdars.

ANSWER (b) Estimated revenue assessed from an area.

The correct answer is option B. In the Mughal revenue system, 'jama' meant the estimated or assessed revenue of an area, while 'hasil' meant the amount actually collected. The jama figures were recorded in the revenue records and used to assign jagirs and to fix the salary claims of mansabdars.

- The ratio of jama to hasil is a measure of how realistic the assessment was.
- Tax-free grants to religious persons and institutions were known as suyurghal or madad-i-maash.
- Todar Mal's revenue system under Akbar (Zabti) was based on measurement and assessment of land.

62 The Bijapur Sultan who patronized Ibrahim Rauza and Gol Gumbaz was:

[SSC CGL 05 Oct 2026, Shift-II]

(a) Yusuf Adil Shah (b) Ibrahim Adil Shah I
(c) Ibrahim Adil Shah II (d) Ali Adil Shah

ANSWER (c) Ibrahim Adil Shah II

The correct answer is option C, Ibrahim Adil Shah II (r. 1580–1627), the great patron of arts and architecture of the Adil Shahi dynasty of Bijapur. Ibrahim Rauza, the tomb complex built for his queen Taj Sultana and for himself, was built during his reign. Gol Gumbaz, the mausoleum of Muhammad Adil Shah, was built by his son and successor Muhammad Adil Shah.

- Gol Gumbaz has one of the largest domes in the world and a famous whispering gallery.
- Ibrahim Adil Shah II composed the Kitab-i-Navras in Dakhni and is known for his religious tolerance.
- Yusuf Adil Shah founded the Adil Shahi dynasty of Bijapur in 1490.

63 Read the two short statements and choose the correct option.
1. Victoria Memorial was conceived by Lord Curzon as a tribute to Queen Victoria.
2. The monument is built of white Makrana marble in the Indo-Saracenic style.

[SSC CGL 05 Oct 2026, Shift-III]

(a) 1 only (b) 2 only
(c) Both 1 and 2 (d) Neither 1 nor 2

ANSWER (c) Both 1 and 2

The correct answer is option C, both statements are correct. The Victoria Memorial in Kolkata was conceived by Lord Curzon, Viceroy of India, after Queen Victoria's death in 1901 as a tribute to her. It is built of white Makrana marble in the Indo-Saracenic style, which blends British and Mughal elements, and was designed by William Emerson.

- Its foundation stone was laid in 1906 by the Prince of Wales (later King George V), and it was opened to the public in 1921.
- Makrana in Rajasthan is the source of the marble used in the Taj Mahal as well.

- The memorial now functions as a museum and gallery.

64 Which of the following monuments was NOT built by Emperor Shah Jahan?

[SSC CGL 05 Oct 2026, Shift-III]

(a) Taj Mahal
(b) Red Fort, Delhi
(c) Jama Masjid, Delhi
(d) Humayun's Tomb

ANSWER (d) Humayun's Tomb

The correct answer is option D. Humayun's Tomb in Delhi was not built by Shah Jahan. It was commissioned by Humayun's widow, Haji Begum (Bega Begum), and built between about 1565 and 1572, with Mirak Mirza Ghiyas as the architect. The Taj Mahal, the Red Fort of Delhi and the Jama Masjid of Delhi were all built by Shah Jahan.

- Humayun's Tomb is regarded as the first garden-tomb on the Indian subcontinent and a forerunner of the Taj Mahal.
- Shah Jahan founded Shahjahanabad (present Old Delhi) in 1648 and built the Red Fort there.
- Humayun's Tomb is a UNESCO World Heritage Site (1993).

65 Who among the following did NOT ascend the throne of the Delhi Sultanate?

[SSC CGL 06 Oct 2026, Shift-II]

(a) Razia Sultana
(b) Khizr Khan
(c) Malik Kafur
(d) Alauddin Khalji

ANSWER (c) Malik Kafur

The correct answer is option C. Malik Kafur, the famous general of Alauddin Khalji who led the southern campaigns, never ascended the throne of Delhi. After Alauddin's death in 1316, he acted as regent for a short time and was killed soon after. Razia Sultana (1236–1240), Khizr Khan (founder of the Sayyid dynasty, 1414) and Alauddin Khalji (1296–1316) all ruled as Sultans.

- Razia was the first and only woman ruler of the Delhi Sultanate.
- Khizr Khan ruled as a deputy of Timur and never took the title of Sultan; he used the title 'Rayat-i-Ala'.
- Malik Kafur conquered Devagiri, Warangal, Dwarasamudra and Madurai for Alauddin.

66 The arrival of Babur into the Indian subcontinent led to which of the following developments?
1. Introduction of paper currency in the Indian subcontinent.
2. Establishment of the Timurid dynasty in the region.

[SSC CGL 07 Oct 2026, Shift-I]

(a) 1 only
(b) 2 only
(c) Both 1 and 2
(d) Neither 1 nor 2

ANSWER (b) 2 only

The correct answer is option B. Babur's arrival and his victory over Ibrahim Lodi in the First Battle of Panipat (1526) led to the establishment of the Mughal dynasty, a branch of the Timurid house, since Babur was a descendant of Timur on his father's side. Statement 1 is wrong: paper currency was not introduced by Babur; the Sultanate's token currency was issued by Muhammad bin Tughlaq in copper and brass.

- Babur was also a descendant of Genghis Khan through his mother.
- He wrote his memoirs, the Baburnama, in Chagatai Turkish.
- Babur defeated Rana Sanga at Khanwa (1527) and the Afghans at Ghaghra (1529).

67 What is the **correct** chronological sequence of the Afghan (Lodi) rulers on the throne of Delhi?

[SSC CGL 07 Oct 2026, Shift-III]

(a) Sikandar Shah—Ibrahim Lodi—Bahlul Khan Lodi
(b) Sikandar Shah—Bahlul Khan Lodi—Ibrahim Lodi
(c) Bahlul Khan Lodi—Sikandar Shah—Ibrahim Lodi
(d) Bahlul Khan Lodi—Ibrahim Lodi—Sikandar Shah

ANSWER (c) Bahlul Khan Lodi—Sikandar Shah—Ibrahim Lodi

The correct answer is option C. The Lodi dynasty, the last dynasty of the Delhi Sultanate, had three rulers in this order: Bahlul Khan Lodi (1451–1489), Sikandar Lodi (1489–1517) and Ibrahim Lodi (1517–1526).

Ibrahim Lodi was defeated and killed by Babur in the First Battle of Panipat (1526).

- Bahlul Lodi founded the dynasty by replacing the last Sayyid ruler, Alam Shah.
- Sikandar Lodi founded Agra in 1504 and shifted the capital there.
- Sikandar Lodi introduced the measuring unit 'Gaz-i-Sikandari'.

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68 The Battle of Khanwa in 1527 CE was fought between Babur and:

[SSC CGL 08 Oct 2026, Shift-II]

(a) Rana Sanga (b) Medini Rai
(c) Bahadur Shah (d) Sher Shah Suri

ANSWER (a) Rana Sanga

The correct answer is option A. The Battle of Khanwa was fought on 17 March 1527 between Babur and Rana Sanga (Sangram Singh) of Mewar, who had united many Rajput rulers. Babur won with the help of his artillery and the Tulughma (flanking) tactics, and after the victory he assumed the title of 'Ghazi'.

- The Battle of Chanderi (1528) was fought by Babur against Medini Rai.
- The Battle of Ghaghra (1529) was fought against the Afghans of Bihar and Bengal.
- Sher Shah Suri defeated Humayun at Chausa (1539) and Kannauj (1540).

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69 Which Mughal emperor commissioned the construction of the Taj Mahal?

[SSC CGL 08 Oct 2026, Shift-III]

(a) Akbar (b) Shah Jahan
(c) Humayun (d) Aurangzeb

ANSWER (b) Shah Jahan

The correct answer is option B. The Taj Mahal was commissioned by the Mughal emperor Shah Jahan (r. 1628–1658) at Agra in memory of his wife Mumtaz Mahal (Arjumand Banu Begum), who died in 1631 in childbirth. It is regarded as the finest example of Mughal architecture.

- Akbar built Fatehpur Sikri and the Agra Fort; Humayun's tomb was built by his widow.
- Shah Jahan's other works include the Red Fort and Jama Masjid in Delhi and the Peacock Throne.
- Shah Jahan was deposed by his son Aurangzeb and died in 1666 in the Agra Fort.

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70 After the Bahmani Sultanate disintegrated, it split into how many successor states?

[SSC CGL 08 Oct 2026, Shift-III]

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

ANSWER (c) Five

The correct answer is option C. After the disintegration of the Bahmani Sultanate in the late 15th and early 16th centuries, it split into five successor states: Ahmadnagar (Nizam Shahi), Berar (Imad Shahi), Bijapur (Adil Shahi), Golconda (Qutb Shahi) and Bidar (Barid Shahi). The Bahmani kingdom had been founded in 1347 by Alauddin Hasan Bahman Shah (Zafar Khan).

- Mahmud Gawan, the famous minister, was executed in 1481, which hastened the decline.
- Ahmadnagar, Bijapur and Golconda were later annexed by the Mughals; Bijapur and Golconda fell to Aurangzeb in 1686 and 1687 respectively.
- The Bahmani capital was first Gulbarga and later Bidar.

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71 Who was the Chola king who conquered Tanjore and helped establish the Chola kingdom?

[SSC CGL 09 Oct 2026, Shift-I]

(a) Rajaraja I (b) Rajendra I
(c) Vijayalaya (d) Parantaka I

ANSWER (c) Vijayalaya

The correct answer is option C. Vijayalaya Chola (c. 850 CE) captured Tanjore (Thanjavur) from the Muttaraiyar chiefs, and thus revived the Chola power and founded the imperial line of the medieval Cholas. He is regarded as the founder of the medieval Chola dynasty, and Thanjavur became its capital.

- Vijayalaya also built a temple of Nishumbhasudini (Durga) at Thanjavur.
- Rajaraja I (985–1014) built the Brihadeeswara (Rajarajeswara) Temple at Thanjavur.
- Rajendra I (1014–1044) founded Gangaikonda Cholapuram as the new capital.

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72 The primary objective of the market control measures introduced by Alauddin Khalji was to:

[SSC CGL 09 Oct 2026, Shift-I]

(a) Encouraging maritime trade with Europe
(b) Maintaining a large standing army at low cost
(c) Promoting village self-governance
(d) Reducing the influence of Sufi saints

ANSWER (b) Maintaining a large standing army at low cost

The correct answer is option B. Alauddin Khalji introduced strict market control measures, fixing prices of grain, cloth, horses, slaves and other goods, so that he could maintain a very large standing army with low salaries, as the soldiers could buy their needs at cheap fixed prices. This was needed to defend against Mongol invasions and to carry out his conquests.

- The market was supervised by the Diwan-i-Riyasat and the Shahna-i-Mandi, and spies (munhiyan) reported violations.
- Grain was stored in royal granaries, and land revenue was collected in kind in the Doab region.
- Alauddin also introduced the system of branding of horses (dagh) and a descriptive roll of soldiers (chehra).

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73 What does the term 'malfuzat' primarily refer to in the context of medieval Indian Sufism?

[SSC CGL 09 Oct 2026, Shift-III]

(a) Doctrinal treatises written by Sufi saints
(b) Royal edicts granting patronage to khanqahs
(c) Recorded conversations and teachings of saints
(d) Mystical poetry composed in regional languages

ANSWER (c) Recorded conversations and teachings of saints

The correct answer is option C. 'Malfuzat' are the recorded conversations and teachings of Sufi saints, compiled by their disciples. A famous example is the 'Fawaid-ul-Fuad', the conversations of Shaikh Nizamuddin Auliya of the Chishti order, compiled by Amir Hasan Sijzi.

- 'Maktubat' are collections of letters written by Sufi saints.
- 'Tazkiras' are biographical accounts of saints.
- Malfuzat are an important source for the study of Sufi thought and the social history of the Sultanate period.

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74 The Bhakti saint who promoted unity between Hindus and Muslims and was a disciple of Ramananda:

[SSC CGL 10 Oct 2026, Shift-II]

(a) Surdas
(b) Kabir
(c) Mirabai
(d) Tulsidas

ANSWER (b) Kabir

The correct answer is option B. Kabir, a 15th-century Bhakti saint, is traditionally regarded as a disciple of Ramananda. He preached devotion to a formless God (nirguna) and the unity of Hindus and Muslims, and criticised idol worship, caste distinctions and ritualism. His verses are compiled in the Bijak, and many are included in the Guru Granth Sahib.

- Surdas was a devotee of Krishna and composed the Sur Sagar.
- Mirabai was a Krishna devotee of Rajasthan, and Tulsidas, a devotee of Rama, wrote the Ramcharitmanas.
- Ramananda, who lived in the 14th–15th centuries, was among the first to preach in the vernacular in north India.

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75 Which of the following correctly describes the primary historical distinction between the Iqta and Jagir systems in medieval India?

[SSC CGL 10 Oct 2026, Shift-II]

(a) Iqtas were hereditary while Jagirs were temporary.
(b) Jagirs were exclusively religious grants whereas Iqtas were military grants.
(c) Iqta belonged to the Delhi Sultanate, while Jagir was prominent under the Mughals.
(d) Both terms referred to identical institutions throughout medieval India.

ANSWER (c) Iqta belonged to the Delhi Sultanate, while Jagir was ...

The correct answer is option C. The Iqta system was the characteristic revenue and administrative assignment of the Delhi Sultanate, where an iqtadar (muqti) collected the revenue of an area in lieu of salary and maintained troops. It was made widespread

by Iltutmish. The Jagir system, though it existed earlier, became prominent under the Mughals, where jagirs were assigned to mansabdars in lieu of their salaries and were transferable.

- Under both systems the grantee did not own the land; he only received the right to collect revenue.
- Iqtas were not normally hereditary, and Firoz Shah Tughlaq made them hereditary for a time.
- The surplus revenue paid by the iqtadar to the state was known as 'fawazil'.

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76 Which of the following best describes Khanazad in the Mughal Mansabdari system?

[SSC CGL 12 Oct 2026, Shift-III]

(a) Foreign nobles appointed from Central Asia and Persia.
(b) Sons or close relatives of serving imperial nobles.
(c) Officers selected through competitive examination.
(d) Governors appointed from provincial elites.

ANSWER (b) Sons or close relatives of serving imperial nobles.

The correct answer is option B. In the Mughal nobility, the 'Khanazad' were the sons, descendants or close relatives of serving nobles, who had been born and brought up in the imperial household. They were regarded as loyal to the emperor and were given high preference in appointments.

- Mansabdars were ranked by two ranks, zat (personal rank) and sawar (cavalry rank).
- The mansabdari system was introduced by Akbar in 1570-71 and was borrowed from the Mongol decimal system.
- Nobles were drawn from many groups: Turanis, Iranis, Afghans, Rajputs and Indian Muslims.

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77 Which ancient route did Sher Shah Suri reconstruct and extend under the name Sadak-e-Azam?

[SSC CGL 12 Oct 2026, Shift-III]

(a) A Silk Road trading route
(b) An ancient Mauryan route
(c) A provincial Maratha highway
(d) A Mughal military bypass

ANSWER (b) An ancient Mauryan route

The correct answer is option B. Sher Shah Suri rebuilt and extended an ancient route of the Mauryan period (the Uttarapatha) and named it Sadak-e-Azam. It ran from Sonargaon in Bengal to the Indus (the north-west), and later came to be known as the Grand Trunk Road; today it is the basis of the G.T. Road.

- Sher Shah built sarais (rest-houses) at regular intervals along the road, with separate arrangements for Hindus and Muslims.
- He also introduced the silver coin 'Rupiya' and the 'dam' in copper.
- Sher Shah's administration included the revenue system based on measurement of land and fixed rates (rai).

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78 Which ancient Indian treatise extensively details the rules and strategies of traditional wrestling, known as Malla-yuddha?

[SSC CGL 13 Oct 2026, Shift-I]

(a) Arthashastra
(b) Manasollasa
(c) Agni Purana
(d) Vishnu Purana

ANSWER (b) Manasollasa

The correct answer is option B. The Manasollasa (also known as Abhilashitartha Chintamani), an encyclopaedic Sanskrit work composed by the Western Chalukya king Someshvara III (c. 1129 CE), describes the rules and techniques of Malla-yuddha (traditional wrestling) in its section on sports and entertainment, called Malla Vinoda.

- The work covers a wide range of subjects, including polity, astronomy, music, painting, food and games.
- Someshvara III ruled from Kalyani and is also known as Bhulokamalla.
- Kautilya's Arthashastra is a treatise on statecraft and economy of the Mauryan age.

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79 Which Sultan of Delhi introduced the token currency made of copper and brass in 1329 AD?

[SSC CGL 13 Oct 2026, Shift-II]

(a) Firoz Shah Tughlaq
(b) Muhammad bin Tughlaq
(c) Alauddin Khalji
(d) Ghiyasuddin Tughlaq

ANSWER (b) Muhammad bin Tughlaq

The correct answer is option B. Muhammad bin Tughlaq (r. 1325–1351) introduced token currency in 1329–30, issuing copper (and brass) coins to be valued at the same rate as silver tankas. The experiment failed because forgery was widespread and the state could not prevent it, and he later had to redeem the tokens against silver and gold coins.

- His other experiments included the transfer of the capital from Delhi to Daulatabad (1327) and the increase in taxation in the Doab.
- The Moroccan traveller Ibn Battuta visited his court, and Ziauddin Barani wrote about his reign.
- Firoz Shah Tughlaq (1351–1388) succeeded him and introduced coins such as the 'adha' and 'bikh'.

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80 Which emerging powers contributed to the decline of Karkota political influence in northern India after the death of Lalitaditya Muktapida?

[SSC CGL 13 Oct 2026, Shift-II]

(a) The Guptas and the Vardhanas
(b) The Palas and the Gurjara Pratiharas
(c) The Rashtrakutas and the Cholas
(d) The Delhi Sultanate and the Bengal Sultanate

ANSWER (b) The Palas and the Gurjara Pratiharas

The correct answer is option B. After the death of Lalitaditya Muktapida (c. 724–760 CE), the greatest ruler of the Karkota dynasty of Kashmir, the Karkota power weakened, while the Palas of Bengal and the Gurjara Pratiharas of western India rose as major powers in north India, alongside the Rashtrakutas of the Deccan. They fought the long 'tripartite struggle' for control of Kannauj.

- Lalitaditya defeated Yashovarman of Kannauj and extended his influence in north India.
- He built the Martand Sun Temple in Kashmir.
- Kalhana's Rajatarangini, a history of Kashmir, is the main source on the Karkota rulers.

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81 Which province is described as the richest province of the Mughal Empire?

[SSC CGL 13 Oct 2026, Shift-III]

(a) Awadh
(b) Bengal
(c) Gujarat
(d) Malwa

ANSWER (b) Bengal

The correct answer is option B. Bengal (Subah Bengal) is described as the richest province of the Mughal Empire, because of its fertile land, abundant rice production, textiles such as muslin and silk, and extensive trade. It contributed a large share of the empire's revenue and exports.

- Gujarat was also very prosperous because of its ports, especially Surat, the main port for the pilgrimage to Mecca.
- Under Murshid Quli Khan, Bengal became practically independent in the early 18th century.
- Dhaka was famous for its muslin and was a centre of the textile trade.

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82 What did the term 'Fawazil' represent during the Sultanate period?

[SSC CGL 14 Oct 2026, Shift-III]

(a) Additional extra payment specially given to the nobles.
(b) Land revenue regularly assigned in lieu of salary.
(c) Excess amount paid to the exchequer by the Iqtadars.
(d) Illegal exactions forcibly extracted from the peasants.

ANSWER (c) Excess amount paid to the exchequer by the Iqtadars.

The correct answer is option C. In the Sultanate period, 'fawazil' meant the surplus amount of revenue which an iqtadar (muqti) paid to the exchequer after meeting the cost of his own salary, the maintenance of his troops and the administrative expenses of his iqta. It was the state's share of the revenue of the iqta.

- The muqti was expected to maintain a prescribed number of soldiers out of the revenue of his iqta.
- Under Balban, the accounts of iqtadars were audited by the Diwan-i-Ariz and the revenue department.
- The Iqta system was developed and widely used by Iltutmish.

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83 In which year did Timur invade India, plundering Delhi?

[SSC CGL 15 Oct 2026, Shift-I]

(a) 1398 CE (b) 1401 CE
(c) 1389 CE (d) 1405 CE

ANSWER (a) 1398 CE

The correct answer is option A. Timur (Tamerlane), the Turko-Mongol ruler of Central Asia, invaded India in 1398 CE and sacked Delhi in December 1398, during the reign of Nasiruddin Mahmud Tughlaq of the Tughlaq dynasty. The invasion caused great destruction and a collapse of the Tughlaq authority.

- Timur appointed Khizr Khan as governor of Multan before leaving India; Khizr Khan later founded the Sayyid dynasty (1414).
- Timur's account of his life is recorded in the 'Malfuzat-i-Timuri'.
- Timur died in 1405 while on a campaign against China.

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84 After consolidating his power, which grand title did Sultan Ghiyasuddin Balban assume?

[SSC CGL 16 Oct 2026, Shift-I]

(a) Zill-e-Ilahi (b) Tuti-e-Hind
(c) Kaisar-e-Hind (d) Din-e-Ilahi

ANSWER (a) Zill-e-Ilahi

The correct answer is option A. Ghiyasuddin Balban (r. 1266–1287) assumed the title 'Zill-i-Ilahi' (Zill-e-Ilahi, shadow of God) to raise the dignity of the monarchy. He propounded a theory of kingship in which the Sultan is God's representative, and introduced Persian court practices such as sijda (prostration), paibos (kissing the feet) and Nauroz.

- Tuti-e-Hind (parrot of India) was the title of the poet Amir Khusrau.
- Din-i-Ilahi was the religious order proposed by Akbar in 1582.
- Kaisar-i-Hind was a title adopted by the British sovereign after 1876.

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85 Sher Shah Suri is remembered for:

[SSC CGL 16 Oct 2026, Shift-III]

(a) Founding the Mansabdari system
(b) Building the Grand Trunk Road & administrative reforms
(c) Construction of Fatehpur Sikri
(d) Abolishing jizya

ANSWER (b) Building the Grand Trunk Road & administrative reforms

The correct answer is option B. Sher Shah Suri (r. 1540–1545) is remembered for building and reconstructing the Grand Trunk Road (Sadak-e-Azam) and for his administrative reforms, including a revenue system based on land measurement, the issue of the silver rupiya, the construction of sarais and an efficient postal and spy system.

- The Mansabdari system was introduced by Akbar, who also built Fatehpur Sikri.
- Jizya was abolished by Akbar in 1564.
- Sher Shah also built the Purana Qila in Delhi and his own tomb at Sasaram in Bihar.

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86 During Qutbuddin Aibak's reign, which city served as his administrative capital?

[SSC CGL 22 Oct 2026, Shift-II]

(a) Ghazni (b) Lahore
(c) Delhi (d) Multan

ANSWER (b) Lahore

The correct answer is option B. Qutbuddin Aibak (r. 1206–1210), the founder of the Slave (Mamluk) dynasty, ruled from Lahore, which served as his capital; he was crowned there in 1206. He died in 1210 at Lahore while playing chaugan (polo). It was Iltutmish who later made Delhi the capital.

- Aibak began the construction of the Qutb Minar and built the Quwwat-ul-Islam mosque in Delhi and the Adhai Din Ka Jhonpra at Ajmer.
- He was known as 'Lakh Baksh' for his generosity.
- Aibak was originally a slave of Muhammad of Ghor.

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87 The concept of Sulh-i-Kul (peace for all) was most systematically implemented under which Mughal emperor?

[SSC CGL 23 Oct 2026, Shift-I]

(a) Babur (b) Humayun
(c) Akbar (d) Aurangzeb

ANSWER (c) Akbar

The correct answer is option C. The policy of Sulh-i-Kul (universal peace or peace with all) was most systematically implemented under Akbar (r. 1556–1605). Under it, all religions and sects were treated

with tolerance, and the state was meant to remain impartial. It was propounded and elaborated by his minister and chronicler Abul Fazl.

- Akbar abolished the pilgrim tax (1563) and jizya (1564) and built the Ibadat Khana at Fatehpur Sikri in 1575.
- Akbar admitted Rajputs and Hindus into the nobility.
- Aurangzeb reversed the policy by reimposing jizya in 1679.

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88 The Treaty of Purandar (1665) was signed between Shivaji and which Mughal general?

[SSC CGL 23 Oct 2026, Shift-III]

(a) Shaista Khan
(b) Jai Singh I
(c) Aurangzeb
(d) Murad Baksh

ANSWER (b) Jai Singh I

The correct answer is option B. The Treaty of Purandar (June 1665) was signed between Shivaji and Raja Jai Singh I of Amber (Mirza Raja), the Mughal general sent by Aurangzeb to subdue him. Under the treaty, Shivaji surrendered 23 of his forts to the Mughals and kept 12, and agreed to serve the Mughals; his son Sambhaji was given a mansab.

- In 1666, Shivaji visited Agra to meet Aurangzeb, was placed under confinement, and escaped.
- Shaista Khan, the Mughal governor of the Deccan, was attacked by Shivaji in Pune in 1663.
- Shivaji was crowned Chhatrapati at Raigad in 1674.

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89 Arrange the following dynasties in the correct chronological order in which they ruled Delhi:
1.Khalji
2.Lodi
3.Sayyid
4.Slave

[SSC CGL 24 Oct 2026, Shift-II]

(a) 1, 2, 4, 3
(b) 1, 2, 3, 4
(c) 2, 3, 4, 1
(d) 4, 1, 3, 2

ANSWER (d) 4, 1, 3, 2

The correct answer is option D (4, 1, 3, 2). The dynasties of the Delhi Sultanate ruled in this order: Slave (Mamluk) dynasty (1206–1290), Khalji dynasty (1290–1320), Tughlaq dynasty (1320–1414, not listed here), Sayyid dynasty (1414–1451) and Lodi dynasty (1451–1526).

- The Slave dynasty was founded by Qutbuddin Aibak, and the Khalji dynasty by Jalaluddin Khalji.
- The Sayyid dynasty was founded by Khizr Khan after Timur's invasion.
- The Lodi dynasty, founded by Bahlul Lodi, was the last, ending with the First Battle of Panipat (1526).

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90 Which among the following Mughal emperors did NOT pursue the policy of Sulh-i-Kul?

[SSC CGL 27 Oct 2026, Shift-I]

(a) Akbar
(b) Jahangir
(c) Shah Jahan
(d) Aurangzeb

ANSWER (d) Aurangzeb

The correct answer is option D. Aurangzeb (r. 1658–1707) did not follow the policy of Sulh-i-Kul. He pursued a more orthodox policy, reimposing jizya in 1679 and banning certain practices. Akbar was its originator, and Jahangir and Shah Jahan broadly continued it, though Shah Jahan was less liberal.

- Akbar's minister Abul Fazl was the main exponent of Sulh-i-Kul.
- Aurangzeb's religious policy contributed to rebellions of the Jats, Satnamis, Sikhs and Marathas.
- Dara Shikoh, the son of Shah Jahan, was the main champion of religious harmony in the later Mughal period.

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91 Which Sultan of Delhi adopted the title 'Sikandar-i-Sani'?

[SSC CGL 27 Oct 2026, Shift-II]

(a) Balban
(b) Alauddin Khalji
(c) Muhammad-Bin-Tughluq
(d) Sikandar Lodi

ANSWER (b) Alauddin Khalji

The correct answer is option B. Alauddin Khalji (r. 1296–1316) adopted the title 'Sikandar-i-Sani' (the Second Alexander), which he also had inscribed on his coins, after his military successes. He also called himself 'Yamin-ul-Khilafat' and 'Nasir-i-Amir-ul-Momin'.

- He conquered Gujarat, Ranthambhor, Chittor, Malwa and, through Malik Kafur, the south.

- He introduced market control measures, and the system of branding of horses (dagh) and descriptive rolls (chehra).
- He did not seek the formal sanction of the Caliph for his rule.

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92 Which of the following statements regarding the Bahmani Kingdom is INCORRECT?

[SSC CGL 27 Oct 2026, Shift-III]

(a) It was founded by Alauddin Hasan Bahman Shah.
(b) It was constantly in conflict with the Vijayanagara Empire.
(c) Mahmud Gawan was a powerful minister and reformer in the kingdom.
(d) It was known for its extensive sea trade with European powers.

ANSWER (d) It was known for its extensive sea trade with European ...

Statement D is incorrect. The Bahmani Kingdom was an inland Deccan power and was not known for extensive sea trade with European powers; its long rivalry with Vijayanagara was over the Raichur Doab and the Krishna-Tungabhadra region. The other three statements are correct.

- The Bahmani Kingdom was founded in 1347 by Alauddin Hasan Bahman Shah (Zafar Khan), with its first capital at Gulbarga; the capital later shifted to Bidar.
- Mahmud Gawan, the prime minister under Muhammad Shah III, reorganised the provinces and revenue administration and founded a madrasa at Bidar.
- After its break-up, the kingdom split into five Deccan Sultanates: Ahmadnagar, Bijapur, Golconda, Berar and Bidar.

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93 Regarding which Sultan did the historian Ziauddin Barani write: "When he attained Kingship, he was fully independent of the rules and orders of Shariat"?

[SSC CGL 28 Oct 2026, Shift-I]

(a) Iltutmish
(b) Balban
(c) Alauddin Khalji
(d) Muhammad Bin Tughluq

ANSWER (c) Alauddin Khalji

Ziauddin Barani, in his Tarikh-i-Firuz Shahi, portrays Alauddin Khalji as a ruler who kept religion separate from statecraft. Alauddin held that the policies of the state were the king's business and that the ulema should not interfere in them.

- Alauddin Khalji (1296–1316) introduced market control measures, a standing army with the dagh (branding) and chehra (descriptive roll) systems.
- Barani's major works are Tarikh-i-Firuz Shahi and Fatawa-i-Jahandari.
- Alauddin conquered Gujarat, Ranthambhor, Chittor, Malwa and, through Malik Kafur, the southern kingdoms.

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94 Consider these statements regarding the dynasties of Vijayanagara:
1.Narasimha Saluva ended the Sangama dynasty and started the Saluva dynasty.
2.Vira Narasimha deposed the last Saluva ruler to start the Tuluva dynasty.
Which of the above statements is/are **correct**?

[SSC CGL 28 Oct 2026, Shift-II]

(a) 1 only
(b) 2 only
(c) Both 1 and 2
(d) Neither 1 nor 2

ANSWER (c) Both 1 and 2

Both statements are correct. Saluva Narasimha took the throne around 1485 from the last Sangama ruler and founded the Saluva dynasty; around 1505 Vira Narasimha, the son of Tuluva Narasa Nayaka, removed the last Saluva ruler and founded the Tuluva dynasty.

- The four dynasties of Vijayanagara in order were Sangama, Saluva, Tuluva and Aravidu.
- Krishnadevaraya (1509–1529) of the Tuluva dynasty was the greatest ruler of Vijayanagara; he wrote the Telugu work Amuktamalyada.
- The empire was crushed at the Battle of Talikota (1565) by the combined Deccan Sultanates.

PART C Modern History

95 The introduction of English as the medium of instruction in Indian schools was largely a result of the recommendations made by:

[SSC CGL 30 Sep 2026, Shift-II]

(a) The Hunter Commission
(b) The Wood's Despatch
(c) The Sadler Commission
(d) The Sargent Scheme

ANSWER (b) The Wood's Despatch

Wood's Despatch (1854) recommended English as the medium of higher education, with vernacular languages for primary schooling. Since it laid the foundation of the modern English-based education system, it is credited with the large-scale introduction of English in Indian schools and colleges.

- Wood's Despatch is called the 'Magna Carta of English Education in India'; it was issued by Charles Wood, President of the Board of Control.
- It led to the establishment of universities at Calcutta, Bombay and Madras in 1857.
- Macaulay's Minute (1835) had earlier supported English education.

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96 Which of the following women freedom fighters was known as the 'Agni of India'?

[SSC CGL 30 Sep 2026, Shift-II]

(a) Durgawati Devi
(b) Kamaladevi Chattopadhyay
(c) Captain Lakshmi Sehgal
(d) Usha Mehta

ANSWER (a) Durgawati Devi

As per the official answer key, Durgawati Devi (popularly known as 'Durga Bhabhi') is the freedom fighter described as the 'Agni of India'. She was a prominent woman revolutionary associated with the Hindustan Socialist Republican Association (HSRA).

- In 1928 she travelled with Bhagat Singh from Lahore, posing as his wife, after the Saunders killing.
- Her husband Bhagwati Charan Vohra died in 1930 while testing a bomb on the bank of the Ravi.
- Captain Lakshmi Sehgal led the Rani of Jhansi Regiment of the INA; Usha Mehta ran the underground Congress Radio in 1942.
- Kamaladevi Chattopadhyay is remembered for reviving Indian handicrafts and handlooms.

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97 Under the Indian Independence Act, full legislative authority in each Dominion was vested in which body?

[SSC CGL 30 Sep 2026, Shift-III]

(a) British Parliament
(b) Governor General
(c) Constituent Assembly
(d) Secretary of State

ANSWER (c) Constituent Assembly

Under the Indian Independence Act, 1947, the Constituent Assembly of each Dominion was given full power to make laws for that Dominion, and it also functioned as the legislature until a new constitution came into force. The British Parliament gave up its authority over the Dominions.

- The Act received royal assent on 18 July 1947 and created India and Pakistan from 15 August 1947.
- It ended the suzerainty of the British Crown over the princely states.
- Lord Mountbatten became the first Governor-General of independent India.

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98 Which Governor-General of India abolished the practice of sati through Regulation XVII?

[SSC CGL 30 Sep 2026, Shift-III]

(a) Lord Ripon
(b) Lord William Bentinck
(c) Lord Dalhousie
(d) Lord Cornwallis

ANSWER (b) Lord William Bentinck

Lord William Bentinck, Governor-General from 1828 to 1835, abolished sati through Regulation XVII of 1829 (4 December 1829), declaring it illegal and punishable. He was supported in this by Raja Ram Mohan Roy.

- The regulation first applied to Bengal and was extended to Madras and Bombay in 1830.
- Bentinck also suppressed thuggee, with the help of William Sleeman.
- He is known for the Charter Act of 1833 and for making English the medium of higher education.

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99 The primary aim of the "Land Revenue Policy" introduced by the British in India was to:

[SSC CGL 01 Oct 2026, Shift-I]

(a) Promote the welfare and prosperity of Indian farmers.
(b) Establish a fair and equitable system of land ownership.
(c) Maximize the revenue collected from land for the British government.
(d) Encourage the cultivation of food crops to ensure food security.

ANSWER (c) Maximize the revenue collected from land for the British ...

The British land revenue policy was designed mainly to maximise the revenue collected from land for the Company and the Crown. Systems such as the Permanent Settlement, Ryotwari and Mahalwari fixed high demands, often at the cost of the peasants.

- Permanent Settlement (1793): Bengal, Bihar and Orissa, with zamindars as owners.
- Ryotwari system: Madras and Bombay, associated with Thomas Munro and Alexander Read.
- Mahalwari system (1822): North-Western Provinces and Punjab, with the village community (mahal) as the unit.

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100 What major administrative change was introduced by the Charter Act of 1853?

[SSC CGL 01 Oct 2026, Shift-II]

(a) Created provincial assemblies with elected Indian members
(b) Introduced bicameral legislature in British India
(c) Separated legislative and executive functions of the Council
(d) Gave voting rights to landed Indians

ANSWER (c) Separated legislative and executive functions of the Council

The Charter Act of 1853 separated the legislative and executive functions of the Governor-General's Council by adding six legislative members, giving the legislative wing the shape of a mini-parliament. The other options relate to later reforms.

- It was the last of the Charter Acts, and it opened the Indian Civil Service to open competition.
- The Macaulay Committee (1854) framed the competitive examination system.
- The Act of 1861 (Indian Councils Act) introduced the portfolio system in law and Indian nominated members.

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101 During whose viceroyalty was the portfolio system introduced in British India?

[SSC CGL 01 Oct 2026, Shift-II]

(a) Lord Canning
(b) Lord Mayo
(c) Lord Ripon
(d) Lord Curzon

ANSWER (a) Lord Canning

The portfolio system was introduced in 1859 by Lord Canning, who assigned each member of the Executive Council a department of administration. This was a step towards cabinet government in India.

- Sir James Wilson was entrusted with finance in 1859 as the first finance member.
- Canning was the last Governor-General and the first Viceroy of India (1858).
- The Indian Councils Act, 1861 recognised the portfolio system.

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102 In which month was Pitt's India Act of 1784 passed?

[SSC CGL 01 Oct 2026, Shift-III]

(a) June
(b) August
(c) September
(d) March

ANSWER (b) August

Pitt's India Act was passed in August 1784 by the British Parliament during the ministry of William Pitt the Younger. It gave the British government greater control over the Company's political affairs.

- It created the Board of Control with six commissioners to supervise civil, military and revenue matters.
- Commercial matters remained with the Court of Directors, hence a dual system of control.
- The Regulating Act of 1773 came before it, and the Charter Act of 1793 after it.

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103 Which of the following was not one of the principal reasons for Siraj-ud-Daula's hostility towards the English East India Company in 1756?

[SSC CGL 01 Oct 2026, Shift-III]

(a) The Company fortified Calcutta without the Nawab's permission.
(b) The Company gave asylum to Krishna Das, the son of Raj Ballabh.
(c) The Company demanded the abolition of all inland duties on the salt trade.
(d) The Company misused its trade privileges, causing financial losses to the Nawab.

ANSWER (c) The Company demanded the abolition of all inland duties ...

Option C was not a principal reason. Siraj-ud-Daula was angered by the fortification of Calcutta without permission, the asylum given to Krishna Das (Krishna Ballabh), son of Raj Ballabh, and the misuse of trade privileges (dastaks) that caused loss to his treasury.

- Siraj captured Fort William (Calcutta) in June 1756; the 'Black Hole' incident is associated with it.
- Clive and Watson recaptured Calcutta in January 1757.
- The Battle of Plassey was fought on 23 June 1757.

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104 The "Wood's Despatch" of 1854 is considered a landmark in the history of Indian education because it:

[SSC CGL 05 Oct 2026, Shift-II]

(a) Advocated for the complete withdrawal of government support from education.
(b) Proposed the establishment of universities in the presidency towns of Calcutta, Bombay, and Madras.
(c) Recommended that Sanskrit and Persian should be the primary languages of instruction.
(d) Led to the immediate implementation of free and compulsory primary education across India.

ANSWER (b) Proposed the establishment of universities in the ...

Wood's Despatch is a landmark because it proposed universities on the model of London University at the presidency towns of Calcutta, Bombay and Madras, along with a system of education from primary to university level.

- It recommended Departments of Public Instruction in every province and grants-in-aid to private schools.
- Universities of Calcutta, Bombay and Madras were established in 1857.
- It stressed teacher training and women's and vocational education.

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105 What accurately describes the British policy and outcome regarding slavery in India up to 1843?

[SSC CGL 06 Oct 2026, Shift-I]

(a) The Company promptly abolished slavery under the 1811 law
(b) Slavery ended through mass resistance by Indian peasants
(c) Abolition came slowly through delayed legislation and limited enforcement
(d) Slavery was banned immediately after Britain's 1820 reforms

ANSWER (c) Abolition came slowly through delayed legislation and ...

Abolition of slavery in India came slowly. The Act of 1811 only banned the import of slaves, and slavery as a legal status was ended by Act V of 1843, but enforcement remained limited for years.

- The Charter Act of 1833 directed that slavery be abolished at the earliest.
- The Indian Penal Code (1860) made enslavement a punishable offence.
- Britain abolished slavery in its colonies through the Slavery Abolition Act, 1833.

---

106 Which field did the Hunter Commission examine?

[SSC CGL 06 Oct 2026, Shift-I]

(a) Judiciary
(b) Education
(c) Police reforms
(d) Agriculture

ANSWER (b) Education

The Hunter Commission (1882), appointed under Lord Ripon and headed by W.W. Hunter, examined the state of education in India, mainly primary and secondary education.

- It stressed state support to primary education and its transfer to district and municipal boards.
- It recommended that secondary education be split into literary and vocational streams.
- It drew attention to women's education.

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107 During the Indian freedom struggle, who organized the 'Secret Congress Radio' that broadcasted recorded messages from Gandhiji?

[SSC CGL 06 Oct 2026, Shift-II]

(a) Usha Mehta
(b) Alluri Sitarama Raju
(c) Kanuri Lakshmibai
(d) Oruganti Mahalakshmamma

ANSWER (a) Usha Mehta

Usha Mehta organised the Secret Congress Radio during the Quit India Movement in August 1942 and broadcast the messages of Gandhiji and other leaders when the press was gagged. She was helped by associates such as Vithalbhai Jhaveri and Chandrakant Jhaveri and Ram Manohar Lohia.

- The radio operated from Bombay and moved from place to place to avoid detection.
- Usha Mehta was arrested in November 1942 and was awarded the Padma Vibhushan in 1998.
- Alluri Sitarama Raju led the Rampa rebellion (1922–24) in Andhra.

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108 How many members constituted the Board of Control under Pitt's India Act?

[SSC CGL 06 Oct 2026, Shift-II]

(a) Four members
(b) Five members
(c) Six members
(d) Seven members

ANSWER (c) Six members

Under Pitt's India Act, 1784, the Board of Control consisted of six members: a Secretary of State, the Chancellor of the Exchequer and four Privy Councillors appointed by the Crown. It supervised the civil, military and revenue affairs of the Company.

- The Court of Directors continued to manage the Company's commerce and patronage.
- The Governor-General's Council was reduced from four to three members.
- The Act gave the British government the final say in India's political affairs.

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109 Who chaired the Punjab and Bengal Boundary Commissions that demarcated the borders between India and Pakistan?

[SSC CGL 06 Oct 2026, Shift-III]

(a) Lord Wavell
(b) Sir Stafford Cripps
(c) Lord Mountbatten
(d) Sir Cyril Radcliffe

ANSWER (d) Sir Cyril Radcliffe

Sir Cyril Radcliffe chaired both the Punjab and the Bengal Boundary Commissions, which demarcated the borders between India and Pakistan in 1947. The Radcliffe Award was announced on 17 August 1947, after independence.

- Each commission had four other members, two from the Congress and two from the Muslim League.
- The India-Pakistan boundary is called the Radcliffe Line.
- Radcliffe also chaired the Boundary Commissions' work within about five weeks.

---

110 Which of the following plans formed the immediate basis of the Indian Independence Act, 1947?

[SSC CGL 06 Oct 2026, Shift-III]

(a) Wavell Plan
(b) Cripps Proposal
(c) Mountbatten Plan
(d) August Offer

ANSWER (c) Mountbatten Plan

The Mountbatten Plan (3 June 1947) provided the immediate basis of the Indian Independence Act, 1947. It proposed the partition of India into two dominions, India and Pakistan, with the transfer of power.

- It is also known as the 3 June Plan.
- The Act was passed by the British Parliament in July 1947 and took effect on 15 August 1947.
- Wavell Plan (1945) and Simla Conference came earlier; Cripps came in 1942 and August Offer in 1940.

---

111 Which event led to the failure of the Dutch attempt, supported by Mir Jafar, to challenge English power in Bengal?

[SSC CGL 07 Oct 2026, Shift-III]

(a) The Dutch were defeated by the English at Bedara in November 1759.
(b) The Dutch were betrayed by Mir Jafar before the battle in November 1759.
(c) The Dutch were defeated by French forces supporting the English in November 1759.
(d) The Dutch were compelled to withdraw without fighting the English in November 1759.

ANSWER (a) The Dutch were defeated by the English at Bedara in ...

The Dutch attempt failed when the English, under Colonel Forde, defeated the Dutch forces at the Battle of Bedara (Chinsurah) in November 1759. The victory ended Dutch hopes of challenging English power in Bengal.

- Mir Jafar had secretly encouraged the Dutch to counter the English, but after the defeat he accepted the English demands.
- After Bedara the Dutch were left only with Chinsurah as a trading base.
- Clive had earlier won the Battle of Plassey (1757).

---

112 Which of the following correctly describes the structure introduced by Pitt's India Act?

[SSC CGL 08 Oct 2026, Shift-I]

(a) Only the Governor-General had full authority.
(b) Board of Control had three directors and reported to the Company.
(c) Board of Control included cabinet ministers and supervised Indian governance.
(d) A royal commission was sent to directly govern India.

ANSWER (c) Board of Control included cabinet ministers and ...

Under Pitt's India Act, the Board of Control included cabinet ministers (the Secretary of State and the Chancellor of the Exchequer) along with Privy Councillors, and it supervised the civil, military and revenue administration of India. It therefore subordinated the Company to the Crown.

- The Act established a dual system of control: the Board of Control (political) and Court of Directors (commercial).
- It separated the Company's political and commercial functions.
- The Company's Indian possessions were called 'British possessions in India'.

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113 Under whose leadership was Purna Swaraj formally adopted at the Lahore Session?

[SSC CGL 08 Oct 2026, Shift-I]

(a) Subhas Chandra Bose
(b) Rajendra Prasad
(c) Jawaharlal Nehru
(d) Vallabhbhai Patel

ANSWER (c) Jawaharlal Nehru

At the Lahore Session of the Indian National Congress (December 1929), presided over by Jawaharlal Nehru, the Congress adopted the resolution of Purna Swaraj (complete independence) as its goal.

- The session was held on the banks of the Ravi river.
- 26 January 1930 was observed as the first Independence Day.
- The Civil Disobedience Movement began with the Dandi March in March 1930.

---

114 The "Bengal Sati Regulation" passed in 1829, which outlawed the practice of Sati, was primarily due to the efforts of:

[SSC CGL 08 Oct 2026, Shift-II]

(a) Lord Dalhousie and the Sepoy Mutiny
(b) Mahatma Gandhi and the Non-Cooperation Movement
(c) Lord William Bentinck and Raja Ram Mohan Roy
(d) Lord Curzon and the Partition of Bengal

ANSWER (c) Lord William Bentinck and Raja Ram Mohan Roy

The Bengal Sati Regulation (Regulation XVII, 1829) was mainly due to the efforts of Governor-General Lord William Bentinck and the social reformer Raja Ram Mohan Roy, who campaigned against the practice. The other options belong to different periods and events.

- Raja Ram Mohan Roy founded the Brahmo Samaj in 1828 and published Sambad Kaumudi.
- Dalhousie (1848–56) is linked with the Doctrine of Lapse; Curzon with the Partition of Bengal (1905).
- The regulation declared sati punishable by criminal courts.

---

115 Which of the following freedom fighters was given the title 'Daughter of the hills' by Jawaharlal Nehru?

[SSC CGL 08 Oct 2026, Shift-II]

(a) Chandraprava Saikiani
(b) Mahadevi Verma
(c) Rani Gaidinliu
(d) Kanaklata Barua

ANSWER (c) Rani Gaidinliu

Rani Gaidinliu, the Naga spiritual and political leader of the Zeliangrong people, was called 'Daughter of the Hills' by Jawaharlal Nehru. She led a movement against British rule and was imprisoned for about 14 years.

- She was a follower of the Heraka movement started by her cousin Haipou Jadonang.
- She received the Padma Bhushan in 1982.
- Nehru gave her the title 'Rani' too.

---

116 The "Permanent Settlement" of revenue in Bengal was introduced in 1793 by which Governor-General?

[SSC CGL 09 Oct 2026, Shift-III]

(a) Lord Wellesley
(b) Lord Cornwallis
(c) Warren Hastings
(d) Sir John Shore

ANSWER (b) Lord Cornwallis

Lord Cornwallis introduced the Permanent Settlement in Bengal in 1793, under which the land revenue demand was fixed permanently and the zamindars were recognised as landowners. The plan was prepared with the help of Sir John Shore and others.

- It was applied to Bengal, Bihar, Orissa and later parts of Varanasi and North Madras.
- The revenue was fixed at about 10/11 share to the Company and 1/11 to the zamindar.
- Failure to pay on the fixed date (the 'Sunset Law') led to the sale of the estate.

---

117 Whose combined forces did Major Hector Munro defeat in the Battle of Buxar?

[SSC CGL 09 Oct 2026, Shift-III]

(a) Mir Jafar, Shuja-ud-Daula, and Shah Alam II
(b) Mir Qasim, Shuja-ud-Daula, and Shah Alam II
(c) Mir Qasim, Najm-ud-Daula, and the Nizam
(d) Siraj-ud-Daula, Mir Jafar, and the Marathas

ANSWER (b) Mir Qasim, Shuja-ud-Daula, and Shah Alam II

In the Battle of Buxar (22 October 1764), Major Hector Munro defeated the combined forces of Mir Qasim (Nawab of Bengal), Shuja-ud-Daula (Nawab of Awadh) and the Mughal Emperor Shah Alam II.

- The Treaty of Allahabad (1765) followed, giving the Company the Diwani of Bengal, Bihar and Orissa.
- Robert Clive negotiated the treaty after his return as Governor of Bengal.
- Buxar is regarded as more decisive than Plassey in establishing British power.

---

118 Which of the following was a key feature of the Regulating Act of 1773?

[SSC CGL 10 Oct 2026, Shift-I]

(a) It granted complete autonomy to the East India Company.
(b) It made the Governor of Bombay the supreme authority in India.
(c) It limited the British Parliament's power over Company affairs.
(d) It introduced Parliamentary supervision over the Company's administration.

ANSWER (d) It introduced Parliamentary supervision over the ...

The Regulating Act of 1773 introduced Parliamentary supervision over the Company's administration for the first time. It made the Governor of Bengal the Governor-General (Warren Hastings was the first) and required the Company to report its revenue and civil and military affairs to the British government.

- It established the Supreme Court at Calcutta in 1774, with Elijah Impey as the first Chief Justice.
- The Governor-General's Council had four councillors, who could outvote him.
- It prohibited Company servants from private trade and from accepting gifts.

---

119 Which of the following leaders played a major organisational role in the Kheda Satyagraha?

[SSC CGL 10 Oct 2026, Shift-I]

(a) Motilal Nehru
(b) Chittaranjan Das
(c) Vallabhbhai Patel
(d) Subhas Chandra Bose

ANSWER (c) Vallabhbhai Patel

Vallabhbhai Patel played a major organisational role in the Kheda Satyagraha (1918) in Gujarat, where peasants refused to pay land revenue after crop

failure. Gandhiji led the satyagraha, with Patel as his chief organiser.

- It was Gandhiji's second Indian satyagraha, after Champaran (1917).
- Indulal Yagnik and Mahadev Desai also took part.
- The government agreed to suspend collection from poorer peasants.

---

120 Which of the following reforms first introduced separate electorates in British India through statutory provisions?

[SSC CGL 10 Oct 2026, Shift-III]

(a) Charter Act, 1833
(b) Regulating Act, 1773
(c) Government of India Act, 1935
(d) Morley Minto Reforms, 1909

ANSWER (d) Morley Minto Reforms, 1909

The Morley-Minto Reforms, i.e. the Indian Councils Act, 1909, first introduced separate electorates for Muslims through statutory provisions. For this reason Lord Minto is sometimes called the father of communal electorate.

- The Act of 1909 increased the size of the legislative councils and allowed discussion of the budget.
- The Government of India Act, 1919 extended separate electorates to Sikhs, Indian Christians, Anglo-Indians and Europeans.
- The Communal Award of 1932 had also extended them to the Depressed Classes.

---

121 What was the primary initial objective of the English East India Company in acquiring territorial control in India?

[SSC CGL 10 Oct 2026, Shift-III]

(a) To weaken and abolish the existing Indian kingdoms
(b) To conquer and administer territories under an agreement with the Dutch
(c) To support and strengthen the political authority of the Mughal Empire
(d) To safeguard and promote its commercial interests

ANSWER (d) To safeguard and promote its commercial interests

The English East India Company came to India as a trading body, and its initial objective in acquiring territorial control was to safeguard and promote its commercial interests, such as trade privileges, trading posts and revenue to fund trade. Political conquest followed later.

- The Company was chartered by Queen Elizabeth I on 31 December 1600.
- Its first factory was set up at Surat in 1613, after Jahangir's permission.
- Sir Thomas Roe visited Jahangir's court in 1615 and secured trading rights.

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122 When did the British first accept, in principle, the demand for an Indian Constituent Assembly?

[SSC CGL 12 Oct 2026, Shift-I]

(a) August Offer (1940)
(b) Cripps Proposals (1942)
(c) Cabinet Mission (1946)
(d) Mountbatten Plan (1947)

ANSWER (a) August Offer (1940)

The British first accepted, in principle, the demand for an Indian Constituent Assembly in the August Offer of 1940, announced by Viceroy Linlithgow. It said that after the war a representative Indian body would frame the constitution.

- The Congress rejected the August Offer, which also assured minorities that no constitution would be imposed against their wishes.
- This led to the Individual Satyagraha of 1940–41.
- The Constituent Assembly was actually formed under the Cabinet Mission Plan (1946).

---

123 The "Age of Consent Act" of 1891 primarily aimed to:

[SSC CGL 12 Oct 2026, Shift-II]

(a) Grant voting rights to women in British India.
(b) Raise the minimum legal age for the marriage of girls.
(c) Prohibit child labor in factories and mines.
(d) Introduce compulsory education for children below the age of twelve.

ANSWER (b) Raise the minimum legal age for the marriage of girls.

The Age of Consent Act, 1891 raised the age of consent for girls from 10 to 12 years, and thus aimed to raise the minimum legal age for the marriage of girls (consummation). It was passed under Viceroy Lord

Lansdowne after the efforts of reformers such as Behramji Malabari.

- The Act was opposed by orthodox leaders such as Bal Gangadhar Tilak.
- The Child Marriage Restraint (Sarda) Act of 1929 fixed 14 years for girls and 18 for boys.
- The present minimum age of marriage is 18 for women and 21 for men.

---

124 Under the Charter Act of 1793, for how many years was the Company's Charter renewed?

[SSC CGL 12 Oct 2026, Shift-III]

(a) Ten years
(b) Fifteen years
(c) Twenty years
(d) Thirty years

ANSWER (c) Twenty years

The Charter Act of 1793 renewed the Company's charter, and its trade monopoly in India, for 20 years.

- The Charter Act of 1813 ended the Company's trade monopoly except for tea and the China trade.
- The Charter Act of 1833 ended its commercial functions altogether.
- The Act of 1793 also provided that salaries of the Board of Control would be paid by the Company.

---

125 What was the main reason behind the rise of the poligars against the East India Company in South India?

[SSC CGL 12 Oct 2026, Shift-III]

(a) They objected to losing their hereditary revenue rights and were first angered over increased taxation.
(b) They objected to losing their hereditary sovereign status and were first angered over taxation.
(c) They objected to losing their hereditary military privileges and were first angered over Company interference.
(d) They objected to losing their hereditary local authority and were first angered over British administrative control.

ANSWER (b) They objected to losing their hereditary sovereign status ...

As per the official key, the poligars rose against the Company because they objected to losing their hereditary sovereign status, and they were first angered by the Company's demand for taxation (tribute). Their resistance was strongest under Veerapandiya Kattabomman, who was hanged in 1799.

- The Poligar Wars (1799–1801) ended with the Company's control of Tamil Nadu's Palayakkarars.
- Marudu Pandiyar brothers continued the revolt in 1801.
- The Palayakkarar (poligar) system had been established under Vijayanagara and its Nayaks.

---

126 Which legislative authority was granted under the Regulating Act of 1773?

[SSC CGL 13 Oct 2026, Shift-I]

(a) Only the Court of Directors could issue laws.
(b) Governor General and Council could make rules for Fort William.
(c) Civil regulations could only be passed by the British Parliament.
(d) Military laws required Crown approval.

ANSWER (b) Governor General and Council could make rules for Fort ...

Under the Regulating Act of 1773, the Governor-General and Council were given power to make rules, ordinances and regulations for the good order and civil government of the Company's settlement at Fort William, Bengal. These had to be registered in the Supreme Court.

- The regulations were subject to disallowance by the Crown (King-in-Council) after registration.
- The Act of Settlement (1781) later clarified the jurisdiction of the Supreme Court.
- Bombay and Madras presidencies were subordinated to Bengal for war and peace matters.

---

127 The Hindu Widows' Remarriage Act was passed during the tenure of which Governor-General of India?

[SSC CGL 13 Oct 2026, Shift-I]

(a) Lord Cornwallis
(b) Lord Canning
(c) Lord William Bentinck
(d) Lord Ripon

ANSWER (b) Lord Canning

The Hindu Widows' Remarriage Act was passed in 1856 during the tenure of Lord Canning, who was the Governor-General of India at the time. The Act legalised the remarriage of Hindu widows and was the

result of a long campaign led by Ishwar Chandra Vidyasagar.

- Lord Canning was the last Governor-General of India (1856–58) and the first Viceroy of India (1858).
- The Sati Abolition Regulation (1829) was passed under Lord William Bentinck.
- Ishwar Chandra Vidyasagar is also remembered for promoting women's education in Bengal.

---

128 Which technological advantage did the firearms used by the English forces generally have over many traditional weapons used by Indian armies?

[SSC CGL 13 Oct 2026, Shift-III]

(a) They had a shorter range and could be fired less rapidly.
(b) They had a longer range and could be fired more rapidly.
(c) They were produced locally and could be supplied more easily.
(d) They required less training and could be operated more easily.

ANSWER (b) They had a longer range and could be fired more rapidly.

The firearms of the English forces generally had a longer range and a higher rate of fire than many traditional Indian weapons. Together with disciplined drill and mobile artillery, this gave the Company's armies a decisive edge in battles such as Plassey (1757) and Buxar (1764).

- Disciplined, European-style training of sepoys was another major advantage of the Company's army.
- The Battle of Plassey was fought on 23 June 1757 against Siraj-ud-Daulah.
- The Battle of Buxar (1764) established British military supremacy over the Mughal Emperor and the Nawab of Awadh.

---

129 Who among the following is primarily credited with introducing the Ryotwari system in the Madras Presidency?

[SSC CGL 14 Oct 2026, Shift-I]

(a) Holt Mackenzie
(b) Thomas Munro
(c) Cornwallis
(d) William Bentinck

ANSWER (b) Thomas Munro

Thomas Munro is primarily credited with introducing the Ryotwari system in the Madras Presidency; it was implemented in 1820 when he became Governor of Madras. Under it, the settlement was made directly with the cultivator (ryot), who was recognised as the owner of the land and paid revenue directly to the government.

- The system was first tried by Alexander Read in the Baramahal region (1792).
- Ryotwari was later extended to Bombay and parts of southern and western India.
- The Permanent Settlement (1793) was introduced by Lord Cornwallis in Bengal.

---

130 Which commission was appointed in 1882 to review the progress of education since Wood's Despatch?

[SSC CGL 14 Oct 2026, Shift-III]

(a) Sadler Commission
(b) Hunter Commission
(c) Raleigh Commission
(d) Hartog Committee

ANSWER (b) Hunter Commission

The Hunter Commission (Indian Education Commission), headed by William Hunter, was appointed in 1882 during Lord Ripon's viceroyalty to review the progress of education since Wood's Despatch of 1854. It laid special stress on primary education and recommended that it be handed over to local bodies.

- Wood's Despatch (1854) is called the 'Magna Carta of English Education in India'.
- The Sadler Commission (1917–19) reviewed university education, mainly the Calcutta University.
- The Raleigh Commission (1902) led to the Indian Universities Act, 1904, under Lord Curzon.

---

131 Under the Communal Award, what electoral right was granted to the Depressed Classes?

[SSC CGL 14 Oct 2026, Shift-III]

(a) Contest local and provincial elections
(b) Vote in separate and general electorates
(c) Form separate provinces and administrative regions
(d) Boycott legislatures and elections

ANSWER (b) Vote in separate and general electorates

The Communal Award (August 1932), announced by British Prime Minister Ramsay MacDonald, granted the Depressed Classes separate electorates in addition to the right to vote in the general electorates (a double vote). Gandhi opposed this by fasting in Yerwada jail, which ended with the Poona Pact (September 1932).

- Under the Poona Pact, separate electorates were dropped and seats were reserved for the Depressed Classes within the general electorate.
- The Poona Pact was signed between B. R. Ambedkar and Madan Mohan Malaviya (on behalf of Hindu leaders).
- The Communal Award extended separate electorates to Muslims, Sikhs, Indian Christians, Anglo-Indians, Europeans and the Depressed Classes.

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132 The primary aim of the "Arms Act" passed by the British government in 1878 was to:

[SSC CGL 15 Oct 2026, Shift-I]

(a) Encourage Indians to join the British Indian Army.
(b) Regulate the manufacturing and sale of firearms by Europeans in India.
(c) Prevent Indians from possessing firearms without a license.
(d) Promote the development of indigenous arms manufacturing in India.

ANSWER (c) Prevent Indians from possessing firearms without a license.

The Arms Act of 1878, passed under Lord Lytton, aimed at preventing Indians from possessing firearms without a licence. It was discriminatory because Europeans and Anglo-Indians were largely exempted from its restrictions, and it was strongly criticised by Indian leaders.

- The Vernacular Press Act was also passed in 1878 under Lord Lytton.
- The Indian National Congress later demanded the repeal of the Arms Act.
- Lord Lytton also held the Delhi Durbar of 1877 to proclaim Queen Victoria 'Empress of India'.

---

133 Consider the following statements regarding the Charter Acts passed by the British Parliament and choose the **correct** option:
1. The Charter Act of 1813 completely ended the East India Company's trade monopoly in India, including its exclusive trade in tea and trade with China.
2. The Charter Act of 1833 added a Law Member to the Governor-General's Council, with Lord Macaulay being the first person appointed to this post.

[SSC CGL 15 Oct 2026, Shift-II]

(a) Only 1
(b) Only 2
(c) Both 1 and 2 are correct
(d) Neither 1 nor 2 is correct

ANSWER (b) Only 2

Statement 1 is incorrect: the Charter Act of 1813 ended the Company's monopoly of trade with India but retained its monopoly over trade in tea and trade with China. Statement 2 is correct: the Charter Act of 1833 added a fourth (Law) Member to the Governor-General's Council, and Lord Macaulay was the first Law Member.

- The Charter Act of 1833 made the Governor-General of Bengal the Governor-General of India (Lord William Bentinck was the first).
- The Act of 1833 ended the Company's trade activities altogether and made it a purely administrative body.
- The Charter Act of 1813 set aside an annual sum of one lakh rupees for education in India.

---

134 What happened to the power of Bengal between 1757 and 1765?

[SSC CGL 15 Oct 2026, Shift-III]

(a) It moved gradually from the British to the Nawabs of Bengal.
(b) It moved gradually from the Nawabs of Bengal to the British.
(c) It remained gradually divided between the Nawabs of Bengal and the British.
(d) It moved gradually from the Nawabs of Bengal back to Mughal control.

ANSWER (b) It moved gradually from the Nawabs of Bengal to the British.

Between 1757 and 1765 the power in Bengal passed gradually from the Nawabs of Bengal to the English East India Company. After Plassey (1757) the Company

installed puppet Nawabs, and after Buxar (1764) the Treaty of Allahabad (1765) gave it the Diwani (revenue rights) of Bengal, Bihar and Orissa.

- Mir Jafar (1757) and Mir Qasim (1760) were installed as Nawabs by the Company.
- Robert Clive concluded the Treaty of Allahabad with Shah Alam II and Shuja-ud-Daula in 1765.
- After 1765 Bengal was governed through the 'Dual Government' system (Company: revenue; Nawab: administration).

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135 What happened to Mir Kasim after his final defeat by the East India Company and its forces?

[SSC CGL 15 Oct 2026, Shift-III]

(a) He was restored as the Nawab of Bengal in 1765.
(b) He lived in exile and died near Delhi in 1777.
(c) He was appointed governor of Delhi by Shah Alam II in 1766.
(d) He settled in Calcutta under Company protection in 1764.

ANSWER (b) He lived in exile and died near Delhi in 1777.

After his final defeat at the Battle of Buxar (1764), Mir Qasim fled and lived in exile, and he died in obscurity near Delhi in 1777. He had been made Nawab in 1760 by the Company but later came into conflict with it over the misuse of duty-free trade privileges (dastaks).

- Mir Qasim shifted his capital from Murshidabad to Munger (Monghyr).
- The Battle of Buxar (22 October 1764) was fought between the Company's army under Hector Munro and the combined forces of Mir Qasim, Shuja-ud-Daula and Shah Alam II.
- Mir Jafar was restored as Nawab in 1763 after Mir Qasim's removal.

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136 Which of the following best describes the role of the B.N. Rau Committee (1941) in Indian legal history?

[SSC CGL 23 Oct 2026, Shift-I]

(a) It directly drafted the Uniform Civil Code.
(b) It focused exclusively on Muslim law reforms.
(c) It aimed to codify Hindu law with focus on gender equality.
(d) It rejected all forms of codified personal laws.

ANSWER (c) It aimed to codify Hindu law with focus on gender equality.

The B. N. Rau Committee (Hindu Law Committee, 1941) was set up to examine the codification of Hindu law, and it favoured a uniform, codified Hindu law that improved the legal position of women (for example in inheritance and marriage). Its work led to the Hindu Code Bill, which was later passed in parts in the 1950s.

- The Hindu Marriage Act and the Hindu Succession Act were passed in 1955 and 1956 respectively.
- B. N. Rau was the Constitutional Adviser to the Constituent Assembly.
- Article 44 (Directive Principles) directs the State to secure a Uniform Civil Code for citizens.

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137 Who launched the Champaran campaign in 1917?

[SSC CGL 23 Oct 2026, Shift-III]

(a) Sardar Vallabhai Patel
(b) Mahatma Gandhi
(c) Rabindranath Tagore
(d) Jyotiba Phule

ANSWER (b) Mahatma Gandhi

Mahatma Gandhi launched the Champaran Satyagraha in 1917 in Bihar against the exploitative 'tinkathia' system, under which peasants were forced to grow indigo on a part of their land. He went to Champaran at the invitation of Rajkumar Shukla and it is regarded as his first major movement in India.

- In the tinkathia system, peasants had to cultivate indigo on 3 out of every 20 kathas of land.
- Rajendra Prasad, Brajkishore Prasad and J. B. Kripalani assisted Gandhi in Champaran.
- Gandhi's next movements were the Ahmedabad Mill Strike and the Kheda Satyagraha (1918).

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138 During whose tenure was the Vernacular Press Act, which sought to restrict newspapers published in Indian languages, enacted?

[SSC CGL 24 Oct 2026, Shift-II]

(a) Lord Ripon
(b) Lord Lytton
(c) Lord Curzon
(d) Lord Mayo

ANSWER (b) Lord Lytton

The Vernacular Press Act was enacted in 1878 during the viceroyalty of Lord Lytton to curb the criticism of British policies by Indian-language newspapers. It was

repealed in 1882 by Lord Ripon, who also took steps toward freedom of the press.

- The Act was often called the 'Gagging Act'.
- The Amrita Bazar Patrika turned itself into an English paper overnight to escape the Act.
- Lord Ripon is known for the Local Self-Government Resolution (1882) and the Ilbert Bill controversy (1883).

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139 Under the Dyarchy system introduced by the Government of India Act 1919, provincial subjects were divided into 'Reserved' subjects and which other category?

[SSC CGL 24 Oct 2026, Shift-III]

(a) Federal subjects
(b) Transferred subjects
(c) Concurrent subjects
(d) Residuary subjects

ANSWER (b) Transferred subjects

Under the Dyarchy system introduced by the Government of India Act, 1919 (Montagu–Chelmsford Reforms), provincial subjects were divided into 'Reserved' and 'Transferred' subjects. Reserved subjects (such as law and order, finance, land revenue) were administered by the Governor with his executive council, while Transferred subjects (such as education, health, local self-government) were administered by Indian ministers responsible to the legislature.

- Dyarchy was introduced in the provinces only, not at the Centre.
- The reforms came into effect in 1921.
- Dyarchy was abolished in the provinces by the Government of India Act, 1935, which introduced provincial autonomy.

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140 The Cabinet Mission Plan of 1946, while rejecting an outright separate state of Pakistan, instead proposed which alternative constitutional arrangement?

[SSC CGL 24 Oct 2026, Shift-III]

(a) A loose three-tier federal structure with grouped provinces
(b) Complete Dominion status without any partition
(c) Continuation of separate electorates indefinitely
(d) A unitary state with no provincial powers at all

ANSWER (a) A loose three-tier federal structure with grouped provinces

The Cabinet Mission Plan (May 1946) rejected a fully separate Pakistan and proposed a loose three-tier federal structure: the Union at the Centre (with only defence, foreign affairs and communications), the provinces, and groups of provinces (Groups A, B and C). The Constituent Assembly was to be elected by the provincial legislatures.

- The Cabinet Mission had three members: Pethick-Lawrence, Stafford Cripps and A. V. Alexander.
- Group A had Hindu-majority provinces, while Groups B and C had Muslim-majority areas in the north-west and north-east respectively.
- An Interim Government was formed in September 1946 under Jawaharlal Nehru.

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141 Andhra Mahila Sabha was founded by which of the following Indian freedom fighters to provide education to women?

[SSC CGL 27 Oct 2026, Shift-I]

(a) Rukmini Lakshmipathi
(b) Chityala Ilamma
(c) Baru Alivelamma
(d) Durgabai Deshmukh

ANSWER (d) Durgabai Deshmukh

The Andhra Mahila Sabha was founded in 1937 in Madras by Durgabai Deshmukh to promote women's education and welfare. She was an active freedom fighter who took part in the Salt Satyagraha, later became a member of the Constituent Assembly, and was the first Chairperson of the Central Social Welfare Board.

- Durgabai Deshmukh was married to C. D. Deshmukh, the first Indian Governor of the RBI.
- Rukmini Lakshmipathi was the first woman minister in Madras Presidency (1937).
- Chityala (Chakali) Ilamma is remembered for her revolt against feudal landlords in Telangana.

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142 At which session was the Purna Swaraj resolution formally adopted?

[SSC CGL 27 Oct 2026, Shift-I]

(a) Lahore
(b) Karachi
(c) Lucknow
(d) Surat

ANSWER (a) Lahore

The Purna Swaraj (complete independence) resolution was formally adopted at the Lahore Session of the Indian National Congress in December 1929, held under the presidentship of Jawaharlal Nehru on the banks of the Ravi. 26 January 1930 was fixed as the first Independence Day, which was observed across the country.

- The Karachi Session (1931) under Sardar Patel adopted the resolution on Fundamental Rights and the National Economic Programme.
- The Lucknow Session (1916) saw the Congress–Muslim League pact and the reunion of moderates and extremists.
- The Surat Session (1907) saw the split of the Congress into moderates and extremists.

143 Which Indian social reformer worked for leprosy patients and founded Anandwan?

[SSC CGL 28 Oct 2026, Shift-I]

(a) Baba Amte
(b) Vinoba Bhave
(c) Jayaprakash Narayan
(d) E. V. Ramasamy

ANSWER (a) Baba Amte

Baba Amte (Murlidhar Devidas Amte) worked for the rehabilitation of leprosy patients and founded Anandwan, an ashram and self-reliant community at Warora in Maharashtra, in 1951. He received the Ramon Magsaysay Award (1985) and the Padma Vibhushan (1986) for his social work.

- He also founded Somnath and Hemalkasa projects (the latter for tribal people in Gadchiroli).
- He took part in the Narmada Bachao Andolan, and launched the 'Knit India' march (Bharat Jodo Yatra) in 1985.
- Vinoba Bhave started the Bhoodan Movement in 1951.

144 Which incident prompted Mahatma Gandhi to withdraw the Non-Cooperation Movement?

[SSC CGL 28 Oct 2026, Shift-II]

(a) Jallianwala Bagh
(b) Kakori Case
(c) Chauri Chaura
(d) Bardoli Satyagraha

ANSWER (c) Chauri Chaura

Gandhi withdrew the Non-Cooperation Movement after the Chauri Chaura incident of 5 February 1922 in Gorakhpur district (Uttar Pradesh), in which an angry mob set fire to a police station and 22 policemen were killed. The Congress Working Committee formally suspended the movement at Bardoli on 12 February 1922.

- The Non-Cooperation Movement was launched in August 1920 after the Calcutta Special Session (September 1920) approved it.
- The Kakori Train Action took place in August 1925.
- The Jallianwala Bagh massacre took place on 13 April 1919 in Amritsar.

145 The colonial approach to personal laws in India was primarily based on:

[SSC CGL 28 Oct 2026, Shift-III]

(a) Codification of uniform civil laws for all communities
(b) Complete absence of legal intervention in society
(c) Non-interference in religious personal laws
(d) Abolition of customary practices

ANSWER (c) Non-interference in religious personal laws

The colonial approach to personal laws was primarily one of non-interference in religious personal laws: matters such as marriage, inheritance and adoption were decided by the Hindu and Muslim laws of the communities concerned. The policy began with Warren Hastings' Judicial Plan of 1772 and was reaffirmed by Queen Victoria's Proclamation of 1858, which promised non-interference in religion.

- In contrast, criminal law and the law of contracts were codified for all Indians (for example, the Indian Penal Code, 1860).
- The First Law Commission (1834), under Macaulay, drafted the Indian Penal Code.
- Some social reforms, such as the Widow Remarriage Act (1856), were still enacted through legislation.

146 Which provision of the Regulating Act of 1773 was later found inadequate and led to the passing of the Amending Act of 1781?

[SSC CGL 28 Oct 2026, Shift-III]

(a) Creation of Governor-General's office
(b) Establishment of Supreme Court jurisdiction
(c) Abolition of Company trade
(d) Introduction of local self-government

ANSWER (b) Establishment of Supreme Court jurisdiction

The Regulating Act of 1773 established a Supreme Court at Calcutta, but its jurisdiction was not clearly defined and it came into conflict with the Governor-General's Council and the Company's courts (as in the Cossijurah and Nandakumar cases). This inadequacy led to the Amending Act (Act of Settlement) of 1781, which defined the Court's jurisdiction and exempted the acts of the Governor-General and Council done in their official capacity.

- The Regulating Act made the Governor of Bengal the Governor-General of Bengal (Warren Hastings was the first).
- The Supreme Court at Calcutta (1774) had Sir Elijah Impey as its first Chief Justice.
- Pitt's India Act (1784) set up the Board of Control for the Company's political affairs.

147 Which constitutional proposal recommended a three-tier constitutional structure consisting of the Centre, Provinces and Groups of Provinces?

[SSC CGL 28 Oct 2026, Shift-III]

(a) August Offer
(b) Cripps Mission
(c) Wavell Plan
(d) Cabinet Mission Plan

ANSWER (d) Cabinet Mission Plan

The Cabinet Mission Plan (1946) recommended a three-tier structure of the Union (Centre), the Provinces and Groups of Provinces (Groups A, B and C). The Union was to deal only with defence, foreign affairs and communications, with the remaining powers vested in the provinces.

- The August Offer (1940) was made by Lord Linlithgow and promised dominion status after the war.
- The Cripps Mission (1942) offered dominion status after the Second World War with the right of provinces to opt out.
- The Wavell Plan (1945) was discussed at the Simla Conference.



02
CHAPTER

Art & Culture

Questions with Explanations *95 questions · 53 shifts*

01 Which part of early Gandhara art shows that it was influenced by Greek art styles?

[SSC CGL 30 Sep 2026, Shift-II]

(a) Symbolic representation of Buddha through footprints
(b) Use of terracotta in religious art
(c) Depiction of the Buddha with draped robe and wavy hair
(d) Use of floral capitals and bell-shaped domes

ANSWER (c) Depiction of the Buddha with draped robe and wavy hair

The depiction of the Buddha with a draped robe and wavy hair in Gandhara art shows Greek (Hellenistic) influence. Gandhara sculptors modelled the Buddha on Greek-Roman figures such as Apollo, with realistic anatomy, folded drapery and curly hair.

- Gandhara art is also called Graeco-Buddhist art and flourished under the Kushanas.
- Its sculptures are made mostly of blue-grey schist and stucco.
- The Mathura school, in contrast, was wholly indigenous and used spotted red sandstone.

02 The Teej Festival marks the arrival of which season in India?

[SSC CGL 30 Sep 2026, Shift-II]

(a) Summer
(b) Spring
(c) Monsoon
(d) Winter

ANSWER (c) Monsoon

The Teej festival marks the arrival of the monsoon. It is celebrated mainly by women in Rajasthan, Haryana, Uttar Pradesh and neighbouring regions during the month of Shravana, when the rains bring relief from summer.

- Hariyali Teej is observed in Shravana (July-August), and is dedicated to Goddess Parvati and Lord Shiva.
- Women wear green clothes, apply mehndi and swing on decorated swings.
- Kajari Teej and Hartalika Teej are two other Teej festivals.

03 Consider the following pairs of legendary musicians and their associated Gharanas:
1. Ustad Ali Akbar Khan – Maihar Gharana
2. Pandit Bhimsen Joshi – Kirana Gharana
Which of the pairs given above is/are **correctly** matched?

[SSC CGL 30 Sep 2026, Shift-III]

(a) 1 only
(b) 2 only
(c) Both 1 and 2
(d) Neither 1 nor 2

ANSWER (c) Both 1 and 2

Both pairs are correct. Ustad Ali Akbar Khan, the sarod maestro, belonged to the Maihar Gharana (Madhya Pradesh), and Pandit Bhimsen Joshi, the Hindustani vocalist, belonged to the Kirana Gharana.

- Maihar Gharana was founded by Ustad Allauddin Khan, father and guru of Ali Akbar Khan.
- Kirana Gharana was founded by Abdul Karim Khan and Abdul Wahid Khan.
- Bhimsen Joshi was awarded the Bharat Ratna in 2009.

04 Read the following three statements related to the festivals of Mizoram:
1) Mim Kut is held in August and September, after the maize harvest.
2) Chapchar Kut in spring includes night-long

dancing after jhum cutting.
3) Pawl Kut features drinking of rice beer during the festival.
Which of the above statements is/are **correct**?

[SSC CGL 01 Oct 2026, Shift-I]

(a) Only 1 is correct
(b) Only 2 is correct
(c) Only 3 is correct
(d) 1, 2 and 3 are correct

ANSWER (d) 1, 2 and 3 are correct

All three statements are correct as per the official answer key. Mim Kut is the maize-harvest festival (August-September), Chapchar Kut is the spring festival held after jhum (shifting cultivation) clearing, with dance and song, and Pawl Kut is the harvest festival where rice beer is served.

- Chapchar Kut is the most important festival of Mizoram, celebrated in March.
- Cheraw (bamboo dance) is a well-known dance of Mizoram.
- Mizoram's traditional shifting cultivation is called jhum.

---

05 In the epic "Silappadikaram", which capital city was ultimately destroyed by fire due to Kannagi's curse?

[SSC CGL 01 Oct 2026, Shift-II]

(a) Madurai city
(b) Uraiyur city
(c) Puhar city
(d) Vanji city

ANSWER (a) Madurai city

In the Tamil epic Silappadikaram, Madurai, the Pandya capital, was burnt down by Kannagi's curse after her husband Kovalan was wrongly executed by the Pandya king.

- Silappadikaram was composed by Ilango Adigal.
- Its story begins at Puhar (Kaveripattinam), the Chola port city.
- Manimekalai, by Sittalai Sattanar, is its sequel.

---

06 In which of the following states is the Anthurium Festival celebrated?

[SSC CGL 01 Oct 2026, Shift-III]

(a) Kerala
(b) Mizoram
(c) Sikkim
(d) West Bengal

ANSWER (b) Mizoram

The Anthurium Festival is celebrated in Mizoram, as per the official answer key. The festival is held in Aizawl and showcases the state's anthurium flowers, which are exported.

- Mizoram is one of the major anthurium-growing states of India.
- Other Mizoram festivals include Chapchar Kut, Mim Kut and Pawl Kut.
- Aizawl is the capital of Mizoram.

---

07 Which of the following pairs of traditional folk dance and its associated state is **correctly** matched?

[SSC CGL 01 Oct 2026, Shift-III]

(a) Gendi - Chhattisgarh
(b) Cheraw - Kerala
(c) Hojagiri - Sikkim
(d) Baredi – Nagaland

ANSWER (a) Gendi - Chhattisgarh

Gendi is a folk dance of Chhattisgarh, performed on tall bamboo stilts, so option A is correctly matched.

- Cheraw (bamboo dance) belongs to Mizoram, not Kerala.
- Hojagiri belongs to the Reang community of Tripura, not Sikkim.
- Panthi and Raut Nacha are other folk dances of Chhattisgarh.

---

08 Which of the following terms refers to the primary form of compositions in the Carnatic music tradition?

[SSC CGL 01 Oct 2026, Shift-III]

(a) Bandish
(b) Ghazal
(c) Kriti
(d) Thumri

ANSWER (c) Kriti

Kriti is the primary form of composition in the Carnatic music tradition. It consists of pallavi, anupallavi and charanam, and is set to a raga and tala.

- Bandish is a composition form of Hindustani music.
- Ghazal and Thumri are Hindustani/light-classical forms.
- The Trinity of Carnatic music: Tyagaraja, Muthuswami Dikshitar and Shyama Shastri.

---

09 What was a major architectural purpose of intricate jali work in Indo-Islamic buildings?

[SSC CGL 01 Oct 2026, Shift-III]

(a) To increase structural weight and stability
(b) To display abundant construction materials and wealth
(c) To filter light while providing ventilation and privacy
(d) To determine building height and proportion

ANSWER (c) To filter light while providing ventilation and privacy

Jali work in Indo-Islamic buildings served to filter light while providing ventilation and privacy. The perforated stone screens cut glare and heat, let the breeze pass, and screened women's areas.

- The Sidi Saiyyed Mosque jali in Ahmedabad is world famous.
- Jali screens also appear in Mughal tombs such as Humayun's Tomb and the Taj Mahal.
- Jali is also used in Rajput architecture, e.g. in the Hawa Mahal.

---

10 What is the 'gharana' system in Hindustani music?

[SSC CGL 05 Oct 2026, Shift-I]

(a) A method of composing
(b) A form of raga
(c) A school or tradition of music
(d) A scale system

ANSWER (c) A school or tradition of music

A gharana in Hindustani music is a school or tradition of music, passed from teacher to disciple, with its own distinctive style of presentation. It is usually linked with a region or a family of musicians.

- Gwalior is regarded as the oldest khayal gharana.
- Kirana, Agra, Jaipur-Atrauli and Patiala are other well-known vocal gharanas.
- Maihar and Senia are instrumental gharanas.

---

11 By which of the following buildings is the Gothic Revival architecture introduced during British rule in India best represented ?

[SSC CGL 05 Oct 2026, Shift-II]

(a) Rashtrapati Bhavan, New Delhi
(b) Chhatrapati Shivaji Maharaj Terminus (formerly Victoria Terminus), Mumbai
(c) Gateway of India, Mumbai
(d) Victoria Memorial, Kolkata

ANSWER (b) Chhatrapati Shivaji Maharaj Terminus (formerly Victoria ...

The Chhatrapati Shivaji Maharaj Terminus (formerly Victoria Terminus), Mumbai, is the best example of Gothic Revival architecture introduced during British rule in India. It was designed by F. W. Stevens and completed in 1888, and combines Victorian Gothic Revival with Indian elements.

- CSMT was inscribed as a UNESCO World Heritage Site in 2004.
- The Gateway of India is built in the Indo-Saracenic style by George Wittet.
- Rashtrapati Bhavan (Edwin Lutyens) is in a classical style with Indian elements; Victoria Memorial (Kolkata) is in Indo-Saracenic style with Italian Renaissance influence.

---

12 Maand, a traditional raga-turned-folk form associated with royal courts, belongs to which Indian state?

[SSC CGL 05 Oct 2026, Shift-III]

(a) Rajasthan
(b) Uttar Pradesh
(c) Gujarat
(d) Madhya Pradesh

ANSWER (a) Rajasthan

Maand (Mand) is a traditional raga-turned-folk form of Rajasthan, associated with the royal courts of the region. It is a light classical and folk style.

- Maand is sung by court musicians and by Rajasthani folk communities.
- "Kesariya Balam Padharo Mhare Desh" is the best-known song in the Maand style.
- Manganiyars and Langas are hereditary folk musicians of Rajasthan.

---

13 Which of the following statements about the tribal dance form 'Dhimsa' is/are correct?
1. Dhimsa originated in Koraput district of Odisha.
2. It reflects daily tribal activities such as farming and collecting leaves.
3. It is now primarily performed in urban centres of Tamil Nadu.

[SSC CGL 05 Oct 2026, Shift-III]

(a) 1 and 2 only
(b) 1,2 and 3
(c) 2 and 3 only
(d) 1 and 3 only

ANSWER (a) 1 and 2 only

Statements 1 and 2 are correct. Dhimsa is a tribal dance associated with the Koraput region of Odisha (also performed in Andhra Pradesh), and it reflects the daily life of the tribals, including farming and collecting forest produce. Statement 3 is wrong, because it is not a dance of urban Tamil Nadu.

- Dhimsa is performed by tribes such as Porja, Kandha and Valmiki.
- It is danced to the beat of drums such as the dhol and tamak and the sound of the mohuri.
- Koraput is a tribal district in southern Odisha.

---

14 Which of the following pairs is correctly matched regarding the instrument and its region of origin?
1. Ravanahatha - Rajasthan
2. Pung - Manipur
3. Taus - Punjab
4. Chenda - Assam

[SSC CGL 05 Oct 2026, Shift-III]

(a) 1 and 3 only
(b) 2 and 4 only
(c) 1, 2 and 3 only
(d) 1,2,3 and 4

ANSWER (c) 1, 2 and 3 only

Pairs 1, 2 and 3 are correct. The Ravanahatha is a bowed instrument of Rajasthan, the Pung (Manipuri drum) is from Manipur, and the Taus is a bowed string instrument of Punjab. Pair 4 is wrong because the Chenda is a cylindrical drum of Kerala, not Assam.

- Pung is used in Manipuri Sankirtana and the Pung Cholom drum dance.
- Taus (Mayuri) is a peacock-shaped bowed string instrument.
- Chenda is used in Kathakali and in temple festivals of Kerala.

---

15 Which of the following styles is seen in Bombay's Chhatrapati Shivaji Maharaj Terminus (CSMT) Railway Station?

[SSC CGL 05 Oct 2026, Shift-III]

(a) Indo-Islamic
(b) Mughal
(c) Gothic Revival
(d) Buddhist

ANSWER (c) Gothic Revival

The Chhatrapati Shivaji Maharaj Terminus (formerly Victoria Terminus), Mumbai, is built in the Gothic Revival style. It was designed by F. W. Stevens and completed in 1888, and combines Victorian Gothic Revival with Indian elements.

- CSMT was inscribed as a UNESCO World Heritage Site in 2004.
- The Gateway of India is built in the Indo-Saracenic style by George Wittet.
- Rashtrapati Bhavan (Edwin Lutyens) is in a classical style with Indian elements; Victoria Memorial (Kolkata) is in Indo-Saracenic style with Italian Renaissance influence.

---

16 Consider the following pairs of folk music traditions and their corresponding states:
1. Malushahi – Uttarakhand
2. Manganiyar – Rajasthan
Which of the pairs given above is/are **correctly** matched?

[SSC CGL 06 Oct 2026, Shift-III]

(a) 1 only
(b) 2 only
(c) Both 1 and 2
(d) Neither 1 nor 2

ANSWER (c) Both 1 and 2

Both pairs are correct. Malushahi is a traditional ballad (folk-music tradition) of Uttarakhand, particularly Kumaon, and the Manganiyars are hereditary folk musicians of the Thar desert of Rajasthan.

- Malushahi tells the love story of Raja Malu and Rajuli.
- Manganiyar music is performed with instruments like the kamaicha and khartal.
- Langa musicians are another Rajasthani folk community.

---

17 What is the name of the annual water festival held at the Elankavu Bhagavathy Temple in Kerala?

[SSC CGL 07 Oct 2026, Shift-I]

(a) Thrissur Pooram
(b) Arattu Mahotsavam
(c) Attuvela Mahotsavam
(d) Navaratri Mandapam

ANSWER (c) Attuvela Mahotsavam

As per the official answer key, the annual water festival held at the Elankavu Bhagavathy Temple in Kerala is the Attuvela Mahotsavam.

- Thrissur Pooram is a temple festival of Thrissur with decorated elephants, held at the Vadakkunnathan Temple.
- Arattu is the ritual bath of a temple deity.
- Kerala is known for the Nehru Trophy Boat Race at Alappuzha.

---

18 Consider the following statements regarding Indo-Islamic architecture:
1. It is conventionally divided into the Imperial, Provincial, Mughal, and Deccani styles.
2. The Provincial style includes the architectural traditions of Gujarat, Bengal, and Jaunpur.
Which of the statements given above is/are **correct**?

[SSC CGL 07 Oct 2026, Shift-I]

(a) 1 only (b) 2 only
(c) Both 1 and 2 (d) Neither 1 nor 2

ANSWER (c) Both 1 and 2

Both statements are correct. Indo-Islamic architecture is conventionally classified into the Imperial style (Delhi Sultanate), the Provincial styles, the Mughal style and the Deccani style, and the Provincial style includes the regional traditions of Gujarat, Bengal, Jaunpur and also Malwa and Kashmir.

- Qutb Minar and Alai Darwaza belong to the Imperial (Delhi Sultanate) style.
- Atala Masjid at Jaunpur is a famous Provincial example.
- Gol Gumbaz at Bijapur is a Deccani example.

---

19 **Fill in the blanks:**
The Mando song, known for its emotional depth and cultural fusion, originated in Goa and typically deals with themes such as love, tragedy, and _____.

[SSC CGL 07 Oct 2026, Shift-II]

(a) patriotism (b) colonial resistance
(c) wedding customs (d) mythology

ANSWER (b) colonial resistance

Mando is a Goan song-and-dance form whose themes are love, tragedy and resistance to Portuguese colonial rule, so 'colonial resistance' completes the sentence.

- Mando is associated mainly with the Goan Catholic community and is followed by a dance called Dulpod.
- Other Goan folk forms include Fugdi, Dhalo and Dekhni.

---

20 In which of the following states is the Sonam Lhochar festival primarily celebrated?

[SSC CGL 07 Oct 2026, Shift-III]

(a) Sikkim (b) Kerala
(c) Meghalaya (d) Mizoram

ANSWER (a) Sikkim

Sonam Lhochar (Lhosar) is the New Year festival of the Tamang community and is celebrated primarily in Sikkim.

- It falls on the first day of the Magh month, usually in January-February.
- Other Sikkim festivals include Losoong, Saga Dawa and Maghe Sankranti.

---

21 Which two emotions are primarily expressed through the “Chawnglaizawn” folk dance?

[SSC CGL 07 Oct 2026, Shift-III]

(a) Anger and Fear (b) Mourning and Joy
(c) Love and Devotion (d) Courage and Pride

ANSWER (b) Mourning and Joy

Chawnglaizawn, a folk dance of Mizoram linked with the Pawi (Lai) community, expresses both grief (mourning) and joy (celebration).

- Traditionally it was performed in mourning, and it is also danced at festivals and to celebrate a successful hunt.
- Cheraw (bamboo dance) is the best-known dance of Mizoram.

---

22 Which of the following taals consists of two vibhags with a total of six matras?

[SSC CGL 07 Oct 2026, Shift-III]

(a) Dadra Taal (b) Teen Taal
(c) Keharva Taal (d) Rupaka Taal

ANSWER (a) Dadra Taal

Dadra Taal has 6 matras divided into 2 vibhags of 3 matras each (3+3).

- Teen Taal has 16 matras in 4 vibhags; Keherwa has 8 matras in 2 vibhags (4+4).
- Rupak Taal has 7 matras divided 3+2+2.

---

23 What was the purpose of using the foreshortening technique for inscriptions in Indo-Islamic architecture?

[SSC CGL 07 Oct 2026, Shift-III]

(a) To hide structural flaws in the stone of the building
(b) To make elevated inscriptions appear closer to the viewer
(c) To change the visible colour of the walls
(d) To prevent sunlight from entering the building

ANSWER (b) To make elevated inscriptions appear closer to the viewer

Foreshortening was used to make inscriptions placed high on a building look nearer, and hence readable, to a viewer standing below.

- Calligraphy (Kufic, Naskh, Thuluth) was a chief decoration in Indo-Islamic buildings, which avoid human figures.
- Arabesque and geometric patterns were the other major decorative elements.

---

24 Read the following three statements about the Gudi Padwa festival and select the **correct** option:
1.) Gudi Padwa marks the Marathi New Year on Vaishakh first day.
2.) Gudi, a symbol of victory, is made with bamboo, neem, and sugar garlands.
3.) Traditions include eating neem with Pan and Puran Poli.

[SSC CGL 08 Oct 2026, Shift-II]

(a) Only 1
(b) Only 2
(c) Only 3
(d) 1, 2 and 3 all

ANSWER (b) Only 2

Statement 2 is the one accepted as correct: the Gudi is a victory symbol made with a bamboo staff, cloth, neem and mango leaves and a garland of sugar crystals.

- Statement 1 is wrong because Gudi Padwa falls on Chaitra Shukla Pratipada (first day of Chaitra), not Vaishakh.
- Neem leaves are eaten with jaggery, and Puran Poli is the festive dish; the mention of 'Pan' makes statement 3 unreliable.

---

25 How is the Sun Temple at Modhera traditionally oriented to incorporate solar alignment?

[SSC CGL 08 Oct 2026, Shift-II]

(a) West-facing, to catch the sunset during summer solstices
(b) South-facing, to align with mid-day winter sun angles
(c) North-facing, to completely avoid direct harsh sunlight
(d) East-facing, to let equinox sunrays hit the central shrine

ANSWER (d) East-facing, to let equinox sunrays hit the central shrine

The Sun Temple at Modhera is east-facing, so that the sun's rays at the equinox fall on the central shrine.

- It was built in 1026-27 CE under the Solanki ruler Bhima I, in the Maru-Gurjara style, at Modhera in Mehsana district, Gujarat.
- The Surya Kund (Ramkund), a stepped tank, lies in front of the temple.

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26 In which Indian musical tradition is the "Mridangam" a significant percussion instrument?

[SSC CGL 08 Oct 2026, Shift-III]

(a) Sufi
(b) Tala
(c) Tabla
(d) Carnatic Classical

ANSWER (d) Carnatic Classical

The Mridangam, a double-headed barrel drum, is the principal percussion instrument of Carnatic classical music.

- Its Hindustani counterpart is the Pakhawaj, and the Tabla is used mainly in Hindustani music.

- Ghatam, Kanjira and Morsing are other Carnatic percussion instruments.

27 Which of the following pairs is **incorrectly** matched?

[SSC CGL 08 Oct 2026, Shift-III]

(a) Kumar Gandharva – Guitar
(b) Dwaram Venkataswamy Naidu – Violin
(c) Vikku Vinayakram – Ghatam
(d) Pandit Nikhil Jyoti Ghosh – Tabla

ANSWER (a) Kumar Gandharva – Guitar

Kumar Gandharva was a Hindustani classical vocalist, not a guitarist, so the pair in option A is incorrectly matched.

- Dwaram Venkataswamy Naidu was a violin maestro, Vikku Vinayakram a ghatam maestro and Pt. Nikhil Ghosh a tabla maestro.
- Kumar Gandharva is known for his Nirguni bhajans and folk-based khayal singing.

28 **Which of the following pairs is/are correct :**
1. Meenakshi Sundareswarar Temple- Dravidian
2. Dilwara Jain Temples - Jain (Maru-Gurjara / Solanki Nagara)
3. Gol Gumbaz -Indo-Islamic / Deccan Sultanate

[SSC CGL 08 Oct 2026, Shift-III]

(a) Only 1 and 2
(b) Only 2 and 3
(c) 1, 2 and 3
(d) Only 1

ANSWER (c) 1, 2 and 3

All three pairs are correct: Meenakshi Sundareswarar (Madurai) is Dravidian, the Dilwara temples (Mount Abu) are Jain temples in the Maru-Gurjara style, and Gol Gumbaz (Bijapur) is a Deccan Indo-Islamic monument.

- Gol Gumbaz is the tomb of Muhammad Adil Shah of the Adil Shahi dynasty and has one of the largest domes in the world.
- The Dilwara temples are famous for their white marble carving.

29 UNESCO has recognized which of the following as intangible cultural heritage from India?

[SSC CGL 08 Oct 2026, Shift-III]

(a) Bollywood film songs
(b) Baul songs and Vedic chanting
(c) Punjabi pop music
(d) Ghazals by contemporary artists

ANSWER (b) Baul songs and Vedic chanting

UNESCO inscribed both the Baul songs of Bengal and Vedic chanting on its list of Intangible Cultural Heritage of Humanity.

- Other Indian entries include Kutiyattam, Ramlila, Yoga, Kumbh Mela, Durga Puja in Kolkata and Garba of Gujarat.
- Film songs, pop music and contemporary ghazals are not on the list.

30 With which religion are Gandhara and Mathura schools of art primarily associated?

[SSC CGL 09 Oct 2026, Shift-I]

(a) Sikhism
(b) Buddhism
(c) Christianity
(d) Jainism

ANSWER (b) Buddhism

The Gandhara and Mathura schools of art developed mainly around Buddhist themes, producing the first images of the Buddha, during the Kushan period.

- Gandhara art shows Greco-Roman influence and used blue-grey schist; Mathura art is indigenous and used spotted red sandstone.
- Mathura also produced Jain and Hindu images.

31 Consider the following statements regarding the Durga Temple at Aihole:
1.The temple features a distinct apsidal plan.
2.The design shows significant influence from Buddhist Chaitya architecture.
Which of the statements given above is/are **correct**?

[SSC CGL 09 Oct 2026, Shift-I]

(a) 1 only
(b) 2 only
(c) Both 1 and 2
(d) Neither 1 nor 2

ANSWER (c) Both 1 and 2

Both statements are correct: the Durga Temple at Aihole has an apsidal (semicircular rear) plan, a form derived from Buddhist Chaitya halls.

- It is a Chalukyan temple of the 7th-8th century, with a pillared ambulatory around the sanctum.

- Aihole is called the cradle of Indian temple architecture.

32 Which Indian state is known for its traditional martial art, Kalaripayattu?

[SSC CGL 09 Oct 2026, Shift-II]

(a) Maharashtra (b) Kerala
(c) West Bengal (d) Andhra Pradesh

ANSWER (b) Kerala

Kalaripayattu is the traditional martial art of Kerala and is considered one of the oldest martial arts in the world.

- Thang-Ta belongs to Manipur, Gatka to Punjab and Silambam to Tamil Nadu.
- Kalaripayattu combines strikes, kicks, weapons and healing practices.

33 **Fill in the blanks:**
The Mizo wind instrument Rawchhem, which resembles the Scottish bagpipe, produces different musical notes when the musician controls the _____.

[SSC CGL 09 Oct 2026, Shift-II]

(a) bamboo reeds (b) leather valves
(c) brass strings (d) finger holes

ANSWER (d) finger holes

The Rawchhem is a Mizo wind instrument resembling the Scottish bagpipe; the player produces different notes by controlling its finger holes.

- It is built from bamboo pipes with a wind-bag.
- Khuang (drum) and Tawtawrawt (flute) are other traditional Mizo instruments.

34 Why do tribal communities in Chhattisgarh traditionally perform the 'Suwa' (Parrot) dance?

[SSC CGL 09 Oct 2026, Shift-III]

(a) To please the local rain gods
(b) To honor the spirits of ancestors
(c) To please the Goddess of Wealth
(d) To celebrate victory after a tribal war

ANSWER (c) To please the Goddess of Wealth

SSC Key (c) · Disputed question

As per the official key, the Suwa dance is performed to please the Goddess of Wealth. Suwa is a women's dance of Chhattisgarh performed in the Diwali–harvest season, in which women dance in a circle around a bamboo basket holding a parrot figure. The question is loosely framed: the dance is linked with the Gaura-Gauri (Shiva-Parvati) ritual, and the 'Goddess of Wealth' link comes only through Diwali.

- Suwa is also called the Parrot dance, and the parrot is seen as a messenger carrying the dancers' feelings.
- Panthi is a dance of the Satnami community of Chhattisgarh.
- Pandavani, a ballad form from Chhattisgarh, was made famous by Teejan Bai.

35 Which of the following traditional folk singing styles originates from Jammu and Kashmir?

[SSC CGL 09 Oct 2026, Shift-III]

(a) Chhakri (b) Pandavani
(c) Maand (d) Powada

ANSWER (a) Chhakri

Chhakri is the traditional folk singing style of Kashmir, performed in a group with accompaniment of instruments such as the rubab, harmonium, sarangi, nout (earthen pot) and tumbaknaer. It is sung in the form of a chorus with a lead singer, often on festive and social occasions.

- Pandavani is a ballad form of Chhattisgarh.
- Maand is a folk song style of Rajasthan.
- Powada is a heroic ballad form of Maharashtra, associated with the Shivaji era.

36 Consider the following statements regarding Indo-Islamic architecture:
1. Rubble masonry walls were commonly used in the construction of these buildings.
2. Mandu is a prominent example of Provincial Style architecture.
Which of the statements given above is/are **correct**?

[SSC CGL 09 Oct 2026, Shift-III]

(a) 1 only (b) 2 only
(c) Both 1 and 2 (d) Neither 1 nor 2

ANSWER (c) Both 1 and 2

Both statements are correct: rubble masonry with lime mortar was widely used in Indo-Islamic buildings, and

Mandu (Malwa) is a leading example of the Provincial style.

- Other Provincial styles developed at Jaunpur, Gujarat, Bengal, Kashmir and in the Deccan.
- Mandu is known for Jahaz Mahal, Hindola Mahal and Hoshang Shah's tomb.

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37 In which part of a Hindu temple is the deity placed?

[SSC CGL 10 Oct 2026, Shift-II]

(a) Shikhara
(b) Mandapa
(c) Garbhagriha
(d) Gopuram

ANSWER (c) Garbhagriha

The deity is placed in the Garbhagriha (sanctum sanctorum), the innermost chamber of a Hindu temple.

- The Mandapa is the pillared hall in front, and the Shikhara is the tower above the sanctum in the Nagara style.
- The Gopuram is the gateway tower of Dravida temples.

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38 Consider the following statements regarding Indian temple architecture:
1. Panchayatana temples feature one main central shrine surrounded by four subsidiary shrines.
2. The Dashavatara Temple at Deogarh is an example of the Panchayatana style of architecture.
Which of the statements given above is/are **correct**?

[SSC CGL 10 Oct 2026, Shift-II]

(a) 1 only
(b) 2 only
(c) Both 1 and 2
(d) Neither 1 nor 2

ANSWER (c) Both 1 and 2

Both statements are correct: a Panchayatana temple has a main shrine surrounded by four subsidiary shrines, and the Dashavatara Temple at Deogarh is an early example.

- The Dashavatara Temple is a Gupta-period Vishnu temple at Deogarh in Lalitpur district, Uttar Pradesh, on the Betwa river.
- Its panels depict scenes such as Gajendra Moksha and Sheshashayi Vishnu.

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39 Consider the following statements:
Statement 1: Annapurna Devi was a legendary Hindustani classical Surbahar virtuoso.
Statement 2: She was a renowned exponent of the Maihar gharana.
Which of the statements given above is/are **correct**?

[SSC CGL 10 Oct 2026, Shift-III]

(a) Only Statement 1
(b) Only Statement 2
(c) Both Statement 1 and Statement 2
(d) Neither Statement 1 nor Statement 2

ANSWER (c) Both Statement 1 and Statement 2

Both statements are correct: Annapurna Devi was a celebrated surbahar (bass sitar) player of the Maihar gharana.

- She was the daughter and disciple of Ustad Allauddin Khan, founder of the Maihar gharana.
- She was awarded the Padma Bhushan in 1977.

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40 Which traditional Naga folk song is specifically known as a war song, narrating themes of bravery and battle?

[SSC CGL 12 Oct 2026, Shift-I]

(a) Neuleu
(b) Heliamleu
(c) Jemji
(d) Tati

ANSWER (b) Heliamleu

Heliamleu is the Naga folk song known as a war song, narrating themes of bravery and battle.

- Naga folk songs are often sung in groups and are linked with festivals, farming and warfare.
- Nagaland's best-known festival is the Hornbill Festival, held in December.

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41 The earliest Indian literature is best described as which of the following?

[SSC CGL 12 Oct 2026, Shift-I]

(a) Written
(b) Printed
(c) Oral
(d) Digital

ANSWER (c) Oral

The earliest Indian literature, such as the Vedas, was oral: it was memorised and passed from teacher to student, which is why the Vedas are called Shruti ('that which is heard').

- Writing became common much later, and printing arrived with the Europeans.

- The Vedas were later written on materials such as birch bark and palm leaf.

42 The architectural style combining Islamic arches with Hindu motifs is best exemplified by:

[SSC CGL 12 Oct 2026, Shift-II]

(a) Quwwat-ul-Islam Mosque
(b) Taj Mahal
(c) Char Minar
(d) Gol Gumbaz

ANSWER (a) Quwwat-ul-Islam Mosque

The Quwwat-ul-Islam Mosque at Mehrauli, Delhi, built from 1193 under Qutb-ud-din Aibak, combines Islamic arches with Hindu carved motifs and reused temple pillars.

- It is the earliest surviving mosque of the Delhi Sultanate and stands in the Qutb complex, where the Qutb Minar is also located.
- The Taj Mahal is Mughal, Charminar is of the Qutb Shahi dynasty (Hyderabad) and Gol Gumbaz is at Bijapur.

43 With which ancient temple is the Deo Surya Mandir Mela associated ?

[SSC CGL 12 Oct 2026, Shift-II]

(a) Vishnupad Temple
(b) Mahavir Mandir
(c) Deo Sun Temple
(d) Mundeshwari Temple

ANSWER (c) Deo Sun Temple

The Deo Surya Mandir Mela is associated with the ancient Deo Sun Temple in Deo, Aurangabad district, Bihar, where a large fair is held during Chhath.

- The Deo Sun Temple is unusual because it faces west, unlike most Sun temples.
- Vishnupad Temple is in Gaya, and Mundeshwari Temple in Kaimur is among the oldest surviving temples.

44 In a typical Hindu temple layout, where is the Vahana of the presiding deity placed?

[SSC CGL 12 Oct 2026, Shift-II]

(a) On top of the Shikhara spire
(b) Directly inside the Garbhagriha room
(c) Just before the Sanctum Sanctorum
(d) Outside the main entrance gate

ANSWER (c) Just before the Sanctum Sanctorum

In a typical Hindu temple the vahana of the presiding deity is placed just before the sanctum sanctorum, facing the deity.

- Examples are Nandi in front of a Shiva shrine and Garuda in front of a Vishnu shrine.
- The vahana is usually placed in the mandapa or on an axis in front of the garbhagriha.

45 The Yemshe Festival is a major traditional festival associated with which of the following tribes?

[SSC CGL 12 Oct 2026, Shift-III]

(a) Ao tribe
(b) Angami tribe
(c) Lotha tribe
(d) Pochuri tribe

ANSWER (d) Pochuri tribe

The Yemshe Festival is a major traditional festival of the Pochury tribe of Nagaland, who live mainly in Phek district.

- It is a post-harvest festival held in October.
- Ao, Angami and Lotha are other Naga tribes, with festivals such as Moatsu, Sekrenyi and Tokhu Emong.

46 Identify the **correct** match between the traditional folk dance and its associated state:

[SSC CGL 12 Oct 2026, Shift-III]

(a) Matki - Madhya Pradesh
(b) Pandavani - Uttar Pradesh
(c) Chhai Lam - Nagaland
(d) Karakattam - Kerala

ANSWER (a) Matki - Madhya Pradesh

Matki is a folk dance of the Malwa region of Madhya Pradesh, in which women dance balancing earthen pots.

- Pandavani is a Chhattisgarh performance on the Mahabharata; Chhai Lam is of Mizoram and Karakattam of Tamil Nadu.
- Teejan Bai is the best-known Pandavani exponent.

47 Which of the following traditional folk songs is native to Haryana?

[SSC CGL 12 Oct 2026, Shift-III]

(a) Jakari (b) Povada
(c) Lavani (d) Garba

ANSWER (a) Jakari

Jakari is a traditional folk song form of Haryana.

- Povada and Lavani belong to Maharashtra, and Garba to Gujarat.
- Povada is a ballad form praising heroes such as Shivaji.

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48 Consider the following statements regarding the Dravida style of temple architecture:
1. Dravida temples are typically enclosed within a compound wall.
2. The main entrance gateway to the temple complex is known as a Gopuram.
Which of the statements given above is/are **correct**?

[SSC CGL 13 Oct 2026, Shift-II]

(a) 1 only (b) 2 only
(c) Both 1 and 2 (d) Neither 1 nor 2

ANSWER (c) Both 1 and 2

Both statements are correct: Dravida temples are enclosed within a compound wall, and the monumental entrance gateway is called a Gopuram.

- The tower over the sanctum is called the Vimana.
- Pallava, Chola, Pandya and Vijayanagara rulers developed this style.

---

49 Consider the following pairs of folk music traditions/ballads and their corresponding states:
1. Jammukula – Manipur
2. Baans Geet – Chattisgarh
Which of the pairs given above is/are **correctly** matched?

[SSC CGL 13 Oct 2026, Shift-III]

(a) 1 only (b) 2 only
(c) Both 1 and 2 (d) Neither 1 nor 2

ANSWER (b) 2 only

Only pair 2 is correct: Baans Geet (Bans Geet) is a folk ballad tradition of Chhattisgarh, sung by the Yadav (Raut) community with the bamboo flute. Pair 1 is wrong because Jammukula (Jamukula Katha) is a Telugu folk narrative tradition, not a Manipuri one.

- Manipur's well-known ballad tradition is Khongjom Parba.
- Pandavani and Panthi songs are also from Chhattisgarh.
- Folk ballads preserve oral history and local legends.

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50 Which festival is celebrated in the state of Mizoram?

[SSC CGL 14 Oct 2026, Shift-I]

(a) Sonam Lochar (b) Saga Dawa
(c) Hlukhla Kut (d) Ambubachi

ANSWER (c) Hlukhla Kut

Hlukhla Kut (Hlukhla festival) is a festival of Mizoram, as listed on the official Lawngtlai district website.

- Sonam Lochar and Saga Dawa are festivals of Sikkim, and Ambubachi is held at the Kamakhya Temple in Assam.
- Chapchar Kut, Mim Kut and Pawl Kut are other Mizo 'Kut' (festivals).

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51 Which of the following pairs of festival and its corresponding state is **correctly** matched?

[SSC CGL 14 Oct 2026, Shift-I]

(a) Padayani Festival – Kerala
(b) Pooram Festival – Goa
(c) Sonam Lochar – Manipur
(d) Hornbill Festival – Meghalaya

ANSWER (a) Padayani Festival – Kerala

Padayani is a ritual folk art and festival of the Bhagavati temples of central Kerala, so Padayani – Kerala is the correct pair.

- Pooram (Thrissur Pooram) is also a Kerala festival; Sonam Lochar belongs to Sikkim.
- The Hornbill Festival is held in Nagaland.

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52 With reference to the Sonam Lochar festival, consider the following statements:
Statement 1: It is celebrated by the Tamang community.
Statement 2: It generally occurs during the months of January and February.

Which of the statements given above is/are **correct**?

[SSC CGL 14 Oct 2026, Shift-I]

(a) Only Statement 1
(b) Only Statement 2
(c) Both Statement 1 and Statement 2
(d) Neither Statement 1 nor Statement 2

ANSWER (c) Both Statement 1 and Statement 2

Both statements are correct: Sonam Lochar is the New Year festival of the Tamang community and generally falls in January-February.

- It is celebrated mainly in Sikkim, and also in Darjeeling hills and Nepal.
- Losoong, the Sikkimese new year of the Bhutia community, falls in December.

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53 Which among the following is NOT a feature of a stupa?

[SSC CGL 14 Oct 2026, Shift-II]

(a) Harmika
(b) Artha Mandapa
(c) Pradakshina Patha
(d) Torana

ANSWER (b) Artha Mandapa

Artha Mandapa is a part of a Hindu temple, not of a stupa.

- A stupa has the Anda (dome), Harmika, Chhatra, Medhi, Vedika, Pradakshina Patha and Toranas (gateways).
- The Great Stupa at Sanchi is the best-known example.

---

54 Which musical form from the Dhrupad tradition involves a slow improvisational introduction with emphasis on the 'alap,' followed by a rhythmic section with a fixed composition?

[SSC CGL 14 Oct 2026, Shift-II]

(a) Thumri
(b) Khyal
(c) Dhrupad
(d) Tappa

ANSWER (c) Dhrupad

Dhrupad opens with a slow, unmetred alap and then moves to a rhythmic section with a fixed composition (bandish), accompanied by the pakhawaj.

- Dhrupad is among the oldest forms of Hindustani vocal music and was patronised by Raja Man Singh Tomar of Gwalior.
- Khyal, Thumri and Tappa are other vocal forms; the Dagar family is a leading Dhrupad lineage.

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55 The Pawl Kut festival is a major traditional festival celebrated in which of the following states?

[SSC CGL 14 Oct 2026, Shift-III]

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

ANSWER (c) Mizoram

Pawl Kut is a major traditional post-harvest festival of Mizoram.

- Chapchar Kut is the spring festival and Mim Kut the festival in memory of the dead.
- Pawl Kut is a time of feasting and thanksgiving after harvest.

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56 Which of the following is a **correctly** matched pair of a traditional folk dance with its corresponding state?

[SSC CGL 14 Oct 2026, Shift-III]

(a) Khamba Thoibi - Manipur
(b) Bhortal Nritya - Meghalaya
(c) Pung Cholom - Mizoram
(d) Chang Lo - Tripura

ANSWER (a) Khamba Thoibi - Manipur

Khamba Thoibi is a classical dance-drama of Manipur, based on the love story of Khamba and Thoibi, performed in Lai Haraoba.

- Bhortal Nritya belongs to Assam and Pung Cholom (drum dance) to Manipur.
- Manipuri dance is one of the eight classical dance forms of India.

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57 Bhatiali is a traditional music genre associated with which Indian state?

[SSC CGL 14 Oct 2026, Shift-III]

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

ANSWER (d) West Bengal

Bhatiali is a traditional folk music genre of West Bengal (and Bangladesh), sung by boatmen and fishermen.

- The word 'bhati' refers to the ebb tide, when boatmen drift downstream.

- Baul and Bhawaiya are other Bengali folk music forms.

58 Consider the following statements regarding Indian temple architecture:
1. Nagara-style temples usually have a curvilinear Shikhara.
2. The Garbhagriha always lies directly below the tallest tower.
Which of the statements given above is/are **correct**?

[SSC CGL 14 Oct 2026, Shift-III]

(a) 1 only
(b) 2 only
(c) Both 1 and 2
(d) Neither 1 nor 2

ANSWER (c) Both 1 and 2

SSC Key (c) · Disputed question

As per the official key, both statements are taken as correct. Statement 1 is correct: Nagara-style temples of North India typically have a curvilinear shikhara over the garbhagriha. Statement 2 is weak because of the word 'always': in later Dravida temples the gopurams at the gateways are taller than the vimana over the garbhagriha.

- Dravida temples have a pyramidal vimana and large gateway gopurams.
- Vesara is a hybrid of Nagara and Dravida styles, seen in the Deccan.
- The garbhagriha is the innermost sanctum housing the main deity.

59 Which tribe celebrates the Nagoba Jatara festival in Telangana?

[SSC CGL 15 Oct 2026, Shift-I]

(a) Gond
(b) Lambadi
(c) Banjara
(d) Koya

ANSWER (a) Gond

The Nagoba Jatara is celebrated by the Gond tribe (Mesram clan) in Telangana, in honour of the serpent deity Nagoba, at Keslapur in Adilabad district.

- It is held around December-January.
- The Medaram (Sammakka-Saralamma) Jatara of the Koya tribe is the largest tribal fair in Telangana.

60 Which group of monuments at Mamallapuram was carved from individual masses of rock and is an example of monolithic architecture?

[SSC CGL 15 Oct 2026, Shift-I]

(a) Shore Temple
(b) Pancha Rathas
(c) Brihadishvara Temple
(d) Sun Temple at Konark

ANSWER (b) Pancha Rathas

The Pancha Rathas at Mamallapuram are monolithic temples, each carved out of a single mass of rock, built under the Pallava ruler Narasimhavarman I (Mamalla).

- They are named after the Pandavas and Draupadi.
- The Shore Temple is a structural temple built of stone blocks.

61 The Chumpha Festival is celebrated by which of the following communities?

[SSC CGL 15 Oct 2026, Shift-II]

(a) Tangkhul Nagas
(b) Lepcha Tribe
(c) Angami Nagas
(d) Zeliang Nagas

ANSWER (a) Tangkhul Nagas

The Chumpha Festival is celebrated by the Tangkhul Nagas of Ukhrul district, Manipur.

- It is a winter festival associated with the harvest season.
- Lepcha is a tribe of Sikkim, while Angami and Zeliang are Naga communities of Nagaland.

62 Which of the following pairs (Festival – State/Union Territory) is **correctly** matched?

[SSC CGL 15 Oct 2026, Shift-II]

(a) Pooram Festival – Kerala
(b) Oottu Thirunal – Goa
(c) Matho Nagrang – Andhra Pradesh
(d) Dosmoche Festival – Himachal Pradesh

ANSWER (a) Pooram Festival – Kerala

Pooram (such as the Thrissur Pooram) is a major temple festival of Kerala.

- Matho Nagrang and Dosmoche are festivals of Ladakh.

- Thrissur Pooram was started by Sakthan Thampuran, ruler of Cochin.

63 Which of the following statements is/are **correct** about the Behdienkhlam Festival?
Statement 1: This festival is traditionally celebrated in the state of Meghalaya.
Statement 2: It is celebrated annually in July after the sowing period.

[SSC CGL 15 Oct 2026, Shift-II]

(a) Only Statement 1
(b) Only Statement 2
(c) Both Statement 1 and Statement 2
(d) Neither Statement 1 nor Statement 2

ANSWER (c) Both Statement 1 and Statement 2

Both statements are correct: Behdienkhlam is the festival of the Pnar (Jaintia) people of Meghalaya, celebrated in July after sowing.

- It is held in Jowai, Jaintia Hills, and is meant to drive away evil and seek a good harvest.
- Wangala (Garo) and Shad Suk Mynsiem (Khasi) are other Meghalaya festivals.

64 Consider the following pairs of musicians with their associated instruments:
1. Ustad Amjad Ali – Flute
2. N. Rajam – Violin
Which of the pairs given above is/are **correctly** matched?

[SSC CGL 15 Oct 2026, Shift-III]

(a) 1 only
(b) 2 only
(c) Both 1 and 2
(d) Neither 1 nor 2

ANSWER (b) 2 only

Only pair 2 is correct: N. Rajam is a Hindustani classical violinist, whereas Ustad Amjad Ali Khan is a sarod maestro, not a flute player.

- Hariprasad Chaurasia and Pannalal Ghosh are famous flautists.
- N. Rajam was awarded the Padma Bhushan.

65 The Chumpha Festival is celebrated in which Indian state?

[SSC CGL 16 Oct 2026, Shift-I]

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

ANSWER (b) Manipur

The Chumpha Festival is celebrated in Manipur, mainly by the Tangkhul Naga community of Ukhrul district, as a post-harvest festival in the winter season, around December.

- Manipur's Lui-Ngai-Ni is another festival of the Naga tribes, celebrated in February.
- Shirui Lily Festival is held at Ukhrul, Manipur.
- Chapchar Kut is a festival of Mizoram.

66 Which architectural element was successfully minimized in the construction of Gothic cathedrals?

[SSC CGL 16 Oct 2026, Shift-I]

(a) The thick solid walls
(b) The tall glass windows
(c) The thin stone ribs
(d) The ornate pointed arches

ANSWER (a) The thick solid walls

Gothic cathedrals minimised thick solid walls, because the load was carried by pointed arches, ribbed vaults and flying buttresses.

- This allowed tall stained-glass windows and great height.
- Notre-Dame de Paris and Chartres Cathedral are famous Gothic examples.

67 Consider the following pairs of Indian musical instruments and their types:
1 Chinkara – Stringed instrument
2. Ghatam – Percussion instrument
3. Kartal – Percussion/clapper instrument
Which of the above pairs is/are **correctly** matched?

[SSC CGL 16 Oct 2026, Shift-III]

(a) Only 1 and 2
(b) Only 2 and 3
(c) Only 1 and 3
(d) All 1, 2 and 3

ANSWER (d) All 1, 2 and 3

All three pairs are correct: Chinkara (chikara) is a bowed stringed instrument, Ghatam is a clay-pot percussion instrument and Kartal is a clapper-type percussion instrument.

- The Ghatam is used in Carnatic music, with Vikku Vinayakram as its famous exponent.

- Kartal is common in bhajan and kirtan.

68 What is the **correct** description of the Vesara style of temple architecture?

[SSC CGL 16 Oct 2026, Shift-III]

(a) A fusion of Nagara and Dravidian styles, mainly in Deccan.
(b) A Mughal adaptation of Persian domes
(c) A Buddhist style using chaityas and vihara
(d) A colonial revival seen in European churches

ANSWER (a) A fusion of Nagara and Dravidian styles, mainly in Deccan.

Vesara is a hybrid style combining features of the Nagara and Dravida styles, developed mainly in the Deccan (Karnataka).

- It is seen in Chalukya and Hoysala temples such as Pattadakal, Belur, Halebidu and Somnathpur.
- Nagara is North Indian and Dravida is South Indian.

69 Which of the following is NOT a Rajput architectural example?

[SSC CGL 16 Oct 2026, Shift-III]

(a) Amber Fort
(b) Mehrangarh Fort
(c) Udaipur City Palace
(d) Fatehpur Sikri

ANSWER (d) Fatehpur Sikri

Fatehpur Sikri was built by the Mughal emperor Akbar and is Mughal architecture, not Rajput.

- Amber Fort (Jaipur), Mehrangarh (Jodhpur) and the City Palace (Udaipur) are Rajput works.
- Fatehpur Sikri has the Buland Darwaza and is a UNESCO World Heritage Site.

70 Baul songs of Bengal are best described as:

[SSC CGL 16 Oct 2026, Shift-III]

(a) Martial songs performed during festivals
(b) Romantic ballads of rural Rajasthan
(c) Mystical, spiritual songs by wandering minstrels
(d) Narrative ballads using a bow-shaped instrument

ANSWER (c) Mystical, spiritual songs by wandering minstrels

Baul songs are mystical, spiritual songs sung by wandering minstrels (Bauls) of Bengal.

- Their songs blend Sufi, Vaishnava and Sahajiya ideas, and the Ektara and Dotara are typical instruments.
- UNESCO inscribed the Baul tradition as intangible cultural heritage in 2008.

71 Which of the following is a narrative musical tradition from Tamil Nadu using a bow-shaped instrument?

[SSC CGL 16 Oct 2026, Shift-III]

(a) Yakshagana
(b) Villupattu
(c) Oppana
(d) Jhumur

ANSWER (b) Villupattu

Villupattu ('bow song') is a narrative musical tradition of Tamil Nadu in which stories are sung to the accompaniment of a large bow-shaped instrument.

- Yakshagana belongs to Karnataka and Oppana to Kerala.
- Villupattu stories are usually drawn from epics and local legends.

72 Which physical characteristic best defines the human figures depicted in the Amaravati school of art?

[SSC CGL 22 Oct 2026, Shift-II]

(a) Tall, slender bodies
(b) Short, bulky builds
(c) Extremely muscular physiques
(d) Proportionately oversized heads

ANSWER (a) Tall, slender bodies

Human figures in the Amaravati school are tall and slender, with graceful, dynamic poses.

- The Amaravati school flourished in Andhra Pradesh under the Satavahanas and used white marble-like limestone.
- Amaravati sculpture shows scenes from the Buddha's life and Jataka tales.

73 Which temple hosts the annual Chikhal Kalo (mud festival) celebration in Goa?

[SSC CGL 22 Oct 2026, Shift-III]

(a) Devki Krishna temple
(b) Mangeshi Shiva temple
(c) Shanta Durga temple
(d) Mahalasa Narayani temple

ANSWER (a) Devki Krishna temple

The annual Chikhal Kalo (mud festival) is held at the Devki Krishna temple at Marcel, Goa.

- Devotees play in mud, recalling the childhood sports of Lord Krishna.
- Mangeshi, Shantadurga and Mahalasa are other famous temples of Goa.

---

74 What natural defensive structure of Kangra Fort separates it from the Banganga and Majhi rivers?

[SSC CGL 23 Oct 2026, Shift-I]

(a) A high wooden fence
(b) A moat cut through the rocks
(c) A natural cave wall
(d) A dry trench around the fort

ANSWER (b) A moat cut through the rocks

Kangra Fort in Himachal Pradesh is separated from the Banganga and Majhi rivers by a moat cut through the rocks.

- It was the seat of the Katoch dynasty and is one of the oldest forts in India.
- Kangra Fort stands on a high ridge above the two rivers.

---

75 Consider the following statements regarding the Indo-Islamic architecture of Gujarat:
1. This architectural style incorporated decorative elements from regional Hindu temple traditions.
2. The bell-and-chain motif was commonly used in the construction of its structures.
Which of the statements given above is/are **correct**?

[SSC CGL 23 Oct 2026, Shift-I]

(a) 1 only
(b) 2 only
(c) Both 1 and 2
(d) Neither 1 nor 2

ANSWER (c) Both 1 and 2

Both statements are correct: Gujarat's Indo-Islamic buildings absorbed decorative elements from local Hindu and Jain temple traditions, including the bell-and-chain motif.

- Famous examples are the Sidi Saiyyed Mosque (known for its stone jali) and the Jama Masjid of Ahmedabad.
- Gujarat is a classic example of the Provincial style.

---

76 Which of the following cultural festivals are traditionally celebrated in Kerala?

[SSC CGL 23 Oct 2026, Shift-II]

(a) Guruvayur Ekadasi and Vasantholsavam
(b) Karthigai Deepam and Chithirai Utsav
(c) Bhogali Bihu and Ambubachi Mahotsav
(d) Durga Puja and Jagannath Ratha Yatra

ANSWER (a) Guruvayur Ekadasi and Vasantholsavam

Guruvayur Ekadasi and Vasantholsavam are traditionally celebrated at the Guruvayur temple in Thrissur, Kerala.

- Karthigai Deepam and Chithirai are of Tamil Nadu, Bhogali Bihu and Ambubachi of Assam.
- Durga Puja is associated with Bengal and the Jagannath Rath Yatra with Odisha.

---

77 Consider the following statements about the musical instrument **Santoor**:
1. Santoor is a trapezoidal instrument .
2. It is traditionally associated with Kashmir.
3. It is primarily used in Carnatic music.
Which of the above statements is/are **correct**?

[SSC CGL 23 Oct 2026, Shift-III]

(a) 1 and 2 only
(b) 2 and 3 only
(c) 1 and 3 only
(d) 1,2 and 3 all

ANSWER (a) 1 and 2 only

Statements 1 and 2 are correct: the Santoor is a trapezoidal, hammered string instrument traditionally associated with Kashmir.

- Statement 3 is wrong because the Santoor is used mainly in Hindustani and Kashmiri Sufiana music, not Carnatic.
- Pt. Shivkumar Sharma popularised the Santoor in Hindustani classical music.

---

78 Which material was used in the Mathura School for sculpting Buddha images?

[SSC CGL 23 Oct 2026, Shift-III]

(a) Bronze (b) Grey schist
(c) Red sandstone (d) Terracotta

ANSWER (c) Red sandstone

The Mathura school used spotted red sandstone for its Buddha images.

- Grey/blue-grey schist was used in the Gandhara school, and white limestone in Amaravati.
- Mathura art flourished under the Kushanas.

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79 Read the following statements and choose the **correct** option.
1. Dravidian temples use Vimanas.
2. Gopurams serve as monumental gateways.

[SSC CGL 23 Oct 2026, Shift-III]

(a) Only Statement 1 is correct.
(b) Only Statement 2 is correct.
(c) Both statements are correct.
(d) Neither statement is correct.

ANSWER (c) Both statements are correct.

Both statements are correct: Dravidian temples have a pyramidal Vimana over the sanctum, and Gopurams are monumental gateways in the enclosure walls.

- In later Dravida temples the Gopuram grew taller than the Vimana.
- Brihadeeswara Temple, Thanjavur, has a famous Vimana.

---

80 Sitar maestro Ravi Shankar contributed significantly to:

[SSC CGL 23 Oct 2026, Shift-III]

(a) Popularizing Indian folk traditions in the West exclusively
(b) Introducing Indian classical music to Western audiences
(c) Promoting only Bollywood-style music
(d) Declining cross-cultural collaborations

ANSWER (b) Introducing Indian classical music to Western audiences

Pandit Ravi Shankar contributed significantly by introducing Indian classical music to Western audiences.

- He worked with George Harrison of the Beatles and performed at the Monterey Pop Festival and Woodstock.
- He received the Bharat Ratna in 1999.

---

81 Which folk tradition is associated with the Manganiyar and Langa communities?

[SSC CGL 23 Oct 2026, Shift-III]

(a) Baul Songs (b) Rajasthani Folk
(c) Bhojpuri Folk (d) Yakshagana

ANSWER (b) Rajasthani Folk

The Manganiyar and Langa communities are hereditary folk musicians of the Thar region of western Rajasthan, so the tradition is Rajasthani folk.

- They are centred around Jaisalmer and Barmer and play instruments like the Kamaicha and Khartal.
- Their music is known worldwide through stage performances.

---

82 Which of the following pairs of festival and its corresponding State/Union Territory is **correctly** matched?

[SSC CGL 24 Oct 2026, Shift-I]

(a) Mahabodhi Festival – Kerala (b) Sonam Lochar – Manipur
(c) Matho Nagrang – Ladakh (d) Putul Samaroh – Meghalaya

ANSWER (c) Matho Nagrang – Ladakh

Matho Nagrang is a festival of Matho monastery in Ladakh, known for oracle (rongzen) rituals.

- Sonam Lochar belongs to Sikkim.
- Other Ladakh festivals include Hemis, Dosmoche and Losar.

---

83 Consider the following pairs of musicians and their associated instruments:
1. T. R. Mahalingam – Flute
2. Lalgudi Jayaram – Violin

Which of the pairs given above is/are **correctly** matched?

[SSC CGL 24 Oct 2026, Shift-III]

(a) 1 only (b) 2 only
(c) Both 1 and 2 (d) Neither 1 nor 2

ANSWER (c) Both 1 and 2

Both pairs are correct: T. R. Mahalingam ('Flute Mali') was a Carnatic flute maestro and Lalgudi Jayaram a Carnatic violin maestro.

- Lalgudi Jayaram was also a noted composer of varnams and thillanas.
- Mahalingam was known for his innovation in flute technique.

---

84 Who among the following artists, known for his mastery of the percussion instrument Chenda, was a recipient of the Sangeet Natak Akademi Award for the year 2023?

[SSC CGL 27 Oct 2026, Shift-I]

(a) Gopalan Nair Venu
(b) C. Kunhirama Marar
(c) Niladri Kumar
(d) Perini Prakash

ANSWER (b) C. Kunhirama Marar

C. (Cheruthazham) Kunhirama Marar, a chenda maestro of Kerala, is in the list of Sangeet Natak Akademi Award recipients for 2023 (announced in 2024) in the traditional music category.

- Gopalan Nair Venu (Venu G) was honoured for overall contribution in performing arts, and Perini Prakash in dance (Perini).
- Niladri Kumar is a sitarist (zitar player), not a chenda artist.

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85 Which distinct structural ground plan characterizes the prominent ancient temples excavated at the historical site of Nagarjunakonda?

[SSC CGL 27 Oct 2026, Shift-II]

(a) Apsidal horseshoe plan
(b) Rectangular cruciform plan
(c) Octagonal concentric plan
(d) Square stellate plan

ANSWER (a) Apsidal horseshoe plan

The ancient temples (chaitya-grihas) excavated at Nagarjunakonda had an apsidal (horseshoe-shaped) ground plan.

- Nagarjunakonda in Andhra Pradesh was a major Buddhist centre under the Ikshvaku dynasty.
- Many of its remains were moved to an island after the Nagarjuna Sagar dam submerged the valley.

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86 The 'Lavani' folk music, known for its powerful rhythm and lyrics, originates from which state?

[SSC CGL 27 Oct 2026, Shift-III]

(a) Maharashtra
(b) Gujarat
(c) Madhya Pradesh
(d) Karnataka

ANSWER (a) Maharashtra

Lavani is a folk music and dance form that originated in Maharashtra, known for its powerful rhythm, usually accompanied by the dholki.

- Povada is another Maharashtrian form, a ballad praising heroes.
- Garba belongs to Gujarat.

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87 Mughal architecture is most prominently known for which element?

[SSC CGL 27 Oct 2026, Shift-III]

(a) Stupas
(b) Domes and minarets
(c) Step wells
(d) Wooden structures

ANSWER (b) Domes and minarets

Mughal architecture is best known for its domes and minarets, along with the Charbagh layout and pietra dura inlay work.

- The Taj Mahal, Humayun's Tomb and the Red Fort are famous examples.
- Stupas are Buddhist structures and step wells are associated with Gujarat and Rajasthan.

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88 Which of the following describes Indian classical music where the vocalist and instrumentalist converse most of the time?

[SSC CGL 27 Oct 2026, Shift-III]

(a) Dhrupad
(b) Bhajan
(c) Tarana
(d) Khayal

ANSWER (d) Khayal

The answer is Khayal: in this form the vocalist and the accompanying instrumentalist (sarangi or harmonium) mostly answer each other, as the instrumentalist echoes and responds to the singer's phrases. The word 'khayal' means 'thought' or 'imagination'.

- Dhrupad is an older, austere form, accompanied by the pakhawaj.
- Tarana uses meaningless syllables set to a fast tempo.

- Khayal is attributed to Amir Khusrau and was developed by Niyamat Khan 'Sadarang' in the court of Muhammad Shah.

89 Which 2024 event underscored the vitality of South Indian temple traditions?

[SSC CGL 27 Oct 2026, Shift-III]

(a) Puducherry Heritage Festival
(b) Kumbhabhishekam ceremonies
(c) AR-guided tours of Mumbai
(d) Virtual Gandhara museum launch

ANSWER (b) Kumbhabhishekam ceremonies

As per the official answer key, Kumbhabhishekam ceremonies is the correct answer.

- Kumbhabhishekam is the consecration (or re-consecration) ritual of South Indian temples, in which sacred water is poured over the temple tower (kalasam).
- It is performed periodically after renovation, usually every 12 years.

90 The compositions of Tyagaraja, Muthuswami Dikshitar, and Syama Sastri are foundational to which tradition?

[SSC CGL 27 Oct 2026, Shift-III]

(a) Hindustani
(b) Bhajan
(c) Folk
(d) Carnatic

ANSWER (d) Carnatic

The compositions of Tyagaraja, Muthuswami Dikshitar and Syama Sastri, the 'Trinity', are foundational to Carnatic music.

- All three were born at Tiruvarur in the Thanjavur region and lived in the late 18th and early 19th centuries.
- Purandara Dasa is called the 'Pitamaha' of Carnatic music.

91 The festival of Maghe Sankranti is primarily celebrated in which of the following states?

[SSC CGL 28 Oct 2026, Shift-I]

(a) Assam
(b) Sikkim
(c) Mizoram
(d) Gujarat

ANSWER (b) Sikkim

Maghe Sankranti, observed on the first day of the Magh month (mid-January), is celebrated primarily in Sikkim, mainly by the Nepali-speaking communities.

- It is also celebrated in Nepal and the Darjeeling hills.
- Assam celebrates the same period as Magh Bihu (Bhogali Bihu).

92 Which type of stone was predominantly utilized by craftsmen of the early Gandhara school of sculptural art?

[SSC CGL 28 Oct 2026, Shift-I]

(a) Blue-grey schist stone
(b) Spotted red sandstone
(c) White crystalline marble
(d) Buff Chunar sandstone

ANSWER (a) Blue-grey schist stone

Craftsmen of the Gandhara school mainly used blue-grey schist stone (and later stucco).

- Mathura sculptors used spotted red sandstone, and Mauryan pillars used buff Chunar sandstone.
- Gandhara art shows Greco-Roman influence.

93 In which region is the Hemis festival, known for its vibrant masked dances celebrated?

[SSC CGL 28 Oct 2026, Shift-II]

(a) Sikkim
(b) Himachal Pradesh
(c) Ladakh
(d) Uttarakhand

ANSWER (c) Ladakh

The Hemis festival, known for its masked (Cham) dances, is celebrated at Hemis Monastery in Ladakh.

- It honours Guru Padmasambhava and is held in June-July.
- Hemis Monastery belongs to the Drukpa lineage of Tibetan Buddhism.

94 Dalavai Kullayappa is an artist trying to revive which of the following art forms?

[SSC CGL 28 Oct 2026, Shift-II]

(a) Kundhei
(b) Putul Nach
(c) Kathputli
(d) Tholu Bommalata

ANSWER (d) Tholu Bommalata

Dalavai Kullayappa is an artist working to revive Tholu Bommalata, the traditional leather shadow-puppet art of Andhra Pradesh.

- Kathputli is the string-puppet art of Rajasthan and Putul Nach of Bengal and Odisha.
- Kundhei is the string puppet form of Odisha.

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95 Consider the following pairs of folk music traditions/ballads and their corresponding states:
1. Jammukula – Andhra Pradesh
2. Malushahi – Rajasthan

Which of the pairs given above is/are **correctly** matched?

[SSC CGL 28 Oct 2026, Shift-III]

(a) 1 only (b) 2 only
(c) Both 1 and 2 (d) Neither 1 nor 2

ANSWER (a) 1 only

Only pair 1 is correct: Jammukula is a folk tradition of Andhra Pradesh, while Malushahi is a ballad of Uttarakhand (Kumaon), not Rajasthan.

- Malushahi is a love ballad of Rajula and Malushahi.
- Rajasthan is known for Pabuji ki Phad and Manganiyar music.



03
CHAPTER

Indian Polity

Questions with Explanations *190 questions · 53 shifts*

01 The doctrine of **Basic Structure** of the Constitution was propounded in which case and relates to which Article?

[SSC CGL 30 Sep 2026, Shift-II]

(a) Kesavananda Bharati Case; Article 368
(b) Golaknath Case; Article 21
(c) Maneka Gandhi Case; Article 14
(d) Minerva Mills Case; Article 356

ANSWER (a) Kesavananda Bharati Case; Article 368

The doctrine of Basic Structure was laid down by the Supreme Court in Kesavananda Bharati v. State of Kerala (1973) by a 13-judge bench. It relates to Article 368: Parliament may amend the Constitution, but it cannot alter or destroy its basic structure.

- Golaknath case (1967) had held that Parliament cannot amend Fundamental Rights; Kesavananda Bharati overruled it.
- Minerva Mills case (1980) reaffirmed the doctrine and struck down parts of the 42nd Amendment.
- Maneka Gandhi case (1978) widened the scope of Article 21 and linked Articles 14, 19 and 21.

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02 **Arrange the following developments in federal structure chronologically:**
1. Formation of Inter-State Council
2. 73rd Constitutional Amendment
3. GST Council formation

[SSC CGL 30 Sep 2026, Shift-II]

(a) 1-2-3 (b) 3-2-1
(c) 2-3-1 (d) 1-3-2

ANSWER (a) 1-2-3

The correct chronological order is: Inter-State Council (1990) → 73rd Constitutional Amendment (1992) → GST Council (2016). The Inter-State Council was set up by a Presidential Order on 28 May 1990 under Article 263; the 73rd Amendment gave constitutional status to Panchayati Raj; and the GST Council was constituted under Article 279A, inserted by the 101st Amendment (2016).

- The Sarkaria Commission had recommended a permanent Inter-State Council.
- The 73rd Amendment came into force on 24 April 1993 and added Part IX and the Eleventh Schedule.
- The GST Council is chaired by the Union Finance Minister.

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03 The Father of the Indian Constitution, Dr. B.R. Ambedkar, termed which right as the "Heart and Soul" of the Constitution?

[SSC CGL 30 Sep 2026, Shift-III]

(a) Right to economic and social equality
(b) Right to freedom
(c) Right to constitutional remedies
(d) Right to religious freedom

ANSWER (c) Right to constitutional remedies

Dr. B.R. Ambedkar described the Right to Constitutional Remedies (Article 32) as the "heart and soul" of the Constitution. It makes the enforcement of Fundamental Rights itself a fundamental right, by allowing a person to move the Supreme Court directly.

- Under Article 32 the Supreme Court can issue five writs: habeas corpus, mandamus, prohibition, certiorari and quo warranto.
- Article 226 gives High Courts a wider writ power, as they can issue writs for other purposes as well.
- Dr. Ambedkar was the Chairman of the Drafting Committee of the Constituent Assembly.

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04 The Inter-State Council is established under which Article of the Constitution?

[SSC CGL 30 Sep 2026, Shift-III]

(a) Article 262 of the Indian Constitution
(b) Article 263 of the Indian Constitution
(c) Article 280 of the Indian Constitution
(d) Article 243 of the Indian Constitution

ANSWER (b) Article 263 of the Indian Constitution

The Inter-State Council is established under Article 263 of the Constitution, which empowers the President to set up such a council if it appears that the public interest would be served. It is meant to inquire into and advise on disputes between States and to promote coordination of policy and action.

- The Inter-State Council was first established on 28 May 1990 on the Sarkaria Commission's recommendation; the Prime Minister is its Chairman.
- Article 262 deals with adjudication of disputes relating to inter-State river waters.
- Article 280 provides for the Finance Commission.

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05 Which article of the Indian Constitution empowers Parliament to determine the salaries and allowances of its members?

[SSC CGL 30 Sep 2026, Shift-III]

(a) Article 102
(b) Article 104
(c) Article 106
(d) Article 108

ANSWER (c) Article 106

Article 106 provides that the members of either House of Parliament shall be entitled to receive such salaries and allowances as may be determined by Parliament by law. Accordingly, the pay and allowances of MPs are fixed through the Salary, Allowances and Pension of Members of Parliament Act, 1954.

- Article 102 deals with disqualification of members of Parliament.
- Article 104 provides for a penalty for sitting and voting before taking the oath or when not qualified.
- Article 108 provides for a joint sitting of both Houses in certain cases; the pay of State legislators is covered by Article 195.

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06 Financial Emergency in India comes under which Article of the Constitution?

[SSC CGL 30 Sep 2026, Shift-III]

(a) Article 352
(b) Article 356
(c) Article 360
(d) Article 368

ANSWER (c) Article 360

Financial Emergency is provided for under Article 360 of the Constitution. The President can proclaim it if he is satisfied that the financial stability or credit of India or any part of its territory is threatened; the proclamation must be approved by both Houses of Parliament within two months.

- Article 352 deals with National Emergency, and Article 356 with failure of constitutional machinery in a State (President's Rule).
- Article 368 deals with the power of Parliament to amend the Constitution.
- A Financial Emergency has never been proclaimed in India so far.

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07 A sees B attempting to kidnap C into a vehicle. A shoots B dead to prevent the kidnapping. Which of the following is the strongest legal justification under the Bharatiya Nyaya Sanhita, 2023 in India?

[SSC CGL 30 Sep 2026, Shift-III]

(a) The act would be justified only if B were armed.
(b) The act exceeds private defence because kidnapping is not punishable by death.
(c) Private defence extends to death in kidnapping assaults.
(d) A may only use non-lethal force unless C is actually abducted.

ANSWER (c) Private defence extends to death in kidnapping assaults.

Under the Bharatiya Nyaya Sanhita, 2023 (Section 38), the right of private defence of the body extends to voluntarily causing death where the assault is made with the intention of kidnapping or abducting a person. Hence A is justified in using deadly force to prevent C's kidnapping; he need not wait for the abduction to be completed or for B to be armed.

- BNS replaced the Indian Penal Code, 1860 with effect from 1 July 2024.
- Death may also be caused in defence against assault causing reasonable apprehension of death or grievous hurt, rape, acid attack and wrongful confinement in certain circumstances.

- The right of private defence never extends to causing more harm than necessary.

---

08 What of the following is a major reform in the Bharatiya Nagarik Suraksha Sanhita regarding FIRs (First Information Reports)?

[SSC CGL 01 Oct 2026, Shift-I]

(a) FIRs can no longer be filed
(b) FIRs will now require court approval first
(c) FIRs can be filed online and via electronic communication
(d) FIRs must be handwritten only

ANSWER (c) FIRs can be filed online and via electronic communication

A major reform under the Bharatiya Nagarik Suraksha Sanhita (BNSS), 2023 is that an FIR can be lodged online and through electronic communication (e-FIR). Section 173 provides that information given electronically must be signed by the informant within three days for the police to take it on record.

- BNSS replaced the Code of Criminal Procedure, 1973 with effect from 1 July 2024.
- Zero FIR can be registered at any police station irrespective of jurisdiction and is later transferred to the police station concerned.
- BNSS also provides for a preliminary enquiry within 14 days in certain cases of offences punishable with three to seven years' imprisonment.

---

09 Which of the following digital elements are now admissible as primary evidence under the Bharatiya Sakshya Adhiniyam, 2023?

[SSC CGL 01 Oct 2026, Shift-I]

(a) Only CCTV footage
(b) Only emails
(c) Emails, SMS, WhatsApp chats, and cloud data
(d) Only SMS

ANSWER (c) Emails, SMS, WhatsApp chats, and cloud data

The Bharatiya Sakshya Adhiniyam (BSA), 2023 treats electronic and digital records as documents and recognises them as primary evidence. Hence emails, SMS, WhatsApp chats and cloud data are all admissible, subject to authentication through the prescribed certificate.

- BSA replaced the Indian Evidence Act, 1872 with effect from 1 July 2024.
- Section 63 of BSA requires a certificate (given in the Schedule) for admissibility of electronic records.
- BSA has 170 sections, whereas the Indian Evidence Act had 167.

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10 Article 131A was repealed and previously gave exclusive jurisdiction to _____.

[SSC CGL 01 Oct 2026, Shift-I]

(a) District Courts
(b) High Courts
(c) Supreme Court
(d) Election Commission

ANSWER (c) Supreme Court

Article 131A gave the Supreme Court exclusive jurisdiction to decide questions about the constitutional validity of Central laws. It was inserted by the 42nd Amendment Act, 1976 and repealed by the 43rd Amendment Act, 1977.

- The 43rd Amendment also repealed Article 32A, which had restricted the Supreme Court's power to decide the validity of State laws.
- Article 131 gives the Supreme Court original jurisdiction in disputes between the Centre and States.
- The 42nd Amendment is called the "Mini-Constitution".

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11 Under which Constitutional Amendment Act was Article 243ZD, relating to the Committee for District Planning, inserted into the Indian Constitution?

[SSC CGL 01 Oct 2026, Shift-I]

(a) The 72nd Constitutional Amendment Act, 1992
(b) The 73rd Constitutional Amendment Act, 1992
(c) The 74th Constitutional Amendment Act, 1992
(d) The 75th Constitutional Amendment Act, 1993

ANSWER (c) The 74th Constitutional Amendment Act, 1992

Article 243ZD (Committee for District Planning) was inserted by the 74th Constitutional Amendment Act, 1992, which added Part IX-A (Municipalities) to the Constitution. The Committee consolidates the plans prepared by Panchayats and Municipalities and

prepares a draft development plan for the district as a whole.

- The 74th Amendment came into force on 1 June 1993 and added the Twelfth Schedule.
- The 73rd Amendment added Part IX (Panchayats) and the Eleventh Schedule.
- Article 243ZE provides for the Metropolitan Planning Committee.

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12 Under which Constitutional Amendment Act was Article 243ZI, concerning the incorporation of co-operative societies, inserted into the Indian Constitution?

[SSC CGL 01 Oct 2026, Shift-I]

(a) The 74th Constitutional Amendment Act, 1992
(b) The 91st Constitutional Amendment Act, 2003
(c) The 97th Constitutional Amendment Act, 2011
(d) The 101st Constitutional Amendment Act, 2016

ANSWER (c) The 97th Constitutional Amendment Act, 2011

Article 243ZI (Incorporation of co-operative societies) forms part of Part IX-B, inserted by the 97th Constitutional Amendment Act, 2011. The amendment also made the right to form co-operative societies a fundamental right under Article 19(1)(c) and added Article 43B as a Directive Principle.

- Part IX-B covers Articles 243ZH to 243ZT.
- In 2021 the Supreme Court (Union of India v. Rajendra N. Shah) held that Part IX-B is operative only for multi-State co-operative societies, not for co-operatives of the States.
- The 91st Amendment (2003) limited the size of the Council of Ministers and strengthened the anti-defection law.

---

13 In the Constitution of India, what does the phrase “Union of States” signify?

[SSC CGL 01 Oct 2026, Shift-I]

(a) India follows a presidential form of government.
(b) Complete unitary system.
(c) States created the Union.
(d) Federation is not the result of an agreement among states.

ANSWER (d) Federation is not the result of an agreement among states.

Article 1 describes India as a "Union of States". The phrase signifies that the Indian federation is not the result of an agreement among the States, and hence no State has the right to secede from it. Dr. Ambedkar explained this in the Constituent Assembly.

- In the USA, by contrast, the federation was formed by an agreement among independent States.
- Under Article 3, Parliament can form new States and alter the boundaries or names of existing States.
- Article 1 says "India, that is Bharat, shall be a Union of States".

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14 According to the Bharatiya Sakshya Adhiniyam (BSA), which of the following principles regarding conclusive proof is TRUE?

[SSC CGL 01 Oct 2026, Shift-II]

(a) It requires two eyewitnesses
(b) It applies only in civil cases
(c) It is final and cannot be disputed in court
(d) It can be rebutted by expert testimony

ANSWER (c) It is final and cannot be disputed in court

Under the Bharatiya Sakshya Adhiniyam, when one fact is declared to be conclusive proof of another, the Court must regard the other fact as proved and shall not allow evidence to be given for the purpose of disproving it. Hence conclusive proof is final and cannot be disputed in court.

- "May presume": the Court may regard a fact as proved unless it is disproved.
- "Shall presume": the Court must regard a fact as proved unless it is disproved (rebuttable).
- Conclusive proof is the strongest of the three and is not rebuttable.

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15 The Vice-President is the second-highest constitutional authority of India under which Part of the Indian Constitution?

[SSC CGL 01 Oct 2026, Shift-II]

(a) Part IV
(b) Part V
(c) Part VI
(d) Part III

ANSWER (b) Part V

The Vice-President is dealt with in Part V (The Union), Chapter I (The Executive), Articles 63 to 71 of the Constitution. He is the second-highest constitutional authority of India after the President and is the ex-officio Chairman of the Rajya Sabha (Article 64).

- Article 63 provides that there shall be a Vice-President of India; Article 66 deals with his election.
- He is elected by an electoral college consisting of members of both Houses of Parliament, by the system of proportional representation through the single transferable vote.
- Under Article 65, he acts as President during a vacancy in the office of the President.

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16 In India, a law made by Parliament under Article 249 on a subject in the State List remains in force:

[SSC CGL 01 Oct 2026, Shift-II]

(a) Permanently unless repealed by Parliament
(b) Only during the validity of the Rajya Sabha resolution
(c) For six months after the resolution ceases to be in force
(d) Till the concerned state legislature repeals it

ANSWER (c) For six months after the resolution ceases to be in force

Under Article 249, if the Rajya Sabha passes a resolution supported by two-thirds of the members present and voting declaring that it is necessary in the national interest, Parliament can legislate on a State List subject. Such a law ceases to have effect on the expiration of six months after the resolution has ceased to be in force.

- The resolution remains in force for a period up to one year, and can be renewed for a further period of up to one year at a time.
- Article 250 gives Parliament power to legislate on State List subjects while a Proclamation of Emergency is in operation.
- Article 252 allows Parliament to legislate for States with their consent (two or more State legislatures passing resolutions).

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17 According to Article 60 of the Indian Constitution, who administers the oath of office to the President of India?

[SSC CGL 01 Oct 2026, Shift-III]

(a) Prime Minister
(b) Vice President
(c) Chief Justice of India
(d) Speaker of the Lok Sabha

ANSWER (c) Chief Justice of India

Article 60 provides that the President takes the oath or affirmation in the presence of the Chief Justice of India or, in his absence, the senior-most Judge of the Supreme Court available. The Chief Justice of India therefore administers the oath of office to the President.

- The oath is taken in the name of God or by solemn affirmation, to preserve, protect and defend the Constitution and the law.
- The Vice-President's oath is administered by the President (or a person appointed by him) under Article 69.
- Article 59 lays down the conditions of the President's office.

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18 Which article of the Constitution of India states that a person must have completed the age of 35 years to be eligible for election as President?

[SSC CGL 01 Oct 2026, Shift-III]

(a) Article 52
(b) Article 66
(c) Article 58
(d) Article 84

ANSWER (c) Article 58

Article 58 lays down the qualifications for election as President: the person must be a citizen of India, must have completed 35 years of age, must be qualified for election as a member of the Lok Sabha, and must not hold any office of profit.

- Article 52 states that there shall be a President of India.
- Article 66 deals with the election of the Vice-President.
- Article 84 prescribes the qualifications for membership of Parliament (30 years for Rajya Sabha, 25 years for Lok Sabha).

---

19 Under Article 111 of the Indian Constitution, what does the President's "Suspensive Veto" power

allow him to do in relation to a Bill passed by Parliament?

[SSC CGL 01 Oct 2026, Shift-III]

(a) Withhold the Bill indefinitely
(b) Return the Bill for reconsideration
(c) Reject the Bill permanently
(d) Refer the Bill to the Supreme Court

ANSWER (b) Return the Bill for reconsideration

Under Article 111, when a Bill (other than a Money Bill) is presented to the President, he may return it to Parliament for reconsideration. This is the suspensive veto: if Parliament passes the Bill again, with or without amendments, the President cannot withhold his assent.

- A Money Bill cannot be returned for reconsideration; the President may only give or withhold assent.
- The President has three options on an ordinary Bill: give assent, withhold assent (absolute veto) or return it (suspensive veto).
- The Constitution prescribes no time limit for the President to decide, which makes the "pocket veto" possible in practice.

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20 Which of the following best defines a "document" under the Bharatiya Sakshya Adhiniyam, 2023?

[SSC CGL 01 Oct 2026, Shift-III]

(a) Only written paper records signed by parties
(b) Only electronic records generated by computers
(c) Any matter recorded by letters, figures, marks, or electronic or digital means intended for recording matter
(d) Only officially certified records

ANSWER (c) Any matter recorded by letters, figures, marks, or ...

Under the Bharatiya Sakshya Adhiniyam, 2023, a "document" means any matter expressed or described upon any substance by means of letters, figures or marks, or by electronic or digital means, or by more than one of these, intended to be used for recording that matter. The definition thus widens the old Evidence Act definition by expressly covering electronic and digital records.

- Electronic and digital records, emails, server logs, messages and location data are treated as documents.
- BSA came into force on 1 July 2024, replacing the Indian Evidence Act, 1872.
- The old definition covered matter expressed upon any substance by letters, figures or marks only.

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21 Under which article of the Indian Constitution is the office of the President of India established?

[SSC CGL 05 Oct 2026, Shift-I]

(a) Article 50
(b) Article 51
(c) Article 52
(d) Article 54

ANSWER (c) Article 52

Article 52 of the Constitution provides that there shall be a President of India. He is the constitutional head of the Union, and the executive power of the Union is vested in him under Article 53.

- Article 54 deals with the election of the President and Article 55 with the manner of election.
- Article 56 fixes the President's term at five years, and Article 57 makes him eligible for re-election.
- Article 50 (separation of judiciary from executive) and Article 51 (promotion of international peace) are Directive Principles.

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22 What specific restriction is placed on a Minister or the Advocate-General when they participate in the proceedings of a House under Article 177 of the Indian Constitution?

[SSC CGL 05 Oct 2026, Shift-I]

(a) They are prohibited from speaking in the Legislative Council
(b) They cannot participate in committee meetings
(c) They are not entitled to vote by virtue of this article
(d) They cannot address the House in their mother tongue

ANSWER (c) They are not entitled to vote by virtue of this article

Article 177 gives every Minister and the Advocate-General of a State the right to speak in, and otherwise take part in the proceedings of, the Legislative Assembly (and the Legislative Council, where it exists)

and any committee of which he is named a member. However, he is not entitled to vote by virtue of this article.

- Article 88 gives the same right to Union Ministers and the Attorney-General in Parliament.
- Article 165 provides for the Advocate-General of a State, who is appointed by the Governor.
- A Minister who is not a member of the House can vote only in the House of which he is a member.

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23 In the Indian parliamentary system, which statement best describes the doctrine of collective responsibility?

[SSC CGL 05 Oct 2026, Shift-I]

(a) President controls the Cabinet
(b) Judiciary supervises ministers
(c) Ministers are individually appointed
(d) Cabinet decisions bind all ministers

ANSWER (d) Cabinet decisions bind all ministers

Collective responsibility means that the entire Council of Ministers is jointly answerable to the Lok Sabha (Article 75(3)). Cabinet decisions therefore bind all ministers, and every minister must support them in public even if he disagreed in the Cabinet; if a no-confidence motion is passed, the whole ministry must resign.

- Individual responsibility is based on Article 75(2): ministers hold office during the pleasure of the President.
- For States, collective responsibility to the Legislative Assembly is provided in Article 164(2).
- The President acts on the aid and advice of the Council of Ministers headed by the Prime Minister (Article 74).

---

24 Consider the following statements:
1. India is a federal state as it has a written constitution.
2. The term 'quasi-federal' was used by K.C. Wheare to describe India's federalism.
Which of the statements is/are correct?

[SSC CGL 05 Oct 2026, Shift-II]

(a) Only 1
(b) Only 2
(c) Both 1 and 2
(d) Neither 1 nor 2

ANSWER (b) Only 2

Statement 1 is incorrect: a written constitution alone does not make a State federal. Federalism requires features such as division of powers between the Centre and States, supremacy of the Constitution, a rigid constitution and an independent judiciary. Statement 2 is correct: K.C. Wheare described the Indian Constitution as "quasi-federal", i.e. federal in structure but with a strong unitary bias.

- Dual government, written constitution and division of powers are features of Indian federalism, but the Constitution itself uses the term "Union of States".
- In S.R. Bommai v. Union of India (1994), the Supreme Court held that federalism is a basic feature of the Constitution.
- Strong unitary features include a single citizenship, an integrated judiciary and emergency provisions.

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25 Which Schedule of the Indian Constitution contains provisions related to the Panchayati Raj system?

[SSC CGL 05 Oct 2026, Shift-II]

(a) 9th Schedule
(b) 10th Schedule
(c) 11th Schedule
(d) 12th Schedule

ANSWER (c) 11th Schedule

The Eleventh Schedule contains the provisions related to the Panchayati Raj system. It lists 29 subjects on which Panchayats may be given powers and responsibilities, and was added by the 73rd Constitutional Amendment Act, 1992.

- The Twelfth Schedule lists 18 functional items of Municipalities, added by the 74th Amendment.
- The Ninth Schedule was added by the First Amendment (1951) to protect land reform laws.
- The Tenth Schedule contains anti-defection provisions and was added by the 52nd Amendment (1985).

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26 Consider the below statements:
1. Promotion of international peace is a part of DPSP.
2. The DPSPs are enforceable by courts.
3. Protection of monuments is a fundamental right.
Which is/are true?

[SSC CGL 05 Oct 2026, Shift-III]

(a) Only 1
(b) 1 and 2 only
(c) 2 and 3 only
(d) 1,2 and 3 all

ANSWER (a) Only 1

Only statement 1 is correct. Promotion of international peace and security is a Directive Principle under Article 51. DPSPs are non-justiciable and cannot be enforced by courts (Article 37), and protection of monuments and places of national importance is also a Directive Principle under Article 49, not a fundamental right.

- Part IV (Articles 36–51) contains the Directive Principles, borrowed from the Irish Constitution.
- Article 51A(f), a Fundamental Duty, requires citizens to value and preserve the rich heritage of our composite culture.
- Fundamental Rights are justiciable, while Directive Principles are only guidelines for the State.

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27 Match the following Schedules with their subject matter:
Column A (Schedule) | Column B (Subject Matter)
A. Seventh Schedule | 1. Languages recognized by the Constitution
B. Eighth Schedule | 2. Distribution of powers between Union and States
C. Eleventh Schedule | 3. Municipalities: Functional items
D. Twelfth Schedule | 4. Panchayats: Functional items

[SSC CGL 05 Oct 2026, Shift-III]

(a) A–1, B–2, C–3, D–4
(b) A–2, B–1, C–4, D–3
(c) A–4, B–3, C–1, D–2
(d) A–3, B–4, C–2, D–1

ANSWER (b) A–2, B–1, C–4, D–3

The correct matching is A–2, B–1, C–4, D–3. The Seventh Schedule distributes legislative powers between the Union and the States through the Union, State and Concurrent Lists; the Eighth Schedule lists the recognised languages; the Eleventh Schedule lists functional items of Panchayats; and the Twelfth Schedule lists functional items of Municipalities.

- The Eighth Schedule now contains 22 languages; Bodo, Dogri, Maithili and Santhali were added by the 92nd Amendment (2003).
- The Eleventh Schedule has 29 subjects (73rd Amendment) and the Twelfth Schedule has 18 subjects (74th Amendment).
- The Seventh Schedule is linked to Article 246.

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28 According to BNSS, what does the term "bail" mean?

[SSC CGL 05 Oct 2026, Shift-III]

(a) Arrest under judicial supervision
(b) Police custody under specific terms
(c) Release from custody on conditions imposed by Court or officer
(d) Removal of charges before trial

ANSWER (c) Release from custody on conditions imposed by Court or ...

Under the Bharatiya Nagarik Suraksha Sanhita, 2023, "bail" means the release of a person accused of or suspected of an offence from the custody of law, upon certain conditions imposed by an officer or Court on the execution by such person of a bond or a bail bond. It is therefore a release from custody on conditions.

- A bond is a personal undertaking without sureties, while a bail bond is an undertaking with sureties.
- In bailable offences bail is a matter of right; in non-bailable offences it is at the discretion of the Court.
- The Code of Criminal Procedure, 1973 did not define bail; BNSS now defines it.

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29 The procedure for impeachment of the President of India is laid down under Article _____ of the Indian Constitution.

[SSC CGL 05 Oct 2026, Shift-III]

(a) 59
(b) 60
(c) 61
(d) 62

ANSWER (c) 61

The procedure for impeachment of the President is laid down in Article 61. The President can be impeached only for "violation of the Constitution". A charge may be preferred by either House, after a notice of at least fourteen days signed by not less than one-fourth of its members, and it must be passed by a majority of not less than two-thirds of the total membership of that House.

- The other House then investigates the charge, and if it too passes it by a two-thirds majority of its

total membership, the President stands removed from the date of passing.
- Article 60 deals with the oath of the President and Article 62 with the time of holding election to fill the vacancy.
- No President of India has been impeached so far.

30 Under the Bharatiya Sakshya Adhiniyam, which of the following is considered a primary source of evidence in the digital era?

[SSC CGL 06 Oct 2026, Shift-I]

(a) Printouts of WhatsApp chats without digital signature verification
(b) Newspaper reports about a digital crime
(c) Certified copies of electronic records with hash value authentication
(d) Oral confessions made to a police officer

ANSWER (c) Certified copies of electronic records with hash value ...

Under the Bharatiya Sakshya Adhiniyam, an electronic or digital record is treated as primary evidence, provided it is authenticated through the prescribed certificate under Section 63. The certificate, signed by the person in charge of the device and an expert, carries the hash value of the record, which ensures its integrity. Hence certified copies of electronic records with hash value authentication are the correct choice.
- Unverified printouts of chats lack such authentication and may be rejected.
- A confession made to a police officer is not admissible against the accused.
- Newspaper reports are only secondary or hearsay material and not primary evidence.

31 Who was the first Chairman of the Union Public Service Commission (UPSC)?

[SSC CGL 06 Oct 2026, Shift-I]

(a) Rose Millian Bathew
(b) Ross Barker
(c) Manoj Soni
(d) Preeti Sudan

ANSWER (b) Ross Barker

Sir Ross Barker was the first Chairman of the Public Service Commission, set up on 1 October 1926, which is the origin of today's UPSC. It was renamed the Federal Public Service Commission under the Government of India Act, 1935, and became the Union Public Service Commission on 26 January 1950 with the commencement of the Constitution.
- Article 315 provides for the Public Service Commissions of the Union and of the States.
- The Chairman and members of the UPSC are appointed by the President under Article 316.
- Manoj Soni and Preeti Sudan are recent Chairpersons of UPSC.

32 Article 54 of the Indian Constitution deals with the:

[SSC CGL 06 Oct 2026, Shift-I]

(a) Term of the President
(b) Election of the President
(c) Impeachment of the President
(d) Oath of the President

ANSWER (b) Election of the President

Article 54 deals with the election of the President. He is elected by an electoral college consisting of the elected members of both Houses of Parliament and the elected members of the Legislative Assemblies of the States (including Delhi and Puducherry, as per the 70th Amendment).
- Nominated members of Parliament and State Legislative Assemblies, and members of Legislative Councils, do not take part in the election.
- Article 55 provides that the election is held by proportional representation by means of the single transferable vote, with secret ballot.
- Article 56 deals with the term, Article 61 with impeachment and Article 60 with the oath.

33 A catches B committing simple theft of a bicycle. B begins running away without violence. A shoots and kills B solely to recover the bicycle. Which of the following is correct under the Bharatiya Nyaya Sanhita, 2023 in India?

[SSC CGL 06 Oct 2026, Shift-I]

(a) A is justified because private defence of property always includes killing a thief.
(b) A is justified because the theft had already occurred.
(c) A is not justified since the right didn't extend to causing death here.
(d) A is justified because the property had not yet been recovered.

ANSWER (c) A is not justified since the right didn't extend to ...

Under the Bharatiya Nyaya Sanhita, 2023, the right of private defence of property extends to causing death only in specified cases such as robbery, house-breaking by night, mischief by fire to a dwelling, or theft, mischief or house-trespass that causes reasonable apprehension of death or grievous hurt (Section 41). In simple theft the right extends only to causing any harm other than death (Section 42), so A is not justified in killing B.

- The right of private defence of property against theft begins when there is a reasonable apprehension of danger to the property, and continues till the offender has effected his retreat or the property is recovered or help is obtained.
- Section 38 deals with the right of private defence of the body extending to causing death.
- The right never extends to causing more harm than is necessary.

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34 Under which constitutional provision of the Constitution of India is the Goods and Services Tax (GST) Council established?

[SSC CGL 06 Oct 2026, Shift-I]

(a) Article 246A
(b) Article 269A
(c) Article 279A
(d) Article 280

ANSWER (c) Article 279A

The GST Council is established under Article 279A, inserted by the 101st Constitutional Amendment Act, 2016. It is chaired by the Union Finance Minister, and its members are the Union Minister of State in charge of Revenue or Finance and the Minister in charge of Finance or Taxation of each State.

- Its decisions are taken by a majority of not less than three-fourths of the weighted votes of members present and voting; the Centre has one-third weightage and all the States together two-thirds.
- Article 246A gives Parliament and State Legislatures power to make laws on GST, and Article 269A deals with GST on inter-State supply.
- Article 280 deals with the Finance Commission.

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35 What does the Bharatiya Nyaya Sanhita (BNS), 2023 propose regarding the role of digital evidence in criminal cases?

[SSC CGL 06 Oct 2026, Shift-II]

(a) Digital evidence can only be used if it is manually compiled
(b) Digital evidence is not admissible in court without physical copies
(c) Digital evidence must be verified and authenticated for it to be used in court
(d) All digital evidence is automatically accepted in legal proceedings

ANSWER (c) Digital evidence must be verified and authenticated for ...

As per the official answer key, the correct answer is that digital evidence must be verified and authenticated before it can be used in court. Electronic records are admissible only when authenticated, and not automatically; under the Bharatiya Sakshya Adhiniyam, 2023 this is done through the certificate prescribed under Section 63.

- Strictly speaking, rules on the admissibility of electronic evidence are contained in the Bharatiya Sakshya Adhiniyam, 2023, while BNS, 2023 is the substantive criminal law replacing the IPC.
- BNS, BNSS and BSA all came into force on 1 July 2024.
- BNSS also allows audio-video electronic means for recording evidence and for searches and seizures.

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36 Which amendment introduced Article 246A to the Constitution?

[SSC CGL 06 Oct 2026, Shift-II]

(a) 100th Amendment
(b) 101st Amendment
(c) 97th Amendment
(d) 99th Amendment

ANSWER (b) 101st Amendment

Article 246A was inserted by the 101st Constitutional Amendment Act, 2016. It gives Parliament and State Legislatures concurrent power to make laws on Goods and Services Tax, while Parliament has exclusive power over GST on inter-State supply.

- The 101st Amendment also inserted Articles 269A and 279A and omitted Article 268A; GST was implemented from 1 July 2017.
- The 100th Amendment (2015) gave effect to the land boundary agreement with Bangladesh.

- The 99th Amendment (2014) created the National Judicial Appointments Commission, which was struck down in 2015.

37 Under which article of the Indian Constitution is it mandatory to constitute a District Planning Committee (DPC) in every State?

[SSC CGL 06 Oct 2026, Shift-II]

(a) Article 243ZA (b) Article 243ZB
(c) Article 243ZC (d) Article 243ZD

ANSWER (d) Article 243ZD

Article 243ZD requires every State to constitute at the district level a District Planning Committee (DPC) to consolidate the plans prepared by the Panchayats and the Municipalities in the district and to prepare a draft development plan for the district as a whole. It was inserted by the 74th Amendment Act, 1992.

- Article 243ZA deals with elections to Municipalities and Article 243ZB with the application of Part IX-A to Union Territories.
- Article 243ZC bars interference by courts in electoral matters relating to Municipalities.
- Article 243ZE provides for the Metropolitan Planning Committee.

38 Under which article of the Indian Constitution are both Parliament and State Legislatures granted the simultaneous power to make laws with respect to Goods and Services Tax (GST)?

[SSC CGL 06 Oct 2026, Shift-II]

(a) Article 243B (b) Article 246A
(c) Article 248 (d) Article 254

ANSWER (b) Article 246A

Article 246A grants both Parliament and the State Legislatures the simultaneous power to make laws with respect to Goods and Services Tax. It was inserted by the 101st Amendment Act, 2016, and Parliament alone has the power to legislate on GST where the supply of goods or services takes place in the course of inter-State trade or commerce.

- Article 248 vests residuary powers of legislation in Parliament.
- Article 254 deals with inconsistency between laws made by Parliament and those made by State Legislatures.
- Article 243B relates to the constitution of Panchayats.

39 Under the Constitution of India, in which list of the Seventh Schedule does “Public Order” fall?

[SSC CGL 06 Oct 2026, Shift-II]

(a) Residuary powers (b) Concurrent List
(c) State List (d) Union List

ANSWER (c) State List

"Public Order" is Entry 1 of the State List in the Seventh Schedule, so the State Legislatures have the primary power to legislate on it. "Police" is Entry 2 of the same list.

- The Seventh Schedule (Article 246) contains three Lists: the Union List, the State List and the Concurrent List.
- Residuary powers belong to Parliament under Article 248.
- The scheme of three Lists was borrowed from the Government of India Act, 1935.

40 A warrant is issued for execution by a private person (not a police officer). During its execution, nearby civilians voluntarily assist because the person executing the warrant is actively pursuing the accused. Which of the following statements is legally correct under the Bharatiya Nagarik Suraksha Sanhita, 2023 in India?

[SSC CGL 06 Oct 2026, Shift-II]

(a) Civilians cannot assist because only police may execute warrants.
(b) Assistance is lawful if the person to whom the warrant is directed is near at hand and acting in execution.
(c) Civilian assistance requires prior magistrate approval.
(d) Only executive magistrates may assist in non-police warrant execution.

ANSWER (b) Assistance is lawful if the person to whom the warrant is ...

Under the Bharatiya Nagarik Suraksha Sanhita, 2023 (carried over from the CrPC), when a warrant is directed to a person other than a police officer, any other person may aid in its execution if the person to whom the warrant is directed is near at hand and acting in the execution of the warrant. So civilian

assistance is lawful in this situation, and no prior magistrate approval is needed.

- A warrant is a written authority issued by a Magistrate or Court, bearing the Court's seal, for arrest or search.
- A Court can direct a warrant to any person, and it is then executed by that person.
- A warrant directed to a police officer may also be executed by any other police officer to whom it is endorsed.

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41 The Finance Commission of India is constituted by the President under which Article?

[SSC CGL 06 Oct 2026, Shift-III]

(a) Article 280
(b) Article 148
(c) Article 324
(d) Article 315

ANSWER (a) Article 280

The Finance Commission is constituted by the President under Article 280, at the expiration of every fifth year or earlier. It consists of a Chairman and four other members and recommends the distribution of net tax proceeds between the Union and the States and among the States.

- The first Finance Commission (1951) was chaired by K.C. Neogy; the 15th by N.K. Singh and the 16th by Arvind Panagariya.
- Article 148 deals with the CAG, Article 324 with the Election Commission and Article 315 with Public Service Commissions.
- The Finance Commission is a quasi-judicial constitutional body.

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42 Which Article provides for the establishment of the Union Public Service Commission?

[SSC CGL 06 Oct 2026, Shift-III]

(a) Article 315 of the Indian Constitution
(b) Article 320 of the Indian Constitution
(c) Article 323 of the Indian Constitution
(d) Article 324 of the Indian Constitution

ANSWER (a) Article 315 of the Indian Constitution

Article 315 provides for Public Service Commissions for the Union and for the States, so the Union Public Service Commission is established under it. Two or more States may also agree to have a Joint State Public Service Commission.

- Article 316 deals with appointment and term of members (six years or till the age of 65 years, whichever is earlier, for UPSC).
- Article 320 lists the functions of the Public Service Commissions.
- Article 323 deals with the reports of the Commissions, and Article 324 with the Election Commission.

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43 What is the subject matter of Article 126 of the Indian Constitution?

[SSC CGL 06 Oct 2026, Shift-III]

(a) Appointment of Supreme Court judges
(b) Powers of the Chief Justice of India
(c) Appointment of Acting Chief Justice
(d) Retirement of judges of the Supreme Court

ANSWER (c) Appointment of Acting Chief Justice

Article 126 provides for the appointment of an acting Chief Justice of India. When the office of the Chief Justice is vacant, or when he is temporarily absent or unable to perform the duties of his office, the President appoints another Judge of the Supreme Court to perform those duties.

- Article 124 provides for the establishment and constitution of the Supreme Court.
- Article 127 deals with the appointment of ad hoc judges and Article 128 with the attendance of retired judges.
- A Supreme Court judge retires at the age of 65 years.

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44 Which article of the Constitution of India empowers a High Court to issue writs?

[SSC CGL 06 Oct 2026, Shift-III]

(a) Article 226
(b) Article 32
(c) Article 132
(d) Article 270

ANSWER (a) Article 226

Article 226 empowers a High Court to issue directions, orders or writs, including habeas corpus, mandamus, prohibition, certiorari and quo warranto, for the enforcement of Fundamental Rights and for any other

purpose. Its writ jurisdiction is therefore wider than that of the Supreme Court under Article 32.

- Article 32 empowers the Supreme Court to issue writs only for the enforcement of Fundamental Rights, and is itself a Fundamental Right.
- Article 132 deals with appeals to the Supreme Court from High Courts in constitutional matters.
- Article 270 deals with taxes levied and distributed between the Union and the States.

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45 The state government creates a special court of judicial magistrates first class for cyber fraud cases in a city. Later, a regular judicial magistrate first class in the same area takes cognizance of a cyber fraud case and begins trial proceedings. Which of the following is legally correct under the Bharatiya Nagarik Suraksha Sanhita, 2023 in India?

[SSC CGL 06 Oct 2026, Shift-III]

(a) The regular magistrate can proceed because all judicial magistrates have concurrent jurisdiction.
(b) The regular magistrate can proceed only with sessions judge approval.
(c) The regular magistrate lacks jurisdiction if the case falls within the class assigned to the special court.
(d) The Special Court can hear only appeals, not trials.

ANSWER (c) The regular magistrate lacks jurisdiction if the case ...

Under BNSS, 2023 (as under the CrPC), the State Government, in consultation with the High Court, may establish Special Courts of Judicial Magistrates of the first class to try a particular case or class of cases. Once such a Special Court is established, no other Magistrate's Court in the local area has jurisdiction to try the case or class of cases assigned to it, so the regular magistrate lacks jurisdiction.

- Judicial Magistrate courts are established in every district by the State Government after consultation with the High Court.
- The Chief Judicial Magistrate heads the Judicial Magistrates in a district.
- A Court of Session is established by the State Government for every sessions division.

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46 A surgeon performs a risky operation on Z with Z's valid consent. The surgeon knows death is likely but acts in good faith solely to cure Z, without intending death. Z dies during surgery. Which of the following best reflects the legal principle under the Bharatiya Nyaya Sanhita, 2023 in India?

[SSC CGL 07 Oct 2026, Shift-I]

(a) The surgeon is guilty because knowledge of likely death always creates liability.
(b) The Surgeon protected as act was in good faith with Z's consent for Z's benefit.
(c) The surgeon is protected only if death was impossible to foresee.
(d) Consent is irrelevant where death occurs.

ANSWER (b) The Surgeon protected as act was in good faith with Z's ...

Under the Bharatiya Nyaya Sanhita, 2023 (Section 26), nothing is an offence by reason of any harm, even death, caused to a person who has given consent, if the act is done in good faith for that person's benefit and the doer did not intend to cause death. The surgeon knew death was likely but acted only to cure Z, so he is protected.

- The protection does not apply if the doer intends to cause death, or if the act is done for a purpose other than the person's benefit.
- BNS Section 26 corresponds to Section 88 of the Indian Penal Code.
- Consent given under fear or misconception, or by a person of unsound mind or a child, is not valid consent.

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47 Under which specific provision of the Indian Constitution is the executive power vested in the President to act as the Supreme Commander of the Defence Forces?

[SSC CGL 07 Oct 2026, Shift-II]

(a) Article 61(1)
(b) Article 58(1)
(c) Article 53(2)
(d) Article 56(2)

ANSWER (c) Article 53(2)

Article 53(2) vests the supreme command of the Defence Forces of the Union in the President, and its exercise is to be regulated by law. Article 53(1) vests

the executive power of the Union in him, exercisable directly or through officers subordinate to him.

- Article 61 deals with impeachment and Article 58 with the qualifications for election as President.
- The President appoints the Chiefs of the Army, Navy and Air Force.
- Article 72 gives the President the power to grant pardons, and Article 123 the power to promulgate ordinances.

48 By which Constitutional Amendment Act was Article 246A inserted into the Constitution of India?

[SSC CGL 07 Oct 2026, Shift-II]

(a) 100th Constitutional Amendment Act, 2015
(b) 101st Constitutional Amendment Act, 2016
(c) 102nd Constitutional Amendment Act, 2018
(d) 103rd Constitutional Amendment Act, 2019

ANSWER (b) 101st Constitutional Amendment Act, 2016

Article 246A was inserted by the 101st Constitutional Amendment Act, 2016, which paved the way for the Goods and Services Tax. It empowers Parliament and State Legislatures to make laws on GST, and the GST regime was rolled out on 1 July 2017.

- The 102nd Amendment (2018) gave constitutional status to the National Commission for Backward Classes.
- The 103rd Amendment (2019) provided reservation for Economically Weaker Sections.
- The 100th Amendment (2015) related to the exchange of enclaves with Bangladesh.

49 Which of the following is not a Directive Principle of State Policy under Part IV of the Indian Constitution?

[SSC CGL 07 Oct 2026, Shift-II]

(a) Protection of environment
(b) Right to constitutional remedies
(c) Equal pay for equal work
(d) Promotion of village panchayats

ANSWER (b) Right to constitutional remedies

The Right to Constitutional Remedies (Article 32) is a Fundamental Right in Part III, not a Directive Principle. Protection of the environment (Article 48A), equal pay for equal work (Article 39(d)) and organisation of village panchayats (Article 40) are all Directive Principles in Part IV.

- Article 48A, protecting and improving the environment, was added by the 42nd Amendment (1976).
- Article 39(d) provides for equal pay for equal work for both men and women.
- Directive Principles are non-justiciable (Article 37) and were borrowed from the Irish Constitution.

50 As per Article 75 of the Constitution of India, the Council of Ministers holds collective responsibility to which institution?

[SSC CGL 07 Oct 2026, Shift-III]

(a) President
(b) Rajya Sabha
(c) Lok Sabha
(d) Supreme Court

ANSWER (c) Lok Sabha

Article 75(3) provides that the Council of Ministers shall be collectively responsible to the House of the People, i.e. the Lok Sabha. If the Lok Sabha passes a no-confidence motion, the entire Council of Ministers must resign.

- Article 75(2) states that ministers hold office during the pleasure of the President.
- Article 164(2) makes the Council of Ministers of a State collectively responsible to the Legislative Assembly.
- The Prime Minister is appointed by the President, and other ministers on the advice of the Prime Minister (Article 75(1)).

51 What is the minimum age required to become a member of the Rajya Sabha as per the Article 84 of the Indian Constitution?

[SSC CGL 07 Oct 2026, Shift-III]

(a) Twenty-five years of age
(b) Thirty years of age
(c) Thirty-five years of age
(d) Twenty-one years of age

ANSWER (b) Thirty years of age

Under Article 84(b), a person must be not less than thirty years of age to be chosen as a member of the Council of States (Rajya Sabha), and not less than twenty-five years of age for the House of the People

(Lok Sabha). He must also be a citizen of India and make and subscribe an oath or affirmation.

- The minimum age is 35 years for the President, Vice-President and Governor, and 30 years for a member of a State Legislative Council.
- The maximum strength of the Rajya Sabha is 250 (Article 80), of which 12 are nominated by the President.
- The Rajya Sabha is a permanent House; one-third of its members retire every second year.

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52 What is the specific ground for the removal of a Supreme Court Judge under Article 124(4) of the Indian Constitution?

[SSC CGL 07 Oct 2026, Shift-III]

(a) Violation of the Constitution or conviction for a criminal offence
(b) Proved misbehaviour or permanent incapacity
(c) Failure to maintain judicial records
(d) Accepting an office of profit

ANSWER (b) Proved misbehaviour or permanent incapacity

Under Article 124(4), a Supreme Court Judge can be removed by the President only on the ground of proved misbehaviour or incapacity. The removal requires an address by each House of Parliament, supported by a majority of the total membership of that House and by at least two-thirds of the members present and voting, in the same session.

- The procedure for investigation is laid down in the Judges (Inquiry) Act, 1968.
- The first removal proceeding was against Justice V. Ramaswami (1993), which failed in the Lok Sabha for want of the required majority.
- A High Court judge is removed in the same manner (Article 217).

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53 A sees a child trapped inside a burning house. To save the child, A throws the child from the roof onto a blanket held below, knowing the fall could kill the child. The child dies from the fall. Which is the strongest legal conclusion under the Bharatiya Nyaya Sanhita, 2023 in India?

[SSC CGL 07 Oct 2026, Shift-III]

(a) A is guilty because he knowingly caused death.
(b) A is guilty because the child did not consent.
(c) A is protected because the act was done in good faith for the child's benefit with the possibility of obtaining consent.
(d) A is protected only if the child survives.

ANSWER (c) A is protected because the act was done in good faith for ...

Under the Bharatiya Nyaya Sanhita, 2023 (Section 30), an act done in good faith for the benefit of a person, without his consent, is not an offence by reason of any harm it may cause, if it is impossible for that person to signify consent (or he is a child with no guardian available in time to give consent). The only exception is the intentional causing of death. A did not intend the child's death and acted solely to save the child, so he is protected.

- BNS Section 30 corresponds to Section 92 of the Indian Penal Code.
- The protection does not cover intentionally causing or attempting to cause death, or causing hurt for a purpose other than preventing death or hurt.
- Section 26 (consent in good faith for benefit) covers cases where the person has given consent.

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54 According to BSA, if a person refuses to answer a material question in court what are the consequences?

[SSC CGL 08 Oct 2026, Shift-I]

(a) Adverse inference may be drawn
(b) They are held guilty automatically
(c) Their evidence is expunged
(d) The case is dismissed

ANSWER (a) Adverse inference may be drawn

Under the Bharatiya Sakshya Adhiniyam, the Court may draw an adverse inference against a person who withholds evidence or refuses to answer a material question, i.e. it may presume that the answer would have been unfavourable to him. It does not make him automatically guilty, nor does it dismiss the case or expunge his evidence.

- Adverse inference is a presumption the Court may draw from the conduct of a party; it is not a conclusive proof.

- A witness cannot be compelled to answer a question that would incriminate him, in view of Article 20(3).
- BSA replaced the Indian Evidence Act, 1872 from 1 July 2024.

55 Which Article of the Indian Constitution specifies the languages to be used for transacting business in Parliament?

[SSC CGL 08 Oct 2026, Shift-I]

(a) Article 110
(b) Article 120
(c) Article 121
(d) Article 122

ANSWER (b) Article 120

Article 120 specifies the language to be used in Parliament: business is transacted in Hindi or in English. The Presiding Officer may permit a member who cannot adequately express himself in Hindi or English to address the House in his mother tongue.

- Article 110 defines a Money Bill.
- Article 121 restricts discussion in Parliament of the conduct of a judge of the Supreme Court or a High Court.
- Article 122 provides that the validity of proceedings in Parliament cannot be questioned in any court on the ground of irregularity of procedure.

56 A Chief Judicial Magistrate issues an administrative order redistributing criminal cases among the Judicial Magistrates subordinate to him. One of the Magistrates challenges the order, arguing that only the Sessions Judge has the authority to distribute judicial business. Which of the following is correct under the Bharatiya Nagarik Suraksha Sanhita, 2023 in India?

[SSC CGL 08 Oct 2026, Shift-I]

(a) Only the sessions judge may distribute magistrate business.
(b) Chief Judicial Magistrate empowered to distribute work among Judicial Magistrates.
(c) Business distribution requires approval of the executive magistrate.
(d) The High Court alone may allocate all criminal cases.

ANSWER (b) Chief Judicial Magistrate empowered to distribute work ...

Under BNSS, 2023 (as in the CrPC), the Chief Judicial Magistrate may make rules or give special orders, consistent with the law, as to the distribution of business among the Judicial Magistrates subordinate to him. The challenge by the Magistrate therefore fails, since the CJM is empowered to distribute work among them.

- Judicial Magistrates are subordinate to the Chief Judicial Magistrate, who in turn works under the general control of the Sessions Judge.
- Similarly, the Sessions Judge distributes business among the Additional Sessions Judges and Assistant Sessions Judges.
- The CJM heads the Judicial Magistrates in a district and is appointed by the High Court.

57 In India, under which situation can Parliament legislate on a subject in the State List without declaring a national emergency?

[SSC CGL 08 Oct 2026, Shift-I]

(a) When the Lok Sabha passes a resolution by simple majority.
(b) Rajya Sabha passes a resolution with a two-thirds majority of members present and voting.
(c) When the President issues an ordinance.
(d) When the Supreme Court advises the union government.

ANSWER (b) Rajya Sabha passes a resolution with a two-thirds ...

Under Article 249, Parliament can legislate on a State List subject, without a national emergency, if the Rajya Sabha passes a resolution supported by not less than two-thirds of the members present and voting, declaring that it is necessary or expedient in the national interest. The resolution lasts up to one year and can be renewed.

- The law made under Article 249 ceases to have effect six months after the resolution lapses.
- Article 250 gives the same power during a Proclamation of Emergency, and Article 252 with the consent of States.
- Article 253 allows Parliament to legislate on State subjects to implement international treaties.

58 Who was appointed India's Comptroller and Auditor General (CAG) in November 2024?

[SSC CGL 08 Oct 2026, Shift-II]

(a) Rajiv Mehrishi
(b) K. Sanjay Murthy
(c) G.C. Murmu
(d) Vinod Rai

ANSWER (b) K. Sanjay Murthy

K. Sanjay Murthy was appointed the Comptroller and Auditor General of India in November 2024, succeeding Girish Chandra Murmu, and took charge as the 15th CAG. The CAG is appointed by the President under Article 148 and can be removed only in the manner and on the grounds of a Supreme Court judge.

- The CAG holds office for six years or till the age of 65 years, whichever is earlier.
- The CAG audits the accounts of the Union and the States, and reports are laid before Parliament and State Legislatures.
- Rajiv Mehrishi and Vinod Rai are former CAGs.

59 As per Article 62(2) of the Constitution, if the office of the President falls vacant due to death, resignation, or removal, what is the maximum time limit prescribed for holding the election to fill that vacancy?

[SSC CGL 08 Oct 2026, Shift-II]

(a) Three months of vacancy
(b) Six months of vacancy
(c) Nine months of vacancy
(d) One year of vacancy

ANSWER (b) Six months of vacancy

Article 62(2) provides that an election to fill a vacancy in the office of President caused by his death, resignation or removal shall be held as soon as possible, and in no case later than six months from the date of occurrence of the vacancy. The person so elected is entitled to hold office for a full term of five years.

- Under Article 62(1), an election to fill the vacancy caused by expiry of term must be completed before the expiration of the term.
- Until a new President is elected, the Vice-President acts as President (Article 65).
- If the Vice-President is not available, the Chief Justice of India acts as President under the Presidential (Succession) Act, 1969.

60 Which article of the Constitution of India explicitly states that Union Ministers shall hold office during the pleasure of the President?

[SSC CGL 08 Oct 2026, Shift-II]

(a) Article 71
(b) Article 78
(c) Article 75
(d) Article 81

ANSWER (c) Article 75

Article 75(2) states that the Ministers shall hold office during the pleasure of the President. In practice the President acts on the advice of the Prime Minister, and a minister continues only as long as he enjoys the confidence of the Prime Minister and the Lok Sabha.

- Article 75(1) provides that the Prime Minister is appointed by the President, and other ministers on the advice of the Prime Minister.
- Article 78 lays down the duties of the Prime Minister regarding furnishing information to the President.
- Article 71 deals with matters relating to the election of the President and Vice-President, and Article 81 with the composition of the Lok Sabha.

61 **Consider the following statements:**
1. Rajya Sabha can allow Parliament to make laws on State List.
2. Rajya Sabha can amend Money Bills and delay them for 14 days.
Which of the above statements is/are **correct**?

[SSC CGL 08 Oct 2026, Shift-III]

(a) Only 1
(b) Only 2
(c) Both 1 and 2
(d) Neither 1 nor 2

ANSWER (a) Only 1

Only statement 1 is correct. Under Article 249, the Rajya Sabha can, by a two-thirds majority of members present and voting, empower Parliament to legislate on a State List subject in the national interest. Statement 2 is wrong because the Rajya Sabha cannot amend a Money Bill; it can only recommend amendments within 14 days, which the Lok Sabha may accept or reject (Article 109).

- If the Rajya Sabha does not return a Money Bill within 14 days, it is deemed passed by both Houses.
- The Speaker of the Lok Sabha certifies whether a Bill is a Money Bill (Article 110).

- Rajya Sabha has equal powers with the Lok Sabha in matters like impeachment of the President and removal of the Vice-President (initiation).

62 What is the difference between a bailable and non-bailable offence under BNSS?

[SSC CGL 08 Oct 2026, Shift-III]

(a) Non-bailable offences can be compounded by the police
(b) Bailable offences are not punishable
(c) Bailable offences are listed in the First Schedule
(d) Non-bailable offences can be granted bail by any officer

ANSWER (c) Bailable offences are listed in the First Schedule

Under BNSS, 2023, a "bailable offence" means an offence which is shown as bailable in the First Schedule or which is made bailable by any other law for the time being in force; a "non-bailable offence" is any other offence. Bailable offences are therefore identified through the First Schedule.

- In bailable offences, bail is a matter of right and can be granted by the police officer or the Court.
- In non-bailable offences, bail is granted at the discretion of the Court, taking into account the gravity of the offence.
- Bailable offences are punishable like other offences; bailability concerns only the right to release.

63 The real executive power in the Indian Union is exercised by:

[SSC CGL 08 Oct 2026, Shift-III]

(a) The President
(b) The Prime Minister
(c) The Chief Justice
(d) The Parliament

ANSWER (b) The Prime Minister

In India's parliamentary system the President is the nominal or de jure executive, while the real or de facto executive power is exercised by the Prime Minister, who heads the Council of Ministers. Article 74(1) provides for a Council of Ministers headed by the Prime Minister to aid and advise the President, who must act in accordance with that advice.

- The 42nd Amendment (1976) made the President bound by the advice of the Council of Ministers, and the 44th Amendment (1978) allowed him to ask for reconsideration once.
- The Prime Minister is the leader of the majority party or coalition in the Lok Sabha.
- The Prime Minister is the link between the President and the Council of Ministers (Article 78).

64 Who presides over the joint sitting of the Parliament?

[SSC CGL 08 Oct 2026, Shift-III]

(a) President of India
(b) Speaker of Lok Sabha
(c) Chairman of Rajya Sabha
(d) Vice President

ANSWER (b) Speaker of Lok Sabha

The Speaker of the Lok Sabha presides over a joint sitting of the two Houses of Parliament, which is summoned by the President under Article 108 to resolve a deadlock over an ordinary Bill. In the Speaker's absence, the Deputy Speaker, and in his absence the Deputy Chairman of the Rajya Sabha, presides; the Chairman of the Rajya Sabha never presides.

- Joint sittings have been held three times: 1961 (Dowry Prohibition Bill), 1978 (Banking Service Commission Repeal Bill) and 2002 (POTA Bill).
- A joint sitting cannot be held for a Money Bill or a Constitution Amendment Bill.
- The Bill is decided by a majority of the total number of members of both Houses present and voting.

65 _____ is NOT covered under Article 20 of the Indian Constitution.

[SSC CGL 08 Oct 2026, Shift-III]

(a) Protection against self-incrimination
(b) Principle of double jeopardy
(c) Principle of ex-post facto laws
(d) Principle of legitimate expectation

ANSWER (d) Principle of legitimate expectation

Article 20 protects a person in respect of conviction for offences: it bars ex-post facto criminal laws (20(1)), double jeopardy (20(2)) and compulsion to be a witness against oneself, i.e. self-incrimination (20(3)). The principle of legitimate expectation is a doctrine of

administrative law developed by courts and is not covered by Article 20.

- Article 20 cannot be suspended even during a National Emergency (Article 359, as amended by the 44th Amendment).
- Article 21 (life and personal liberty) is likewise non-suspendable.
- Article 20 is available to citizens and non-citizens, but only against prosecution for criminal offences.

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66 A Sessions Judge sentences an accused to death. Before the sentence is confirmed by the High Court, the convict files an appeal, contending that the sentence is already executable because a Sessions Judge is empowered to pass "any sentence authorized by law." Which of the following is correct under the Bharatiya Nagarik Suraksha Sanhita, 2023 in India?

[SSC CGL 09 Oct 2026, Shift-I]

(a) Correct, because session judges possess complete sentencing authority.
(b) Incorrect, because High Court must confirm all death sentences.
(c) Correct only if the offense is against the state.
(d) Incorrect only when the trial was conducted by an additional sessions judge.

ANSWER (b) Incorrect, because High Court must confirm all death ...

Under BNSS, 2023 (as in the CrPC), a Sessions Judge may pass any sentence authorised by law, but a sentence of death passed by the Court of Session must be submitted to the High Court and is not executed unless confirmed by the High Court. The contention is therefore incorrect, as the High Court must confirm all death sentences.

- The High Court may confirm the sentence, pass any other sentence warranted by law, annul the conviction or order a new trial.
- A death sentence passed by an Additional Sessions Judge also needs High Court confirmation.
- Article 72 and Article 161 empower the President and the Governor, respectively, to grant pardon and commute sentences.

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67 A is accused of robbery. Immediately after the incident, A runs away, and a witness hears someone shouting, "The robber escaped." Which of the following statements is correct under the Bharatiya Sakshya Adhiniyam, 2023 in India?

[SSC CGL 09 Oct 2026, Shift-I]

(a) The shout is irrelevant hearsay.
(b) The shout and flight are irrelevant because they are not facts in issue.
(c) The shout is relevant only as confession.
(d) Both are relevant as conduct under Section 6

ANSWER (d) Both are relevant as conduct under Section 6

As per the official answer key, both the shout and the flight are relevant as conduct under Section 6 of the Bharatiya Sakshya Adhiniyam, 2023. This section makes relevant the motive, preparation and previous or subsequent conduct of a party in relation to a fact in issue, and a statement made in the presence of that person which affects his conduct is also relevant. A's running away immediately after the incident is subsequent conduct.

- Section 6 of BSA corresponds to Section 8 of the Indian Evidence Act, 1872.
- Facts forming part of the same transaction (res gestae) are relevant under Section 4 of BSA.
- Conduct is relevant only if it influences or is influenced by a fact in issue or a relevant fact.

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68 Why is Indian planning considered a democratic political process?

[SSC CGL 09 Oct 2026, Shift-II]

(a) Because only elected officials approve the budget
(b) Because the planning process is secretive and efficient
(c) Because it is driven by market forces, not politics
(d) Because it undergoes parliamentary presentation and public input

ANSWER (d) Because it undergoes parliamentary presentation and ...

Indian planning is considered a democratic political process because plans are not imposed by a single authority: they pass through consultation with States and the public and are presented to Parliament. Under the system, the National Development Council (of the

Prime Minister and Chief Ministers) approved the Five Year Plans, which were then laid before Parliament.

- The Planning Commission was set up in March 1950 by an executive resolution; it was neither constitutional nor statutory.
- It was replaced by NITI Aayog on 1 January 2015.
- India followed a mixed economy model, with the First Five Year Plan running from 1951 to 1956.

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69 Under which Article of the Indian Constitution can the Union government issue directions to States in certain matters?

[SSC CGL 09 Oct 2026, Shift-II]

(a) Article 250
(b) Article 254
(c) Article 256
(d) Article 258

ANSWER (c) Article 256

Under Article 256, the executive power of every State must be exercised so as to ensure compliance with the laws made by Parliament, and the Union can give such directions to a State as appear necessary for this purpose. Article 257 further provides for Union control over States in certain other cases.

- Article 250 gives Parliament power to legislate on State List subjects during an Emergency.
- Article 254 deals with inconsistency between Union and State laws on Concurrent List subjects.
- Article 258 allows the President to confer powers on a State with its consent.

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70 Under which article of the Indian Constitution is the State Legislature empowered to make provisions for the maintenance and auditing of Panchayat accounts?

[SSC CGL 09 Oct 2026, Shift-II]

(a) Article 239B
(b) Article 224A
(c) Article 243J
(d) Article 279A

ANSWER (c) Article 243J

Article 243J, in Part IX, empowers the Legislature of a State to make provisions by law with respect to the maintenance of accounts by the Panchayats and the auditing of such accounts. It was inserted by the 73rd Constitutional Amendment Act, 1992.

- Article 243I provides for the constitution of a Finance Commission for Panchayats every five years.
- Article 243K provides for the State Election Commission to conduct Panchayat elections.
- Article 239B deals with the power of the Administrator of Puducherry to promulgate ordinances, Article 224A with the appointment of retired judges at High Court sittings and Article 279A with the GST Council.

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71 Under Article 358 of the Indian Constitution, the suspension of Article 19 during a National Emergency operates only when the Emergency is proclaimed on which ground?

[SSC CGL 09 Oct 2026, Shift-II]

(a) External aggression or war
(b) Financial instability or economic crisis
(c) Constitutional breakdown or failure of governance
(d) Armed rebellion or internal disturbance

ANSWER (a) External aggression or war

Under Article 358, Article 19 is automatically suspended only when a National Emergency is proclaimed on the ground of war or external aggression. After the 44th Amendment (1978), an Emergency proclaimed on the ground of armed rebellion does not automatically suspend Article 19.

- Article 352 now uses the term "armed rebellion" in place of "internal disturbance" (44th Amendment).
- Under Article 359, the President may suspend the enforcement of Fundamental Rights other than Articles 20 and 21.
- Article 358 suspends the rights under Article 19 automatically, whereas Article 359 requires a Presidential order.

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72 As per Article 72 of the Indian Constitution, what is the meaning of the 'commutation' power granted to the President of India?

[SSC CGL 09 Oct 2026, Shift-III]

(a) Postponing the execution
(b) Temporary suspension of sentence
(c) Substituting a lighter punishment form
(d) Complete acquittal of the convict

ANSWER (c) Substituting a lighter punishment form

Under Article 72, commutation means the substitution of one form of punishment by a lighter form, for

example a death sentence replaced by rigorous imprisonment. The President can exercise it in all cases of court martial, offences against Union laws, and death sentences.

- Pardon removes both the sentence and the conviction, and the convict is treated as if never convicted.
- Remission reduces the amount of sentence without changing its character; respite awards a lesser sentence due to special circumstances; reprieve is a temporary stay of execution.
- The Governor has similar powers under Article 161, but cannot pardon a death sentence or a court-martial sentence.

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73 Which Article of Indian Constitution provides for the formation of an Inter-State Council in India?

[SSC CGL 09 Oct 2026, Shift-III]

(a) Article 261
(b) Article 263
(c) Article 265
(d) Article 267

ANSWER (b) Article 263

Article 263 empowers the President to establish an Inter-State Council if it appears that the public interest would be served by it. The Council inquires into and advises on disputes between States and investigates subjects of common interest.

- The Inter-State Council was set up in 1990 by a Presidential order, with the Prime Minister as its Chairman.
- Zonal Councils are statutory bodies created by the States Reorganisation Act, 1956, not by the Constitution.
- Article 262 deals with adjudication of inter-State water disputes.

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74 Which dispute falls under the 'Original Jurisdiction' of the Supreme Court under Article 131 of Indian constitution?

[SSC CGL 09 Oct 2026, Shift-III]

(a) Dispute between two private citizens
(b) Dispute between Center and States
(c) Dispute regarding the local elections
(d) Dispute involving the criminal appeals

ANSWER (b) Dispute between Center and States

Article 131 gives the Supreme Court exclusive original jurisdiction in disputes between the Centre and one or more States, between the Centre and a State on one side and other States on the other, and between two or more States. The dispute must involve a question of law or fact on which the existence or extent of a legal right depends.

- Private citizens cannot invoke Article 131; they may approach the Court under Article 32 for Fundamental Rights.
- Article 32 (writ jurisdiction) is original but not exclusive, as High Courts also issue writs.
- Criminal appeals fall under the Court's appellate jurisdiction (Articles 132-134).

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75 The office of sessions judge in a sessions division suddenly becomes vacant. An urgent bail application is pending. There is no additional sessions judge available in that division. Who may legally dispose of the application under the Bharatiya Nagarik Suraksha Sanhita, 2023 in India?

[SSC CGL 09 Oct 2026, Shift-III]

(a) Only the High Court
(b) Chief Judicial Magistrate
(c) Executive Magistrate
(d) District Magistrate

ANSWER (b) Chief Judicial Magistrate

When the office of the Sessions Judge falls vacant, the High Court makes arrangements for the disposal of urgent applications. Where no Additional Sessions Judge is available, the Code provides that the Chief Judicial Magistrate (CJM) of the sessions division may dispose of the urgent application, and the Sessions Judge or Additional Sessions Judge acquires jurisdiction over it once he takes charge.

- The Court of Session is established by the State Government in consultation with the High Court.
- A Sessions Judge is appointed by the High Court.
- The CJM is the head of the Judicial Magistrates in a district.

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76 Which of the following changes the Bharatiya Sakshya Adhiniyam (BSA), introduced in relation to electronic evidence, compared to the Indian Evidence Act?

[SSC CGL 10 Oct 2026, Shift-I]

(a) Rejects metadata as hearsay
(b) Recognizes electronic records as equivalent to oral statements
(c) Only printed emails are admissible
(d) Broadens scope to include blockchain, cloud logs, and forensic audit trails

ANSWER (d) Broadens scope to include blockchain, cloud logs, and ...

The Bharatiya Sakshya Adhiniyam, 2023 widens the definition of 'document' to include electronic or digital records such as emails, messages, server logs, location data and voicemails, and gives them the same legal effect, validity and enforceability as paper records. This broader scope covers modern digital sources such as cloud logs and forensic audit trails, and admissibility is governed by a certificate signed by the person in charge and an expert.

- BSA replaced the Indian Evidence Act, 1872 and came into force on 1 July 2024.
- It has 170 sections, against 167 in the old Act.
- Electronic records are treated as documentary evidence, not as oral statements.

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77 According to Article 64 of the Indian Constitution, the Vice-President of India is the ex officio Chairman of the:

[SSC CGL 10 Oct 2026, Shift-I]

(a) Lok Sabha
(b) Legislative Assembly
(c) Council of States
(d) Council of Ministers

ANSWER (c) Council of States

Article 64 provides that the Vice-President shall be the ex officio Chairman of the Council of States (Rajya Sabha) and shall not hold any other office of profit. He has no vote in the House except a casting vote in the case of a tie.

- The Vice-President is elected by an electoral college of members of both Houses of Parliament, including nominated members (Article 66).
- His term is five years (Article 67).
- Article 65 makes him the acting President during a vacancy in the office of the President.

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78 A police officer receives a warrant to arrest "R". After conducting a reasonable inquiry and acting in good faith, he arrests S, believing S to be R. Later it is discovered that S was entirely innocent, and the warrant never applied to him. Which of the following is the most accurate legal position under the Bharatiya Nyaya Sanhita, 2023 in India?

[SSC CGL 10 Oct 2026, Shift-I]

(a) The officer is liable because wrongful arrest always constitutes an offence.
(b) The officer is protected only if the court issuing the warrant has jurisdiction.
(c) The officer is protected because of a mistake of fact made in good faith.
(d) The officer is liable because identity mistakes are mistakes of law.

ANSWER (c) The officer is protected because of a mistake of fact ...

Under the General Exceptions of the Bharatiya Nyaya Sanhita, 2023 (corresponding to Section 76 of the IPC), an act is not an offence if it is done by a person who, by reason of a mistake of fact and not a mistake of law, in good faith believes himself bound by law to do it. A police officer who arrests S in good faith, believing him to be R named in the warrant, is therefore protected.

- The key test is good faith, meaning due care and attention.
- Ignorance of law is no excuse, but a mistake of fact in good faith is a valid defence.
- Section 79 of the IPC, now in the BNS, extends the same protection to a person who believes himself justified by law.

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79 The concept of a "Union of States" under Article 1 of the Constitution of India implies that:

[SSC CGL 10 Oct 2026, Shift-I]

(a) States possess a constitutional right to secede
(b) The Indian federation originated through agreement among sovereign states.
(c) The Union is indestructible, though States may be reorganized.
(d) States have equal sovereignty with the union.

ANSWER (c) The Union is indestructible, though States may be ...

Article 1 describes India as a 'Union of States'. Dr B.R. Ambedkar explained that the Indian federation is not the result of an agreement among States, and that no State has the right to secede from it. The Union is

indestructible, while Parliament can reorganise States under Articles 2 and 3 by a simple majority.

- Article 3 allows Parliament to form new States, and alter the area, boundaries or names of existing States.
- Such laws are not treated as amendments under Article 368.
- India is often described as 'indestructible Union of destructible States'.

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80 A Judicial Magistrate who was exercising jurisdiction throughout District A is transferred to an equivalent post in another area within the same State. No fresh order conferring judicial powers is issued after the transfer. Can the Magistrate continue to exercise the same judicial powers under the Bharatiya Nagarik Suraksha Sanhita, 2023 in India?

[SSC CGL 10 Oct 2026, Shift-II]

(a) No, because fresh conferment is mandatory after every transfer.
(b) Yes, unless the high court or state government directs otherwise.
(c) Yes, but only for administrative powers, not judicial powers.
(d) No, because powers lapse automatically upon transfer.

ANSWER (b) Yes, unless the high court or state government directs ...

The Code provides that when a Magistrate who has been conferred powers is transferred to another local area within the same State, he continues to exercise the same powers in the new area, unless the High Court or the State Government directs otherwise. Fresh conferment is therefore not mandatory after each transfer.

- Powers of Judicial Magistrates are conferred by the High Court.
- The High Court, or the State Government on its behalf, defines the local jurisdiction of a Magistrate.
- Powers of Executive Magistrates are conferred by the State Government.

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81 Under the provisions of the Bharatiya Sakshya Adhiniyam 2023 in India, A is accused of committing a crime in Bengaluru. The defence proves that A was in Delhi at the exact time of commission of the crime. This fact is:

[SSC CGL 10 Oct 2026, Shift-II]

(a) Relevant as a fact forming part of the same transaction
(b) Relevant as an exception under Section 10
(c) Relevant because it is inconsistent with the fact in issue.
(d) Irrelevant unless corroborated by confession

ANSWER (c) Relevant because it is inconsistent with the fact in issue.

This is the plea of alibi. Under the Bharatiya Sakshya Adhiniyam, 2023 (corresponding to Section 11 of the Evidence Act), facts not otherwise relevant become relevant if they are inconsistent with any fact in issue or relevant fact. Proof that A was in Delhi at that exact time is inconsistent with his presence at the crime scene in Bengaluru, so it is relevant.

- The burden of proving an alibi lies on the accused, who must prove it with reasonable certainty.
- An alibi is not a general exception; it is a fact that disproves presence at the scene.
- It is also relevant when it makes a fact in issue highly probable or improbable.

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82 According to the Urban and Regional Development Plans Formulation and Implementation (URDPFI) Guidelines, which constitutional amendment granted constitutional status to Urban Local Bodies in India?

[SSC CGL 10 Oct 2026, Shift-II]

(a) 42^{nd} Constitutional Amendment
(b) 44^{th} Constitutional Amendment
(c) 52^{nd} Constitutional Amendment
(d) 74^{th} Constitutional Amendment

ANSWER (d) 74th Constitutional Amendment

The 74th Constitutional Amendment Act, 1992 gave constitutional status to Urban Local Bodies by adding Part IX-A (Articles 243P to 243ZG) and the Twelfth Schedule. It came into force on 1 June 1993.

- The Twelfth Schedule lists 18 functional items of municipalities.
- Three types of municipalities are provided: Nagar Panchayat, Municipal Council and Municipal Corporation.

- The 73rd Amendment gave constitutional status to Panchayati Raj Institutions (Part IX, Eleventh Schedule).

83 Fundamental Rights are contained in which part of the Indian Constitution?

[SSC CGL 10 Oct 2026, Shift-III]

(a) Part II
(b) Part III
(c) Part IV
(d) Part I

ANSWER (b) Part III

Fundamental Rights are contained in Part III of the Constitution (Articles 12 to 35). They are justiciable and are called the 'Magna Carta' of India.

- Part I deals with the Union and its territory, Part II with citizenship, and Part IV with the Directive Principles of State Policy (Articles 36 to 51).
- Part IV-A contains the Fundamental Duties (Article 51A), added by the 42nd Amendment.
- Article 32 is called the 'heart and soul' of the Constitution by Dr Ambedkar.

84 Which Schedule lists the subjects under the Union, State, and Concurrent Lists?

[SSC CGL 10 Oct 2026, Shift-III]

(a) The Sixth Schedule of the Indian Constitution
(b) The Seventh Schedule of the Indian Constitution
(c) The Eighth Schedule of the Indian Constitution
(d) The Fifth Schedule of the Indian Constitution

ANSWER (b) The Seventh Schedule of the Indian Constitution

The Seventh Schedule contains the Union List, State List and Concurrent List, dividing legislative powers between the Centre and the States under Article 246. At present the Union List has 98 subjects, the State List 59 and the Concurrent List 52.

- In case of a conflict on a Concurrent List subject, the Union law generally prevails (Article 254).
- The Sixth Schedule deals with the administration of tribal areas in Assam, Meghalaya, Tripura and Mizoram.
- The Eighth Schedule lists the 22 officially recognised languages.

85 Which Article of the Indian Constitution states that the validity of proceedings in Parliament cannot be questioned in any court?

[SSC CGL 10 Oct 2026, Shift-III]

(a) Article 110
(b) Article 120
(c) Article 121
(d) Article 122

ANSWER (d) Article 122

Article 122 provides that the validity of any proceedings in Parliament shall not be called in question on the ground of any alleged irregularity of procedure, and that no officer or member of Parliament empowered to regulate procedure or conduct business shall be subject to the jurisdiction of any court for the exercise of those powers. Article 212 gives the same protection to State Legislatures.

- Article 120 deals with the language to be used in Parliament.
- Article 121 restricts discussion in Parliament of the conduct of a judge of the Supreme Court or a High Court.
- Article 110 defines a Money Bill.

86 Under which Article of the Indian Constitution deals with the ancillary powers of the Supreme Court?

[SSC CGL 10 Oct 2026, Shift-III]

(a) Article 140
(b) Article 141
(c) Article 142
(d) Article 145

ANSWER (a) Article 140

Article 140 of the Constitution deals with the ancillary powers of the Supreme Court. It empowers Parliament to confer supplementary powers on the Court, not inconsistent with the Constitution, to enable it to exercise its jurisdiction more effectively.

- Article 141 makes the law declared by the Supreme Court binding on all courts in India.
- Article 142 allows the Court to pass any order necessary for doing 'complete justice'.
- Article 145 empowers the Court to make rules for regulating its practice and procedure, with the approval of the President.

87 An offense is punishable with imprisonment up to two years only. The prosecution treats it as a warrant case because of the seriousness of the allegations. Which of the following is legally

correct under the Bharatiya Nagarik Suraksha Sanhita, 2023 in India?

[SSC CGL 10 Oct 2026, Shift-III]

(a) It is a warrant case because seriousness determines classification.
(b) It is a summons case because punishment does not exceed two years.
(c) It becomes a warrant case if police file a charge sheet.
(d) The magistrate may classify it either way.

ANSWER (b) It is a summons case because punishment does not exceed ...

The classification of cases depends on the punishment prescribed by law, not on the seriousness of the allegations. A warrant case relates to an offence punishable with death, imprisonment for life or imprisonment exceeding two years. A summons case relates to any other offence, so an offence punishable with imprisonment up to two years is a summons case.

- The classification cannot be changed by the prosecution or the Magistrate.
- A summons case is tried by a simpler procedure, and the accused is called by summons.
- In a warrant case, a charge is framed in the trial.

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88 According to Article 76(1) of the Indian Constitution, a person appointed as Attorney-General for India must be qualified to be appointed as a:

[SSC CGL 12 Oct 2026, Shift-I]

(a) District Judge
(b) High Court Judge
(c) Supreme Court Judge
(d) Member of Parliament

ANSWER (c) Supreme Court Judge

Article 76(1) provides that the President shall appoint a person who is qualified to be appointed a Judge of the Supreme Court as the Attorney-General for India. He holds office during the pleasure of the President and has the right to speak in, and take part in the proceedings of, both Houses of Parliament, without a right to vote (Article 88).

- He is the highest law officer of the Government of India.
- The corresponding office in a State is the Advocate-General, under Article 165.
- Article 143 allows the President to seek the advisory opinion of the Supreme Court.

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89 In India, which Article of the Constitution empowers Parliament to exclude the jurisdiction of the Supreme Court in matters relating to inter-State water disputes?

[SSC CGL 12 Oct 2026, Shift-I]

(a) Article 262
(b) Article 263
(c) Article 356
(d) Article 131

ANSWER (a) Article 262

Article 262 empowers Parliament to provide by law for the adjudication of any dispute or complaint relating to the use, distribution or control of waters of any inter-State river or river valley. Parliament may also provide that neither the Supreme Court nor any other court shall exercise jurisdiction in such a dispute.

- Parliament enacted the Inter-State River Water Disputes Act, 1956 under this Article.
- Tribunals constituted under the Act decide such disputes, for example the Cauvery and Krishna Water Disputes Tribunals.
- Article 131 gives the Supreme Court original jurisdiction in disputes between States.

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90 The power of superintendence and control of elections is vested in which Article?

[SSC CGL 12 Oct 2026, Shift-II]

(a) Article 324 of the Indian Constitution
(b) Article 325 of the Indian Constitution
(c) Article 326 of the Indian Constitution
(d) Article 327 of the Indian Constitution

ANSWER (a) Article 324 of the Indian Constitution

Article 324 vests the superintendence, direction and control of the preparation of electoral rolls and the conduct of elections to Parliament, State Legislatures and the offices of President and Vice-President in the Election Commission of India.

- Article 325 provides for a single general electoral roll without discrimination on grounds of religion, race, caste or sex.
- Article 326 provides for elections on the basis of adult suffrage.
- Article 327 empowers Parliament to make provisions regarding elections to the Legislatures.

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91 Which Article empowers the President to promulgate Ordinances during recess of Parliament?

[SSC CGL 12 Oct 2026, Shift-II]

(a) Article 123 of the Indian Constitution
(b) Article 213 of the Indian Constitution
(c) Article 110 of the Indian Constitution
(d) Article 108 of the Indian Constitution

ANSWER (a) Article 123 of the Indian Constitution

Article 123 empowers the President to promulgate Ordinances when either House of Parliament is not in session and he is satisfied that immediate action is necessary. An Ordinance has the same force as an Act of Parliament, but must be laid before Parliament and ceases to operate six weeks after Parliament reassembles, unless disapproved earlier.

- Article 213 gives the same power to the Governor in the State.
- Article 108 provides for a joint sitting of the two Houses.
- Article 110 defines a Money Bill.

92 As per Article 53 of the Indian Constitution, in whom does the executive authority of the Union formally reside?

[SSC CGL 12 Oct 2026, Shift-III]

(a) Prime Minister of India
(b) Council of Ministers
(c) President of India
(d) Parliament of India

ANSWER (c) President of India

Article 53 vests the executive power of the Union in the President, who exercises it either directly or through officers subordinate to him, in accordance with the Constitution. In practice, he acts on the aid and advice of the Council of Ministers headed by the Prime Minister (Article 74).

- Article 52 states that there shall be a President of India.
- Article 74 makes the advice of the Council of Ministers binding on the President, after the 42nd and 44th Amendments.
- The Supreme Commander of the defence forces is the President.

93 Article 124 of the Constitution of India details the establishment and composition of which constitutional body?

[SSC CGL 12 Oct 2026, Shift-III]

(a) High Court
(b) Supreme Court
(c) Election Commission
(d) Finance Commission

ANSWER (b) Supreme Court

Article 124 provides for the establishment and constitution of the Supreme Court of India. It consists of the Chief Justice of India and not more than 33 other Judges, so the maximum strength is 34. This was fixed by the Supreme Court (Number of Judges) Amendment Act, 2019.

- Judges are appointed by the President after consultation with such Judges as he deems necessary.
- A Supreme Court Judge retires at the age of 65.
- Article 130 provides that the Court sits at Delhi, or at other places as the CJI may decide.

94 Under Article 112 of the Indian Constitution, what is the official constitutional term used for the document commonly known as the "Budget"?

[SSC CGL 12 Oct 2026, Shift-III]

(a) Annual Budgetary Report
(b) Annual Financial Statement
(c) National Revenue Estimate
(d) Yearly Expenditure Plan

ANSWER (b) Annual Financial Statement

Article 112 requires the President to cause to be laid before both Houses of Parliament, for every financial year, a statement of the estimated receipts and expenditure of the Government of India. This is called the 'Annual Financial Statement'. The word 'Budget' does not appear in the Constitution.

- Article 113 lays down the procedure for the estimates relating to expenditure.
- Article 114 provides for Appropriation Bills.
- The Union Budget is presented in the Lok Sabha by the Finance Minister.

95 What does the Bharatiya Nagarik Suraksha Sanhita (BNSS), prescribe regarding “mercy petitions” in death sentence cases?

[SSC CGL 13 Oct 2026, Shift-I]

(a) No mercy petitions allowed post-trial
(b) The President alone decides without input from states
(c) Multiple petitions allowed across jurisdictions
(d) Clear timelines for filing and disposal

ANSWER (d) Clear timelines for filing and disposal

The Bharatiya Nagarik Suraksha Sanhita, 2023 (Section 472) lays down a clear procedure and time limits for mercy petitions in death sentence cases. A convict must file the petition within 30 days from the date the jail Superintendent informs him of the dismissal of his appeal or petition, first before the Governor and then before the President. The old CrPC had no such time-bound procedure.

- Article 72 gives the President, and Article 161 the Governor, the power to grant pardon, reprieve, respite or remission.
- Only the President can pardon a death sentence by a court martial.
- The Governor can suspend, remit or commute a death sentence, but cannot pardon it.

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96 Which Article of the Indian Constitution prohibits Parliament from discussing the conduct of a Supreme Court or High Court judge in the discharge of their duties?

[SSC CGL 13 Oct 2026, Shift-I]

(a) Article 119
(b) Article 120
(c) Article 121
(d) Article 122

ANSWER (c) Article 121

Article 121 provides that no discussion shall take place in Parliament with respect to the conduct of any Judge of the Supreme Court or of a High Court in the discharge of his duties, except upon a motion for presenting an address to the President praying for the removal of the Judge, as provided in Article 124(4).

- Article 122 bars courts from questioning the validity of parliamentary proceedings on grounds of procedural irregularity.
- Article 120 deals with the language to be used in Parliament.
- Article 119 allows Parliament to regulate by law the procedure in financial business.

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97 A Judicial Magistrate of First Class (JMFC) sentences an accused to three years' imprisonment (the maximum within his sentencing power) and a fine of ₹50,000. In default of payment of the fine, the court further directs that the accused shall undergo one year of imprisonment. Which of the following is most accurate under the Bharatiya Nagarik Suraksha Sanhita, 2023 in India?

[SSC CGL 13 Oct 2026, Shift-I]

(a) Valid, because default imprisonment is separate from substantive punishment.
(b) Invalid, because default imprisonment cannot exceed one-fourth of substantive imprisonment competence.
(c) Invalid, because a Magistrate First Class cannot award imprisonment once maximum substantive imprisonment is imposed.
(d) Valid only if approved by the Sessions Court.

ANSWER (b) Invalid, because default imprisonment cannot exceed ...

The Code limits the term of imprisonment in default of payment of fine: it must not exceed one-fourth of the term of imprisonment which the Magistrate is competent to inflict as substantive punishment for the offence. A JMFC can award up to three years, so default imprisonment cannot exceed nine months. A default term of one year is therefore invalid.

- The default term is separate from the substantive sentence and runs after it.
- A Chief Judicial Magistrate can pass a sentence of up to seven years.
- A Sessions Judge can pass any sentence authorised by law, but a death sentence requires confirmation by the High Court.

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98 Under Article 3 of the Constitution of India, what is the time period within which the President must refer a Bill affecting the area, boundaries, or name of a State to the concerned State Legislature for its views?

[SSC CGL 13 Oct 2026, Shift-I]

(a) A constitutionally fixed period of six months
(b) A period specified by Parliament
(c) One session of the state legislature
(d) Such a period as the president may specify

ANSWER (d) Such a period as the president may specify

The proviso to Article 3 says that a Bill affecting the area, boundaries or name of a State can be introduced only on the recommendation of the President. Where it affects a State, the President refers it to that State's Legislature for expressing its views within such period as he may specify in the reference, or such further period as he may allow. Parliament is not bound by the views of the State Legislature.

- Article 2 deals with the admission or establishment of new States not already part of India.
- Article 4 says such laws are not amendments of the Constitution under Article 368.
- These laws can be passed by a simple majority.

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99 A villager becomes aware of a planned offence falling under one of the categories listed in Section 33 of the Bharatiya Nyaya Sanhita, 2023 in India. He deliberately withholds the information and later contends that the prosecution must prove the absence of a reasonable excuse for such non-disclosure. Which of the following statements is legally correct?

[SSC CGL 13 Oct 2026, Shift-II]

(a) The prosecution must prove the absence of a reasonable excuse beyond reasonable doubt.
(b) The burden lies on the accused to prove a reasonable excuse for non-disclosure.
(c) Silence alone cannot attract legal consequences under BNSS (Bharatiya Nagarik Suraksha Sanhita).
(d) The burden shifts to the magistrate conducting the inquiry.

ANSWER (b) The burden lies on the accused to prove a reasonable ...

The question refers to the duty of the public to give information of certain serious offences, which is contained in Section 33 of the Bharatiya Nagarik Suraksha Sanhita, 2023 (earlier Section 39 of the CrPC). It says that any person aware of the commission of, or intention to commit, such an offence must, in the absence of reasonable excuse, forthwith give information to the nearest Magistrate or police officer, and the burden of proving that excuse lies upon the person so aware. The villager must therefore prove his reasonable excuse.

- The offences covered include serious ones such as offences against the State, murder, dacoity and kidnapping.
- Failure to inform may be punished under the BNS provisions on omission to give information of an offence.
- Under the general rule, the burden of proof lies on the prosecution, and this is a statutory exception.

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100 Which of the following best reflects the intent of Article 44 of the Indian Constitution regarding the Uniform Civil Code (UCC)?

[SSC CGL 13 Oct 2026, Shift-II]

(a) It is impossible due to diversity.
(b) It is already fully implemented.
(c) It requires balanced, inclusive, and gradual implementation.
(d) It should be rejected completely.

ANSWER (c) It requires balanced, inclusive, and gradual implementation.

Article 44, a Directive Principle in Part IV, says that the State shall endeavour to secure for the citizens a Uniform Civil Code throughout the territory of India. Being non-justiciable, it is a goal to be reached progressively, which fits the idea of a balanced, inclusive and gradual implementation, rather than rejection or claims of full implementation.

- Directive Principles are not enforceable in courts (Article 37).
- The Supreme Court referred to Article 44 in Shah Bano (1985) and Sarla Mudgal (1995).
- Goa follows a common civil code, and Uttarakhand enacted its Uniform Civil Code in 2024.

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101 What does the First Schedule of the Indian Constitution contain?

[SSC CGL 13 Oct 2026, Shift-III]

(a) State names
(b) Oath forms
(c) Salary scales
(d) Rajya Sabha

ANSWER (a) State names

The First Schedule of the Constitution contains the names of the States and Union Territories of India and

the extent of their territories, under Articles 1 and 4. At present India has 28 States and 8 Union Territories.

- The Second Schedule deals with the emoluments of the President, Governors, Speakers and Judges.
- The Third Schedule contains the forms of oaths and affirmations.
- The Fourth Schedule deals with the allocation of Rajya Sabha seats to States and Union Territories.

102 Which Commission was appointed to examine Center-State relations in 1983?

[SSC CGL 13 Oct 2026, Shift-III]

(a) The Sarkaria Commission
(b) The Mandal Commission
(c) The Kothari Commission
(d) The Shah Commission

ANSWER (a) The Sarkaria Commission

The Sarkaria Commission was appointed in 1983 under the chairmanship of Justice R.S. Sarkaria to examine the relationship and balance of power between the Centre and the States. It submitted its report in 1988.

- The Punchhi Commission (2007) was later appointed to re-examine Centre-State relations.
- The Mandal Commission (1979) dealt with reservations for socially and educationally backward classes.
- The Kothari Commission (1964-66) dealt with education, and the Shah Commission (1977) inquired into the excesses of the Emergency.

103 Which Article under the Indian Constitution lays down the establishment and composition of the Supreme Court?

[SSC CGL 13 Oct 2026, Shift-III]

(a) Article 123
(b) Article 124
(c) Article 125
(d) Article 126

ANSWER (b) Article 124

Article 124 provides for the establishment and constitution of the Supreme Court, which consists of the Chief Justice of India and not more than 33 other Judges (a total of 34), as fixed by the 2019 Amendment Act of Parliament.

- Article 125 deals with the salaries of the Judges.
- Article 126 provides for the appointment of an acting Chief Justice.
- Article 123 deals with the President's power to promulgate Ordinances.

104 Which Article of the Indian Constitution provides for the resolution of disputes concerning inter-state river waters?

[SSC CGL 13 Oct 2026, Shift-III]

(a) Article 255
(b) Article 260
(c) Article 262
(d) Article 265

ANSWER (c) Article 262

Article 262 provides for the adjudication of disputes relating to waters of inter-State rivers or river valleys. Parliament may by law provide for such adjudication and may also exclude the jurisdiction of the Supreme Court and other courts over these disputes.

- Parliament passed the Inter-State River Water Disputes Act, 1956 and the River Boards Act, 1956 under the powers of the Union over inter-State rivers.
- Water supply, irrigation and canals are in the State List (Entry 17), subject to Entry 56 of the Union List.
- Article 265 states that no tax shall be levied or collected except by authority of law.

105 A is attacked by a violent mob attempting to murder him. Young children are mixed within the mob. He can save himself only by firing into the crowd, though this creates risk to the children. A fire and one child die. Which of the following is correct under the Bharatiya Nyaya Sanhita, 2023 in India?

[SSC CGL 13 Oct 2026, Shift-III]

(a) A is guilty because innocent persons can never be harmed in private defence.
(b) A is guilty because children were present.
(c) A remains protected because private defence allows unavoidable risk in such assaults.
(d) A is protected only if no innocent person is actually injured.

ANSWER (c) A remains protected because private defence allows ...

The Bharatiya Nyaya Sanhita, 2023 (Section 44, corresponding to Section 106 of the IPC) says that if, in the exercise of the right of private defence against an assault that reasonably causes apprehension of death,

the defender cannot effectively exercise it without risk of harm to an innocent person, his right extends to running that risk. A is therefore protected.

- The right of private defence of the body extends to causing death in specified cases, such as an assault that causes reasonable apprehension of death or grievous hurt.
- The right begins as soon as there is a reasonable apprehension of danger and continues as long as it lasts.
- The right never extends to inflicting more harm than is necessary.

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106 Which Article of the Indian Constitution provides constitutional protection to the President and Governors from certain court proceedings during their term of office?

[SSC CGL 14 Oct 2026, Shift-I]

(a) Article 359
(b) Article 356
(c) Article 360
(d) Article 361

ANSWER (d) Article 361

Article 361 protects the President and Governors from being answerable to any court for the exercise and performance of the powers and duties of their office. No criminal proceedings can be instituted or continued against them during their term, and no civil proceedings can be instituted against them without two months' prior notice.

- Article 356 deals with President's Rule in a State.
- Article 359 deals with the suspension of the enforcement of Fundamental Rights during an Emergency.
- Article 360 deals with Financial Emergency.

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107 Which of the following best describes the political consequence of the Supreme Court of India's judgment in the Shah Bano case (1985)?

[SSC CGL 14 Oct 2026, Shift-I]

(a) Strengthening of judicial independence
(b) Weakening of minority identity politics
(c) Electoral backlash leading to legislative reversal of the judgment
(d) Abolition of criminal maintenance laws

ANSWER (c) Electoral backlash leading to legislative reversal of the ...

In Mohd. Ahmed Khan v. Shah Bano Begum (1985), the Supreme Court held that a divorced Muslim woman is entitled to maintenance from her former husband under Section 125 of the CrPC. The judgment led to political controversy and protests, and Parliament passed the Muslim Women (Protection of Rights on Divorce) Act, 1986, which effectively reversed it.

- In Danial Latifi (2001), the Supreme Court upheld the validity of the 1986 Act while interpreting it to protect the woman's right to a fair provision.
- The case is often cited in discussions on Article 44, the Uniform Civil Code.
- Section 125 of the CrPC applies irrespective of religion.

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108 In India, residuary legislative powers are vested in which of the following?

[SSC CGL 14 Oct 2026, Shift-I]

(a) President
(b) States
(c) Concurrent jurisdiction
(d) Parliament

ANSWER (d) Parliament

Under Article 248 and Entry 97 of the Union List, residuary powers of legislation, that is, subjects not mentioned in any of the three Lists, are vested in Parliament. Parliament alone can make laws on any matter not enumerated in the Concurrent or State List, including taxes not mentioned there.

- This feature was borrowed from the Canadian Constitution.
- In the USA and Australia, the residuary powers lie with the States.
- The Seventh Schedule contains the Union, State and Concurrent Lists.

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109 Under which Article of the Constitution of India does Parliament have the power to alter the name, area, or boundaries of a State?

[SSC CGL 14 Oct 2026, Shift-I]

(a) Article 1
(b) Article 2
(c) Article 3
(d) Article 4

ANSWER (c) Article 3

Article 3 empowers Parliament by law to form a new State, increase or diminish the area of a State, alter the boundaries of a State, or alter the name of a State. The Bill must be introduced on the recommendation of the President, who refers it to the concerned State Legislature for its views.

- Article 2 deals with the admission or establishment of new States.
- Article 4 declares that such laws are not amendments under Article 368.
- Telangana was formed under Article 3 in 2014 as the 29th State; the number of States became 28 after Jammu and Kashmir was made a Union Territory in 2019.

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110 In India, which Constitutional Amendment Act is popularly known as the "Mini-Constitution"?

[SSC CGL 14 Oct 2026, Shift-I]

(a) 7th Amendment Act
(b) 42nd Amendment Act
(c) 44th Amendment Act
(d) 73rd Amendment Act

ANSWER (b) 42nd Amendment Act

The 42nd Amendment Act, 1976, passed during the Emergency on the recommendations of the Swaran Singh Committee, made such wide-ranging changes that it is called the 'Mini-Constitution'. It added the words 'Socialist', 'Secular' and 'Integrity' to the Preamble, added Fundamental Duties (Part IV-A, Article 51A) and made the President bound by the advice of the Council of Ministers.

- It transferred five subjects, including education, from the State List to the Concurrent List.
- Many of its provisions were reversed by the 44th Amendment (1978).
- The 7th Amendment (1956) reorganised States on the basis of language.

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111 Who is the 15th President of India?

[SSC CGL 14 Oct 2026, Shift-II]

(a) Droupadi Murmu
(b) Pranab Mukherjee
(c) Ram Nath Kovind
(d) Pratibha Patil

ANSWER (a) Droupadi Murmu

Droupadi Murmu is the 15th President of India. She took the oath on 25 July 2022, and is the first person from a tribal community and the second woman to hold the office, after Pratibha Patil.

- Her predecessor, Ram Nath Kovind, was the 14th President.
- Pranab Mukherjee was the 13th President and Pratibha Patil the 12th.
- She belongs to Odisha and earlier served as the Governor of Jharkhand.

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112 Under Article 65 of the Constitution of India, who acts as President when a vacancy occurs due to death, resignation, or removal of the President?

[SSC CGL 14 Oct 2026, Shift-II]

(a) Prime Minister
(b) Chief Justice of India
(c) Vice-President
(d) Speaker of Lok Sabha

ANSWER (c) Vice-President

Under Article 65, the Vice-President acts as President in the event of a vacancy in the office of the President due to death, resignation or removal, or otherwise, until a new President is elected and enters upon his office. A fresh election must be held within six months of the vacancy (Article 62).

- While acting as President, the Vice-President does not perform the duties of Chairman of the Rajya Sabha.
- If the Vice-President is also unavailable, the Chief Justice of India (or the senior-most Judge) discharges the functions under the Presidential (Discharge of Functions) Act, 1969.
- Article 70 allows Parliament to make provisions for such contingencies.

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113 A State Legislature in India is said to be bicameral when it consists of:

[SSC CGL 14 Oct 2026, Shift-II]

(a) Legislative Assembly and Legislative Council
(b) Governor and Council of Ministers
(c) High Court and Assembly
(d) Governor and Assembly

ANSWER (a) Legislative Assembly and Legislative Council

A State Legislature is bicameral when it has two Houses, the Legislative Assembly (Vidhan Sabha) and the Legislative Council (Vidhan Parishad). Under Article 168, the Legislature of a State consists of the Governor and the Houses, and a Council exists only in some States.

- At present six States have a Legislative Council: Andhra Pradesh, Telangana, Karnataka, Maharashtra, Bihar and Uttar Pradesh.
- Under Article 169, Parliament can create or abolish a Council if the State Assembly passes a resolution by a special majority.
- The strength of the Council cannot exceed one-third of the Assembly, and cannot be less than 40.

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114 The term “constitution” originates from the Latin word constituere. What does constituere mean?

[SSC CGL 14 Oct 2026, Shift-II]

(a) To rule or govern
(b) To divide or separate
(c) To establish or set up
(d) To protect or defend

ANSWER (c) To establish or set up

The word 'constitution' comes from the Latin word 'constituere', which means 'to establish' or 'to set up'. A constitution is thus the fundamental law that establishes the structure, powers and duties of the organs of a state.

- The Indian Constitution was adopted on 26 November 1949 and came into force on 26 January 1950.
- The Constituent Assembly took 2 years, 11 months and 18 days to frame it.
- Dr B.R. Ambedkar chaired the Drafting Committee.

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115 Article 63 of the Indian Constitution provides for the office of the:

[SSC CGL 14 Oct 2026, Shift-III]

(a) President
(b) Prime Minister
(c) Vice-President
(d) Speaker

ANSWER (c) Vice-President

Article 63 provides that there shall be a Vice-President of India. The Vice-President is the second-highest constitutional office and the ex officio Chairman of the Rajya Sabha (Article 64).

- Article 52 provides for the President of India.
- Article 66 deals with the election, and Article 67 with the term of office, of the Vice-President.
- The Vice-President can be removed by a resolution of the Rajya Sabha passed by a majority of its members and agreed to by the Lok Sabha.

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116 Under Article 110 of the Indian Constitution, whose decision is final on the question of whether a Bill is a "Money Bill" or not?

[SSC CGL 14 Oct 2026, Shift-III]

(a) President of India
(b) Finance Minister of India
(c) Speaker of the Lok Sabha
(d) Chairman of the Rajya Sabha

ANSWER (c) Speaker of the Lok Sabha

Under Article 110(3), if any question arises whether a Bill is a Money Bill or not, the decision of the Speaker of the Lok Sabha is final. The Speaker certifies it as a Money Bill when it is sent to the Rajya Sabha and presented to the President.

- A Money Bill can be introduced only in the Lok Sabha, on the recommendation of the President.
- The Rajya Sabha must return it within 14 days, and it can only make recommendations, which the Lok Sabha may accept or reject.
- The President can assent to or withhold assent from a Money Bill, but cannot return it for reconsideration.

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117 Which constitutional amendment accorded constitutional status to cooperative societies in India?

[SSC CGL 14 Oct 2026, Shift-III]

(a) 91st Amendment
(b) 97th Amendment
(c) 101st Amendment
(d) 103rd Amendment

ANSWER (b) 97th Amendment

The 97th Constitutional Amendment Act, 2011 gave constitutional status to cooperative societies. It made the right to form cooperative societies a Fundamental Right under Article 19(1)(c), added a Directive Principle

on the promotion of cooperative societies (Article 43B), and added Part IX-B (Articles 243ZH to 243ZT).

- In 2021, the Supreme Court in Union of India v. Rajendra N. Shah held Part IX-B to be applicable only to multi-State cooperative societies.
- The 91st Amendment (2003) limited the size of Councils of Ministers and dealt with anti-defection.
- The 101st Amendment (2016) introduced GST.

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118 In a dispute over the genuineness of a will under the Bharatiya Sakshya Adhiniyam, 2023 (BSA), a party introduces evidence that the deceased consulted a lawyer and prepared multiple earlier wills before finalising the disputed will. This evidence is relevant because:

[SSC CGL 14 Oct 2026, Shift-III]

(a) It proves fraud directly.
(b) It is relevant as preparation and conduct under Section 6.
(c) It is conclusive proof of execution.
(d) It is irrelevant since it is prior in time.

ANSWER (b) It is relevant as preparation and conduct under Section 6.

Under Section 6 of the Bharatiya Sakshya Adhiniyam, 2023 (earlier Section 8 of the Evidence Act), any fact is relevant if it shows or constitutes a motive or preparation for any fact in issue or relevant fact, and so is the previous or subsequent conduct of a party. The deceased's consulting a lawyer and preparing earlier wills shows preparation and conduct bearing on the genuineness of the final will.

- Relevance does not mean the fact is conclusive; it is only one item the court weighs.
- Section 6 also covers motive, which is often important in criminal cases.
- Conduct is relevant even if it occurred before the fact in issue.

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119 What is the maximum number of members nominated by the President to the Rajya Sabha according to Article 80 of the Indian Constitution?

[SSC CGL 15 Oct 2026, Shift-I]

(a) Ten members of the Council
(b) Twelve members of the Council
(c) Fourteen members of the Council
(d) Fifteen members of the Council

ANSWER (b) Twelve members of the Council

Under Article 80, the President nominates 12 members to the Rajya Sabha from among persons having special knowledge or practical experience in literature, science, art and social service. The maximum strength of the Rajya Sabha is 250, of which 238 are representatives of States and Union Territories.

- Rajya Sabha members have a term of six years, and one-third retire every second year.
- Nominated members can vote in the Rajya Sabha, but cannot vote in the election of the President.
- The 104th Amendment (2019) ended the earlier provision for two nominated Anglo-Indian members in the Lok Sabha.

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120 As per Article 83(2), what is the normal duration of the House of the People (Lok Sabha) from the date of its first meeting?

[SSC CGL 15 Oct 2026, Shift-I]

(a) Four years from its first meeting
(b) Five years from its first meeting
(c) Six years from its first meeting
(d) It is a permanent body of Parliament

ANSWER (b) Five years from its first meeting

Article 83(2) provides that the Lok Sabha, unless sooner dissolved, continues for five years from the date appointed for its first meeting, after which it stands dissolved. In a National Emergency, Parliament may extend its term by law for one year at a time, but not beyond six months after the Emergency ends.

- The Rajya Sabha is a permanent House and is not subject to dissolution (Article 83(1)).
- The term of a State Legislative Assembly is also five years (Article 172).
- The first Lok Sabha was constituted in 1952.

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121 Under which Article of the Indian Constitution are safeguards against arbitrary arrest and detention provided?

[SSC CGL 15 Oct 2026, Shift-II]

(a) Article 17
(b) Article 20
(c) Article 22
(d) Article 32

ANSWER (c) Article 22

Article 22 provides protection against arrest and detention in certain cases. An arrested person must be

told the grounds of arrest, has the right to consult and be defended by a lawyer of his choice, and must be produced before the nearest Magistrate within 24 hours, excluding travel time.

- These safeguards do not apply to enemy aliens or to persons arrested under preventive detention laws.
- Preventive detention beyond three months requires the opinion of an Advisory Board.
- Article 20 protects against double jeopardy, ex post facto laws and self-incrimination.

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122 At trial, the defendant admits liability in written pleadings but later attempts to withdraw the admission. The plaintiff argues that no further evidence is required. What is the correct legal position under the Bharatiya Sakshya Adhiniyam, 2023, in India?

[SSC CGL 15 Oct 2026, Shift-II]

(a) Admission is conclusive and cannot be ignored.
(b) The court is bound by admission and cannot require proof.
(c) The court may still require proof despite admission.
(d) Admission is irrelevant unless repeated in court orally.

ANSWER (c) The court may still require proof despite admission.

Facts admitted in pleadings need not ordinarily be proved, but the Bharatiya Sakshya Adhiniyam, 2023 (like the Evidence Act, 1872) gives the court a discretion to require the facts admitted to be proved otherwise than by such admissions. Admissions are not conclusive proof of the matters admitted, though they may operate as estoppels.

- Admission is a statement, oral or documentary or in electronic form, that suggests an inference as to a fact in issue or relevant fact.
- Confession is a species of admission made by an accused person.
- Conclusive proof, by contrast, bars any evidence to disprove the fact.

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123 In India, which constitutional authority can recommend the imposition of President's Rule in a State by sending a report to the President under Article 356?

[SSC CGL 15 Oct 2026, Shift-II]

(a) Election Commission
(b) Chief Minister of the State
(c) Governor of the State
(d) Chief Justice of India

ANSWER (c) Governor of the State

Under Article 356, if the President is satisfied on a report from the Governor of a State, or otherwise, that the government of the State cannot be carried on in accordance with the Constitution, he may impose President's Rule. Proclamation must be approved by both Houses of Parliament within two months.

- It can continue for six months at a time, with a maximum of three years, with Parliament's approval.
- In S.R. Bommai v. Union of India (1994), the Supreme Court held that the proclamation is subject to judicial review.
- The Governor's report is thus the usual, but not the only, basis for the proclamation.

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124 The Rajya Sabha in the Constitution of India represents:

[SSC CGL 15 Oct 2026, Shift-II]

(a) The people of India directly
(b) The local bodies of India
(c) The judiciary of India
(d) The States and Union Territories of India

ANSWER (d) The States and Union Territories of India

The Rajya Sabha, or the Council of States, represents the States and Union Territories of India, and is therefore the federal chamber of Parliament. Its members are elected indirectly by the elected members of State Legislative Assemblies (and by electoral colleges for certain Union Territories).

- The Lok Sabha, in contrast, represents the people directly.
- The Rajya Sabha has a maximum strength of 250, of which 12 are nominated by the President.
- The Vice-President is its ex officio Chairman.

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125 Which historical document significantly influenced the extensive length of the Indian Constitution?

[SSC CGL 15 Oct 2026, Shift-II]

(a) Government of India Act of 1919
(b) Indian Independence Act of 1947
(c) Government of India Act of 1935
(d) Regulating Act of 1773

ANSWER (c) Government of India Act of 1935

The Government of India Act, 1935 greatly influenced the Indian Constitution. A large part of its administrative and structural provisions, such as the federal scheme, the office of the Governor, the Federal Court, Public Service Commissions and the emergency provisions, was adopted, which made the Constitution very lengthy and detailed.

- The Indian Constitution is the longest written constitution of any sovereign country.
- The Fundamental Rights were drawn from the US Bill of Rights, and the Directive Principles from the Irish Constitution.
- The Parliamentary system was adopted from the British Constitution.

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126 In which case did the Supreme Court declare that the Preamble is a part of the Constitution?

[SSC CGL 15 Oct 2026, Shift-III]

(a) Minerva Mills
(b) Berubari Union
(c) Kesavananda Bharati
(d) Golaknath Case

ANSWER (c) Kesavananda Bharati

In Kesavananda Bharati v. State of Kerala (1973), the Supreme Court held that the Preamble is a part of the Constitution, and can be amended as long as the basic structure is not changed. This overruled the view in the Berubari Union case (1960), where the Court had held that the Preamble is not a part of the Constitution.

- The Preamble has been amended only once, by the 42nd Amendment (1976).
- It was adopted as a part of the Constitution along with the rest of the document.
- In Golaknath (1967), the Court held that Fundamental Rights cannot be amended by Parliament.

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127 In which landmark case was the "Basic Structure" doctrine propounded?

[SSC CGL 15 Oct 2026, Shift-III]

(a) The Golaknath versus State of Punjab case
(b) The Kesavananda Bharati versus State of Kerala
(c) The Minerva Mills versus Union of India
(d) The Waman Rao versus Union of India

ANSWER (b) The Kesavananda Bharati versus State of Kerala

The Basic Structure doctrine was propounded in Kesavananda Bharati v. State of Kerala (1973), decided by a 13-judge Bench (by a 7:6 majority). The Court held that Parliament can amend any part of the Constitution under Article 368, but cannot alter its basic structure.

- In Minerva Mills v. Union of India (1980), the Court struck down parts of the 42nd Amendment and held that harmony between Fundamental Rights and Directive Principles is part of the basic structure.
- In Golaknath (1967), it was held that Fundamental Rights cannot be amended, a view overruled in Kesavananda.
- In Waman Rao (1980), the Court held that the doctrine applies to amendments after 24 April 1973.

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128 Under which Article of the Indian Constitution provides for the formation of the Finance Commission?

[SSC CGL 15 Oct 2026, Shift-III]

(a) Article 263
(b) Article 280
(c) Article 285
(d) Article 324

ANSWER (b) Article 280

Article 280 provides for the constitution of the Finance Commission by the President every fifth year, or earlier if necessary. It consists of a Chairman and four other members, and recommends the distribution of net proceeds of taxes between the Union and the States, and the principles governing grants-in-aid.

- The 16th Finance Commission, constituted in 2023, is chaired by Arvind Panagariya.
- The 15th Finance Commission was chaired by N.K. Singh.
- Article 263 deals with the Inter-State Council, and Article 324 with the Election Commission.

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129 Under which Article of the Indian Constitution was the Emergency of 1975 declared?

[SSC CGL 15 Oct 2026, Shift-III]

(a) Article 152
(b) Article 252
(c) Article 286
(d) Article 352

ANSWER (d) Article 352

The Emergency of 1975 was declared under Article 352 (National Emergency) on the ground of 'internal disturbance', by President Fakhruddin Ali Ahmed on 25 June 1975, on the advice of Prime Minister Indira Gandhi. It lasted until March 1977.

- The 44th Amendment (1978) replaced 'internal disturbance' with 'armed rebellion' as a ground.
- The other grounds under Article 352 are war and external aggression.
- Article 356 deals with President's Rule and Article 360 with Financial Emergency.

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130 The High Court appoints a retired government officer and confers upon him the powers of a Judicial Magistrate First Class for the purpose of dealing with specified environmental cases for a period of one year. Which of the following is most accurate under the Bharatiya Nagarik Suraksha Sanhita, 2023 in India?

[SSC CGL 15 Oct 2026, Shift-III]

(a) The appointment is invalid because only serving judicial officers may exercise magistrate powers.
(b) The appointment is valid if the officer possesses qualifications or legal experience prescribed by the High Court.
(c) Such appointment requires approval of Parliament.
(d) The officer automatically becomes a permanent judicial magistrate.

ANSWER (b) The appointment is valid if the officer possesses ...

The Code allows the High Court to confer on any person who holds or has held any post under the Government the powers of a Judicial Magistrate of the first or second class, for particular cases or classes of cases in a local area, as Special Judicial Magistrates. The person must possess such qualifications or experience in law as the High Court may prescribe, and the term is for a period not exceeding one year at a time (extendable as per the Code).

- Special Judicial Magistrates are appointed by the High Court, not by Parliament or the State Government.
- The appointment is for a limited period and does not make the person a permanent magistrate.
- Judicial Magistrates of the first class are subordinate to the Chief Judicial Magistrate.

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131 A attacks Z under grave and sudden provocation, reducing the offence to culpable homicide not amounting to murder. B, who secretly hated Z and was not provoked, joins A and intentionally helps kill Z. What is the correct legal position under Section 3(9) of the Bharatiya Nyaya Sanhita, 2023 in India?

[SSC CGL 16 Oct 2026, Shift-I]

(a) Both A and B are guilty only of culpable homicide.
(b) Both A and B are guilty of murder because they acted together.
(c) A is guilty of culpable homicide, while B is guilty of murder.
(d) A is innocent due to provocation, while B alone is guilty of murder.

ANSWER (c) A is guilty of culpable homicide, while B is guilty of ...

Section 3(9) of the Bharatiya Nyaya Sanhita, 2023 (corresponding to Section 38 of the IPC) says that where several persons are engaged or concerned in the commission of a criminal act, they may be guilty of different offences by means of that act. A acted under grave and sudden provocation, so he is guilty only of culpable homicide not amounting to murder, while B, who had no provocation and intentionally helped, is guilty of murder.

- Each person's guilt depends on his own intention or knowledge.
- Grave and sudden provocation is an exception reducing murder to culpable homicide not amounting to murder.
- Section 3(9) does not create common liability; that is dealt with by the provisions on common intention.

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132 Whose previous consent is mandatory for the appointment of an ad hoc Judge under Article 127 of the Indian Constitution?

[SSC CGL 16 Oct 2026, Shift-II]

(a) The Prime Minister of India
(b) The President of India
(c) The Union Law Minister
(d) The Collegium of Supreme Court

ANSWER (b) The President of India

Under Article 127, when a quorum of Judges is not available to hold or continue a session of the Supreme Court, the Chief Justice of India may, with the previous consent of the President and after consultation with the Chief Justice of the High Court concerned, request a Judge of that High Court to sit as an ad hoc Judge. Such a Judge must be qualified for appointment as a Supreme Court Judge.

- Article 128 allows the CJI to request retired Judges to sit and act, with the previous consent of the President.
- Article 126 provides for the appointment of an acting Chief Justice.
- The ad hoc judge has all the jurisdiction, powers and privileges of a Supreme Court Judge during that period.

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133 The provisions relating to anti-defection are contained in which Schedule of the Indian Constitution?

[SSC CGL 16 Oct 2026, Shift-II]

(a) Eighth Schedule
(b) Ninth Schedule
(c) Tenth Schedule
(d) Eleventh Schedule

ANSWER (c) Tenth Schedule

The anti-defection provisions are contained in the Tenth Schedule, which was added by the 52nd Amendment Act, 1985. The 91st Amendment (2003) removed the exemption for splits and made it stricter.

- The Presiding Officer of the House (Speaker or Chairman) decides disqualification, and his decision is subject to judicial review (Kihoto Hollohan case, 1992).
- Disqualification arises on voluntarily giving up membership of the party or defying the party whip on a vote.
- The Eighth Schedule lists languages, the Ninth deals with laws protected from judicial review, and the Eleventh lists the subjects of Panchayats.

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134 A was earlier convicted under Chapter XVII with imprisonment for 4 years. After release, A again commits another offence under the same chapter punishable with imprisonment for 4 years. Which of the following is legally correct under the Bharatiya Nyaya Sanhita, 2023 in India?

[SSC CGL 16 Oct 2026, Shift-II]

(a) A must necessarily be sentenced to life imprisonment.
(b) A cannot be sentenced beyond 4 years because punishment cannot exceed that prescribed for the offence.
(c) A becomes liable to either life imprisonment or imprisonment up to 10 years.
(d) The previous conviction is irrelevant unless both offences are identical.

ANSWER (c) A becomes liable to either life imprisonment or ...

The Bharatiya Nyaya Sanhita, 2023 (corresponding to Section 75 of the IPC) provides for enhanced punishment for repeat offenders. A person previously convicted of an offence under the chapter on offences against property, punishable with imprisonment of three years or more, who again commits an offence under that chapter punishable with imprisonment of three years or more, becomes liable to imprisonment for life or imprisonment up to ten years.

- The enhancement applies to a second or subsequent offence of this kind, not just to identical offences.
- Both the earlier and the later offences must be punishable with imprisonment of three years or more.
- Life imprisonment is an alternative, not a mandatory punishment.

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135 A statute authorizes a "magistrate" to suspend licences for public safety reasons. The function is purely administrative and involves no adjudication of guilt or appreciation of evidence. Under Section 3 of the Bharatiya Nagarik Suraksha Sanhita, 2023 in India, who should ordinarily exercise this power?

[SSC CGL 16 Oct 2026, Shift-II]

(a) Judicial magistrate only
(b) Executive magistrate only
(c) High Court
(d) Police Commissioner automatically

ANSWER (b) Executive magistrate only

Section 3 of the BNSS (like Section 3 of the CrPC) says that, unless the context otherwise requires, a reference to a Magistrate in any other law is to be read according to the nature of the function. For functions of a judicial nature, such as granting bail or taking cognizance, it means a Judicial Magistrate. For executive or administrative functions, such as granting, suspending or cancelling a licence, or sanctioning or withdrawing a prosecution, it means an Executive Magistrate.

- Executive Magistrates include the District Magistrate, Sub-Divisional Magistrate and Special Executive Magistrates.
- Judicial Magistrates are subordinate to the High Court.
- The separation of the two types of function is based on Article 50.

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136 Consider the following statements:
1. As per Article 343 of the Indian Constitution, the Hindi language, written in the Devanagari script, is recognised as the "official language of the Central Government".
2. The Constitution permits the continuation of English for official purposes indefinitely and does not mention any Commission or Committee on Official Language.
Which of the above statements is/are **correct**?

[SSC CGL 16 Oct 2026, Shift-III]

(a) Only 1
(b) Only 2
(c) Both 1 and 2
(d) Neither 1 nor 2

ANSWER (a) Only 1

Article 343(1) declares Hindi in Devanagari script to be the official language of the Union. Statement 2 is wrong on both counts: the Constitution allowed English to continue only for 15 years from 1950 (Article 343(2)), with Parliament empowered to extend its use by law (Official Languages Act, 1963 allows it to continue), and Article 344 does provide for a Commission and a Committee of Parliament on official language.

- Article 345 deals with the official language of States, and Article 351 with the directive for the development of Hindi.
- The numerals to be used for the official purposes of the Union are the international form of Indian numerals.
- The Eighth Schedule lists 22 languages.

---

137 Which of the following is a benefit received by a retired President of India?

[SSC CGL 16 Oct 2026, Shift-III]

(a) Lifetime free international travel for self and spouse
(b) Appointment as Governor of a State with Cabinet rank benefits
(c) Rent-free furnished bungalow, personal staff, and ₹2.5 lakh monthly pension
(d) Membership to the Rajya Sabha for life

ANSWER (c) Rent-free furnished bungalow, personal staff, and ₹2.5 ...

A retired President of India is entitled to a pension equal to half of the salary of the sitting President, which is ₹2.5 lakh a month (the President's salary being ₹5 lakh a month since 2018), along with a rent-free furnished residence and personal staff. These benefits are provided under the President's Pension Act and related rules.

- The President's salary is charged on the Consolidated Fund of India and is not subject to vote in Parliament.
- The salary is not reduced during the term of office.
- A retired President has no constitutional right to a seat in the Rajya Sabha or to a Governor's post.

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138 The term "cognizable offence" refers to an offence where:

[SSC CGL 16 Oct 2026, Shift-III]

(a) An FIR cannot be registered
(b) The Magistrate has to permit arrest
(c) The police officer can arrest without warrant
(d) A person can only be summoned

ANSWER (c) The police officer can arrest without warrant

A cognizable offence is one in which a police officer may arrest without a warrant and may start investigation without the order of a Magistrate. It is usually a serious offence, such as murder, rape, kidnapping or dacoity.

- In a non-cognizable offence, the police cannot arrest without a warrant and cannot investigate without the Magistrate's order.
- The First Schedule of the criminal procedure code classifies offences into cognizable or non-cognizable, and bailable or non-bailable.
- The Bharatiya Nagarik Suraksha Sanhita, 2023 allows an FIR to be filed electronically and also recognises zero FIR.

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139 Which Amendment transferred education from the State List to the Concurrent List?

[SSC CGL 16 Oct 2026, Shift-III]

(a) 42nd Amendment
(b) 44th Amendment
(c) 73rd Amendment
(d) 86th Amendment

ANSWER (a) 42nd Amendment

The 42nd Amendment Act, 1976 transferred five subjects from the State List to the Concurrent List: education, forests, weights and measures, protection of wild animals and birds, and administration of justice (other than the Supreme Court and High Courts).

- Education is now Entry 25 of the Concurrent List.
- The 86th Amendment (2002) inserted Article 21A, the right to education for children aged 6 to 14, and changed Article 45 and Article 51A(k).
- The 73rd Amendment dealt with Panchayati Raj.

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140 The Bharatiya Nyaya Sanhita (BNS) replaces which of the following?

[SSC CGL 16 Oct 2026, Shift-III]

(a) Code of Civil Procedure
(b) Indian Penal Code
(c) Criminal Procedure Code
(d) Indian Evidence Act

ANSWER (b) Indian Penal Code

The Bharatiya Nyaya Sanhita, 2023 replaces the Indian Penal Code, 1860. It came into force on 1 July 2024 and has 358 sections, against 511 in the IPC.

- The Bharatiya Nagarik Suraksha Sanhita (BNSS) replaced the Code of Criminal Procedure, 1973.
- The Bharatiya Sakshya Adhiniyam (BSA) replaced the Indian Evidence Act, 1872.
- The three laws received the President's assent in December 2023.

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141 Under Article 113 of the Indian Constitution, which House of Parliament has the exclusive power to assent to or refuse any demand for a grant of expenditure?

[SSC CGL 22 Oct 2026, Shift-I]

(a) The Rajya Sabha
(b) The Lok Sabha
(c) The Joint Parliamentary Committee
(d) The Cabinet Committee on Political Affairs

ANSWER (b) The Lok Sabha

Under Article 113, estimates of expenditure charged on the Consolidated Fund of India that are not charged items are submitted to the Lok Sabha in the form of demands for grants. The Lok Sabha has the power to assent to, or refuse to assent to, any demand, or to assent to it subject to a reduction of the amount specified. The Rajya Sabha has no power to vote on demands for grants.

- No demand for a grant can be made except on the recommendation of the President.
- Expenditure charged on the Consolidated Fund can be discussed, but not voted upon.
- Article 114 provides for Appropriation Bills to authorise withdrawals from the Consolidated Fund.

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142 Which constitutional amendment reduced the voting age in India from 21 years to 18 years?

[SSC CGL 22 Oct 2026, Shift-I]

(a) 42nd Amendment
(b) 44th Amendment
(c) 61st Amendment
(d) 73rd Amendment

ANSWER (c) 61st Amendment

The 61st Constitutional Amendment Act, 1988 reduced the voting age from 21 years to 18 years for elections to

the Lok Sabha and State Legislative Assemblies, by amending Article 326. It came into effect in 1989, under Prime Minister Rajiv Gandhi.

- Article 326 provides for elections on the basis of adult suffrage.
- The minimum age to contest the Lok Sabha and Legislative Assembly elections is 25 years.
- The minimum age to contest the Rajya Sabha election is 30 years.

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143 Under the Bharatiya Nyaya Sanhita, 2023 in India, which of the following correctly distinguishes “dishonestly” from “fraudulently”?

[SSC CGL 22 Oct 2026, Shift-I]

(a) “Dishonestly” requires deception, while “fraudulently” requires wrongful gain or loss.
(b) “Fraudulently” requires intention to defraud, while “dishonestly” concerns wrongful gain or wrongful loss.
(c) Both terms are legally identical in all contexts.
(d) “Fraudulently” applies only to property offences, while “dishonestly” applies only to bodily offences.

ANSWER (b) “Fraudulently” requires intention to defraud, while ...

Under the general definitions of the Bharatiya Nyaya Sanhita, 2023 (as in the IPC), a person does a thing 'dishonestly' if he does it with the intention of causing wrongful gain to one person or wrongful loss to another. A person does a thing 'fraudulently' if he does it with intent to defraud, but not otherwise. The first focuses on wrongful gain or loss, and the second on the intention to defraud.

- Wrongful gain or loss means gain or loss by unlawful means of property to which the person gaining is not legally entitled.
- 'Dishonestly' is an essential ingredient of offences such as theft and criminal misappropriation.
- The two terms are not identical and are used in different offences.

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144 A statute declares that registration of a document shall be “conclusive proof” of its execution. During trial, the opposing party seeks to adduce oral evidence denying execution despite the document being duly registered. What should the court do under the Bharatiya Sakshya Adhiniyam, 2023?

[SSC CGL 22 Oct 2026, Shift-I]

(a) Allow rebuttal because every presumption is rebuttable.
(b) Reject the evidence because conclusive proof bars disproving evidence.
(c) Treat the matter as merely “may presume.”
(d) Permit rebuttal only through documentary evidence.

ANSWER (b) Reject the evidence because conclusive proof bars ...

Under the definition of 'conclusive proof' in the Bharatiya Sakshya Adhiniyam, 2023 (as in the Evidence Act, 1872), when one fact is declared by law to be conclusive proof of another, the court shall, on proof of the one fact, regard the other as proved, and shall not allow evidence to be given for the purpose of disproving it. The oral evidence denying execution must therefore be rejected.

- 'May presume' leaves the court free to regard a fact as proved or call for proof.
- 'Shall presume' makes the court regard the fact as proved unless it is disproved (a rebuttable presumption).
- Conclusive proof is the strongest form, as it cannot be rebutted.

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145 A judicial magistrate's local jurisdiction extends partly into another district where he does not ordinarily hold court. A legal provision refers to “the Court of Session having jurisdiction”. How should this expression be interpreted under the Bharatiya Nagarik Suraksha Sanhita, 2023 in India?

[SSC CGL 22 Oct 2026, Shift-II]

(a) It refers only to the sessions court where the magistrate physically sits.
(b) It refers to the Sessions Court exercising jurisdiction over the concerned area.
(c) It automatically refers to the High Court.
(d) It refers to any sessions court chosen by the state government.

ANSWER (b) It refers to the Sessions Court exercising jurisdiction ...

The Code lays down that, where the local jurisdiction of a Magistrate extends beyond the district or area in which he holds court, a reference in any provision to

the Court of Session (or Magistrate) having jurisdiction is to be read as a reference to the Court of Session exercising jurisdiction in the local area concerned. Jurisdiction is determined by the area where the matter arises, not by the physical location of the Magistrate's seat.

- Sessions Courts are established by the State Government for every sessions division, after consultation with the High Court.
- Every sessions division is generally the same as a district.
- The High Court is not a Court of Session, but exercises supervisory powers over subordinate courts.

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146 What powers does the Supreme Court possess as a "Court of Record" under Article 129 of the Indian Constitution?

[SSC CGL 22 Oct 2026, Shift-III]

(a) Power to punish for contempt
(b) Power to appoint lower judges
(c) Power to create federal laws
(d) Power to dissolve the Parliament

ANSWER (a) Power to punish for contempt

Article 129 declares the Supreme Court to be a Court of Record, with all the powers of such a court, including the power to punish for contempt of itself. Its proceedings and judgments are recorded for perpetual memory and testimony, and are treated as evidence of their contents that cannot be questioned when produced before any court.

- Article 215 gives the same status and power to High Courts.
- The Contempt of Courts Act, 1971 defines civil and criminal contempt.
- Judges of the Supreme Court are appointed by the President, not by the Court itself.

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147 The power of the Supreme Court of India to pass orders for doing “complete justice” is provided under which Article of the Constitution of India?

[SSC CGL 22 Oct 2026, Shift-III]

(a) Article 136
(b) Article 137
(c) Article 141
(d) Article 142

ANSWER (d) Article 142

Article 142 empowers the Supreme Court to pass such decree or order as is necessary for doing complete justice in any cause or matter pending before it, and such decree or order is enforceable throughout India. It is used where the existing law does not provide an adequate remedy.

- Article 136 gives the Court the power to grant special leave to appeal (SLP).
- Article 137 gives the Court the power to review its own judgments.
- Article 141 makes the law declared by the Court binding on all courts in India.

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148 A clerk employed temporarily for a single day to carry confidential court files intentionally destroys one of the files. Which of the following is the most legally accurate statement under the Bharatiya Nyaya Sanhita, 2023 in India?

[SSC CGL 22 Oct 2026, Shift-III]

(a) He is not considered a clerk because his employment was temporary.
(b) He is considered a public servant only if formally appointed by the government.
(c) He may still fall within the meaning of 'clerk' or 'servant' under the general explanations.
(d) He cannot be punished because temporary workers are excluded from criminal liability.

ANSWER (c) He may still fall within the meaning of 'clerk' or ...

The correct answer is option C. Under the Bharatiya Nyaya Sanhita, a person employed only temporarily, or for a particular occasion, in the capacity of a clerk or servant is still treated as a clerk or servant for the purposes of the relevant offences. The nature of the duty, not the length of the employment, decides the status. Hence the clerk is liable, and temporary employment is no defence.

- The BNS came into force on 1 July 2024, replacing the Indian Penal Code, 1860.
- Criminal liability depends on the act and the intention, not on whether the job is permanent or temporary.
- The definition of 'public servant' in the BNS is a separate matter and does not depend on the length of service.

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149 A prosecution relates to an offence punishable with imprisonment for life. Which authority under the Directorate of Prosecution has the primary statutory duty to monitor such cases and advise on filing appeals under the Bharatiya Nagarik Suraksha Sanhita, 2023 in India?

[SSC CGL 22 Oct 2026, Shift-III]

(a) Assistant Director of Prosecution
(b) Deputy Director of Prosecution
(c) Director of Prosecution
(d) District Magistrate

ANSWER (c) Director of Prosecution

The correct answer is option C, Director of Prosecution. The Bharatiya Nagarik Suraksha Sanhita, 2023 provides for a Directorate of Prosecution in each State, headed by the Director of Prosecution. The Director monitors serious cases, including those punishable with life imprisonment, to expedite proceedings, and advises on filing appeals. Deputy Directors and Assistant Directors work under the Director.

- The BNSS replaced the Code of Criminal Procedure, 1973 and came into force on 1 July 2024.
- The Directorate of Prosecution is a new feature introduced by the BNSS; the CrPC had no such body.
- Public Prosecutors for the High Court and the Sessions Courts are appointed by the State Government.

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150 During a trial, the court concludes that a fact is so highly probable that a prudent person would act on the assumption that it exists, although there is no absolute certainty. Under the Bharatiya Sakshya Adhiniyam 2023, in India such a fact is classified as:

[SSC CGL 23 Oct 2026, Shift-I]

(a) Disproved
(b) Not proved
(c) Proved
(d) Conclusive proof

ANSWER (c) Proved

The correct answer is option C. Under the definitions clause of the Bharatiya Sakshya Adhiniyam, 2023, a fact is said to be 'proved' when, after considering the matters before it, the court either believes it to exist or considers its existence so probable that a prudent person ought, in the circumstances of the case, to act on the supposition that it exists. Absolute certainty is not required; the standard is high probability.

- 'Disproved' means the court believes the fact does not exist, or its non-existence is so probable that a prudent person would act on that basis.
- 'Not proved' means a fact that is neither proved nor disproved.
- The BSA replaced the Indian Evidence Act, 1872 and came into force on 1 July 2024.

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151 Which Supreme Court case held that the Preamble is a part of the Indian Constitution?

[SSC CGL 23 Oct 2026, Shift-II]

(a) S.R. Bommai Case
(b) Golaknath Case
(c) Berubari Union Case
(d) Kesavananda Bharati Case

ANSWER (d) Kesavananda Bharati Case

The correct answer is option D. In Kesavananda Bharati v. State of Kerala (1973), a 13-judge bench of the Supreme Court held that the Preamble is a part of the Constitution and can be amended under Article 368, though the basic structure cannot be destroyed. This overruled the earlier view in the Berubari Union case (1960), which had held that the Preamble is not a part of the Constitution.

- Kesavananda Bharati propounded the 'basic structure doctrine'.
- In LIC of India v. Consumer Education and Research Centre (1995), the Court again affirmed that the Preamble is an integral part of the Constitution.
- The Preamble has been amended only once, by the 42nd Amendment Act, 1976, which added the words 'Socialist', 'Secular' and 'Integrity'.

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152 Which constitutional amendment introduced the Goods and Services Tax (GST) in India?

[SSC CGL 23 Oct 2026, Shift-II]

(a) 97th Amendment
(b) 99th Amendment
(c) 101st Amendment
(d) 102nd Amendment

ANSWER (c) 101st Amendment

The correct answer is option C. The Constitution (101st Amendment) Act, 2016 introduced the Goods and Services Tax. It inserted Article 246A (special power of Parliament and States to make laws on GST), Article 279A (GST Council) and Article 269A (levy of IGST on

inter-State supply), and made other consequential changes. GST came into effect on 1 July 2017.

- The GST Council is chaired by the Union Finance Minister.
- The 97th Amendment (2011) dealt with co-operative societies, the 99th (2014) with the National Judicial Appointments Commission, and the 102nd (2018) with the National Commission for Backward Classes.
- GST replaced many indirect taxes such as service tax, excise duty and VAT.

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153 A and B jointly decide to starve prisoner Z to death. A withholds food during the first three days, and B continues the omission during the next three days, causing Z's death. Under Section 3(8) of the Bharatiya Nyaya Sanhita, 2023 in India, which of the following best describes their liability?

[SSC CGL 23 Oct 2026, Shift-II]

(a) Only B is guilty because his omission directly caused death.
(b) Only A is guilty because he initiated the act.
(c) Both A and B are guilty of murder through intentional cooperation.
(d) Neither is guilty because omission alone cannot constitute murder.

ANSWER (c) Both A and B are guilty of murder through intentional ...

The correct answer is option C. Section 3(8) of the BNS (corresponding to Section 37 of the IPC) provides that when an offence is committed by several acts, a person who intentionally cooperates in the commission of the offence by doing any one of those acts, either singly or jointly with another, commits that offence. The illustration to this provision is that of two jailors, A and B, who intentionally cooperate in starving a prisoner Z to death by withholding food in turns; both are guilty of murder.

- An omission is also covered by the term 'act' in the BNS, as illegal omissions are treated like acts.
- Section 3 of the BNS contains the general explanations on acts, omissions and cooperation.
- Intentional cooperation makes each participant liable for the whole offence, not for a part of it.

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154 A police inspector investigated a criminal case. Later, due to the non-availability of prosecutors, the district magistrate appoints the same inspector as assistant public prosecutor for that case. Which of the following is correct under the Bharatiya Nagarik Suraksha Sanhita, 2023 in India?

[SSC CGL 23 Oct 2026, Shift-II]

(a) Valid: because an inspector satisfies the rank requirement.
(b) Invalid: investigating officer cannot act as assistant public prosecutor in the same case.
(c) Invalid: if the accused consents.
(d) Valid: because the appointment is temporary.

ANSWER (b) Invalid: investigating officer cannot act as assistant ...

The correct answer is option B. Under Section 19 of the BNSS (corresponding to Section 25 of the CrPC), a police officer is not eligible to be appointed as an Assistant Public Prosecutor if he has taken any part in the investigation of the offence for which the accused is being prosecuted, or if he is below the rank of Inspector. Although the inspector satisfies the rank requirement, his role as investigating officer disqualifies him in that very case, because an investigator cannot also be the prosecutor.

- The rank of Inspector is the minimum rank for a police officer to be appointed as Assistant Public Prosecutor.
- Assistant Public Prosecutors are appointed for conducting prosecutions in Magistrates' courts.
- Neither the temporary nature of the appointment nor the consent of the accused can cure this disqualification.

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155 What does the term "audio-video electronic means" include under BNSS, 2023?

[SSC CGL 23 Oct 2026, Shift-III]

(a) Telephonic conversations only
(b) Written correspondence through post
(c) Video conferencing and electronic communication devices
(d) Telegram or fax only

ANSWER (c) Video conferencing and electronic communication devices

The correct answer is option C. The Bharatiya Nagarik Suraksha Sanhita defines 'audio-video electronic means' as including the use of any communication device for the purposes of video conferencing,

recording of the process of search and seizure or of identification, and the transmission of electronic communication. This definition enables electronic summons, video-conferencing trials and recording of procedures.

- BNSS makes audio-video recording of search and seizure mandatory.
- Statements, evidence and trials may be conducted through electronic means.
- 'Electronic communication' and the use of electronic mode for service of summons are formally recognised by the BNSS.

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156 _____ was the first Comptroller and Auditor General of India.

[SSC CGL 23 Oct 2026, Shift-III]

(a) Rajendra Prasad
(b) V. Narahari Rao
(c) George Mathai
(d) Vilasrao Deshmukh

ANSWER (b) V. Narahari Rao

The correct answer is option B. V. Narahari Rao was the first Comptroller and Auditor General of India, holding office from 1948 to 1954. The post is provided for in Article 148 of the Constitution; the CAG is appointed by the President and can be removed only in the manner and on the grounds of a Supreme Court judge.

- The CAG submits audit reports on the Union accounts to the President, who lays them before Parliament; for States, the reports go to the Governor.
- The CAG's term is six years or up to 65 years of age, whichever is earlier.
- The CAG is called the 'guardian of the public purse'.

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157 The scrapping of the IPC, CrPC, and Evidence Act is seen as a step toward:

[SSC CGL 23 Oct 2026, Shift-III]

(a) Strengthening colonial rule
(b) Enhancing presidential powers
(c) Decolonization of laws
(d) Centralizing the judiciary

ANSWER (c) Decolonization of laws

The correct answer is option C. The replacement of the colonial-era Indian Penal Code (1860), Code of Criminal Procedure (1973) and Indian Evidence Act (1872) by the Bharatiya Nyaya Sanhita, the Bharatiya Nagarik Suraksha Sanhita and the Bharatiya Sakshya Adhiniyam is presented as a step towards decolonisation of Indian laws, with focus on justice rather than punishment.

- The three new laws came into force on 1 July 2024.
- The Acts received Presidential assent in December 2023.
- The BNS has removed the sedition provision of Section 124A and added offences such as organised crime and terrorism.

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158 The Constitution is described as:

[SSC CGL 23 Oct 2026, Shift-III]

(a) A rigid, ceremonial text
(b) A purely legal code without moral content
(c) A moral compass and embodiment of people's aspirations
(d) A relic of colonial rule

ANSWER (c) A moral compass and embodiment of people's aspirations

The correct answer is option C. The Indian Constitution is described as a moral compass and an embodiment of the aspirations of the people, because its Preamble, Fundamental Rights and Directive Principles express the values of justice, liberty, equality and fraternity. It is not a mere legal code; it is a living document that guides the State and citizens.

- The Constitution was adopted on 26 November 1949 and came into force on 26 January 1950.
- Dr. B.R. Ambedkar was the Chairman of the Drafting Committee.
- The Indian Constitution is the longest written constitution of any sovereign country.

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159 The Supreme Court's decision in Supriyo v. Union of India (2023) concerned:

[SSC CGL 23 Oct 2026, Shift-III]

(a) Data protection and privacy
(b) Same-sex marriage
(c) Electoral funding
(d) Article 370

ANSWER (b) Same-sex marriage

The correct answer is option B. In Supriyo @ Supriya Chakraborty v. Union of India (17 October 2023), a five-judge Constitution Bench led by CJI D.Y. Chandrachud declined to give legal recognition to same-sex

marriage. The Court held that it is for Parliament to make a law on the subject and left the Special Marriage Act, 1954 unchanged.

- Same-sex relations between consenting adults were decriminalised in Navtej Singh Johar v. Union of India (2018) by reading down Section 377 of the IPC.
- Privacy was declared a fundamental right in K.S. Puttaswamy v. Union of India (2017).
- Article 370 was dealt with in a separate Constitution Bench judgment of December 2023, which upheld its abrogation.

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160 In India, which writ is issued by a higher court to prevent a lower court or tribunal from exceeding its jurisdiction?

[SSC CGL 24 Oct 2026, Shift-I]

(a) Quo Warranto
(b) Habeas Corpus
(c) Mandamus
(d) Prohibition

ANSWER (d) Prohibition

The correct answer is option D. The writ of Prohibition is issued by a higher court to a lower court or tribunal to prevent it from exceeding its jurisdiction or usurping a jurisdiction it does not possess. It is issued while the proceedings are pending and is preventive in nature; it can be issued only against judicial and quasi-judicial authorities.

- Certiorari is issued after the order, to quash a decision already made by a lower court.
- Mandamus ('we command') directs a public official to perform a public duty.
- Habeas Corpus ('to have the body') protects against unlawful detention; Quo Warranto ('by what authority') examines a person's right to hold a public office.
- The Supreme Court can issue writs under Article 32 and the High Courts under Article 226.

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161 Under the Tenth Schedule of the Constitution of India, which authority decides questions relating to the disqualification of Members of Parliament on the ground of defection?

[SSC CGL 24 Oct 2026, Shift-I]

(a) Speaker /Chairman
(b) Chief Election / Election Commissioner
(c) Supreme / High Court
(d) President / Vice President

ANSWER (a) Speaker /Chairman

The correct answer is option A. Under paragraph 6 of the Tenth Schedule, the question of disqualification on the ground of defection is decided by the Chairman (in case of Rajya Sabha) or the Speaker (in case of Lok Sabha). The Schedule was added by the 52nd Amendment Act, 1985 (the anti-defection law). In Kihoto Hollohan v. Zachillhu (1992), the Supreme Court upheld its validity and held that the Speaker's decision is subject to judicial review.

- The 91st Amendment Act, 2003 removed the exemption for a split in a party and limited the size of the Council of Ministers to 15% of the House.
- A member is disqualified if he voluntarily gives up membership of his party or votes against its whip.
- Where the Speaker or Chairman himself is the subject of a complaint, the House elects another member to decide it.

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162 Under the Bharatiya Nyaya Sanhita, 2023 in India, which of the following actions does not satisfy the requirement of “good faith”?

[SSC CGL 24 Oct 2026, Shift-I]

(a) Acting honestly after careful verification of facts
(b) Taking a decision after exercising due care and attention
(c) Acting honestly but recklessly without proper inquiry
(d) Believing information after reasonable investigation

ANSWER (c) Acting honestly but recklessly without proper inquiry

The correct answer is option C. Under the definitions clause of the Bharatiya Nyaya Sanhita (corresponding to Section 52 of the IPC), nothing is said to be done or believed in 'good faith' which is done or believed without due care and attention. Honesty alone is not enough; the person must also have exercised due care and inquiry. Acting honestly but recklessly, without proper inquiry, therefore lacks good faith.

- Good faith is judged by the test of due care and attention, not by the mere absence of bad intention.
- Several general exceptions in the BNS require the act to be done in good faith.

• Good faith is a question of fact in each case.

163 A tribunal consisting of three officers gives a legally binding judgement which becomes final unless appealed. Under the Bharatiya Nyaya Sanhita, 2023 in India, these officers would collectively be regarded as:

[SSC CGL 24 Oct 2026, Shift-I]

(a) Arbitrators only
(b) Witnesses
(c) A court and its members as judges while acting judicially
(d) Administrative authorities with no judicial status

ANSWER (c) A court and its members as judges while acting judicially

The correct answer is option C. The Bharatiya Nyaya Sanhita defines 'Court' as a Judge, or a body of Judges, empowered by law to act judicially, and 'Judge' as a person empowered by law to give a legally binding final judgment (unless appealed). A tribunal of three officers delivering such a judgment is therefore a court, and its members are judges while acting judicially. The definitions follow Sections 19 and 20 of the IPC.

- A Judge includes every person empowered to give a definitive judgment, whether or not it is subject to appeal.
- A member of a panchayat that has the power to give a legally binding verdict is also a Judge under this definition.
- A Collector exercising judicial powers in a proceeding is a Judge for the purposes of the Sanhita.

164 Which of the following key changes is introduced in the Bharatiya Nyaya Sanhita, 2023, replacing the Indian Penal Code (IPC) of 1860?

[SSC CGL 24 Oct 2026, Shift-II]

(a) Introduction of Community Service as a form of punishment
(b) Replacement of all criminal laws with a common civil code
(c) Removal of Sedition Law without any replacement
(d) Complete abolition of capital punishment

ANSWER (a) Introduction of Community Service as a form of punishment

The correct answer is option A. The Bharatiya Nyaya Sanhita, 2023 introduces community service as a form of punishment for certain petty offences, such as petty theft in specified circumstances. This is a new feature, as the IPC did not provide for community service as a punishment.

- The death penalty has been retained; it is not abolished.
- The sedition offence of Section 124A IPC has been removed, but a new offence of acts endangering the sovereignty, unity and integrity of India (Section 152) has been added, so it is not removed 'without any replacement'.
- The BNS adds offences such as organised crime, terrorism, mob lynching and snatching.

165 Who among the following is the longest serving Prime Minister of India?

[SSC CGL 24 Oct 2026, Shift-II]

(a) Manmohan Singh
(b) Jawaharlal Nehru
(c) Narendra Modi
(d) Indira Gandhi

ANSWER (b) Jawaharlal Nehru

The correct answer is option B. Jawaharlal Nehru is the longest-serving Prime Minister of India, holding office from 15 August 1947 until his death on 27 May 1964, a tenure of about 16 years and 9 months. He was also the first Prime Minister of independent India.

- Indira Gandhi is the second longest-serving, with about 15 years and 11 months over two spells (1966–77 and 1980–84).
- Manmohan Singh served for ten years (2004–2014).
- Narendra Modi has been Prime Minister since 26 May 2014 and is the longest-serving among non-Congress Prime Ministers.

166 Which article of the Constitution is called the 'Heart and Soul' by Dr. B.R. Ambedkar?

[SSC CGL 24 Oct 2026, Shift-II]

(a) Article 20
(b) Article 19
(c) Article 32
(d) Article 14

ANSWER (c) Article 32

The correct answer is option C. Dr. B.R. Ambedkar described Article 32 (Right to Constitutional Remedies) as 'the very soul of the Constitution and the very heart of it'. It gives every person the right to move the Supreme Court directly for the enforcement of Fundamental Rights, and the Court can issue writs such as habeas corpus, mandamus, prohibition, certiorari and quo warranto.

- Article 32 is itself a Fundamental Right and falls under Part III.
- The High Courts have wider writ powers under Article 226, which can be used for Fundamental Rights and for any other legal right.
- Article 32 can be suspended only during a National Emergency (Article 359).

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167 What must the Legislative Assembly do, according to Article 178 of the Indian Constitution, if the office of the Speaker or Deputy Speaker becomes vacant?

[SSC CGL 24 Oct 2026, Shift-II]

(a) Request the Governor to appoint a temporary officer
(b) Leave the post vacant until the next general election
(c) Choose another Assembly member to fill the vacancy
(d) Transfer the duties to the Chairman of the Council

ANSWER (c) Choose another Assembly member to fill the vacancy

The correct answer is option C. Article 178 provides that every State Legislative Assembly shall, as soon as may be, choose two members to be its Speaker and Deputy Speaker, and so often as the office of either becomes vacant, the Assembly shall choose another member to be the Speaker or Deputy Speaker, as the case may be. The post is therefore never left vacant on a permanent basis.

- The corresponding provision for Lok Sabha is Article 93.
- The Speaker/Deputy Speaker vacates office on ceasing to be a member, by resigning in writing, or by removal through a resolution passed by a majority of all the then members, with 14 days' notice (Article 179).
- The presiding officer of the Legislative Council is the Chairman (Article 182).

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168 Which Constitutional Amendment Act inserted Article 239AA, providing special provisions for the Union Territory of Delhi?

[SSC CGL 24 Oct 2026, Shift-II]

(a) 61st Amendment Act, 1988
(b) 69th Amendment Act, 1991
(c) 73rd Amendment Act, 1992
(d) 91st Amendment Act, 2003

ANSWER (b) 69th Amendment Act, 1991

The correct answer is option B. The Constitution (69th Amendment) Act, 1991 inserted Article 239AA (and Article 239AB), giving Delhi the special status of the 'National Capital Territory of Delhi', with a Legislative Assembly and a Council of Ministers headed by a Chief Minister. The Lieutenant Governor is the Administrator of the Territory.

- Public order, police and land remain outside the Assembly's legislative competence.
- The 61st Amendment (1988) lowered the voting age from 21 to 18 years; the 73rd (1992) gave constitutional status to Panchayati Raj; the 91st (2003) restricted the size of Councils of Ministers and strengthened the anti-defection law.

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169 Under the Constitution of India, which authority has the power to enlarge the jurisdiction and powers of the Supreme Court with respect to matters in the Union List?

[SSC CGL 24 Oct 2026, Shift-II]

(a) Rajya Sabha alone
(b) Chief Justice of India
(c) Parliament of India
(d) President of India

ANSWER (c) Parliament of India

The correct answer is option C. Under Article 138 of the Constitution, the Supreme Court has such further jurisdiction and powers with respect to any matters in the Union List as Parliament may by law confer. Under Article 138(2), further jurisdiction on other matters may be conferred by a special agreement between the Government of India and the State Governments, if Parliament by law provides for it.

- Article 139 allows Parliament to confer on the Supreme Court the power to issue writs for purposes other than Fundamental Rights.

- Article 140 provides for ancillary powers of the Supreme Court.
- Article 141 declares that law declared by the Supreme Court is binding on all courts in India.

170 A disciplinary authority conducting departmental arbitration proceedings records witness testimony and admits electronic evidence. One party argues that the Bharatiya Sakshya Adhiniyam 2023, in India automatically applies because evidence is being taken. Which of the following statements is legally correct?

[SSC CGL 24 Oct 2026, Shift-II]

(a) The Adhiniyam applies because all proceedings involving evidence are covered.
(b) The Adhiniyam applies only to criminal proceedings.
(c) The Adhiniyam does not apply to proceedings before an arbitrator.
(d) The Adhiniyam applies only if both parties consent.

ANSWER (c) The Adhiniyam does not apply to proceedings before an ...

The correct answer is option C. Like the Indian Evidence Act, 1872, the Bharatiya Sakshya Adhiniyam, 2023 applies to judicial proceedings in or before any court, including courts-martial, but it does not apply to affidavits or to proceedings before an arbitrator. Departmental or arbitral proceedings are therefore not governed by the Adhiniyam merely because evidence is recorded in them, although natural justice must still be followed.

- The Adhiniyam covers both civil and criminal proceedings in courts, not criminal proceedings only.
- It expressly recognises electronic records as documents.
- Arbitral tribunals are guided by the Arbitration and Conciliation Act, 1996, which does not bind them to the strict rules of evidence.

171 Which constitutional authority in India is referred to as the “guardian of the public purse”?

[SSC CGL 24 Oct 2026, Shift-III]

(a) Finance Secretary
(b) Comptroller and Auditor General (CAG)
(c) Governor of Reserve Bank of India (RBI)
(d) Attorney General of India (AG)

ANSWER (b) Comptroller and Auditor General (CAG)

The correct answer is option B. The Comptroller and Auditor General of India (Article 148) is called the 'guardian of the public purse', because he audits the receipts and expenditure of the Union and the States and ensures that money is spent as authorised by Parliament. Dr. B.R. Ambedkar described the CAG as perhaps the most important officer under the Constitution.

- The CAG is the head of the Indian Audit and Accounts Department.
- The CAG's salary and service conditions are determined by Parliament, and cannot be varied to his disadvantage after appointment.
- After retirement, the CAG is not eligible for any further office under the Government of India or a State.

172 In a dispute over whether villagers have a right to use a pond, the court considers the following:
(i) testimony of elderly villagers
(ii) written government notification denying such right
Which is legally correct under Section 42 of the Bharatiya Sakshya Adhiniyam, 2023, in India?

[SSC CGL 24 Oct 2026, Shift-III]

(a) Only government notification is relevant.
(b) Only elderly villagers’ opinions are relevant.
(c) Both are irrelevant because customs cannot be proved by opinion.
(d) Elderly villagers’ opinions are relevant as they likely know the custom.

ANSWER (d) Elderly villagers’ opinions are relevant as they likely ...

The correct answer is option D. Section 42 of the Bharatiya Sakshya Adhiniyam, 2023 (corresponding to Section 48 of the Indian Evidence Act) provides that when the court has to form an opinion as to the existence of any general custom or right, the opinions of persons who would be likely to know of its existence

are relevant. Elderly villagers who have long used the pond are such persons, so their opinions are relevant.

- 'Right' in this section includes a right common to any considerable class of persons, such as villagers.
- Section 42 is among the provisions on relevant opinions of third persons, which also include expert opinion and opinion on handwriting.
- A custom or usage can be proved through evidence of instances in which it was acted upon.

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173 Under the Bharatiya Nyaya Sanhita, 2023, what is the punishment for cyber stalking?

[SSC CGL 27 Oct 2026, Shift-I]

(a) Imprisonment for life
(b) Imprisonment up to 1 year
(c) Imprisonment up to 3 years and a fine
(d) A fine of ₹1 lakh

ANSWER (c) Imprisonment up to 3 years and a fine

The correct answer is option C. Stalking, including monitoring a person's use of the internet, e-mail or any other form of electronic communication, is an offence under Section 78 of the BNS (corresponding to Section 354D of the IPC). On first conviction the punishment is imprisonment of up to three years and a fine; on a second or subsequent conviction it is imprisonment of up to five years and a fine.

- The offence is cognizable and, on first conviction, bailable.
- Stalking means repeatedly following or contacting a woman despite her clear indication of disinterest.
- The Information Technology Act, 2000 also contains cyber-crime provisions, for example Section 66C (identity theft) and Section 66E (violation of privacy).

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174 Which document is known as the 'Identity Card' of the Indian Constitution?

[SSC CGL 27 Oct 2026, Shift-I]

(a) The Preamble
(b) The Directive Principles of State Policy
(c) The Seventh Schedule
(d) The Fundamental Rights

ANSWER (a) The Preamble

The correct answer is option A. The Preamble is called the 'identity card' of the Constitution, because it contains in brief the nature of the Indian State, its sources of authority and the objectives it seeks to achieve. It declares India to be a Sovereign, Socialist, Secular, Democratic Republic and secures justice, liberty, equality and fraternity to all citizens.

- K.M. Munshi described the Preamble as the 'horoscope of our sovereign democratic republic'.
- Sir Ernest Barker called it the 'key-note' of the Constitution.
- The Preamble is based on the Objectives Resolution moved by Jawaharlal Nehru in the Constituent Assembly in 1946.

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175 Under which Article of the Indian Constitution is the Metropolitan Planning Committee provided?

[SSC CGL 27 Oct 2026, Shift-I]

(a) Article 243ZD
(b) Article 243ZE
(c) Article 243ZF
(d) Article 243ZG

ANSWER (b) Article 243ZE

The correct answer is option B. Article 243ZE of Part IXA (The Municipalities), inserted by the 74th Amendment Act, 1992, provides for the Metropolitan Planning Committee in every metropolitan area. A metropolitan area is one having a population of ten lakh or more, comprising one or more districts and two or more Municipalities or Panchayats or other contiguous areas.

- Article 243ZD provides for the District Planning Committee.
- Part IXA contains Articles 243P to 243ZG.
- The Twelfth Schedule lists 18 functions of Municipalities.

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176 What is the primary objective of the Metropolitan Planning Committee under Article 243ZE of the Indian Constitution?

[SSC CGL 27 Oct 2026, Shift-I]

(a) To collect taxes from the metropolitan residents
(b) To prepare a draft development plan for the metro area
(c) To manage the police force within the metropolitan limits
(d) To adjudicate disputes between different Municipalities

ANSWER (b) To prepare a draft development plan for the metro area

The correct answer is option B. Under Article 243ZE, the Metropolitan Planning Committee prepares a draft development plan for the metropolitan area as a whole. In doing so, it considers the plans prepared by the Municipalities and Panchayats in the area and matters of common interest such as co-ordinated spatial planning, sharing of water and other resources, and integrated infrastructure development. The plan is forwarded to the State Government.

- At least two-thirds of the Committee's members are elected by the elected members of the Municipalities and the Chairpersons of the Panchayats in the area, from amongst themselves.
- The District Planning Committee (Article 243ZD) does similar work at the district level.
- Taxation, policing and dispute adjudication are not functions of the Committee.

---

177 What does the concept of "Republic" in the Preamble to the Indian Constitution imply?

[SSC CGL 27 Oct 2026, Shift-I]

(a) States possess sovereignty
(b) India has a written Constitution
(c) Head of State is elected
(d) Judiciary is independent

ANSWER (c) Head of State is elected

The correct answer is option C. The term 'Republic' in the Preamble means that the head of the State, the President, is elected (indirectly, for a fixed term of five years) and is not hereditary like a monarch. It also implies that political sovereignty rests with the people and that there is no privileged class, with all public offices open to every citizen.

- India is a Republic and not a monarchy, unlike the United Kingdom, where the head of the State is a hereditary monarch.
- The President is elected by an Electoral College under Article 54, using the system of proportional representation by single transferable vote.
- India became a Republic on 26 January 1950.

---

178 A private citizen witnesses a police officer struggling to prevent the escape of an accused who has been lawfully arrested in connection with a robbery offence. The police officer reasonably requests the citizen's assistance, but the citizen refuses. Which of the following statements is most accurate under the Bharatiya Nyaya Sanhita, 2023?

[SSC CGL 27 Oct 2026, Shift-I]

(a) The citizen has complete discretion whether to assist.
(b) Assistance is mandatory only for government servants.
(c) Duty to assist in preventing escape of arrested person when reasonably required.
(d) Assistance becomes mandatory only after written orders from a magistrate.

ANSWER (c) Duty to assist in preventing escape of arrested person ...

The correct answer is option C. Every person is legally bound to assist a Magistrate or police officer who reasonably demands his aid in taking or preventing the escape of any person whom the officer is authorised to arrest. A person who, being legally bound to give such assistance to a public servant, intentionally omits to do so is punishable under the BNS provision corresponding to Section 187 of the IPC (omission to assist a public servant when bound by law to give assistance).

- The duty to assist also extends to the prevention or suppression of a breach of the peace and to preventing damage to railways, canals, telegraphs or public property.
- The duty arises when the demand for aid is reasonable; a written order of a Magistrate is not needed.
- This duty applies to all persons, not only to government servants.

---

179 A state government issues a notification applying only Chapters IX and XI of the BNSS (Bharatiya Nagarik Suraksha Sanhita), 2023 to certain tribal areas previously excluded under

Section 1(2). A lawyer argues that such notification is invalid because excluded areas can never be brought within BNSS applicability. Which option is legally correct?

[SSC CGL 27 Oct 2026, Shift-II]

(a) The lawyer is correct because tribal areas are permanently exempt.
(b) The notification is invalid unless Parliament separately approves it.
(c) BNSS (Bharatiya Nagarik Suraksha Sanhita) provisions can be applied by state notification with changes.
(d) Only the central government may extend BNSS (Bharatiya Nagarik Suraksha Sanhita) to tribal areas.

ANSWER (c) BNSS (Bharatiya Nagarik Suraksha Sanhita) provisions can ...

The correct answer is option C. Section 1(2) of the BNSS provides that its provisions, other than those relating to Chapters IX, XI and XII, do not apply to the State of Nagaland or to the tribal areas where Autonomous District Councils exist. However, the proviso allows the concerned State Government, by notification, to apply any or all of these provisions to the whole or part of such areas, with such supplemental, incidental or consequential modifications as may be specified. The exclusion is therefore not permanent, and no approval of Parliament is needed.

- The same scheme existed in the Code of Criminal Procedure, 1973 (Section 1(2)).
- The State Government, not the Central Government, issues the notification.
- Chapters IX, XI and XII of the BNSS apply even to the excluded areas.

---

180 Which part of the Indian Constitution deals with the official language of the Union?

[SSC CGL 27 Oct 2026, Shift-III]

(a) Part XII
(b) Part XV
(c) Part XVII
(d) Part XIX

ANSWER (c) Part XVII

The correct answer is option C. Part XVII of the Constitution (Articles 343 to 351) deals with the Official Language. Article 343 declares Hindi in the Devanagari script as the official language of the Union, and the form of numerals to be the international form of Indian numerals. English was to continue for fifteen years from the commencement of the Constitution, and Parliament may by law provide for its continued use.

- Part XII deals with Finance, Property, Contracts and Suits; Part XV with Elections; and Part XIX with Miscellaneous provisions.
- Article 351 is a directive for the promotion and development of the Hindi language.
- The Eighth Schedule lists the 22 languages recognised by the Constitution.

---

181 Which was the first district in India to implement the third tier of Panchayati Raj governance?

[SSC CGL 27 Oct 2026, Shift-III]

(a) Bidar, Karnataka
(b) Nagaur, Rajasthan
(c) Nadia, West Bengal
(d) Palakkad, Kerala

ANSWER (b) Nagaur, Rajasthan

The correct answer is option B. Panchayati Raj was first inaugurated in India at Nagaur district of Rajasthan on 2 October 1959 by Prime Minister Jawaharlal Nehru. Rajasthan thus became the first State to adopt the three-tier Panchayati Raj system, based on the recommendations of the Balwant Rai Mehta Committee (1957); Andhra Pradesh followed soon after.

- The three tiers are the Gram Panchayat, Panchayat Samiti (block level) and Zila Parishad (district level).
- The 73rd Constitutional Amendment Act, 1992 gave Panchayati Raj constitutional status through Part IX and the Eleventh Schedule.
- 24 April is celebrated as National Panchayati Raj Day, as the 73rd Amendment came into force on 24 April 1993.

---

182 What is the primary objective of the Bharatiya Sakshya Adhiniyam, 2023?

[SSC CGL 27 Oct 2026, Shift-III]

(a) To regulate the conduct of civil trials
(b) To consolidate and amend the law relating to evidence
(c) To reform criminal sentencing procedures
(d) To establish fast-track courts

ANSWER (b) To consolidate and amend the law relating to evidence

The correct answer is option B. The Bharatiya Sakshya Adhiniyam, 2023 is an Act to consolidate and amend the provisions relating to the law of evidence. It replaced the Indian Evidence Act, 1872 and came into force on 1 July 2024. A major change is the express recognition of electronic and digital records as documentary evidence.

- It is one of the three new criminal law statutes, along with the BNS and the BNSS.
- Its subject is the rules of admissibility and relevance of facts, and not the procedure of trials or sentencing.
- Fast-track courts are not established by this Act.

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183 _____ falls exclusively under the Union List.

[SSC CGL 27 Oct 2026, Shift-III]

(a) Forests
(b) Foreign Affairs
(c) Labour
(d) Public Welfare

ANSWER (b) Foreign Affairs

The correct answer is option B. Foreign Affairs (Entry 10 of the Union List) is exclusively a Union subject, and only Parliament can make laws on it. The Union List in the Seventh Schedule includes subjects such as defence, foreign affairs, railways, banking and atomic energy.

- Forests were shifted from the State List to the Concurrent List by the 42nd Amendment Act, 1976.
- Labour (welfare of labour, trade unions) is in the Concurrent List.
- Public order, police and public health are State List subjects, while 'public welfare' is not a Union List subject.

---

184 Under the Bharatiya Nyaya Sanhita, 2023 in India, which of the following would not amount to an “offence” as defined under Section 2(24)?

[SSC CGL 28 Oct 2026, Shift-I]

(a) An act committed by a person under seven years of age
(b) An act punishable under BNS (Bharatiya Nyaya Sanhita) with imprisonment
(c) An act punishable under a local law with six months’ imprisonment
(d) An act causing harm due to negligence

ANSWER (a) An act committed by a person under seven years of age

The correct answer is option A. Under Section 20 of the BNS (corresponding to Section 82 of the IPC), nothing is an offence which is done by a child under seven years of age, because such a child is conclusively presumed to be incapable of forming criminal intent (doli incapax). The 'offence' defined in the Sanhita covers things made punishable by it or, in the cases it specifies, by a special or local law.

- Between seven and twelve years, a child gets protection only if he lacks sufficient maturity to understand the nature and consequences of his conduct (Section 21 of the BNS).
- An act causing harm through negligence can be an offence, as the BNS punishes rash and negligent acts.
- For special or local laws, certain provisions of the Sanhita apply where the law prescribes imprisonment of six months or more, or a fine.

---

185 Who must be notified during the arrest of a person under Bharatiya Nagarik suraksha Samhita(BNSS)?

[SSC CGL 28 Oct 2026, Shift-II]

(a) None
(b) Public Prosecutor
(c) Family member or friend
(d) Nearest MP

ANSWER (c) Family member or friend

The correct answer is option C. Under Section 48 of the BNSS (corresponding to Section 50A of the CrPC), a police officer making an arrest must immediately give information about the arrest and the place of detention to any of the arrested person's relatives, friends or any other person nominated by him. The officer must also record this in a register kept in the police station.

- Article 22(1) of the Constitution gives the right to be informed of the grounds of arrest and to consult a legal practitioner.

- The arrested person must be produced before a Magistrate within 24 hours, excluding the time of journey (Article 22(2)).
- The arrested person must also be informed of the grounds of arrest and of the right to bail where the offence is bailable.

186 According to Article 39(b) of the Indian Constitution, what is the primary objective of distributing the ownership and control of material resources?

[SSC CGL 28 Oct 2026, Shift-II]

(a) National defence
(b) Private profit
(c) Common good
(d) Judicial power

ANSWER (c) Common good

The correct answer is option C. Article 39(b), a Directive Principle of State Policy, directs the State to secure that the ownership and control of the material resources of the community are so distributed as best to subserve the common good. Article 39(c) further directs that the operation of the economic system should not result in the concentration of wealth and means of production to the common detriment.

- Article 31C protects laws made to give effect to Article 39(b) and (c) from challenge under Articles 14 and 19.
- Directive Principles are contained in Part IV (Articles 36 to 51) and are non-justiciable.
- Article 39 was also amended by the 42nd Amendment Act, 1976, which added clauses (e) and (f) in their present form.

187 Which Article of the Indian Constitution specifies that a law for the abolition or creation of a Legislative Council is not to be treated as a formal amendment under Article 368?

[SSC CGL 28 Oct 2026, Shift-II]

(a) Article 167
(b) Article 172(1)
(c) Article 165(1)
(d) Article 169(3)

ANSWER (d) Article 169(3)

The correct answer is option D. Article 169 allows Parliament to create or abolish the Legislative Council of a State if the Legislative Assembly passes a resolution by a majority of its total membership and by a majority of not less than two-thirds of the members present and voting. Under Article 169(3), such a law is not to be deemed an amendment of the Constitution for the purposes of Article 368, so it needs only a simple majority in Parliament.

- Article 171 deals with the composition of Legislative Councils: the number of members is not more than one-third of the Assembly and not less than 40.
- Article 172(1) provides that a Legislative Assembly continues for five years, while the Council is a permanent House.
- Article 165 concerns the Advocate-General of the State, and Article 167 the duties of the Chief Minister to furnish information to the Governor.

188 Match the following Constitutional Articles (List I) with their provisions (List II) and select the **correct** option:

List I (Articles)
I. Article 140
II. Article 280
III. Article 356
List II (Provisions)
1. Formation of the Finance Commission
2. Provision for President's Rule
3. Ancillary powers of the Supreme Court

[SSC CGL 28 Oct 2026, Shift-II]

(a) I-1, II-2, III-3
(b) I-3, II-1, III-2
(c) I-2, II-3, III-1
(d) I-3, II-2, III-1

ANSWER (b) I-3, II-1, III-2

The correct answer is option B. Article 140 provides for the ancillary powers of the Supreme Court (I-3), Article 280 provides for the constitution of the Finance Commission (II-1), and Article 356 provides for President's Rule in a State on failure of the constitutional machinery (III-2).

- The Finance Commission is constituted by the President every five years and recommends the distribution of tax proceeds between the Union and the States.
- Under Article 356, President's Rule must be approved by Parliament within two months; the maximum duration is three years.
- In S.R. Bommai v. Union of India (1994), the Supreme Court held that the imposition of President's Rule is subject to judicial review.

189 Under Article 20(1) of the Indian Constitution, protection against ex post facto laws applies primarily to:

[SSC CGL 28 Oct 2026, Shift-II]

(a) Constitutional amendments only
(b) Taxation laws only
(c) Criminal laws only
(d) Civil liability only

ANSWER (c) Criminal laws only

The correct answer is option C. Article 20(1) provides that no person shall be convicted of any offence except for violation of a law in force at the time of the commission of the act, nor be subjected to a penalty greater than that which might have been inflicted under the law then in force. This protection applies only to criminal laws; ex post facto civil and tax laws are not barred by it.

- Article 20 also provides protection against double jeopardy (20(2)) and self-incrimination (20(3)).
- Article 20 cannot be suspended even during a National Emergency (Article 359).
- A retrospective law which is beneficial to the accused, for example one reducing the punishment, is not prohibited.

190 A victim in a serious criminal case wants her privately chosen advocate to actively assist the prosecution alongside the special public prosecutor appointed by the state. Which of the following is correct under the Bharatiya Nagarik Suraksha Sanhita, 2023 in India?

[SSC CGL 28 Oct 2026, Shift-II]

(a) Victims have no role once prosecution begins.
(b) A victim's advocate may assist the prosecution if the court permits.
(c) Only the Public Prosecutor may appear in criminal trials.
(d) Victim participation is allowed only in magistrate courts.

ANSWER (b) A victim's advocate may assist the prosecution if the ...

The correct answer is option B. Under the proviso to Section 18(8) of the BNSS (corresponding to the proviso to Section 24(8) of the CrPC), the court may permit the victim to engage an advocate of his or her choice to assist the prosecution. The victim therefore has a recognised role in the trial, but only with the permission of the court, and the advocate assists the Public Prosecutor and does not replace him.

- 'Victim' is defined in the BNSS to include the guardian or legal heir of the victim.
- The BNSS also gives the victim the right to be heard before a case is withdrawn by the prosecution.
- The victim is also entitled to information on the progress of the investigation.

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04
CHAPTER

Geography

Questions with Explanations *148 questions · 53 shifts*

PART A Indian Geography

01 Regarding pulse production in India, consider the following statements.
1. Black gram can be cultivated as both kharif and Rabi crops.
2. Green gram alone accounts for nearly half of pulse production.
3. In the last three decades, while the production of Kharif pulses has increased, the production of Rabi pulses has decreased.
Which of the statements given above is/are CORRECT?

[SSC CGL 30 Sep 2026, Shift-II]

(a) 1 only
(b) 2 and 3 only
(c) 2 only
(d) 1 and 2 only

ANSWER (a) 1 only

Statement 1 is correct: black gram (urad) is grown in both the kharif and the rabi (and summer) seasons. Statement 2 is incorrect because gram (chickpea) is the largest pulse and no single pulse such as green gram accounts for half of the production. Statement 3 is incorrect because rabi pulses such as gram, lentil and peas account for the larger share of total pulse production. Hence only statement 1 is correct.

- India is the largest producer and consumer of pulses in the world.
- Gram is the most important rabi pulse; tur (arhar) and moong are major kharif pulses.
- Madhya Pradesh is the leading pulse-producing State.

---

02 Cereals cover approximately what percentage of the total cropped area in India?

[SSC CGL 30 Sep 2026, Shift-III]

(a) 25%
(b) 45%
(c) 54%
(d) 80%

ANSWER (c) 54%

Cereals (rice, wheat, jowar, bajra, maize, ragi) are grown on a little over half of India's gross cropped area, which is about 54% as per the standard figure used in the exam answer key. Rice and wheat together form the bulk of this area.

- Rice is the most important cereal crop and a kharif crop.
- Wheat is the main rabi cereal.
- Jowar, bajra and ragi are coarse cereals, also called millets.

---

03 In India, tropical and subtropical moist broadleaf forests can be found in:

[SSC CGL 01 Oct 2026, Shift-I]

(a) Andaman Islands
(b) Brahmaputra Valley
(c) Lower Gangetic Plains
(d) All of these

ANSWER (d) All of these

Tropical and subtropical moist broadleaf forests occur in regions with high rainfall and humidity. In India they are found in the Andaman Islands, the Brahmaputra Valley and the Lower Gangetic Plains, so all the given areas are correct.

- Other areas include the Western Ghats and the North-East hills.
- These forests are rich in biodiversity and have dense evergreen and semi-evergreen trees.
- Tropical evergreen forests grow in areas with rainfall above about 200 cm.

---

04 Which of the following ports on India's eastern coastline is best known for exporting iron ore and coal, due to its location near the mineral-rich areas of Odisha and Chhattisgarh?

[SSC CGL 01 Oct 2026, Shift-I]

(a) Chennai Port
(b) Paradip Port
(c) Visakhapatnam Port
(d) Kolkata Port

ANSWER (b) Paradip Port

Paradip Port, in Odisha on the Bay of Bengal, is a deep-water major port well connected to the mineral belt of Odisha and Chhattisgarh, and it handles large exports of iron ore and imports and exports of coal. Hence option B is correct.

- Paradip is situated at the mouth of the Mahanadi.
- It is one of the major ports on the east coast.
- Visakhapatnam is the oldest shipyard port on the east coast.

---

05 Which of the following districts in Assam are known for having major oil wells?

[SSC CGL 01 Oct 2026, Shift-I]

(a) Dibrugarh and Jorhat
(b) Digboi and Naharkatiya
(c) Guwahati and Tezpur
(d) Nagaon and Barpeta

ANSWER (b) Digboi and Naharkatiya

Digboi and Naharkatiya are the best-known oil-producing areas of Assam. Digboi, the oldest oil field in India (oil struck in 1889), has a refinery that dates back to 1901, while Naharkatiya was developed after independence.

- Moran-Hugrijan is another oil field of Assam.
- Assam has a major share of the on-land crude oil production of India.
- Digboi lies in the Tinsukia district of Upper Assam.

---

06 The highest amount of sugarcane is produced in:

[SSC CGL 01 Oct 2026, Shift-II]

(a) Uttar Pradesh
(b) Andhra Pradesh
(c) Haryana
(d) Punjab

ANSWER (a) Uttar Pradesh

Uttar Pradesh is the largest producer of sugarcane in India, with a large share of the country's cane area and output, followed by Maharashtra and Karnataka. Sugarcane grows best in hot, humid climate with fertile alluvial or black soil.

- India is among the world's leading producers of sugarcane, along with Brazil.
- Maharashtra is the leading sugar-producing State by quantity in many years.
- Sugarcane is a tropical crop requiring a long growing season.

---

07 Which of the following statements is INCORRECT with reference to the development of ports in India?

[SSC CGL 05 Oct 2026, Shift-I]

(a) The policies of major ports are decided by the Central Government where whereas the policy of minor ports is decided by State Governments.
(b) Major ports handle more than 75% of the country's total port traffic.
(c) The Major ports are used to handle only international cargo.
(d) Many ports of India went to Pakistan after partition.

ANSWER (c) The Major ports are used to handle only international cargo.

Statement C is incorrect. Major ports handle both international (foreign trade) cargo and domestic coastal cargo, so they are not restricted to international cargo. The other statements about policy-making powers and the loss of ports (Karachi and Chittagong) to Pakistan after Partition are in line with the standard textbook account.

- Major ports are under the Union List and governed by the Major Port Authorities Act, 2021.
- Minor (non-major) ports fall under the State governments.
- Kandla (Deendayal) port was developed after Partition to replace Karachi.

---

08 Bara Pani Lake is located in which Indian state?

[SSC CGL 05 Oct 2026, Shift-I]

(a) Arunachal Pradesh
(b) Jammu and Kashmir
(c) Uttarakhand
(d) Meghalaya

ANSWER (d) Meghalaya

Bara Pani (Barapani) Lake, also known as Umiam Lake, is a reservoir in Meghalaya, about 15 km from Shillong. It was formed by damming the Umiam River and is used for hydroelectric power and water sports.

- Meghalaya's capital is Shillong.
- Umiam Lake is an artificial lake created by the Umiam dam in the 1960s.
- Loktak Lake in Manipur is the largest freshwater lake in North-East India.

---

09 With reference to the 'Indian Ocean Dipole (IOD)', which of the following statements is/are correct?
1. IOD phenomenon is characterized by a difference in sea surface temperature between the tropical Western Indian Ocean and the tropical Eastern Pacific Ocean.
2. An IOD phenomenon can influence an El Niño's impact on the monsoon.

[SSC CGL 05 Oct 2026, Shift-I]

(a) Only 1
(b) Only 2
(c) Both 1 and 2
(d) Neither 1 nor 2

ANSWER (b) Only 2

Statement 1 is incorrect: the IOD is defined by the difference in sea surface temperature between the tropical western Indian Ocean and the tropical eastern Indian Ocean (not the eastern Pacific). Statement 2 is correct: a positive IOD can offset the weakening effect of El Niño on the Indian monsoon. Hence only statement 2 is correct.

- A positive IOD means warmer western and cooler eastern Indian Ocean.
- A positive IOD generally favours the Indian monsoon.
- The IOD is also called the Indian Niño.

---

10 Aus', 'Aman', and 'Boro' are varieties of:

[SSC CGL 05 Oct 2026, Shift-I]

(a) Wheat
(b) Rice
(c) Maize
(d) Pulses

ANSWER (b) Rice

Aus, Aman and Boro are the three rice crops of eastern India, especially West Bengal, Assam and Bangladesh. Aus is the autumn rice, Aman is the winter rice (the main crop), and Boro is the summer rice grown with irrigation in winter-spring.

- Rice is a kharif crop that needs high temperature and high rainfall.
- West Bengal and Uttar Pradesh are the leading rice-producing States.
- Rice grows best in alluvial soil.

---

11 Natural gas reserves of India occur in which of the following regions?

[SSC CGL 05 Oct 2026, Shift-II]

(a) The western offshore region near Maharashtra
(b) The coalfields of Jharkhand and West Bengal
(c) The Deccan Plateau in Karnataka
(d) The Himalayan foothills in Uttarakhand

ANSWER (a) The western offshore region near Maharashtra

A large part of India's natural gas reserves lies in the western offshore region near Mumbai (Mumbai High and the Bassein area off Maharashtra), apart from the Krishna-Godavari basin on the east coast and Assam. Hence option A is correct.

- Mumbai High is India's most important offshore oil and gas field.
- Natural gas is a cleaner fossil fuel than coal and petroleum.
- The Hazira-Vijaipur-Jagdishpur (HVJ) pipeline carries gas from the western region.

---

12 Match the following rivers with their originating states:
List I (River) | List II (State)
A. Mahanadi | 1. Karnataka
B. Kaveri | 2. Madhya Pradesh
C. Krishna | 3. Chhattisgarh
D. Narmada | 4. Maharashtra

[SSC CGL 05 Oct 2026, Shift-III]

(a) A-3, B-1, C-4, D-2
(b) A-2, B-3, C-1, D-4
(c) A-3, B-1, C-2, D-4
(d) A-4, B-2, C-3, D-1

ANSWER (a) A-3, B-1, C-4, D-2

The Mahanadi rises near Sihawa in Chhattisgarh, the Kaveri (Cauvery) at Talakaveri in the Brahmagiri hills of Karnataka, the Krishna near Mahabaleshwar in Maharashtra, and the Narmada at Amarkantak in

Madhya Pradesh. So the correct match is A-3, B-1, C-4, D-2.

- The Narmada flows westward through a rift valley and drains into the Arabian Sea.
- The Mahanadi, Krishna and Kaveri drain into the Bay of Bengal.
- The Godavari rises at Trimbak in Nashik district, Maharashtra.

13 Which of the following is considered the largest river system among the Deccan rivers in India?

[SSC CGL 05 Oct 2026, Shift-III]

(a) Cauvery (b) Krishna
(c) Godavari (d) Mahanadi

ANSWER (c) Godavari

The Godavari is the largest river system of peninsular (Deccan) India, with a length of about 1,465 km and the biggest basin among the peninsular rivers. It rises at Trimbak in Nashik district and drains into the Bay of Bengal. It is also called the Dakshin Ganga.

- Its major tributaries include the Manjra, Wainganga, Penganga and Indravati.
- The Krishna is the second largest east-flowing peninsular river.
- The Godavari passes through Maharashtra, Telangana, Andhra Pradesh and Chhattisgarh.

14 As per Census 2011, the concentration of Scheduled Caste population (going by percentage of Scheduled Caste population to total population of the state) is the highest in the state of:

[SSC CGL 06 Oct 2026, Shift-I]

(a) Uttar Pradesh (b) Himachal Pradesh
(c) Punjab (d) Haryana

ANSWER (c) Punjab

As per Census 2011, Punjab has the highest proportion of Scheduled Castes in its total population (about 31.9%), followed by Himachal Pradesh. In absolute numbers, however, Uttar Pradesh has the largest Scheduled Caste population.

- Punjab's SC share is the highest among States, while Himachal Pradesh is second.
- Uttar Pradesh has the highest number of SCs in absolute terms.
- Himachal Pradesh has the second highest share, at about 25%.

15 The States of Jammu and Kashmir, Himachal Pradesh and Uttaranchal are highly vulnerable to earthquakes because:
1. The Indian plate is slowly moving towards the north and north-eastern direction, which is obstructed by the Eurasian plate.
2. Most of the active volcanoes in India lie in the northern region of the country, which is frequently affected by magma and seismic movements.
Which of the above statements is/are CORRECT?

[SSC CGL 06 Oct 2026, Shift-II]

(a) 1 only (b) 2 only
(c) Both 1 and 2 (d) None of these

ANSWER (a) 1 only

Statement 1 is correct: the Indian plate moves north and north-east and is resisted by the Eurasian plate, building up stress along the Himalayan belt that is released as earthquakes. Statement 2 is incorrect: India has only one active volcano, Barren Island in the Andaman Sea, and none in the northern region.

- The Himalayan region lies in seismic zones IV and V.
- Barren Island is the only confirmed active volcano in India.
- Narcondam Island is a dormant volcano in the Andaman and Nicobar Islands.

16 Which of the following crop-season combinations is incorrectly matched?

[SSC CGL 06 Oct 2026, Shift-II]

(a) Rice – Kharif (b) Wheat – Rabi
(c) Cotton – Zaid (d) Mustard – Rabi

ANSWER (c) Cotton – Zaid

Cotton is a kharif crop, sown with the onset of the monsoon and harvested in autumn, not a zaid crop. Hence the pair Cotton-Zaid is incorrectly matched. Rice is a kharif crop, while wheat and mustard are rabi crops.

- Zaid crops are grown between rabi and kharif, e.g. watermelon, muskmelon and cucumber.
- Kharif crops: rice, maize, cotton, jowar, bajra.

- Rabi crops: wheat, barley, gram, mustard, peas.

17 Why are thermal power plants in India commonly established close to coal mining areas?

[SSC CGL 06 Oct 2026, Shift-II]

(a) For safety considerations
(b) To minimize water consumption
(c) To reduce environmental pollution
(d) To lower transport costs

ANSWER (d) To lower transport costs

Coal is a bulky, weight-losing raw material, and transporting it over long distances is costly. Locating thermal power plants close to coal mining areas therefore lowers transport costs, and it is cheaper to transmit electricity than to carry coal.

- Many plants are located in Jharkhand, Chhattisgarh, Odisha and West Bengal near the coalfields.
- Pithead plants are located right next to the mines.
- Coal-based thermal power is the largest source of electricity in India.

18 How much time difference exists between the westernmost village of Gujarat and Walong in Arunachal Pradesh?

[SSC CGL 06 Oct 2026, Shift-III]

(a) 1 hour
(b) 2 hours
(c) 3 hours
(d) ½ hour

ANSWER (b) 2 hours

India's longitudinal extent from Gujarat in the west to Arunachal Pradesh in the east is about 29 degrees. Since the Earth rotates 1 degree in 4 minutes, this gives a time difference of roughly 2 hours (about 116 minutes). Hence the answer is 2 hours.

- Indian Standard Time is based on the 82°30' E meridian passing near Mirzapur (Prayagraj region), UTC+5:30.
- The sun rises about two hours earlier in Arunachal Pradesh than in Gujarat.
- India's east-west extent is about 30 degrees, from 68°7' E to 97°25' E.

19 Which mineral is associated with Gangpur and Sundergarh in Odisha?

[SSC CGL 06 Oct 2026, Shift-III]

(a) Coal
(b) Petroleum
(c) Manganese
(d) Bauxite

ANSWER (c) Manganese

Manganese occurs in the Gangpur series of rocks in the Sundargarh region of Odisha, which is therefore associated with manganese. Odisha is one of the leading manganese-producing States of India.

- Manganese is mainly used in steel-making and in making ferro-alloys.
- Madhya Pradesh, Maharashtra and Odisha are major manganese producers.
- Odisha is also a leading producer of iron ore, bauxite and chromite.

20 The Neora Valley National Park is situated in which state?

[SSC CGL 07 Oct 2026, Shift-I]

(a) Himachal Pradesh
(b) West Bengal
(c) Sikkim
(d) Arunachal Pradesh

ANSWER (b) West Bengal

Neora Valley National Park is located in the Kalimpong district of West Bengal, in the Darjeeling Himalayan region near the borders with Sikkim and Bhutan. It is known for its dense forests and is a habitat of the red panda.

- The park lies in the eastern Himalayas biodiversity region.
- The Neora river flows through the park.
- It was declared a national park in 1986.

21 Which state has rich deposits of bauxite in the Patlands of Lohardaga?

[SSC CGL 07 Oct 2026, Shift-I]

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

ANSWER (c) Jharkhand

Lohardaga district lies on the Chota Nagpur plateau in Jharkhand, and the Pat (flat-topped plateau) lands there have rich bauxite deposits. Hence option C, Jharkhand, is correct.

- Bauxite is the chief ore of aluminium.
- Odisha is the largest producer of bauxite in India.

- Netarhat plateau in the Ranchi-Latehar-Lohardaga area is a well-known bauxite zone.

22 Which two areas are reflected in the contrasting slope directions of the Indian Desert, indicating the drainage orientation?

[SSC CGL 07 Oct 2026, Shift-II]

(a) Punjab Plain and Gujarat Coast
(b) Sindh region and Rann of Kachchh
(c) Thar Plateau and Aravalli Range
(d) Indus Basin and Deccan Plateau

ANSWER (b) Sindh region and Rann of Kachchh

The Indian (Thar) desert slopes in contrasting directions: the northern part slopes towards the Sindh region (the Indus plain), while the southern part slopes towards the Rann of Kachchh. This reflects the drainage orientation, and the answer is option B as per the official answer key.

- The Thar desert lies mainly in Rajasthan, west of the Aravalli range.
- Luni is the only significant river of the Thar region and it flows into the Rann of Kachchh.
- The desert is characterised by inland drainage and salt lakes such as Sambhar.

23 Which region is most suitable for growing Jowar?

[SSC CGL 07 Oct 2026, Shift-II]

(a) Humid regions
(b) Semi arid areas
(c) Cold regions
(d) Coastal regions

ANSWER (b) Semi arid areas

Jowar (sorghum) is a hardy, drought-tolerant crop that grows well in semi-arid areas with moderate rainfall, often on black or medium soils, where other crops would struggle. Hence semi-arid areas are the most suitable.

- Jowar is the third most important food crop of India after rice and wheat in terms of area, and Maharashtra is the leading producer.
- It is a coarse grain or millet and is grown in both kharif and rabi seasons.
- Jowar is a staple food and fodder crop in the Deccan.

24 Which National Waterway in India includes stretches of the Godavari and Krishna rivers?

[SSC CGL 07 Oct 2026, Shift-II]

(a) National Waterway-2
(b) National Waterway-3
(c) National Waterway-4
(d) National Waterway-5

ANSWER (c) National Waterway-4

National Waterway-4 (NW-4) comprises the Kakinada–Puducherry canal system together with stretches of the Godavari and Krishna rivers, linking Andhra Pradesh, Telangana, Tamil Nadu and Puducherry.

- NW-1: Ganga–Bhagirathi–Hooghly (Prayagraj to Haldia).
- NW-2: Brahmaputra (Sadiya to Dhubri).
- NW-3: West Coast Canal (Kollam to Kottapuram) with Champakara and Udyogmandal canals.

25 As per the Census of India 2011, what is the **correct** distribution of male and female workers in the Tertiary sector?

[SSC CGL 07 Oct 2026, Shift-III]

(a) Male – 15,66,43,220; Female – 16,54,47,075
(b) Male – 4,37,41,311; Female – 4,37,41,311
(c) Male – 15,66,43,220; Female – 4,37,41,311
(d) Male – 4,37,41,311; Female – 16,54,47,075

ANSWER (c) Male – 15,66,43,220; Female – 4,37,41,311

As per the official answer key, option C is correct: male workers in the tertiary sector far outnumber female workers, since women's participation in services is much lower than men's. The options with equal figures or with female workers exceeding male workers are therefore unrealistic.

- The tertiary (service) sector includes trade, transport, communication, banking, public administration and other services.
- Primary sector: agriculture, mining, fishing; secondary sector: manufacturing and construction.
- Over the decades, the share of the tertiary sector in India's GDP has been the largest of the three sectors.

26 Which of the following Census years has India recorded the highest annual exponential population growth rate?

[SSC CGL 08 Oct 2026, Shift-I]

(a) 1971 (b) 1981
(c) 1991 (d) 2001

ANSWER (a) 1971

The annual exponential growth rate of India's population was highest at the 1971 Census (the 1961–71 decade), after which it has fallen at every subsequent census.

- 1921 is called the 'Year of Great Divide' because growth turned from negative/slow to steady after it.
- 1951–81 is the phase of rapid growth (population explosion) due to a falling death rate.
- The 2011 Census recorded the lowest growth rate since Independence.

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27 Which is NOT a major thermal power station in India?

[SSC CGL 08 Oct 2026, Shift-II]

(a) Vijayawada (b) Nashik
(c) Sabarmati (d) Tarapur

ANSWER (d) Tarapur

Tarapur (Maharashtra) is India's first nuclear power station, set up with US assistance in 1969, so it is not a thermal power station. Vijayawada (Andhra Pradesh), Nashik (Maharashtra) and Sabarmati (Gujarat) have coal-based thermal plants.

- Tarapur Atomic Power Station is in Palghar district of Maharashtra.
- Other nuclear stations: Rawatbhata (Rajasthan), Kalpakkam (Tamil Nadu), Narora (Uttar Pradesh), Kakrapar (Gujarat), Kaiga (Karnataka).
- Coal is the main fuel of India's thermal power.

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28 Which of the following statements **correctly** describes the height of the troposphere at the equator and poles?

[SSC CGL 08 Oct 2026, Shift-II]

(a) The height of the troposphere is about 18 km at the equator and about 8 km at the poles.
(b) The height of the troposphere is about 8 km at the equator and about 18 km at the poles.
(c) The height of the troposphere is about 20 km at the equator and about 12 km at the poles.
(d) The height of the troposphere is about 12 km at the equator and about 20 km at the poles.

ANSWER (a) The height of the troposphere is about 18 km at the ...

The troposphere is about 18 km high at the equator and about 8 km at the poles, because strong convectional currents at the equator carry heat to greater heights.

- Nearly all weather phenomena (clouds, rain, storms) occur in this layer.
- Temperature falls with height at the normal lapse rate of about 6.5°C per km (1°C per 165 m).
- Its upper limit is the tropopause, above which lies the stratosphere.

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29 Which among the following is/are the motion(s) of the Earth:
1. Revolution
2. Rotation
3. Reflection
Which of the given option is/are correct?

[SSC CGL 08 Oct 2026, Shift-III]

(a) 1 and 2 (b) 1 and 3
(c) 3 only (d) 1, 2 and 3

ANSWER (a) 1 and 2

The Earth has two motions: rotation (spinning on its axis, causing day and night) and revolution (movement around the Sun, causing seasons and the year). Reflection is a property of light, not a motion of the Earth.

- Rotation takes about 24 hours; revolution about 365¼ days.
- Rotation is from west to east.
- The tilt of the axis (23½°) with revolution causes the change of seasons.

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30 Which of the following states has the highest percentage of Scheduled Tribes as per Census 2011?

[SSC CGL 08 Oct 2026, Shift-III]

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

ANSWER (c) Mizoram

Among the states, Mizoram has the highest proportion of Scheduled Tribes in its population (over 94 per cent

in Census 2011). Among all States and UTs, Lakshadweep is slightly higher.

- In absolute numbers, Madhya Pradesh has the largest Scheduled Tribe population.
- Other states with a very high ST share: Nagaland, Meghalaya and Arunachal Pradesh.
- No Scheduled Tribes are notified in Punjab, Haryana and Chandigarh.

31 Which ecological goal is not a primary aim of the Aravalli Green Wall Initiative?

[SSC CGL 08 Oct 2026, Shift-III]

(a) Combat desertification
(b) Sequester atmospheric carbon
(c) Enhance groundwater recharge
(d) Promote monoculture farming

ANSWER (d) Promote monoculture farming

The Aravalli Green Wall Initiative aims to restore degraded land through native plantation around the Aravalli range, so as to check desertification, absorb carbon and improve groundwater recharge. Promoting monoculture farming is not an aim, as it would reduce biodiversity.

- It is meant to check the eastward spread of the Thar Desert.
- It covers the Aravalli landscape in Gujarat, Rajasthan, Haryana and Delhi.
- The Aravalli is among the oldest fold mountain ranges in the world; its highest peak is Guru Shikhar (Mount Abu).

32 On which range of the Himalayas is the Banihal Pass located?

[SSC CGL 09 Oct 2026, Shift-I]

(a) Zaskar Range
(b) Pir Pinjal Range
(c) Dhang Range
(d) Mussoorie Range

ANSWER (b) Pir Pinjal Range

The Banihal Pass lies in the Pir Panjal Range of the Lesser Himalaya in Jammu and Kashmir. The Jawahar Tunnel and the Banihal–Qazigund road/rail routes pass through it, linking Jammu with the Kashmir Valley.

- The Pir Panjal is the largest range of the Lesser Himalaya.
- Other Pir Panjal passes: Pir Panjal Pass, Bidil, Golabghar and Sinthan Top.
- The Zoji La lies in the Zaskar Range and links Srinagar with Leh.

33 Which of the following National Park–State pairs is correctly matched?

[SSC CGL 09 Oct 2026, Shift-I]

(a) Gugamal National Park – Madhya Pradesh
(b) Khangchendzonga National Park – Arunachal Pradesh
(c) Valley of Flowers National Park – Himachal Pradesh
(d) Balpakram National Park – Meghalaya

ANSWER (d) Balpakram National Park – Meghalaya

Balpakram National Park is in the South Garo Hills of Meghalaya, so option D is correctly matched.

- Gugamal National Park is in Maharashtra (Melghat Tiger Reserve area, Amravati).
- Khangchendzonga National Park is in Sikkim (a UNESCO mixed World Heritage Site).
- Valley of Flowers National Park is in Uttarakhand (Chamoli).

34 Which of the following crops serves both as a food crop and a fodder crop?

[SSC CGL 09 Oct 2026, Shift-I]

(a) Maize
(b) Tea
(c) Rubber
(d) Sugarcane

ANSWER (a) Maize

Maize serves as a food crop (grain, flour) and also as a fodder crop, as its green plants and stalks are used as cattle feed.

- Maize is a Kharif crop, though it is also grown in Rabi in some regions.
- Tea and rubber are plantation crops; they are not used as fodder.
- Sugarcane is mainly a cash crop, with its tops sometimes used as cattle feed.

35 Which of the following is the largest river system of Peninsular India?

[SSC CGL 09 Oct 2026, Shift-II]

(a) Godavari River System
(b) Krishna River System
(c) Kaveri River System
(d) Ganga River System

ANSWER (a) Godavari River System

The Godavari is the largest river system of Peninsular India, with a length of about 1,465 km; it is also called the 'Dakshin Ganga' or 'Vriddha Ganga'. The Ganga system is not a Peninsular river system.

- It rises at Trimbak near Nashik (Maharashtra) and falls into the Bay of Bengal.
- Its major tributaries include the Pranhita (Wainganga–Wardha–Penganga), Indravati, Manjra and Sabari.
- Krishna is the second-largest east-flowing Peninsular river.

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36 Consider the following pairs of States and their share in India's mangrove coverage and choose the **correct** option:
1.Gujarat — 23.66%
2.Odisha — 12.39%

[SSC CGL 09 Oct 2026, Shift-II]

(a) Only 1
(b) Only 2
(c) Both 1 and 2 are correct
(d) Neither 1 nor 2 is correct

ANSWER (a) Only 1

As per the official answer key, only statement 1 is correct: Gujarat holds the second-largest share of India's mangrove cover. Statement 2 is not correct, as Odisha's share is not 12.39 per cent.

- West Bengal has the largest mangrove cover in India (Sundarbans, the world's largest mangrove forest).
- Gujarat (Kachchh and the Gulf of Khambhat) is second.
- Mangrove cover is assessed by the Forest Survey of India in the India State of Forest Report (ISFR).

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37 Which location in Rajasthan is known for uranium deposits?

[SSC CGL 09 Oct 2026, Shift-II]

(a) Jaisalmer
(b) Udaipur
(c) Kota
(d) Bikaner

ANSWER (b) Udaipur

Udaipur district (the Umra area) is known for uranium deposits in Rajasthan. Uranium is also found at Rohil in Sikar district.

- Jaduguda (Jharkhand) is India's oldest and best-known uranium mine.
- Uranium is a radioactive mineral used as nuclear fuel.
- Rajasthan is also known for copper (Khetri), zinc–lead (Zawar) and gypsum.

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38 Which of the following is the second-largest coalfield in India after Jharia?

[SSC CGL 09 Oct 2026, Shift-II]

(a) Raniganj coal field
(b) Bokaro coal field
(c) Giridih coal field
(d) Karanpura coal field

ANSWER (a) Raniganj coal field

As per the standard textbook answer, the Raniganj coalfield (West Bengal and Jharkhand, along the Damodar) is ranked next to Jharia. It is also India's oldest coalfield, where mining began in 1774.

- Jharia (Jharkhand) is the largest coalfield and the main source of coking coal.
- The Damodar valley holds the Jharia, Bokaro, Giridih and Karanpura fields.
- Jharia and Raniganj together are India's chief Gondwana coalfields of the Damodar valley.

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39 Which zone marks the boundary between the crust and mantle?

[SSC CGL 09 Oct 2026, Shift-III]

(a) Gutenberg discontinuity
(b) Mohorovicic discontinuity
(c) Conrad discontinuity
(d) Lehmann discontinuity

ANSWER (b) Mohorovicic discontinuity

The Mohorovicic discontinuity (Moho) marks the boundary between the crust and the mantle; it was identified by the Croatian seismologist Andrija Mohorovicic in 1909.

- Gutenberg discontinuity: boundary between mantle and outer core (about 2,900 km deep).
- Conrad discontinuity: boundary between the upper (sialic) and lower (simatic) crust.

- Lehmann discontinuity: boundary between outer and inner core.

40 Which is NOT a major thermal power station in India?

[SSC CGL 10 Oct 2026, Shift-I]

(a) Vijayawada (b) Nashik
(c) Sabarmati (d) Tarapur

ANSWER (d) Tarapur

Tarapur (Maharashtra) is India's first nuclear power station, set up with US assistance in 1969, so it is not a thermal power station. Vijayawada (Andhra Pradesh), Nashik (Maharashtra) and Sabarmati (Gujarat) have coal-based thermal plants.

- Tarapur Atomic Power Station is in Palghar district of Maharashtra.
- Other nuclear stations: Rawatbhata (Rajasthan), Kalpakkam (Tamil Nadu), Narora (Uttar Pradesh), Kakrapar (Gujarat), Kaiga (Karnataka).
- Coal is the main fuel of India's thermal power.

41 The Kumaun Himalaya lie between:

[SSC CGL 10 Oct 2026, Shift-II]

(a) The Indus and Sutlej rivers (b) The Kali and Teesta rivers
(c) The Sutlej and Kali rivers (d) The Ravi and Jhelum rivers

ANSWER (c) The Sutlej and Kali rivers

The Kumaun Himalaya extends between the Sutlej and the Kali rivers, mostly in Uttarakhand.

- Punjab Himalaya: Indus to Sutlej.
- Nepal Himalaya: Kali to Teesta.
- Assam Himalaya: Teesta to Dihang (Brahmaputra).

42 In the India State of Forest Report (ISFR) 2023, which Indian state reported the highest increase in mangrove cover by 253.06 km^2 ?

[SSC CGL 10 Oct 2026, Shift-II]

(a) Andhra Pradesh (b) Odisha
(c) West Bengal (d) Gujarat

ANSWER (d) Gujarat

As per the official answer key, Gujarat is the correct answer. Gujarat has the second-largest mangrove cover in India, mostly in Kachchh and the Gulf of Khambhat.

- West Bengal has the largest mangrove cover (Sundarbans).
- The ISFR is published every two years by the Forest Survey of India (FSI), Dehradun.
- International Day for the Conservation of the Mangrove Ecosystem is observed on 26 July.

43 Which of the following crops is most suitable for dryland farming?

[SSC CGL 10 Oct 2026, Shift-II]

(a) Rice (b) Wheat
(c) Ragi (d) Cotton

ANSWER (c) Ragi

Ragi (finger millet) is a drought-resistant coarse grain that needs little water, so it suits dryland farming best.

- Dryland crops are mainly millets such as jowar, bajra and ragi, along with pulses and oilseeds.
- Rice and wheat need much more water or irrigation.
- Karnataka is the leading producer of ragi.

44 The Sandur–Hospet iron ore belt is located in which district of Karnataka?

[SSC CGL 10 Oct 2026, Shift-III]

(a) Mysuru (b) Ballari
(c) Mandya (d) Udupi

ANSWER (b) Ballari

The Sandur–Hospet iron ore belt lies in Ballari district of Karnataka (Bellary–Hospet region).

- Other Karnataka iron ore areas: Chitradurga, Tumakuru and the Baba Budan Hills (Chikkamagaluru).
- Kudremukh in the Western Ghats is another well-known iron ore area.
- Karnataka is a leading iron ore producing state, along with Odisha and Chhattisgarh.

45 Consider the following statements:
1. Hamsaladeevi is located at the mouth of the Krishna River.
2. Allahabad is located to the west of Varanasi.

3. The Tons River is the largest tributary of the Yamuna River.
Which of the above statements is/are CORRECT?

[SSC CGL 12 Oct 2026, Shift-I]

(a) 1 and 2 only
(b) 3 only
(c) 2 only
(d) 1, 2, and 3

ANSWER (d) 1, 2, and 3

All three statements are correct. Hamsaladeevi is at the mouth of the Krishna in Andhra Pradesh; Prayagraj (Allahabad) lies west of Varanasi on the Ganga; and the Tons is the largest tributary of the Yamuna.

- The Tons rises from the Bandarpunch glacier (Uttarakhand), and is bigger in volume than the Yamuna at their confluence.
- Yamuna meets the Ganga at Prayagraj (Triveni Sangam).
- Another Tons river, a tributary of the Ganga, flows in Madhya Pradesh and Uttar Pradesh.

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46 Naharkatiya, known for oil production, is located in which state?

[SSC CGL 12 Oct 2026, Shift-I]

(a) Gujarat
(b) Rajasthan
(c) Meghalaya
(d) Assam

ANSWER (d) Assam

Naharkatiya, a famous oil-producing area, is in the Dibrugarh–Tinsukia region of Assam. Assam is the oldest oil-producing state of India, with the first oil well at Digboi (1889).

- Other Assam oil fields: Moran–Hugrijan, Rudrasagar and Lakwa.
- Digboi refinery (1901) is the oldest refinery in India.
- Mumbai High and Gujarat are other major oil-producing regions.

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47 Identify the **correct** stretch covered under National Waterway 3 (NW-3) in India.

[SSC CGL 12 Oct 2026, Shift-I]

(a) Prayagraj–Haldia stretch
(b) Sadiya–Dhubri stretch
(c) Kottapuram–Kollam stretch
(d) Kottapuram–Dhubri stretch

ANSWER (c) Kottapuram–Kollam stretch

National Waterway-3 is the West Coast Canal in Kerala, running from Kottapuram to Kollam (about 205 km) along with the Champakara and Udyogmandal canals. It was declared a national waterway in 1993.

- NW-1 is Prayagraj–Haldia (Ganga).
- NW-2 is Sadiya–Dhubri (Brahmaputra).
- NW-4 is Kakinada–Puducherry with parts of the Godavari and Krishna.

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48 The highest peak of the Nicobar group is:

[SSC CGL 12 Oct 2026, Shift-I]

(a) Mount Thullier
(b) Mount Diavolo
(c) Saddle Peak
(d) Mount Koyob

ANSWER (a) Mount Thullier

Mount Thullier (about 642 m) in Great Nicobar is the highest peak of the Nicobar group.

- Saddle Peak (North Andaman) is the highest peak of the entire Andaman and Nicobar Islands.
- Mount Diavolo is in Middle Andaman and Mount Koyob in South Andaman.
- The Nicobar group lies south of the Ten Degree Channel.

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49 Which of the following statements is/are INCORRECT regarding inland waterways in India?
1. The National Waterways Authority of India is the nodal body for regulating waterways in India.
2. National waterways are mainly used for foreign trade with neighbouring countries.

[SSC CGL 12 Oct 2026, Shift-II]

(a) 1 only
(b) 2 only
(c) Both 1 and 2
(d) Neither 1 nor 2

ANSWER (b) 2 only

SSC Key (b) · Disputed question

As per the official key, the answer is 2 only: statement 2 is incorrect because national waterways are used mainly for domestic movement of cargo and passengers, not mainly for foreign trade. The question is flawed because statement 1 misnames the body: the nodal body is the Inland Waterways Authority of India (IWAI), so on a strict reading both statements are incorrect (option C).

- IWAI was set up in 1985 under the IWAI Act, 1985, and is headquartered at Noida.

- National Waterway 1 runs on the Ganga from Haldia to Prayagraj.
- National Waterway 2 is on the Brahmaputra (Sadiya–Dhubri) and National Waterway 3 is the West Coast Canal (Kottapuram–Kollam).

50 What is the term used for the structural deformation of the lithosphere resulting in the formation of mountain ranges?

[SSC CGL 12 Oct 2026, Shift-III]

(a) Orogeny
(b) Epeirogeny
(c) Isostasy
(d) Tectonism

ANSWER (a) Orogeny

Orogeny is the process of mountain building through folding, faulting and deformation of the lithosphere, caused mainly by horizontal compressional forces.

- Epeirogeny is the slow, vertical uplift or subsidence of large parts of continents.
- Isostasy is the state of gravitational equilibrium between the lithosphere and the asthenosphere.
- Tectonism is the broader term for all crustal movements.

51 As per Census 2011, which of the following Union Territory/State-percentage pair is **correctly** matched with respect to the lowest combined Total Workforce Participation Rate (WPR)?

[SSC CGL 12 Oct 2026, Shift-III]

(a) Lakshadweep – 29.09%
(b) Delhi – 27.09%
(c) Bihar – 31.12%
(d) Kerala – 32.94%

ANSWER (a) Lakshadweep – 29.09%

As per the official answer key, option A (Lakshadweep – 29.09%) is the correct match. The Work Participation Rate (WPR) is the percentage of workers (main plus marginal) in the total population.

- Lakshadweep, Delhi, Kerala and Bihar are among the areas with low WPR, because of low female participation.
- Himachal Pradesh and Sikkim are among the areas with high WPR.
- Census 2011 recorded India's overall WPR at around 40 per cent.

52 The rapid growth phase of the Indian Population was lying between which of the following time periods?

[SSC CGL 13 Oct 2026, Shift-I]

(a) 1901-1921
(b) 1921-1951
(c) 1951-1981
(d) 1981-2001

ANSWER (c) 1951-1981

The rapid growth phase of India's population was 1951–1981, when the death rate fell sharply because of better health care and food supply, while the birth rate remained high.

- 1901–1921: stagnant phase.
- 1921–1951: steady growth phase.
- After 1981: growth rate began to decline gradually.

53 Which of the following forest species is not characteristic of Deciduous forests?

[SSC CGL 13 Oct 2026, Shift-II]

(a) Teak
(b) Sal
(c) Sandalwood
(d) Deodar

ANSWER (d) Deodar

Deodar is a coniferous tree of the temperate Himalayan forests, not of deciduous forests. Teak, sal and sandalwood are characteristic trees of India's tropical deciduous (monsoon) forests.

- Deciduous forests shed leaves in the dry season to conserve water.
- Moist deciduous: teak, sal; dry deciduous: teak, sandalwood and others.
- Deodar is found in the Western Himalaya.

54 Coffee variety mainly grown in India is:

[SSC CGL 13 Oct 2026, Shift-II]

(a) Assamica
(b) Arabica
(c) Liberica
(d) Hybrid

ANSWER (b) Arabica

Arabica is the coffee variety mainly grown in India; it is considered the superior quality coffee.

- Karnataka is the leading producer of coffee in India (Kodagu/Coorg, Chikkamagaluru, Hassan).
- Robusta is the other variety grown in India.
- Coffee grows well in hilly areas with warm, humid climate and well-drained soil.

55 Which river in India is notorious for the frequent shifting of its course, often causing devastating floods in the state of Bihar?

[SSC CGL 13 Oct 2026, Shift-III]

(a) Ganga
(b) Kosi
(c) Damodar
(d) Brahmaputra

ANSWER (b) Kosi

The Kosi is notorious for shifting its course frequently and causing devastating floods in Bihar, so it is called the 'Sorrow of Bihar'. It carries a heavy load of silt from the Himalaya and its channel keeps migrating across the plain.

- It rises in Tibet and enters Bihar from Nepal; it joins the Ganga near Katihar.
- The Damodar was formerly called the 'Sorrow of Bengal'.
- The Kosi Barrage is at Bhimnagar (Nepal border).

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56 Which of the following is a major manganese mining area in Odisha?

[SSC CGL 13 Oct 2026, Shift-III]

(a) Gangpur
(b) Rourkela
(c) Cuttack
(d) Chitradurg

ANSWER (a) Gangpur

Gangpur (in the Sundargarh area of Odisha) is a major manganese mining area. Odisha is among the leading manganese producers, along with Madhya Pradesh and Maharashtra.

- Chitradurga is a manganese area of Karnataka, not Odisha.
- Manganese is used chiefly in steel making and ferro-alloys.
- Other Odisha manganese areas: Keonjhar, Bonai and Koraput.

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57 Under what condition can renewable natural resources become depleted?

[SSC CGL 13 Oct 2026, Shift-III]

(a) Renewable natural resources regenerate only through artificial means.
(b) Population growth has no effect on renewable natural resources.
(c) Human consumption of renewable natural resources may exceed their rate of natural regeneration.
(d) Renewable natural resources are immune to environmental degradation.

ANSWER (c) Human consumption of renewable natural resources may ...

Renewable resources such as forests, fisheries and groundwater can become depleted when human consumption exceeds their natural rate of regeneration. Overuse therefore turns a renewable resource into an exhaustible one.

- Renewable resources regenerate naturally; non-renewable resources (coal, petroleum) take millions of years to form.
- Sustainable use means harvesting within the regeneration rate.
- Population growth increases the pressure on resources.

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58 Which of the following mountain passes is **correctly** matched with its respective state?

[SSC CGL 14 Oct 2026, Shift-I]

(a) Bomdi La — Arunachal Pradesh
(b) Nathu La — Himachal Pradesh
(c) Shipki La — Sikkim
(d) Lipulekh — West Bengal

ANSWER (a) Bomdi La — Arunachal Pradesh

Bomdi La is a pass in Arunachal Pradesh (West Kameng district), so option A is correctly matched.

- Nathu La is in Sikkim.
- Shipki La is in Himachal Pradesh (Sutlej enters India here).
- Lipulekh is in Uttarakhand, on the route to Kailash Mansarovar.

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59 The Andaman and Nicobar Islands are strategically important because they are located close to which major maritime chokepoint?

[SSC CGL 14 Oct 2026, Shift-I]

(a) Strait of Malacca (b) Bosporus Strait
(c) Suez Canal (d) Bab-el-Mandeb Strait

ANSWER (a) Strait of Malacca

The Andaman and Nicobar Islands lie close to the northern entrance of the Strait of Malacca, through which a very large share of world trade and energy shipping passes. This gives India strategic reach over the Indian Ocean.

- Indira Point (Great Nicobar) is India's southernmost point.
- The Ten Degree Channel separates the Andaman and Nicobar groups.
- Bab-el-Mandeb is between Yemen and Djibouti; Bosporus is in Turkey.

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60 Which of the following places does the Chenab river originate?

[SSC CGL 14 Oct 2026, Shift-II]

(a) Lahaul valley (b) Near Rohtang Pass
(c) Near Manasarovar Lake (d) Verinag

ANSWER (a) Lahaul valley

The Chenab (Chandrabhaga) is formed by the meeting of the Chandra and Bhaga rivers at Tandi in the Lahaul valley of Himachal Pradesh. Both streams rise near the Bara Lacha Pass.

- It flows through Jammu and Kashmir into Pakistan and joins the Sutlej.
- Verinag is the source of the Jhelum.
- Chenab is one of the three western rivers allotted to Pakistan under the Indus Waters Treaty.

---

61 Which crop is included in the Rabi season in Northern India?

[SSC CGL 14 Oct 2026, Shift-II]

(a) Cotton (b) Bajra
(c) Gram (d) Maize

ANSWER (c) Gram

Gram (chickpea) is a Rabi crop, sown in October–November and harvested in March–April. Cotton, bajra and maize are Kharif crops.

- Other Rabi crops: wheat, barley, peas, mustard and linseed.
- Kharif crops are sown with the onset of the monsoon (June–July).
- Zaid crops are grown between Rabi and Kharif, e.g. watermelon, cucumber.

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62 Which two geological zones are separated by the Main Central Thrust?

[SSC CGL 14 Oct 2026, Shift-II]

(a) Plains and Shiwaliks
(b) Greater Himalayas and Trans-Himalayas
(c) Greater and Lesser Himalayas
(d) Shiwaliks and Lesser Himalayas

ANSWER (c) Greater and Lesser Himalayas

The Main Central Thrust (MCT) separates the Greater Himalaya (Himadri) from the Lesser Himalaya (Himachal).

- Main Boundary Thrust (MBT): between the Lesser Himalaya and the Shiwaliks.
- Himalayan Frontal Thrust (HFT): between the Shiwaliks and the Indo-Gangetic plain.
- These thrust faults are zones of frequent seismic activity.

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63 The "Indira Gandhi Canal" receives its water from which river(s)?

[SSC CGL 15 Oct 2026, Shift-II]

(a) Satluj only (b) Beas only
(c) Satluj and Beas (d) Ravi and Chenab

ANSWER (c) Satluj and Beas

The Indira Gandhi Canal draws water from the Sutlej and Beas rivers, taken from the Harike Barrage in Punjab (just below their confluence). It irrigates the Thar desert area of Rajasthan.

- It is among the longest canals in India and was earlier called the Rajasthan Canal.
- It runs through Punjab, Haryana and Rajasthan.
- Its command area includes Sri Ganganagar, Hanumangarh, Bikaner and Jaisalmer.

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64 "Western Disturbances," which cause winter rain in North-Western India, originate in which region?

[SSC CGL 15 Oct 2026, Shift-III]

(a) Arabian Sea (b) Bay of Bengal
(c) Mediterranean Sea (d) Caspian Sea

ANSWER (c) Mediterranean Sea

Western Disturbances are extra-tropical cyclonic systems that originate over the Mediterranean region and travel eastward with the westerly jet stream, bringing winter rain and snow to north-western India.

- This rain is very beneficial for Rabi crops, especially wheat.
- Their effect is felt mainly in Punjab, Haryana, Delhi, Himachal Pradesh and Jammu and Kashmir.
- The Bay of Bengal branch of the monsoon causes the main summer rain, not winter rain.

---

65 Koraput and Bolangir in Odisha are known for mining which of the following minerals?

[SSC CGL 15 Oct 2026, Shift-III]

(a) Coal
(b) Petroleum
(c) Bauxite
(d) Limestone

ANSWER (c) Bauxite

Koraput and Bolangir are known for bauxite mining in Odisha; Panchpatmali in Koraput has one of India's richest bauxite deposits. Odisha is the leading bauxite-producing state.

- Bauxite is the ore of aluminium.
- Other Odisha bauxite areas: Kalahandi, Rayagada and Sundargarh.
- Odisha's Angul (Talcher) is known for coal.

---

66 Which significant Peninsular River is known for forming an estuary at its mouth instead of a delta?

[SSC CGL 16 Oct 2026, Shift-I]

(a) Ganga
(b) Godavari
(c) Narmada
(d) Padma

ANSWER (c) Narmada

The Narmada forms an estuary at its mouth in the Gulf of Khambhat (Arabian Sea) instead of a delta, because it flows through a rift valley in a straight, hard-rock course and meets strong tidal currents. The Tapi also forms an estuary.

- The Narmada rises at Amarkantak and flows westward.
- West-flowing rivers generally form estuaries; east-flowing rivers form deltas.
- Godavari and Ganga form large deltas.

---

67 Which of the following pairs of districts in West Bengal is known for possessing mica reserves?

[SSC CGL 16 Oct 2026, Shift-I]

(a) Kolkata and Howrah
(b) Purulia and Bankura
(c) Darjeeling and Jalpaiguri
(d) Medinipur and Bardhaman

ANSWER (b) Purulia and Bankura

As per the official answer key, Purulia and Bankura are the West Bengal districts associated with mica reserves; they lie on the Chota Nagpur plateau edge, where mica-bearing rocks occur.

- India's main mica belts are in Jharkhand (Koderma, Hazaribagh), Bihar (Nawada) and Andhra Pradesh (Nellore).
- Mica is a good insulator, used in electrical and electronic goods.
- India was historically a leading mica producer.

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68 Archean rocks contain abundant deposits of all except:

[SSC CGL 16 Oct 2026, Shift-I]

(a) Manganese
(b) Petroleum
(c) Copper
(d) Gold

ANSWER (b) Petroleum

Archean rocks are the oldest, crystalline and igneous or metamorphic rocks and contain no fossils, so they hold no petroleum. They are rich in metallic minerals such as iron, manganese, copper and gold.

- Petroleum is found in sedimentary rocks of Tertiary age.
- Kolar and Hutti (Karnataka) gold fields are in Archean rocks.
- Archean rocks are mainly granite and gneiss.

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69 The Meghalaya Plateau is geologically considered an extension of which major physiographic division?

[SSC CGL 16 Oct 2026, Shift-II]

(a) The Himalayan Range
(b) The Peninsular Plateau
(c) The Indo-Gangetic Plain
(d) The Northern Mountains

ANSWER (b) The Peninsular Plateau

The Meghalaya (Shillong) Plateau is a detached part of the Peninsular Plateau. It was separated from the main block by the Garo–Rajmahal gap, a downfaulted area later filled with Ganga–Brahmaputra sediments.

- It includes the Garo, Khasi and Jaintia hills.
- Its highest peak is Shillong Peak (Khasi Hills).
- Mawsynram and Cherrapunji on it receive extremely heavy rainfall.

---

70 Between which two major mountain ranges is the Valley of Kashmir situated?

[SSC CGL 22 Oct 2026, Shift-I]

(a) Ladakh and Zanskar
(b) Great Himalayas and Pir Panjal
(c) Great Himalayas and Zanskar
(d) Karakoram and Ladakh

ANSWER (b) Great Himalayas and Pir Panjal

The Valley of Kashmir lies between the Pir Panjal range in the south-west and the Great Himalaya (with the Zaskar range beyond it) in the north-east. The river Jhelum drains the valley.

- The valley was formed from an ancient lake bed (Karewa deposits).
- Karewas are famous for saffron cultivation (Pampore).
- Dal and Wular are well-known lakes of the valley.

---

71 Which district in Madhya Pradesh has important deposits of bauxite?

[SSC CGL 22 Oct 2026, Shift-I]

(a) Panna
(b) Katni
(c) Jhabua
(d) Indore

ANSWER (b) Katni

Katni is the Madhya Pradesh district with important bauxite deposits; bauxite is also found in Jabalpur, Balaghat, Mandla, Satna and Shahdol. Panna is known for diamonds.

- Bauxite is the ore of aluminium.
- Madhya Pradesh is the only diamond-producing state of India (Panna).
- Bauxite occurs mainly in laterite-covered plateaus.

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72 In which state is the Idukki Hydroelectric Project, known for its unique double-curvature arch dam, located?

[SSC CGL 22 Oct 2026, Shift-II]

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

ANSWER (b) Kerala

The Idukki Hydroelectric Project is in Kerala, on the Periyar river. Its Idukki dam is a double-curvature arch dam built in a narrow gorge between two granite hills.

- It is among the highest arch dams in Asia.
- Periyar is Kerala's longest river.
- Idukki is Kerala's largest hydroelectric project.

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73 Which of the following locations in India is known for brown coal (lignite) deposits?

[SSC CGL 22 Oct 2026, Shift-II]

(a) Neyveli, Tamil Nadu
(b) Korba, Chhattisgarh
(c) Talcher, Odisha
(d) Darangiri, Gujarat

ANSWER (a) Neyveli, Tamil Nadu

Neyveli in Tamil Nadu is India's most important lignite (brown coal) area; the Neyveli Lignite Corporation (NLC) mines it and runs thermal power stations based on it.

- Lignite is a low-grade coal with lower carbon content than bituminous coal.
- Other lignite areas: Kachchh (Gujarat), Barsingsar and Palana (Rajasthan), and Puducherry.
- Korba and Talcher are known for bituminous coal.

---

74 Consider the following statements about the troposphere:
1. The troposphere is called the “changing sphere” because air in this layer is always in motion.
2. The temperature in the troposphere decreases with height at a rate of about 1°C per 265 metres, known as the Fast lapse rate.
Which of the statements above is/are **correct**?

[SSC CGL 22 Oct 2026, Shift-II]

(a) 1 only
(b) 2 only
(c) Both 1 and 2 are correct
(d) Neither 1 nor 2 is correct

ANSWER (a) 1 only

Statement 1 is correct: the troposphere is called the 'changing sphere' because air is always in motion here and all weather changes occur in it. Statement 2 is wrong: temperature falls at about 1°C per 165 m (6.5°C per km), which is called the normal lapse rate, not a 'fast lapse rate'.

- The troposphere contains nearly all the water vapour and dust of the atmosphere.
- At the tropopause, temperature stops falling.
- In the stratosphere, temperature rises with height because of the ozone layer.

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75 What type of geographical unit are the Northern Plains and the Himalayas considered to be?

[SSC CGL 22 Oct 2026, Shift-II]

(a) Volcanic landforms
(b) Most recent landforms
(c) Oldest landforms of India
(d) Most stable landforms

ANSWER (b) Most recent landforms

The Himalaya (young fold mountains, formed in the Tertiary period) and the Northern Plains (alluvial deposits laid down by rivers) are the youngest landforms of India.

- The Peninsular Plateau is the oldest and most stable landmass.
- The Himalaya is still rising and is seismically active.
- The Northern Plains are made by the alluvium of the Indus, Ganga and Brahmaputra systems.

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76 Which geographical feature separates the Andaman Islands from the Nicobar Islands?

[SSC CGL 22 Oct 2026, Shift-III]

(a) The 8 Degree Channel
(b) The 9 Degree Channel
(c) The 10 Degree Channel
(d) Duncan Passage

ANSWER (c) The 10 Degree Channel

The Ten Degree Channel (10° N) separates the Andaman Islands in the north from the Nicobar Islands in the south.

- Eight Degree Channel separates Minicoy (Lakshadweep) from the Maldives.
- Nine Degree Channel separates Kalpeni (Lakshadweep) from Minicoy.
- Duncan Passage lies between South Andaman and Little Andaman.

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77 Which mineral is found in large quantities in the Amarkantak plateau of Chhattisgarh?

[SSC CGL 22 Oct 2026, Shift-III]

(a) Coal
(b) Bauxite
(c) Iron Ore
(d) Manganese

ANSWER (b) Bauxite

The Amarkantak plateau has large deposits of bauxite, the ore of aluminium.

- Amarkantak is the source of the Narmada and the Son rivers.
- It lies at the junction of the Vindhya and Satpura ranges.
- Chhattisgarh is also rich in coal (Korba) and iron ore (Bailadila).

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78 Which of the following rivers flows through Pakistan and India?

[SSC CGL 23 Oct 2026, Shift-I]

(a) Indus River
(b) Ganges River
(c) Brahmaputra River
(d) Kabul River

ANSWER (a) Indus River

The Indus rises near Lake Mansarovar in Tibet, flows through Ladakh in India and then through Pakistan to the Arabian Sea. The Ganga flows through India and Bangladesh; the Brahmaputra through China, India and Bangladesh; the Kabul river through Afghanistan and Pakistan.

- The Indus is about 2,880 km long.
- Its tributaries in India include the Jhelum, Chenab, Ravi, Beas and Sutlej.
- The Indus Waters Treaty (1960) governs sharing of its waters.

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79 Dry farming in India is primarily practised in areas where the average annual rainfall is less than:

[SSC CGL 23 Oct 2026, Shift-I]

(a) 50 cm (b) 80 cm
(c) 100 cm (d) 120 cm

ANSWER (b) 80 cm

Dry farming is practised in regions with low and uncertain rainfall, generally below about 75–80 cm a year; of the given options, 80 cm is the correct answer. Moisture conservation and drought-resistant crops are the key to success.

- Typical dry-farming crops: ragi, bajra, jowar, pulses and oilseeds.
- Rainfall above about 100 cm is normally treated as a wet-farming area.
- Practices include contour bunding, mulching and fallowing.

80 In which state are the 'Phumdis' (floating islands of decomposed plant materials) found?

[SSC CGL 23 Oct 2026, Shift-II]

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

ANSWER (a) Manipur

Phumdis are floating masses of vegetation, soil and organic matter found on Loktak Lake in Manipur. The largest phumdi forms the Keibul Lamjao National Park, the world's only floating national park.

- Keibul Lamjao is the last natural habitat of the Sangai (brow-antlered deer), Manipur's state animal.
- Loktak is the largest freshwater lake of north-east India.
- Loktak is a Ramsar site and is included in the Montreux Record.

81 Which state in India has one of the richest monazite deposits?

[SSC CGL 23 Oct 2026, Shift-II]

(a) Gujarat (b) Rajasthan
(c) Kerala (d) Karnataka

ANSWER (c) Kerala

Kerala has one of the richest monazite deposits, found in the beach sands of the Kollam–Chavara coast. Monazite is the main source of thorium, used in nuclear energy.

- Monazite also occurs in Tamil Nadu and Odisha coastal sands.
- Thorium is a fertile material for India's three-stage nuclear programme.
- Kerala's beach sands also contain ilmenite and rutile.

82 The Himalayan mountain system is an example of:

[SSC CGL 23 Oct 2026, Shift-III]

(a) Block mountains (b) Residual mountains
(c) Fold mountains (d) Volcanic mountains

ANSWER (c) Fold mountains

The Himalaya is a classic example of young fold mountains, formed by the collision of the Indian plate with the Eurasian plate, which folded the sediments of the Tethys Sea.

- Other fold mountains: Alps, Rockies, Andes.
- Aravalli is an old, residual (relict) fold mountain range.
- Block mountains: Vosges, Black Forest and Satpura (Horst).

83 Where is 'Saddle Peak', the highest mountain peak of the Andaman and Nicobar Islands, located?

[SSC CGL 24 Oct 2026, Shift-I]

(a) Great Nicobar (b) Middle Andaman
(c) Little Andaman (d) North Andaman

ANSWER (d) North Andaman

Saddle Peak, the highest peak of the Andaman and Nicobar Islands, is in North Andaman; it lies within the Saddle Peak National Park.

- Mount Diavolo is in Middle Andaman.
- Mount Thullier (Great Nicobar) is the highest peak of the Nicobar group.
- Barren Island, India's only active volcano, is in the Andaman Sea.

84 Moran, a well-known oil-producing area, is situated in which state of India?

[SSC CGL 24 Oct 2026, Shift-I]

(a) Gujarat (b) Rajasthan
(c) Assam (d) Odisha

ANSWER (c) Assam

Moran, a well-known oil-producing area, is in Assam; Moran–Hugrijan is an oil field in the Upper Assam basin.

- Digboi, Naharkatiya and Rudrasagar are other Assam oil areas.
- Assam is India's oldest oil-producing state.
- Digboi refinery is the oldest refinery in India.

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85 Which of the following statements is CORRECT about 'Deepor Beel'?

[SSC CGL 24 Oct 2026, Shift-II]

(a) It is a man made lake located in the state of Assam.
(b) It is located in former channel of the Manas River.
(c) The Kalmani and Basistha rivers are their main water sources.
(d) It is a wetland that is being considered for Ramsar site designation.

ANSWER (c) The Kalmani and Basistha rivers are their main water ...

Deepor Beel (near Guwahati, Assam) receives its water mainly from the Kalmani and Basistha rivers, so option C is correct. It is a natural freshwater lake, not a man-made one; it lies in a former channel of the Brahmaputra (not the Manas); and it is already a Ramsar site (2002).

- It is an important bird area and a wetland rich in migratory birds.
- A part of it is the Deepor Beel Wildlife Sanctuary.
- Assam's other Ramsar site is Son Beel (Karimganj/Sribhumi).

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86 In India, which crop is grown in the Zaid season?

[SSC CGL 24 Oct 2026, Shift-II]

(a) Fodder (b) Wheat
(c) Jute (d) Jowar

ANSWER (a) Fodder

Fodder crops are grown in the Zaid season, the short season between Rabi and Kharif (March to June), along with watermelon, muskmelon, cucumber and vegetables. Wheat is a Rabi crop, while jute and jowar are Kharif crops.

- Zaid crops need warm, dry weather and irrigation.
- Rabi: sown in winter (Oct–Nov); Kharif: sown with the monsoon (June–July).
- Zaid is also called the summer season of agriculture.

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87 In which district of Odisha is the Bonai iron ore mine located?

[SSC CGL 24 Oct 2026, Shift-II]

(a) Mayurbhanj (b) Sundergarh
(c) Kendujhar (d) Singhbhum

ANSWER (b) Sundergarh

The Bonai iron ore mine lies in Sundargarh district of Odisha (the Bonai subdivision).

- Odisha's iron ore belts: Sundargarh–Keonjhar–Bonai, and Mayurbhanj (Gorumahisani, Badampahar).
- Odisha is the leading iron-ore producing state of India.
- Singhbhum is in Jharkhand, which also has major iron ore mines.

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88 The Union Territory of Puducherry (Pondicherry) has its territories spread across which of the following states?

[SSC CGL 24 Oct 2026, Shift-III]

(a) Tamil Nadu, Andhra Pradesh, and Maharashtra
(b) Tamil Nadu, Karnataka, and Kerala
(c) Tamil Nadu, Kerala, and Andhra Pradesh
(d) Tamil Nadu, Karnataka, and Goa

ANSWER (c) Tamil Nadu, Kerala, and Andhra Pradesh

Puducherry has four non-contiguous parts: Puducherry and Karaikal (surrounded by Tamil Nadu), Mahe (surrounded by Kerala) and Yanam (in Andhra Pradesh). Hence it spreads over Tamil Nadu, Kerala and Andhra Pradesh.

- These were former French colonies.

- Puducherry became a Union Territory in 1962 (de jure transfer).
- Mahe is on the Malabar coast; Yanam is on the Godavari delta.

89 Rapeseed and mustard are grown in:

[SSC CGL 24 Oct 2026, Shift-III]

(a) April - June
(b) June - September
(c) October - March
(d) April - August

ANSWER (c) October - March

Rapeseed and mustard are Rabi oilseed crops, sown in October–November and harvested in February–March, so the growing period is October–March.

- Major producers: Rajasthan (largest), Haryana, Madhya Pradesh and Uttar Pradesh.
- They need cool weather and moderate moisture.
- Groundnut, soybean and sesame are Kharif oilseeds.

90 Which of the following is/are regions of tropical forest and mangroves?

Select the CORRECT answer using codes given below.
1. Western Ghats
2. Andaman Nicobar Islands
3. West Bengal

[SSC CGL 27 Oct 2026, Shift-I]

(a) 3 only
(b) 1 and 2 only
(c) 2 and 3 only
(d) All of these

ANSWER (d) All of these

All three regions have tropical forests and mangroves along with them: the Western Ghats (tropical evergreen forests, with mangroves on the western coastal estuaries), the Andaman and Nicobar Islands (tropical rain forest and mangroves) and West Bengal (Sundarbans mangroves and tropical forests).

- The Sundarbans in West Bengal is the largest mangrove forest in the world.
- Mangroves grow in saline coastal tidal areas.
- Mangroves have pneumatophores (breathing roots).

91 Which of the following crops is commonly cultivated in both northern and southern states during the Kharif season?

[SSC CGL 27 Oct 2026, Shift-I]

(a) Wheat
(b) Barley
(c) Rice
(d) Mustard

ANSWER (c) Rice

Rice is the major Kharif crop grown commonly in both northern states (Punjab, Haryana, Uttar Pradesh) and southern states (Andhra Pradesh, Tamil Nadu). Wheat, barley and mustard are Rabi crops.

- Rice needs high temperature and heavy rainfall or irrigation.
- West Bengal and Uttar Pradesh are the leading rice-producing states.
- Other Kharif crops: maize, cotton, jowar, bajra, soybean.

92 Which location of Karnataka is associated with manganese mining?

[SSC CGL 27 Oct 2026, Shift-I]

(a) Tumakuru
(b) Bhandara
(c) Kalahandi
(d) Vijayapura

ANSWER (a) Tumakuru

Tumakuru is a manganese mining area of Karnataka (besides Ballari–Sandur, Chitradurga and Shivamogga). Bhandara is in Maharashtra and Kalahandi in Odisha.

- Karnataka is a leading manganese-producing state, along with Odisha and Madhya Pradesh.
- Manganese is essential for making steel and dry-cell batteries.
- India's manganese ores are mainly found in the Dharwar rocks.

93 Which physiographic division of India is an irregular triangular region rising from about 150 m above the river plains to an elevation of 600–900 m?

[SSC CGL 27 Oct 2026, Shift-II]

(a) Northern Plains
(b) Himalayan Mountains
(c) Peninsular Plateau
(d) Coastal Plains

ANSWER (c) Peninsular Plateau

The Peninsular Plateau is an irregular triangular landmass rising from about 150 m above the river plains to 600–900 m. It is the oldest and most stable block of India, made of ancient crystalline rocks.

- It is bounded by the Aravalli, Western Ghats, Eastern Ghats and the Satpura/Vindhya ranges.
- Its general slope is from west to east.
- It has two broad divisions: the Central Highlands and the Deccan Plateau.

94 Which of the following stretches is covered under National Waterway 2 (NW-2) in India?

[SSC CGL 27 Oct 2026, Shift-II]

(a) Prayagraj–Haldia stretch
(b) Sadiya–Dhubri stretch
(c) Kottapuram–Kollam stretch
(d) Haldia–Sadiya stretch

ANSWER (b) Sadiya–Dhubri stretch

National Waterway-2 is the Sadiya–Dhubri stretch of the Brahmaputra river in Assam (about 891 km), declared a national waterway in 1988.

- NW-1: Prayagraj–Haldia (Ganga–Bhagirathi–Hooghly).
- NW-3: Kottapuram–Kollam (West Coast Canal, Kerala).
- NW-4: Kakinada–Puducherry with parts of the Godavari and Krishna.

95 Which hill range lies at the centre of the Satpura system?

[SSC CGL 27 Oct 2026, Shift-II]

(a) Maikal Hills
(b) Parasnath Hills
(c) Rajpipla Hills
(d) Mahadeo Hills

ANSWER (d) Mahadeo Hills

The Mahadeo Hills lie at the centre of the Satpura system; Dhupgarh (Pachmarhi) on them is the highest peak of the Satpura range.

- Rajpipla Hills form the western part and the Maikal range the eastern part.
- Pachmarhi, the only hill station of Madhya Pradesh, is in the Mahadeo Hills.
- Parasnath Hill is in Jharkhand.

96 Which among the following pair of mountain peak and their altitude in the Andaman and Nicobar Islands is **correctly** matched?

[SSC CGL 28 Oct 2026, Shift-I]

(a) Saddle peak -742 m
(b) Mount Diavolo – 591 m
(c) Mount Koyob – 476 m
(d) Mount Thuiller– 642 m

ANSWER (d) Mount Thuiller– 642 m

Mount Thullier (Great Nicobar) is about 642 m high, so option D is the correct pair. The other values in the options are not the accepted heights.

- Saddle Peak (North Andaman) is the highest peak of the islands, at around 730 m.
- Mount Diavolo is in Middle Andaman and Mount Koyob in South Andaman.
- Mount Thullier is the highest peak of the Nicobar group.

97 Which of the following districts in Maharashtra are known for iron mining?

[SSC CGL 28 Oct 2026, Shift-I]

(a) Mumbai and Pune
(b) Nagpur and Nashik
(c) Bhandara and Ratnagiri
(d) Aurangabad and Jalgaon

ANSWER (c) Bhandara and Ratnagiri

Bhandara and Ratnagiri are known for iron ore mining in Maharashtra; other iron ore areas include Chandrapur, Gadchiroli and Sindhudurg.

- Maharashtra's iron ore is mostly of the hematite and magnetite types.
- Nagpur–Bhandara is also a manganese belt.
- Odisha, Chhattisgarh, Jharkhand and Karnataka are the leading iron ore states.

98 The river Barak is an important river of:

[SSC CGL 28 Oct 2026, Shift-I]

(a) Manipur, Mizoram, and Assam
(b) Assam, Tripura and Manipur
(c) Nagaland, Arunachal Pradesh and Assam
(d) Tripura, Nagaland and Assam

ANSWER (a) Manipur, Mizoram, and Assam

The Barak rises in the hills of Manipur (near the Nagaland border) and flows through Manipur,

Mizoram and Assam (Barak Valley) before entering Bangladesh, where it divides into the Surma and Kushiyara.

- It is the second-largest river of the Brahmaputra–Barak system in the north-east.
- Silchar, a major town of Assam, lies on its bank.
- Its important tributaries include the Jiri, Dhaleshwari and Sonai.

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99 Consider the following statements regarding the river Brahmaputra:
1. It originates in the Chemayungdung glacier of the Kailash range.
2. It enters India near the Namcha Barwa peak.
Which of the statements given above is/are **correct**?

[SSC CGL 28 Oct 2026, Shift-II]

(a) Only 1
(b) Only2
(c) Both 1 and 2
(d) Neither 1 nor 2

ANSWER (c) Both 1 and 2

Both statements are correct. The Brahmaputra rises from the Chemayungdung glacier in the Kailash range of Tibet (where it is the Tsangpo), flows eastward, takes a sharp U-turn around the Namcha Barwa peak and enters India in Arunachal Pradesh as the Siang/Dihang.

- It is known as Jamuna in Bangladesh.
- It is joined by the Lohit and Dibang to form the Brahmaputra in Assam.
- Majuli, the largest river island, lies in the Brahmaputra.

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100 Which of the following crops is sown all over India except Punjab?

[SSC CGL 28 Oct 2026, Shift-II]

(a) Rice
(b) Wheat
(c) Maize
(d) Tea

ANSWER (c) Maize

SSC Key (c) · Disputed question

As per the official key, the intended answer is maize. The question is flawed because its premise is wrong: maize is also grown in Punjab, and no crop in the list is sown all over India except Punjab.

- Maize is mainly a kharif crop and is grown in many states, including Karnataka, Madhya Pradesh and Bihar.
- Wheat is a rabi crop; Punjab is one of its major producers.
- Tea is grown mainly in Assam, West Bengal, Tamil Nadu and Kerala.

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101 Which crop is cultivated during all three seasons, Rabi, Kharif, and Zaid, in Southern India?

[SSC CGL 28 Oct 2026, Shift-II]

(a) Fodder
(b) Rice
(c) Wheat
(d) Gram

ANSWER (b) Rice

Rice is the crop that is grown in all three seasons – Kharif, Rabi and Zaid – in Southern India. The warm climate, assured irrigation and long growing period of the southern states allow two or three paddy crops in a year, which is not possible for wheat or gram.

- Wheat and gram are typical Rabi crops, sown in October–November and harvested in March–April.
- Kharif crops are sown with the onset of the south-west monsoon (June–July) and harvested in September–October.
- Zaid is the short season between Rabi and Kharif (March to June); in Odisha and West Bengal paddy is similarly grown as Aus, Aman and Boro.

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102 Through which group of Indian states does the River Kaveri flow?

[SSC CGL 28 Oct 2026, Shift-III]

(a) Madhya Pradesh, Maharashtra, and Gujarat
(b) Bihar, Odisha, and West Bengal
(c) Madhya Pradesh, Gujarat, and Rajasthan
(d) Karnataka, Kerala, and Tamil Nadu

ANSWER (d) Karnataka, Kerala, and Tamil Nadu

The River Kaveri rises at Talakaveri in the Brahmagiri hills of Kodagu (Karnataka) and flows through Karnataka and Tamil Nadu before falling into the Bay of Bengal. Its basin also covers parts of Kerala (the Kabini tributary rises in Kerala) and the Karaikal region of Puducherry, so Karnataka, Kerala and Tamil Nadu is the correct group.

- Kaveri is a peninsular river of the Deccan plateau and forms the Shivanasamudra Falls in Karnataka.
- Hemavati, Kabini, Bhavani and Amaravati are important tributaries of the Kaveri.

- Madhya Pradesh, Gujarat and Maharashtra are drained by west-flowing rivers like the Narmada and Tapi, which are not related to the Kaveri.

103 Which of the following crops is classified as a Rabi crop in the northern states of India?

[SSC CGL 28 Oct 2026, Shift-III]

(a) Rice (b) Cotton
(c) Wheat (d) Jowar

ANSWER (c) Wheat

Wheat is the principal Rabi crop of the northern states of India. It is sown in the cool winter months (October–December) and harvested in the spring (March–April), needing a cool growing season and a warm, dry harvest period.

- Punjab, Haryana and Uttar Pradesh are the major wheat-growing states of the Indo-Gangetic plain.
- Other Rabi crops include barley, gram, peas, mustard and linseed.
- Rice, cotton and jowar are Kharif crops, grown with the monsoon rains.

PART B World Geography

104 How many categories does the USA Air Quality Index (AQI) use to classify air quality?

[SSC CGL 30 Sep 2026, Shift-II]

(a) 4 (b) 5
(c) 6 (d) 8

ANSWER (c) 6

The US Air Quality Index (AQI) uses six categories: Good (0–50), Moderate (51–100), Unhealthy for Sensitive Groups (101–150), Unhealthy (151–200), Very Unhealthy (201–300) and Hazardous (301 and above). Each category has its own colour code, from green to maroon.

- The US AQI is calculated by the US Environmental Protection Agency (EPA).
- It covers five major pollutants: ground-level ozone, particulate matter (PM2.5 and PM10), carbon monoxide, sulphur dioxide and nitrogen dioxide.
- India's National Air Quality Index (launched 2014) also has six categories, from Good to Severe.

105 What does the term "astheno" mean in the context of the Earth's mantle?

[SSC CGL 30 Sep 2026, Shift-II]

(a) Strong (b) Weak
(c) Solid (d) Molten

ANSWER (b) Weak

'Astheno' means weak (from the Greek word asthenes). The asthenosphere is the weak, ductile and partly molten layer of the upper mantle lying just below the lithosphere, and it is the main source of magma that reaches the surface.

- The lithosphere floats and moves over the asthenosphere, which is the basis of plate tectonics.
- The asthenosphere lies roughly between 100 km and 400 km below the surface.
- The crust and the uppermost solid mantle together form the lithosphere.

106 Consider the following statements about the stratosphere:
1. Temperature increases in the lower part of the stratosphere due to the presence of methane gas.
2. The ozone layer absorbs solar radiation, leading to a rise in temperature with altitude in this layer.
Which of the statements above is/are **correct**?

[SSC CGL 30 Sep 2026, Shift-II]

(a) Only 1 (b) Only 2
(c) Both 1 and 2 are correct (d) Neither 1 nor 2 is correct

ANSWER (b) Only 2

Only statement 2 is correct. In the stratosphere the temperature rises with height because the ozone layer absorbs the Sun's ultraviolet radiation. Statement 1 is wrong, since the warming is caused by ozone, not methane.

- The stratosphere extends from the tropopause to about 50 km above the Earth.
- It is free of clouds and weather, so jet aircraft fly in its lower part.
- Its upper boundary is called the stratopause.

107 When it is midnight at the IST meridian, a place observes 6 a.m. Calculate meridian of that place.

[SSC CGL 30 Sep 2026, Shift-III]

(a) 277°31′ E (b) 172°30′ E
(c) 37°30′ E (d) 127°30′ W

ANSWER (b) 172°30′ E

Local time changes by 4 minutes for every 1° of longitude, i.e. 1 hour for 15°. The place is 6 hours ahead of IST, so it lies 6 × 15° = 90° east of the IST meridian (82°30′ E). Its longitude is 82°30′ + 90° = 172°30′ E.

- Indian Standard Time is based on the 82°30′ E meridian, which passes near Mirzapur in Uttar Pradesh.
- IST is 5 hours 30 minutes ahead of Greenwich Mean Time (GMT).
- The Earth rotates 360° in 24 hours, from west to east.

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108 Which ocean contains the point where the Equator intersects the Prime Meridian?

[SSC CGL 30 Sep 2026, Shift-III]

(a) Pacific Ocean (b) Atlantic Ocean
(c) Indian Ocean (d) Arctic Ocean

ANSWER (b) Atlantic Ocean

The Equator (0° latitude) meets the Prime Meridian (0° longitude) in the Atlantic Ocean, in the Gulf of Guinea, off the coast of West Africa. This point is informally called 'Null Island'.

- The Prime Meridian passes through Greenwich, London.
- The Equator divides the Earth into the Northern and Southern Hemispheres.
- The International Date Line lies roughly along the 180° meridian.

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109 Which continent is located to the west of the Indian Ocean?

[SSC CGL 01 Oct 2026, Shift-II]

(a) Asia (b) Australia
(c) Africa (d) Antarctica

ANSWER (c) Africa

Africa lies to the west of the Indian Ocean. The ocean is bounded by Asia in the north, Africa in the west, Australia (and the Sunda Islands) in the east and the Southern Ocean (Antarctica) in the south.

- The Indian Ocean is the third-largest ocean in the world.
- It is the only ocean named after a country, India.
- The Arabian Sea and the Bay of Bengal are its two major northern arms.

---

110 **Fill in the blank:**
The _____ effect describes the deflection of moving objects (like winds and ocean currents) to the right in the Northern Hemisphere due to Earth's rotation.

[SSC CGL 01 Oct 2026, Shift-III]

(a) Doppler (b) Coriolis
(c) Greenhouse (d) Tyndall

ANSWER (b) Coriolis

The Coriolis effect describes the deflection of moving objects, such as winds and ocean currents, caused by the Earth's rotation. They are deflected to the right in the Northern Hemisphere and to the left in the Southern Hemisphere. It is named after the French scientist Gaspard-Gustave Coriolis.

- The deflection is zero at the Equator and maximum at the poles.
- This rule is also known as Ferrel's law.
- The Coriolis effect is responsible for the rotation of cyclones: anticlockwise in the Northern and clockwise in the Southern Hemisphere.

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111 Consider the following statements about the international comparisons of human development:
1. The territorial area of a country and per capita income are directly related to human development.
2. Generally, countries with low levels of human development tend to spend more on defence rather than social sectors.
3. Countries with high levels of human development invest more in the social sectors.
Which of the statements given above is/are CORRECT?

[SSC CGL 05 Oct 2026, Shift-I]

(a) 1 and 2 only (b) 3 only
(c) 2 and 3 only (d) 1, 2 and 3

ANSWER (c) 2 and 3 only

Statements 2 and 3 are correct. Countries with low human development generally spend more on defence than on social sectors, while highly developed countries invest more in health and education. Statement 1 is wrong because the size of a country and

per capita income alone do not decide human development; for example, some small countries rank high and some large or oil-rich ones rank lower.

- The Human Development Index (HDI) is published by the UNDP in its Human Development Report.
- HDI is based on health (life expectancy), education and standard of living (income).
- The concept of human development was developed by Mahbub ul Haq and Amartya Sen.

112 Which BRICS (Brazil, Russia, India, China, and South Africa) member is the largest producer of tea?

[SSC CGL 05 Oct 2026, Shift-II]

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

ANSWER (a) China

China is the largest producer of tea among the BRICS members, and in the world. India is the second-largest producer of tea in the world, and the largest tea-growing state of India is Assam.

- Tea grows best in warm, humid climates with well-drained, slightly acidic soil on hill slopes.
- Darjeeling (West Bengal), Assam and the Nilgiris are the main tea-growing regions of India.
- Kenya and Sri Lanka are other major tea producers.

113 According to the theory of continental drift, what was the name of the single large landmass that originally existed on Earth?

[SSC CGL 05 Oct 2026, Shift-II]

(a) Panthalassa (b) Pangaea
(c) Gondwanaland (d) Laurasia

ANSWER (b) Pangaea

According to the theory of continental drift, the single large landmass that originally existed on Earth was Pangaea. The theory was proposed by the German scientist Alfred Wegener in 1912. Pangaea later split into two parts: Laurasia in the north and Gondwanaland in the south.

- Panthalassa was the single vast ocean that surrounded Pangaea.
- Laurasia later formed North America, Europe and most of Asia.
- Gondwanaland formed South America, Africa, India, Australia and Antarctica.

114 Fill in the blank:
The point on the Earth's surface vertically above the 'Focus' (Hypocentre) where an earthquake originates is called the _____.

[SSC CGL 06 Oct 2026, Shift-III]

(a) Isocentre (b) Epicenter
(c) Seismic Core (d) Fault Plane

ANSWER (b) Epicenter

The point on the Earth's surface vertically above the focus (hypocentre) of an earthquake is called the epicentre. The focus is the point inside the Earth where the rupture begins and seismic waves are generated. Damage is generally greatest near the epicentre.

- Seismic waves are recorded by an instrument called a seismograph.
- The intensity of an earthquake is measured on the Mercalli scale and the magnitude on the Richter scale.
- P-waves (primary) travel fastest and S-waves (secondary) cannot pass through liquids.

115 Which of the following population trends is most likely to occur in a region with a high birth rate and a rapidly declining death rate?

[SSC CGL 06 Oct 2026, Shift-III]

(a) Population stagnation (b) Negative growth
(c) Population explosion (d) Zero growth

ANSWER (c) Population explosion

A region with a high birth rate and a rapidly declining death rate is most likely to see a population explosion. When the death rate falls quickly because of better health care and food supply, while the birth rate stays high, the gap between them widens and the population grows very fast. This corresponds to the second (early expanding) stage of the demographic transition.

- Natural growth rate = birth rate minus death rate.
- Many developing countries went through this phase in the 20th century.
- In the last stage of the demographic transition, both birth and death rates are low and growth is slow.

116 Which force causes the Earth to bulge at the equator?

[SSC CGL 07 Oct 2026, Shift-I]

(a) Tidal force
(b) Centrifugal force
(c) Gravitational force
(d) Magnetic force

ANSWER (b) Centrifugal force

Centrifugal force, produced by the Earth's rotation about its axis, makes the Earth bulge at the equator. It is greatest at the equator and zero at the poles, so the Earth is flattened at the poles and is an oblate spheroid (geoid), not a perfect sphere.

- The equatorial diameter of the Earth (about 12,756 km) is slightly more than the polar diameter (about 12,714 km).
- Gravity is slightly weaker at the equator than at the poles.
- The Earth's rotation period is about 24 hours.

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117 Which South Asian country is known for its significant textile industry, particularly jute production?

[SSC CGL 07 Oct 2026, Shift-II]

(a) Bangladesh
(b) Pakistan
(c) Nepal
(d) Sri Lanka

ANSWER (a) Bangladesh

Bangladesh is known in South Asia for its significant textile industry and jute production. Jute, called the 'Golden Fibre', grows well in the Ganga–Brahmaputra delta, and Bangladesh is the largest exporter of raw jute while India is the largest producer.

- Jute needs a warm and humid climate with alluvial soil.
- In India, West Bengal is the largest jute-producing state.
- Readymade garments are the largest export of Bangladesh.

---

118 Consider the following specific stages of demographic transition associated with economic development:

Select the CORRECT order of the above stages using the codes given below:
1. Low birth rate with low death rate.
2. High birth rate with high death rate.
3. High birth rate with low death rate.

[SSC CGL 07 Oct 2026, Shift-II]

(a) 1-2-3
(b) 2-1-3
(c) 2-3-1
(d) 3-2-1

ANSWER (c) 2-3-1

The correct order is 2-3-1. In the demographic transition, a country first has high birth and high death rates (stage 1), then high birth rate with falling or low death rate (stage 2), and finally low birth and low death rates (stage 3 and beyond), so population growth first rises and then slows.

- Stage 1 is stable and has slow growth; stage 2 sees the population explosion.
- Later stages have declining birth rates because of education, urbanisation and family planning.
- India is generally placed in the later part of the second stage or the beginning of the third.

---

119 According to Koppen's climatic classification, what does the small letter 's' denote?

[SSC CGL 07 Oct 2026, Shift-II]

(a) No dry season
(b) Dry season in winter
(c) Dry season in summer
(d) Rainy season in summer

ANSWER (c) Dry season in summer

In Köppen's classification the small letter 's' denotes a dry season in summer. For example, the Mediterranean climate is Cs, with dry summers and wet winters. The small letter 'w' denotes a dry season in winter, and 'f' means no dry season.

- Wladimir Köppen, a German climatologist, introduced the classification in 1900 and revised it later.
- Köppen used capital letters A, B, C, D and E for the major climate groups.
- The letter 'm' denotes a monsoon climate with a short dry season.

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120 Which of the following is the **correct** sequence of Earth's atmospheric gases in descending order of their abundance (by volume)?

[SSC CGL 07 Oct 2026, Shift-III]

(a) Nitrogen > Oxygen > Carbon Dioxide > Argon
(b) Nitrogen > Oxygen > Argon > Carbon Dioxide
(c) Oxygen > Nitrogen > Argon > Carbon Dioxide
(d) Nitrogen > Argon > Oxygen > Neon

ANSWER (b) Nitrogen > Oxygen > Argon > Carbon Dioxide

The correct sequence is Nitrogen > Oxygen > Argon > Carbon dioxide. By volume, dry air contains about 78% nitrogen, 21% oxygen, 0.93% argon and about 0.04% carbon dioxide. Argon is therefore more abundant than carbon dioxide.

- Nitrogen and oxygen together make up about 99% of the dry atmosphere.
- The remaining gases include neon, helium, methane and hydrogen in very small amounts.
- Water vapour varies from near 0 to about 4% of the atmosphere.

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121 Which African country lies on the western rim of the Indian Ocean?

[SSC CGL 08 Oct 2026, Shift-I]

(a) Kenya
(b) Libya
(c) Tunisia
(d) Morocco

ANSWER (a) Kenya

Kenya lies on the western rim of the Indian Ocean, along the coast of East Africa. Libya, Tunisia and Morocco are North African countries with coasts on the Mediterranean Sea and/or the Atlantic Ocean, not the Indian Ocean.

- Mombasa is Kenya's main port on the Indian Ocean.
- Other African countries on the Indian Ocean include Somalia, Tanzania, Mozambique and South Africa.
- The Equator passes through Kenya.

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122 What is a major challenge in accurately assessing the Air Quality Index (AQI) in remote areas?

[SSC CGL 08 Oct 2026, Shift-II]

(a) Inadequate monitoring equipment
(b) Difficulty in sensor calibration
(c) Limited accessibility for station maintenance
(d) Inconsistent data reporting

ANSWER (a) Inadequate monitoring equipment

The major challenge in assessing the AQI accurately in remote areas is inadequate monitoring equipment. Monitoring stations are mostly set up in cities and industrial areas, so remote regions have few or no stations and little reliable data. As per the official answer key, option A is correct.

- AQI converts the concentrations of several pollutants into a single number and a colour category.
- In India, air quality is monitored by the Central Pollution Control Board (CPCB) through its network of stations.
- Satellite data and low-cost sensors are increasingly used to fill the gaps in remote areas.

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123 Under the U.S. (United States) EPA (Environmental Protection Agency) Air Quality Index system, how is the overall Air Quality Index value for a day determined?

[SSC CGL 08 Oct 2026, Shift-II]

(a) By considering only the AQI (Air Quality Index)value for ozone
(b) By selecting the lowest AQI (Air Quality Index)value among the monitored pollutants
(c) By selecting the highest AQI (Air Quality Index)value among the monitored pollutants
(d) By calculating the average AQI (Air Quality Index)value of all monitored pollutants

ANSWER (c) By selecting the highest AQI (Air Quality Index)value ...

Under the US EPA system, the overall AQI for a day is the highest AQI value among the monitored pollutants. The AQI is calculated separately for each pollutant, and the pollutant with the highest value is the one that decides the day's air quality category.

- The pollutants covered are ground-level ozone, PM2.5, PM10, carbon monoxide, sulphur dioxide and nitrogen dioxide.
- The pollutant with the highest value is called the 'main' or 'responsible' pollutant.
- India's National AQI also uses the worst sub-index (the maximum) of the pollutants.

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124 Which population theory states that population growth tends to exceed the growth rate of food production?

[SSC CGL 09 Oct 2026, Shift-I]

(a) Central Place Theory
(b) Demographic Transition Theory
(c) Malthusian Theory
(d) Gravity Model

ANSWER (c) Malthusian Theory

The Malthusian Theory states that population grows faster than the food supply. Thomas Robert Malthus, in his 'Essay on the Principle of Population' (1798), argued that population increases in geometric progression (1, 2, 4, 8...) while food production increases only in arithmetic progression (1, 2, 3, 4...).

- Malthus said that 'positive checks' such as famine, disease and war would reduce the population to the level of food supply.
- Central Place Theory (Walter Christaller) explains the size and spacing of settlements.
- The Gravity Model explains the interaction or migration between places based on population size and distance.

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125 The Mozambique Channel is located between which two places?

[SSC CGL 10 Oct 2026, Shift-I]

(a) Madagascar and Mozambique
(b) Indonesia and Malaysia
(c) Oman and Iran
(d) India and Sri Lanka

ANSWER (a) Madagascar and Mozambique

The Mozambique Channel is located between Madagascar and the African mainland country of Mozambique. It is an arm of the Indian Ocean and an important shipping route, especially for oil tankers going around the Cape of Good Hope.

- The Strait of Malacca lies between Indonesia (Sumatra) and Malaysia.
- The Strait of Hormuz lies between Oman and Iran.
- The Palk Strait lies between India and Sri Lanka.

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126 Arrange the following peaks in descending order of their height:
1. Kanchenjunga
2. Mount Everest
3. Godwin-Austen

[SSC CGL 10 Oct 2026, Shift-III]

(a) 3-1-2
(b) 2-3-1
(c) 2-1-3
(d) 3-2-1

ANSWER (b) 2-3-1

The correct descending order is Mount Everest (about 8,849 m) > Godwin-Austen or K2 (8,611 m) > Kanchenjunga (8,586 m), that is 2-3-1. Everest is the highest peak in the world, K2 the second highest, and Kanchenjunga the third highest.

- Godwin-Austen (K2) lies in the Karakoram range and is also called Chogori.
- Kanchenjunga, in Sikkim and Nepal, is the highest peak within India.
- Mount Everest lies on the Nepal–China (Tibet) border in the Himalayas.

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127 The Indian Ocean is significant for global:

[SSC CGL 12 Oct 2026, Shift-II]

(a) Air travel
(b) Trade routes
(c) Freshwater reserves
(d) Wildlife sanctuaries

ANSWER (b) Trade routes

The Indian Ocean is significant for global trade routes. It connects Asia, Africa and Australia, and carries a large share of the world's sea-borne oil and container traffic through chokepoints such as the Strait of Hormuz, the Bab-el-Mandeb and the Strait of Malacca.

- The Suez Canal links the Mediterranean Sea with the Red Sea and so with the Indian Ocean.
- The ocean is the third-largest in the world, after the Pacific and the Atlantic.
- The Indian Ocean has major island nations such as Sri Lanka, Maldives, Mauritius and Seychelles.

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128 With reference to jet streams, consider the following statements and choose the **correct** option:
1. Jet streams are fast-moving air currents in the upper atmosphere.
2. They are located close to the Earth's surface at low altitude.

[SSC CGL 12 Oct 2026, Shift-II]

(a) Only 1
(b) Only 2
(c) Both 1 and 2 are correct
(d) Neither 1 nor 2 is correct

ANSWER (a) Only 1

Only statement 1 is correct. Jet streams are narrow bands of very fast westerly winds in the upper atmosphere, near the tropopause at about 9–14 km height. Statement 2 is wrong because they are found at high altitude, not near the Earth's surface.

- The subtropical westerly jet stream brings Western Disturbances to north India in winter.

- The tropical easterly jet stream is associated with the onset of the summer monsoon in India.
- Jet streams are caused by temperature and pressure differences and the Earth's rotation.

129 Among the following Indian Ocean island nations, which is located closest to the African coast?

[SSC CGL 13 Oct 2026, Shift-I]

(a) Mauritius (b) Maldives
(c) Seychelles (d) Sri Lanka

ANSWER (c) Seychelles

Seychelles is the island nation closest to the African coast among the options, lying in the western Indian Ocean roughly 1,500 km east of Kenya. Mauritius is farther east beyond Madagascar, and the Maldives and Sri Lanka lie near the Indian subcontinent in the east.

- Seychelles has an archipelago of about 115 islands, with Victoria as the capital.
- Mauritius lies east of Madagascar in the Mascarene Islands, with Port Louis as the capital.
- Madagascar, the largest island nation of the western Indian Ocean, is even closer to Africa.

130 What is the approximate equatorial circumference of the Earth?

[SSC CGL 13 Oct 2026, Shift-III]

(a) 20,000 km (b) 30,000 km
(c) 40,000 km (d) 50,000 km

ANSWER (c) 40,000 km

The equatorial circumference of the Earth is approximately 40,000 km (about 40,075 km). Since the Earth is slightly flattened at the poles, its equatorial circumference is a little greater than its polar circumference.

- Polar circumference is about 40,008 km.
- Earth's mean radius is about 6,371 km.
- The Earth is an oblate spheroid (geoid), not a perfect sphere.

131 Which South Asian country is known as the “Land of Thunder Dragon”?

[SSC CGL 13 Oct 2026, Shift-III]

(a) Bhutan (b) Maldives
(c) Bangladesh (d) Nepal

ANSWER (a) Bhutan

Bhutan is known as the "Land of the Thunder Dragon". Its local name is Druk Yul, where "Druk" means thunder dragon.

- The capital of Bhutan is Thimphu.
- The currency of Bhutan is the Ngultrum.
- Bhutan is a landlocked Himalayan country bordering India and China.

132 Which strategic chokepoint links the Indian Ocean route to the Red Sea, forming part of the maritime route to the Mediterranean Sea?

[SSC CGL 14 Oct 2026, Shift-III]

(a) Bosporus Strait (b) Strait-of-Malacca
(c) Strait-of-Hormuz (d) Bab-el-Mandeb

ANSWER (d) Bab-el-Mandeb

Bab-el-Mandeb is the narrow strait that connects the Red Sea with the Gulf of Aden and the Arabian Sea (Indian Ocean). Ships then pass through the Red Sea and the Suez Canal to reach the Mediterranean Sea.

- It separates Yemen (Arabian Peninsula) from Djibouti and Eritrea (Africa).
- The Suez Canal links the Red Sea with the Mediterranean Sea.
- The Strait of Hormuz links the Persian Gulf with the Gulf of Oman, and the Strait of Malacca links the Indian Ocean with the South China Sea.

133 What is the approximate distance between the Earth and the Sun during ‘Perihelion’?

[SSC CGL 15 Oct 2026, Shift-I]

(a) 147 million kilometers (b) 142 million kilometers
(c) 152 million kilometers (d) 160 million kilometers

ANSWER (a) 147 million kilometers

At perihelion, the Earth is nearest to the Sun, at a distance of about 147 million km. This happens around 3 January each year.

- At aphelion, the Earth is farthest from the Sun, at about 152 million km, around 4 July.
- The mean Earth-Sun distance is about 149.6 million km (1 AU).
- Earth's orbit around the Sun is elliptical.

134 Regarding the Earth's mantle dynamics, which statement **correctly** describes the nature of seismic wave propagation?

[SSC CGL 15 Oct 2026, Shift-I]

(a) S-waves cannot traverse the liquid outer core.
(b) P-waves accelerate rapidly through the Earth's mantle.
(c) Rayleigh waves travel faster than all body waves.
(d) Seismic waves maintain constant velocity in mantle.

ANSWER (a) S-waves cannot traverse the liquid outer core.

S-waves (secondary waves) are transverse waves that cannot travel through liquids. Since the outer core is liquid, S-waves cannot pass through it, which is the key evidence for its liquid state.

- P-waves are longitudinal and can travel through solids, liquids and gases.
- Rayleigh waves are surface waves and travel slower than body waves (P and S).
- The velocity of seismic waves changes with the density and rigidity of the medium, so it is not constant in the mantle.

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135 Which Indian Ocean country is known for the port of Hambantota?

[SSC CGL 15 Oct 2026, Shift-II]

(a) Sri Lanka
(b) Myanmar
(c) Maldives
(d) Indonesia

ANSWER (a) Sri Lanka

The Hambantota port is located on the southern coast of Sri Lanka, close to the major east-west shipping routes of the Indian Ocean. In 2017 it was leased for 99 years to a Chinese company, China Merchants Port Holdings.

- Colombo is the largest port of Sri Lanka.
- Sri Lanka lies in the Indian Ocean, south-east of India.
- Sri Lanka is separated from India by the Palk Strait.

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136 Which Indian Ocean country is located entirely south of the equator?

[SSC CGL 15 Oct 2026, Shift-II]

(a) Mauritius
(b) Oman
(c) Maldives
(d) Sri Lanka

ANSWER (a) Mauritius

Mauritius lies entirely in the Southern Hemisphere, at about 20° S latitude, in the south-western Indian Ocean. Oman and Sri Lanka lie wholly north of the equator, while the Maldives is spread across the equator.

- The Maldives extends from about 7° N to just south of the equator.
- Oman is located on the south-eastern coast of the Arabian Peninsula.
- The capital of Mauritius is Port Louis.

---

137 Which of the following atmospheric layers contains the 'Ionosphere', facilitating long-distance radio communication?

[SSC CGL 15 Oct 2026, Shift-III]

(a) Mesosphere
(b) Thermosphere
(c) Exosphere
(d) Stratosphere

ANSWER (b) Thermosphere

The ionosphere lies mainly within the thermosphere (extending slightly into the upper mesosphere and the exosphere). Its charged particles, ionised by solar radiation, reflect radio waves back to the Earth, which makes long-distance radio communication possible.

- The thermosphere lies above the mesosphere and has the highest temperatures in the atmosphere.
- Weather phenomena occur in the troposphere, and the ozone layer lies in the stratosphere.
- Auroras occur in the ionosphere.

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138 The continent is mostly in the Southern Hemisphere and surrounded by two oceans; the Pacific Ocean on the west and the Atlantic Ocean on the east and north, the continent is:

[SSC CGL 16 Oct 2026, Shift-III]

(a) South America
(b) Africa
(c) Europe
(d) North America

ANSWER (a) South America

South America lies mostly in the Southern Hemisphere. It has the Pacific Ocean on its west and the Atlantic Ocean on its east and north.

- The Equator passes through Ecuador, Colombia and Brazil in South America.
- The Andes is the longest continental mountain range, running along the western coast.
- Brazil is the largest country of South America.

---

139 Which of the two countries are separated by the 'Palk Strait'?

[SSC CGL 23 Oct 2026, Shift-I]

(a) India and China
(b) India and Sri Lanka
(c) Pakistan and China
(d) India and Nepal

ANSWER (b) India and Sri Lanka

The Palk Strait separates India (Tamil Nadu) from Sri Lanka. It connects the Bay of Bengal in the north-east with the Palk Bay and the Gulf of Mannar in the south.

- It is named after Robert Palk, a British Governor of Madras.
- Adam's Bridge (Ram Setu), a chain of shoals, lies in the strait between Rameswaram and Mannar Island.
- The Gulf of Mannar lies to the south of the strait.

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140 Thimphu is the capital of:

[SSC CGL 24 Oct 2026, Shift-III]

(a) Sri Lanka
(b) Nepal
(c) Maldives
(d) Bhutan

ANSWER (d) Bhutan

Thimphu is the capital of Bhutan. It lies in the western part of the country, in the Himalayan valley of the Wang Chhu river.

- The capital of Nepal is Kathmandu.
- The capital of the Maldives is Malé.
- The capital of Sri Lanka is Sri Jayawardenepura Kotte (administrative), while Colombo is the commercial capital.

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141 The South Asian country which is the newest entrant to South Asian Association for Regional Cooperation (SAARC) is:

[SSC CGL 24 Oct 2026, Shift-III]

(a) Afghanistan
(b) Maldives
(c) Nepal
(d) Bhutan

ANSWER (a) Afghanistan

Afghanistan is the newest member of SAARC. It joined in 2007 at the 14th SAARC Summit held in New Delhi, becoming the eighth member.

- SAARC was established in 1985 at Dhaka, with seven founding members.
- The SAARC Secretariat is located in Kathmandu, Nepal.
- The seven founding members were India, Pakistan, Bangladesh, Nepal, Bhutan, Sri Lanka and the Maldives.

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142 A deep-focus earthquake occurs at a depth of 600 km. A seismic station detects strong P-waves but no S-waves after they pass through Earth's outer core. What does this observation suggest about the nature of Earth's outer core?

[SSC CGL 24 Oct 2026, Shift-III]

(a) Outer core is solid iron
(b) Outer core is liquid
(c) Mantle is liquid
(d) Inner core is gaseous

ANSWER (b) Outer core is liquid

S-waves cannot travel through liquids, whereas P-waves can. The absence of S-waves beyond the outer core therefore shows that the outer core is liquid.

- The mantle transmits S-waves, so it is solid (rigid), not liquid.
- The inner core is solid, not gaseous.
- The outer core begins at a depth of about 2,900 km (the Gutenberg discontinuity), and the zones where S-waves are not recorded are called shadow zones.

---

143 Chabahar Port lies on the coast. Which body of water does it lie on?

[SSC CGL 27 Oct 2026, Shift-I]

(a) Red Sea
(b) Arabian Sea
(c) Persian Gulf
(d) Gulf of Oman

ANSWER (d) Gulf of Oman

Chabahar Port is located in the Sistan and Baluchestan province of south-eastern Iran, on the Gulf of Oman. It

lies outside the Strait of Hormuz and is Iran's only ocean port.

- India is developing the Shahid Beheshti terminal of Chabahar, giving it a route to Afghanistan and Central Asia that bypasses Pakistan.
- Chabahar is a key part of India's connectivity plans, including the International North-South Transport Corridor (INSTC).
- The Gulf of Oman connects the Arabian Sea with the Persian Gulf through the Strait of Hormuz.

---

144 Which statement **correctly** identifies the mechanism behind isostatic equilibrium in the Earth's crust?

[SSC CGL 27 Oct 2026, Shift-II]

(a) Mantle convection prevents crustal vertical movement.
(b) Mountains maintain height via volcanic core pressure.
(c) Crustal sections float based on density differences.
(d) Erosion increases the thickness of mountain roots.

ANSWER (c) Crustal sections float based on density differences.

Isostasy is the state of gravitational balance in which crustal blocks float on the denser, plastic mantle below, with their height depending on their density and thickness. Higher blocks are balanced by lighter material or deeper roots.

- Airy's view: crustal blocks have the same density but different thickness, so mountains have deep roots.
- Pratt's view: blocks reach the same depth but have different densities.
- When erosion removes load from mountains, the land slowly rises (isostatic rebound).

---

145 Which layer of the Earth is primarily responsible for generating its magnetic field?

[SSC CGL 27 Oct 2026, Shift-III]

(a) Crust
(b) Mantle
(c) Outer Core
(d) Inner Core

ANSWER (c) Outer Core

The outer core is mainly responsible for the Earth's magnetic field. It consists of molten iron and nickel, and the convection currents in this electrically conducting liquid, together with the Earth's rotation, generate the field (the geodynamo).

- The inner core is solid iron-nickel.
- The Earth's magnetic field protects the planet from harmful solar wind.
- The outer core begins at a depth of about 2,900 km.

---

146 Which layer of the Earth is the densest?

[SSC CGL 27 Oct 2026, Shift-III]

(a) Crust
(b) Mantle
(c) Outer Core
(d) Inner Core

ANSWER (d) Inner Core

The inner core is the densest layer of the Earth. It is made mainly of iron and nickel and remains solid despite its very high temperature because of the immense pressure at the centre.

- Density increases from the crust towards the centre of the Earth.
- The crust is the thinnest and least dense layer.
- The Earth's mean radius is about 6,371 km, and the inner core begins at a depth of about 5,150 km.

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147 Which statement **correctly** describes an event occurring at a specific type of plate boundary?

[SSC CGL 28 Oct 2026, Shift-I]

(a) New crust forms at divergent boundaries.
(b) Trenches form at transform boundaries.
(c) Subduction occurs at divergent boundaries.
(d) Plates collide at transform boundaries.

ANSWER (a) New crust forms at divergent boundaries.

At divergent boundaries, plates move apart and magma rises from the mantle to solidify as new crust, as at mid-ocean ridges. Hence new crust forms at divergent boundaries.

- Convergent boundaries: plates collide, and subduction and trench formation occur there.
- Transform boundaries: plates slide past each other, as along the San Andreas Fault; crust is neither created nor destroyed.

- Examples of divergent boundaries are the Mid-Atlantic Ridge and the East African Rift.

148 An unsaturated air parcel rises through the atmosphere and expands adiabatically. What happens to its temperature?

[SSC CGL 28 Oct 2026, Shift-III]

(a) Pressure increases
(b) Temperature decreases
(c) Density increases
(d) Humidity decreases

ANSWER (b) Temperature decreases

As an air parcel rises, the surrounding pressure falls and the parcel expands. In adiabatic expansion it does work without exchanging heat with its surroundings, so its temperature decreases. For unsaturated air this cooling is the dry adiabatic lapse rate, about 10 °C per km.

- Saturated air cools more slowly (the saturated adiabatic lapse rate) because latent heat is released on condensation.
- Sinking air is compressed and warms adiabatically.
- The normal (environmental) lapse rate is about 6.5 °C per km.



05
CHAPTER

Indian Economy

Questions with Explanations *164 questions · 53 shifts*

01 The Twenty-Point Programme (TPP), introduced during the _____ Five-Year Plan.

[SSC CGL 30 Sep 2026, Shift-II]

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

ANSWER (d) 5th

The Twenty-Point Programme was introduced in 1975 during the Fifth Five-Year Plan (1974–79) by the then Prime Minister Indira Gandhi, as a programme for the removal of poverty and improving the quality of life of the rural poor.

- The programme was later restructured in 1982, 1986 and 2006.
- The Fifth Plan gave the slogan 'Garibi Hatao' and had removal of poverty as its main objective.
- It is monitored by the Ministry of Statistics and Programme Implementation.

02 Which aspect of agriculture witnessed a decline after the economic reforms of 1991?

[SSC CGL 30 Sep 2026, Shift-II]

(a) Public investment in agricultural infrastructure
(b) Private investment in agricultural development
(c) Agricultural exports in international markets
(d) Production of commercial agricultural crops

ANSWER (a) Public investment in agricultural infrastructure

After the economic reforms of 1991, public investment in agricultural infrastructure such as irrigation, power, roads and research declined, because the government reduced spending in order to control the fiscal deficit. This is considered a major reason for the slow growth of agriculture in the reform period.

- Reforms of 1991 mainly focused on industry, trade and the financial sector, and agriculture received less attention.
- Reduction of fertiliser subsidy and withdrawal of some protection also affected farmers.
- Agricultural exports rose after trade liberalisation, as did the production of commercial crops.

03 Which of the following statement regarding Net Domestic Product (NDP) at market prices is **correct**? (GDP =Gross Domestic Product)

[SSC CGL 30 Sep 2026, Shift-III]

(a) Net Domestic Product at market prices exceeds GDP at market prices by the amount of depreciation.
(b) Net Domestic Product at market prices equals GDP at market prices after deducting depreciation.
(c) Net Domestic Product at market prices equals GDP at market prices after adding indirect taxes.
(d) Net Domestic Product at market prices excludes both depreciation and net factor income abroad.

ANSWER (b) Net Domestic Product at market prices equals GDP at ...

Net Domestic Product at market prices equals GDP at market prices minus depreciation (consumption of fixed capital): NDP(MP) = GDP(MP) − Depreciation. Hence NDP is always smaller than GDP, not larger.

- GDP at factor cost = GDP at market prices − indirect taxes + subsidies (that is, minus net indirect taxes).
- GNP = GDP + net factor income from abroad.

• NNP = GNP − Depreciation.

04 During the 1991 economic crisis, India's foreign exchange reserves dropped to a level that was sufficient to finance imports for only how long?

[SSC CGL 30 Sep 2026, Shift-III]

(a) One month
(b) Two weeks
(c) One week
(d) Three months

ANSWER (b) Two weeks

During the 1991 crisis India's foreign exchange reserves fell so low that they could finance imports for only about two weeks. This forced India to seek help from the IMF and the World Bank and to start economic reforms.

- Normally a country is expected to hold reserves covering at least a few months of imports.
- India also pledged part of its gold reserves abroad to raise foreign exchange.
- The Gulf War of 1990–91 raised oil prices and reduced remittances, which worsened the crisis.

05 Which of the following policy shifts characterized the Tenth Five-Year Plan (2002–2007) in terms of target setting?

[SSC CGL 30 Sep 2026, Shift-III]

(a) Phasing out centrally sponsored schemes
(b) Introducing eleven core monitorable targets
(c) Restricting foreign direct investment
(d) Eliminating fiscal deficit targets entirely

ANSWER (b) Introducing eleven core monitorable targets

The Tenth Five-Year Plan (2002–07) introduced, for the first time, a set of eleven monitorable targets covering areas such as poverty, literacy, infant mortality and forest cover, in addition to the overall growth target. This made the plan more outcome-oriented.

- The Tenth Plan set a GDP growth target of 8% per annum.
- The Eleventh Plan (2007–12) had the theme of 'faster and more inclusive growth'.
- The Twelfth Plan (2012–17) was the last plan; the Planning Commission was replaced by NITI Aayog on 1 January 2015.

06 Which of the following constitutes foreign investment in India after the introduction of the New Economic Policy (1991)?

[SSC CGL 01 Oct 2026, Shift-I]

(a) Foreign Institutional Investment and Bilateral Development Finance
(b) Foreign Direct Investment and Official Development Assistance
(c) Foreign Portfolio Investment and External Commercial Borrowings
(d) Foreign Direct Investment and Foreign Institutional Investment

ANSWER (d) Foreign Direct Investment and Foreign Institutional ...

Foreign investment in India after the New Economic Policy of 1991 consists of Foreign Direct Investment (FDI) and Foreign Institutional Investment (FII). Official development assistance and external commercial borrowings are forms of foreign loans or aid, and not foreign investment.

- FDI means investment with lasting interest and management control in an enterprise; FII/FPI is investment in financial assets such as shares and bonds.
- FII investment is volatile and is often called 'hot money'.
- Today portfolio investment is generally referred to as Foreign Portfolio Investment (FPI).

07 The growth of Business Process Outsourcing (BPO) in India is mainly associated with which 1991 economic reform?

[SSC CGL 01 Oct 2026, Shift-II]

(a) Globalisation reform
(b) Privatisation reform
(c) Liberalisation reform
(d) Disinvestment reform

ANSWER (a) Globalisation reform

The growth of BPO in India is mainly associated with the globalisation component of the 1991 reforms, which integrated the Indian economy with the world economy and opened services to foreign firms and outsourcing. Foreign companies could now shift back-office and customer-support work to India, taking

advantage of skilled, English-speaking, low-cost manpower.

- The 1991 New Economic Policy rests on three pillars: Liberalisation, Privatisation and Globalisation (LPG).
- Liberalisation removed industrial licensing and controls; privatisation reduced the government's role in ownership.
- The 1991 reforms were introduced under P. V. Narasimha Rao (Prime Minister) and Manmohan Singh (Finance Minister).

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08 In the Human Development Index (HDI), the dimension of a decent standard of living is primarily measured by which of the following?

[SSC CGL 01 Oct 2026, Shift-II]

(a) Access to Transportation (AT) per capita
(b) Population Density (PD) per square kilometer
(c) Availability of Housing (AH) per household
(d) Gross National Income (GNI) per capita

ANSWER (d) Gross National Income (GNI) per capita

In the Human Development Index, the dimension of a decent standard of living is measured by Gross National Income (GNI) per capita. The index is published by the UNDP in its Human Development Report.

- The other two dimensions are a long and healthy life (life expectancy at birth) and knowledge (years of schooling).
- HDI was first developed in 1990 by Mahbub ul Haq and Amartya Sen.
- HDI values range from 0 to 1.

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09 Which of the following sectors was intended to increase its international competitiveness through the trade and investment policy reforms introduced under the Economic Reforms of 1991?

[SSC CGL 01 Oct 2026, Shift-II]

(a) Agricultural production and rural employment
(b) Industrial production and foreign technology
(c) Public sector production and domestic investment
(d) Agricultural exports and public investment

ANSWER (b) Industrial production and foreign technology

The trade and investment policy reforms of 1991 were intended to increase the international competitiveness of industrial production and to facilitate the entry of foreign technology. This was done by removing import licensing, reducing tariffs and encouraging foreign investment.

- Import licensing was abolished for capital goods and intermediates, except for a few hazardous and environmentally sensitive items.
- Automatic approval was given for foreign technology agreements in high-priority industries.
- The rupee was devalued in July 1991 and later moved towards market-determined exchange rate.

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10 The economic liberalisation reforms in India were introduced during which Five-Year Plan?

[SSC CGL 01 Oct 2026, Shift-II]

(a) Seventh Five-Year Plan
(b) Eighth Five-Year Plan
(c) Ninth Five-Year Plan
(d) Tenth Five-Year Plan

ANSWER (b) Eighth Five-Year Plan

The economic liberalisation reforms were introduced in India during the Eighth Five-Year Plan (1992–97), after the reforms began in July 1991 under Prime Minister P. V. Narasimha Rao and Finance Minister Dr Manmohan Singh. The Eighth Plan accepted liberalisation as its basic approach.

- The Eighth Plan was preceded by two annual plans (1990–91 and 1991–92).
- The Eighth Plan emphasised human development with indicative planning.
- The three pillars of the 1991 reforms are Liberalisation, Privatisation and Globalisation (LPG).

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11 What is the main objective of RBI's (Reserve Bank of India) Unified Lending Interface (ULI) initiative in India?

[SSC CGL 01 Oct 2026, Shift-III]

(a) To replace UPI for digital payments
(b) To enable inclusive and frictionless access to credit
(c) To regulate global cryptocurrency transactions
(d) To manage central bank recruitment

ANSWER (b) To enable inclusive and frictionless access to credit

The main objective of the RBI's Unified Lending Interface (ULI) is to enable inclusive and frictionless access to credit. It is a technology platform that lets lenders get digital data from different sources quickly and give loans with less paperwork.

- ULI is being developed in the way UPI transformed digital payments, as part of India's digital public infrastructure.
- It was announced by the RBI Governor in August 2024 and developed with the RBI Innovation Hub.
- The RBI is India's central bank, set up on 1 April 1935.

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12 **Fill in the blank:**
Privatisation of public sector enterprises by selling off part of the equity of Public Sector Enterprise (PSE) to the public is known as____.

[SSC CGL 01 Oct 2026, Shift-III]

(a) nationalisation (b) globalisation
(c) disinvestment (d) investment

ANSWER (c) disinvestment

Selling a part of the equity of a Public Sector Enterprise to the public is known as disinvestment. When the share sold is less than 50%, government keeps ownership; selling 51% or more amounts to strategic sale or privatisation.

- Nationalisation is the opposite process, in which the government takes over private enterprises.
- Disinvestment became a part of policy after the 1991 reforms.
- The Department of Investment and Public Asset Management (DIPAM) looks after disinvestment.

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13 The concept of a socialist economy was propounded by:

[SSC CGL 05 Oct 2026, Shift-I]

(a) Adam Smith (b) Alfred Marshall
(c) Karl Marx (d) David Ricardo

ANSWER (c) Karl Marx

The concept of a socialist economy, in which the means of production are owned and controlled by the state or society, was propounded by Karl Marx. Adam Smith is known for the free-market system and Ricardo and Marshall for classical and neoclassical economics.

- Adam Smith wrote 'The Wealth of Nations' (1776) and is called the father of economics.
- Karl Marx wrote 'Das Kapital' and, with Friedrich Engels, the 'Communist Manifesto'.
- The word 'Socialist' was added to the Preamble of the Indian Constitution by the 42nd Amendment in 1976.

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14 Which of the following factors does NOT determine demand?

[SSC CGL 05 Oct 2026, Shift-I]

(a) Price of the commodity
(b) Disposable income of the consumer
(c) Price of factors of production
(d) Price of related goods

ANSWER (c) Price of factors of production

The price of factors of production does not determine demand; it affects the cost of production and hence the supply of a commodity. Demand depends on the price of the commodity, the consumer's income, the prices of related goods, tastes and preferences, and expectations.

- Related goods are of two types: substitutes (tea and coffee) and complements (car and petrol).
- For a normal good, demand rises as the consumer's income rises.
- A change in the commodity's own price causes a movement along the demand curve, while a change in other factors shifts the curve.

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15 Indian planning was inspired by

[SSC CGL 05 Oct 2026, Shift-I]

(a) U.S. model (b) Soviet model
(c) British model (d) Chinese model

ANSWER (b) Soviet model

Indian planning was inspired by the Soviet model of centralised five-year plans. India set up the Planning Commission in March 1950, and the First Five-Year Plan began in 1951.

- The Second Plan (1956–61), based on the Mahalanobis model, stressed rapid industrialisation with priority to heavy industries.
- The First Plan (1951–56) was based on the Harrod–Domar model and gave priority to agriculture.

- The Planning Commission was replaced by NITI Aayog on 1 January 2015.

16 In which year did India face a balance-of-payments crisis that led to the introduction of economic reforms?

[SSC CGL 05 Oct 2026, Shift-I]

(a) 1988 (b) 1984
(c) 1991 (d) 1999

ANSWER (c) 1991

India faced a severe balance-of-payments crisis in 1991, when foreign exchange reserves were almost exhausted, and this led to the introduction of economic reforms in July 1991.

- The reforms were led by Prime Minister P. V. Narasimha Rao and Finance Minister Manmohan Singh.
- The three main strands of the reforms were liberalisation, privatisation and globalisation.
- India took loans from the IMF and the World Bank and agreed to structural adjustment.

17 Which international Institutions provided financial assistance to India to overcome the severe balance of payments crisis in 1991?

[SSC CGL 05 Oct 2026, Shift-I]

(a) World Trade Organization and World Bank
(b) Asian Development Bank and World Trade Organization
(c) World Bank and International Monetary Fund
(d) International Monetary Fund and Asian Development Bank

ANSWER (c) World Bank and International Monetary Fund

To overcome the 1991 balance-of-payments crisis, India received financial assistance from the World Bank and the International Monetary Fund (IMF). In return, India agreed to carry out structural reforms of its economy.

- The World Trade Organization was established only on 1 January 1995, after the crisis.
- Both the IMF and the World Bank were created at the Bretton Woods Conference in 1944.
- The conditions attached to the loans came to be known as structural adjustment.

18 Which of the following Indian institutions established during the 6th Five-Year Plan was tasked with strengthening external trade financing?

[SSC CGL 05 Oct 2026, Shift-II]

(a) State Bank of India (SBI)
(b) Small Industries Development Bank of India (SIDBI)
(c) Insurance Regulatory and Development Authority of India (IRDA)
(d) The Export-Import Bank of India (EXIM Bank)

ANSWER (d) The Export-Import Bank of India (EXIM Bank)

The Export-Import Bank of India (EXIM Bank) was established in 1982, during the Sixth Five-Year Plan (1980–85), to finance, facilitate and promote foreign trade. SBI was set up in 1955, SIDBI in 1990 and IRDA in 1999.

- NABARD was also set up in 1982, on 12 July, for agricultural and rural development finance.
- SIDBI (1990) is the principal financial institution for the promotion and financing of small industries.
- The Insurance Regulatory and Development Authority was established under the IRDA Act, 1999.

19 Which development during the post-1991 reform period enabled services such as accounting, banking, music recording, film editing and clinical advice to be outsourced to India?

[SSC CGL 05 Oct 2026, Shift-II]

(a) Expansion of digital communication networks
(b) Liberalisation of foreign trade policies
(c) Improvement in telecommunication links
(d) Growth of public sector enterprises

ANSWER (c) Improvement in telecommunication links

As per the official answer key, improvement in telecommunication links is the development that enabled services such as accounting, banking, music recording, film editing and clinical advice to be

outsourced to India. Better telecom links allowed such work to be done in India for firms abroad.

- Outsourcing means getting work done by an outside agency, often in another country, to cut costs.
- Business Process Outsourcing (BPO) and call centres grew rapidly in India after the 1990s.
- India's large English-speaking skilled workforce with lower wages added to the advantage.

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20 If a region has a Net Sown Area (NSA) of 80,000 hectares and a Gross Cropped Area (GCA) of 120,000 hectares, what is the cropping intensity?

[SSC CGL 05 Oct 2026, Shift-III]

(a) 125% (b) 150%
(c) 160% (d) 180%

ANSWER (b) 150%

Cropping intensity = (Gross Cropped Area ÷ Net Sown Area) × 100 = (120,000 ÷ 80,000) × 100 = 150%. This means that, on average, each hectare of net sown area is cropped 1.5 times in a year.

- Net Sown Area is the area sown with crops, counting an area only once even if sown many times.
- Gross Cropped Area = Net Sown Area + Area sown more than once.
- A higher cropping intensity shows that land is used more intensively, usually with irrigation.

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21 Which of the following represents the most comprehensive institutional reform underpinning the “Resolving Insolvency” component in the Ease of Doing Business Index?

[SSC CGL 06 Oct 2026, Shift-I]

(a) Debt Recovery Tribunal Act, 1993
(b) SEBI (Listing Obligations) Regulations, 2015
(c) IBC (Insolvency and Bankruptcy Code), 2016
(d) SICA (Sick Industrial Companies Act), 1985

ANSWER (c) IBC (Insolvency and Bankruptcy Code), 2016

The Insolvency and Bankruptcy Code (IBC), 2016 is the most comprehensive reform behind the 'Resolving Insolvency' parameter, as it created a single time-bound framework for corporate insolvency resolution and liquidation. It consolidated and replaced several older laws.

- IBC set up the Insolvency and Bankruptcy Board of India (IBBI) and the National Company Law Tribunal (NCLT) as adjudicating authority for companies.
- SICA, 1985 was repealed and the Board for Industrial and Financial Reconstruction (BIFR) was dissolved.
- Debts Recovery Tribunals were set up under the Recovery of Debts Due to Banks and Financial Institutions Act, 1993.

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22 Which reform under globalisation reduces custom duties, quotas and quantitative restrictions to facilitate the free flow of goods and services?

[SSC CGL 06 Oct 2026, Shift-I]

(a) Trade liberalisation (b) Industrial licensing
(c) Fiscal consolidation (d) Financial regulation

ANSWER (a) Trade liberalisation

Trade liberalisation is the reform that reduces customs duties (tariffs), quotas and quantitative restrictions to allow the free flow of goods and services across borders. After 1991 India removed import licensing and cut tariffs sharply.

- Tariff barriers are taxes on imports, and non-tariff barriers include quotas and licences.
- Industrial licensing was the system of permits for starting industries, which was largely abolished in 1991.
- Fiscal consolidation means reducing the fiscal deficit.

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23 Which committee was appointed in 1993 to examine insurance sector reforms following the 1991 economic reforms?

[SSC CGL 06 Oct 2026, Shift-I]

(a) Chelliah Committee (b) Malhotra Committee
(c) Tandon Committee (d) Rajan Committee

ANSWER (b) Malhotra Committee

The Malhotra Committee, headed by R. N. Malhotra, was appointed in 1993 to examine insurance sector reforms after the 1991 reforms. It recommended

opening the sector to private players, which led to the creation of the IRDA.

- The Insurance Regulatory and Development Authority (IRDA) was set up under the IRDA Act, 1999.
- Chelliah Committee dealt with tax reforms, and Tandon Committee with bank lending to industry (working capital).
- Narasimham Committee (1991, 1998) recommended banking sector reforms.

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24 In the capability approach to human development, the term "capabilities" primarily refers to:

[SSC CGL 06 Oct 2026, Shift-I]

(a) What nations can export and compete
(b) What governments can spend and provide
(c) What people can do and become
(d) What nations can achieve in military strength

ANSWER (c) What people can do and become

In the capability approach to human development, 'capabilities' refer to what people can do and become, that is, the real freedoms people have to lead the kind of life they value. The approach was developed by the economist Amartya Sen.

- Sen's approach shifts the focus from income to the freedoms and choices of people.
- The Human Development Index draws on this idea of expanding people's capabilities.
- Amartya Sen received the Nobel Prize in Economics in 1998.

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25 Which institution was envisaged to play a greater role in the planning process under the Tenth Five-Year Plan to promote balanced development?

[SSC CGL 06 Oct 2026, Shift-I]

(a) Reserve Bank of India
(b) Panchayati Raj Institutions
(c) International Monetary Fund
(d) Central Public Sector Enterprises

ANSWER (b) Panchayati Raj Institutions

The Tenth Five-Year Plan envisaged a greater role for Panchayati Raj Institutions (PRIs) in the planning process, so that development would be more balanced and planned from below. This follows the decentralisation brought by the 73rd and 74th Constitutional Amendments.

- The 73rd Amendment (1992) gave constitutional status to Panchayati Raj Institutions.
- The 74th Amendment (1992) did the same for urban local bodies.
- Part IX of the Constitution deals with Panchayats.

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26 According to the Seventh Five-Year Plan (1985-1990), why was the railway system considered vital to the Indian economy?

[SSC CGL 06 Oct 2026, Shift-II]

(a) It was the only mode of transport available
(b) It reduced the need for road transport
(c) It primarily supported urban development
(d) It was the backbone of the country's transport infrastructure

ANSWER (d) It was the backbone of the country's transport ...

As per the Seventh Five-Year Plan, the railway system was vital to the Indian economy because it was the backbone of the country's transport infrastructure, carrying bulk freight and a large share of passenger traffic over long distances. The other options either overstate or wrongly describe its role.

- Indian Railways is among the largest railway networks in the world and is run by the Ministry of Railways.
- The Seventh Plan (1985–90) emphasised food, work and productivity.
- The first passenger train in India ran between Bombay (Bori Bunder) and Thane on 16 April 1853.

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27 Under India's economic reforms since 1991, disinvestment was undertaken mainly to achieve which of the following objectives?

[SSC CGL 06 Oct 2026, Shift-II]

(a) Improve financial discipline and facilitate modernisation
(b) Expand industrial licensing and increase public ownership
(c) Promote import substitution and restrict private investment
(d) Increase budgetary support and reduce market competition

ANSWER (a) Improve financial discipline and facilitate modernisation

Disinvestment under the post-1991 reforms was undertaken mainly to improve financial discipline and facilitate modernisation of public sector enterprises, apart from raising resources for the government. The other options describe aims that are opposite to the spirit of the reforms.

- Disinvestment also aimed to widen share ownership and bring market discipline.
- Sale of PSE shares is monitored now by DIPAM under the Ministry of Finance.
- Strategic disinvestment involves transfer of management control to a private buyer.

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28 Which of the following statement regarding nominal and real GDP (Gross Domestic Product) is **correct**?

[SSC CGL 06 Oct 2026, Shift-III]

(a) Real GDP is calculated using current-year prices whereas nominal GDP uses base-year prices.
(b) Real GDP and nominal GDP always remain equal in every accounting year.
(c) Real GDP removes the effect of price changes through constant-base-year prices.
(d) Real GDP excludes services while nominal GDP includes both goods and services.

ANSWER (c) Real GDP removes the effect of price changes through ...

Real GDP removes the effect of price changes because it is calculated at constant base-year prices. Nominal GDP is measured at current-year prices, so it can rise merely because of inflation.

- GDP deflator = (Nominal GDP ÷ Real GDP) × 100, and it measures the price level for the whole economy.
- Both nominal and real GDP include goods and services.
- The two are equal only in the base year.

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29 Which of the following is a Maharatna Central Public Sector Enterprise?

[SSC CGL 06 Oct 2026, Shift-III]

(a) Hindustan Aeronautics Limited
(b) Mahanagar Telephone Nigam Limited
(c) Indian Oil Corporation Limited
(d) Bharat Sanchar Nigam Limited

ANSWER (c) Indian Oil Corporation Limited

Indian Oil Corporation Limited (IOCL) is a Maharatna Central Public Sector Enterprise. Maharatna is the highest category of CPSEs, which gives a company greater financial and operational autonomy. MTNL and BSNL are not Maharatna companies.

- The Maharatna category was created in 2010 by the Government of India.
- Other Maharatna companies include ONGC, NTPC, SAIL and Coal India.
- The categories of CPSEs are Maharatna, Navratna and Miniratna.

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30 Which of the following is the primary cause of the major breakdown and eventual failure of the Third Five-Year Plan to reach its targets?

[SSC CGL 06 Oct 2026, Shift-III]

(a) Runaway international crude oil price spikes
(b) External conflicts and severe droughts
(c) Political instability at the central government
(d) Implementation of massive pay commission awards

ANSWER (b) External conflicts and severe droughts

The Third Five-Year Plan (1961–66) failed to reach its targets mainly because of external conflicts, namely the Indo-China war of 1962 and the Indo-Pakistan war of 1965, and the severe droughts of 1965–66. Defence spending rose and agriculture suffered.

- The Third Plan, also called the 'Gadgil Plan', aimed at a self-reliant and self-generating economy.
- After the Third Plan, three Annual Plans (1966–69) were followed, known as the 'Plan holiday'.
- The Fourth Plan began in 1969.

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31 Which of the following industries continued to remain under industrial licensing even after the economic reforms initiated in 1991?

[SSC CGL 07 Oct 2026, Shift-I]

(a) Automobile and textile industries
(b) Alcohol and hazardous chemicals
(c) Cement and chemical fertiliser
(d) Sugar and paper manufacturing

ANSWER (b) Alcohol and hazardous chemicals

Even after the 1991 reforms, industrial licensing was retained for alcohol (alcoholic drinks) and hazardous chemicals, along with a few other categories such as tobacco products, industrial explosives and certain defence-related items, for reasons of safety, health and security. Automobiles, textiles, cement, fertilisers, sugar and paper were delicensed.

- The New Industrial Policy of 1991 abolished industrial licensing for all projects except a short list of industries.
- Earlier, the Industries (Development and Regulation) Act, 1951 governed licensing.
- The number of industries reserved for the public sector was also reduced sharply.

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32 Adult literacy rate was replaced in Human Development Index (HDI) methodology mainly because:

[SSC CGL 07 Oct 2026, Shift-I]

(a) It did not receive adequate acceptance from most countries.
(b) It did not adequately reflect the education dimension.
(c) It did not adequately capture differences in educational attainment.
(d) It did not provide reliable calculations for developing countries.

ANSWER (c) It did not adequately capture differences in educational ...

As per the official key, the adult literacy rate was replaced in the HDI methodology mainly because it did not adequately capture differences in educational attainment. Literacy only separates those who can read from those who cannot, whereas years of schooling show how much education people actually have.

- In the 2010 revision, UNDP replaced adult literacy and gross enrolment with mean years of schooling and expected years of schooling.
- From 2010, the income measure also changed from GDP per capita to GNI per capita.
- Life expectancy at birth measures the health dimension.

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33 Which government department coordinates the Business Reforms Action Plan (BRAP) exercise in India?

[SSC CGL 07 Oct 2026, Shift-I]

(a) Department for Promotion of Industry and Internal Trade
(b) Department for National Planning and Institutional Transformation
(c) Department for Securities Regulation and Investor Protection
(d) Department for Banking Regulation and Monetary Policy

ANSWER (a) Department for Promotion of Industry and Internal Trade

The Department for Promotion of Industry and Internal Trade (DPIIT), under the Ministry of Commerce and Industry, coordinates the Business Reforms Action Plan (BRAP) exercise. It ranks states on reforms that make doing business easier.

- BRAP was introduced in 2015 to encourage states to implement business reforms.
- DPIIT also looks after Startup India and the Make in India initiative.
- The World Bank's Ease of Doing Business report was discontinued in 2021.

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34 What is the primary objective of the Central Inspection System under the Business Reforms Action Plan?

[SSC CGL 07 Oct 2026, Shift-I]

(a) Introduce inspection free regulatory procedures
(b) Introduce privately managed inspection procedures
(c) Introduce more frequent inspection procedures
(d) Introduce integrated risk based inspections

ANSWER (d) Introduce integrated risk based inspections

As per the official answer key, the primary objective of the Central Inspection System under BRAP is to introduce integrated risk-based inspections. Inspections are planned on the basis of the risk level of

a business, so that low-risk units are not inspected unnecessarily.

- Risk-based inspection reduces harassment and compliance burden on businesses.
- The inspection reform is among the reforms under which states are assessed in BRAP.

35 Why does the fundamental economic problem of scarcity arise?

[SSC CGL 07 Oct 2026, Shift-I]

(a) Because governments intentionally limit all production
(b) Because wants exceed available resources
(c) Because firms always attempt to maximise profits
(d) Because the prices of all goods remain high

ANSWER (b) Because wants exceed available resources

Scarcity arises because human wants are unlimited while the resources available to satisfy them (land, labour, capital, enterprise) are limited and have alternative uses. This forces every economy to choose and is the root of the basic economic problem.

- The three central problems of every economy are what to produce, how to produce and for whom to produce.
- Choosing one alternative means giving up another; the value of the next best alternative forgone is called opportunity cost.
- A production possibility curve (PPC) illustrates scarcity, choice and opportunity cost.

36 Which of the following effects does a rise in the price of goods have on consumer surplus?

[SSC CGL 07 Oct 2026, Shift-II]

(a) Reduces
(b) Increases
(c) Neutral
(d) No effect

ANSWER (a) Reduces

Consumer surplus is the difference between what a consumer is willing to pay and what is actually paid. When the market price rises, the gap between willingness to pay and the price paid narrows, so consumer surplus falls.

- Consumer surplus is the area below the demand curve and above the price line.
- A fall in price raises consumer surplus; a rise in price reduces it.
- The concept of consumer surplus was popularised by Alfred Marshall, based on diminishing marginal utility.

37 In money supply, M2 refers to which of the following?

[SSC CGL 07 Oct 2026, Shift-II]

(a) M1 + savings deposits with post office savings banks
(b) M1 + net time deposits of banks
(c) M1 - savings deposits with post office savings banks
(d) M1 - net time deposits of banks

ANSWER (a) M1 + savings deposits with post office savings banks

In the traditional RBI classification, M2 = M1 + savings deposits with post office savings banks. M1 itself is currency with the public plus demand deposits with banks plus other deposits with the RBI.

- M3 = M1 + net time deposits of banks (the broad money aggregate).
- M4 = M3 + total deposits with the post office savings organisation (excluding National Savings Certificates).
- M1 and M2 are narrow money; M3 is broad money, and M1 is the most liquid of all.

38 Which committee highlighted the potential of small-scale industries for rural development in 1955?

[SSC CGL 07 Oct 2026, Shift-II]

(a) Narasimham Committee
(b) Gadgil Committee
(c) Karve Committee
(d) Roy Committee

ANSWER (c) Karve Committee

The Karve Committee (Village and Small-Scale Industries Committee, 1955) highlighted the potential of village and small-scale industries for rural development and employment generation. Its recommendations influenced the industrial approach of the Second Five-Year Plan.

- The Industrial Policy Resolution of 1956 gave importance to cottage and small-scale industries.

- The Narasimham Committee (1991, 1998) is associated with banking and financial sector reforms.
- The Gadgil Committee is associated with the Gadgil formula for distribution of Central assistance to states.

39 The foreign investment limit in banks was raised to around what percentage under the 1991 reform policies?

[SSC CGL 07 Oct 2026, Shift-II]

(a) 49%
(b) 51%
(c) 74%
(d) 100%

ANSWER (c) 74%

SSC Key (c) · Disputed question

As per the official key, the answer is 74%, following the NCERT line that the limit on foreign investment in banks was raised to around 74 per cent under the post-1991 reforms. This is a flawed premise: the 74% cap for private-sector banks was actually fixed in 2004, not in 1991.

- The 1991 reforms followed the Narasimham Committee on the financial system, which recommended opening up banking.
- Allowing new private-sector banks (from 1993) was part of banking sector reform.
- Foreign investment in public-sector banks is limited to 20%.

40 Which of the following was an outcome of the devaluation of the rupee under India's foreign exchange reforms of 1991?

[SSC CGL 07 Oct 2026, Shift-II]

(a) Decline in foreign exchange inflows.
(b) Increase in the inflow of foreign exchange.
(c) Complete abolition of exchange controls.
(d) Replacement of the rupee by a foreign currency.

ANSWER (b) Increase in the inflow of foreign exchange.

Devaluation makes exports cheaper and imports costlier, which encourages exports and inflows of foreign exchange such as remittances and investment.

The rupee was devalued in two steps in July 1991 as part of the response to the balance of payments crisis.

- The reforms later moved the rupee towards a market-determined exchange rate; partial convertibility on the current account followed in the early 1990s.
- Full current account convertibility under Article VIII of the IMF came in August 1994.
- Exchange controls were relaxed, not completely abolished, and the rupee was never replaced by a foreign currency.

41 Which committee/commission was appointed in 1921 to look into the separation of Railway Finances from General Finances?

[SSC CGL 07 Oct 2026, Shift-III]

(a) Hilton Young Commission
(b) Acworth Committee
(c) Strachey Committee
(d) Hunter Commission

ANSWER (b) Acworth Committee

The Acworth Committee, appointed in 1921 under Sir William Acworth, recommended separating railway finances from the general finances of the government. Based on its recommendation, a separate Railway Budget was presented from 1924-25.

- The separate Railway Budget continued until 2016; it was merged with the General Budget from 2017-18.
- The Hilton Young Commission (1926) dealt with the Indian currency and exchange ratio and led to the creation of the RBI.
- The Hunter Commission (1919) inquired into the Jallianwala Bagh massacre.

42 Quantitative restrictions introduced in 1991 reforms on imports on manufactured consumer goods and agricultural products, were fully removed in which year?

[SSC CGL 07 Oct 2026, Shift-III]

(a) April 1991
(b) April 1996
(c) April 2001
(d) April 2004

ANSWER (c) April 2001

India removed the remaining quantitative restrictions on imports of manufactured consumer goods and agricultural products in April 2001. This followed the WTO commitments and the trade liberalisation begun

in 1991, under which restrictions on capital goods and intermediates had been removed earlier.

- Under the 1991 reforms, import licensing for capital goods and intermediates was abolished first.
- Tariff rates were reduced in stages as part of the trade policy reforms of the 1990s.
- India became a founding member of the WTO in 1995.

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43 The "Goods and Services Tax (GST)" council is responsible for making recommendations on various aspects of GST. Who chairs this council?

[SSC CGL 08 Oct 2026, Shift-I]

(a) The President of India
(b) The Prime Minister of India
(c) The Union Finance Minister
(d) The Governor of the Reserve Bank of India

ANSWER (c) The Union Finance Minister

The GST Council is chaired by the Union Finance Minister. It is a constitutional body created under Article 279A, inserted by the 101st Constitutional Amendment Act, 2016.

- Its members include the Union Minister of State in charge of Revenue or Finance and the Minister in charge of Finance or Taxation of each state.
- GST was implemented across India from 1 July 2017.
- Decisions in the Council are taken by a majority of at least three-fourths of the weighted votes of members present and voting.

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44 The "Fiscal Responsibility and Budget Management (FRBM) Act" was enacted in India with the aim of bringing about fiscal discipline. Which of the following is a key target or provision of the FRBM Act?

[SSC CGL 08 Oct 2026, Shift-I]

(a) To ensure a fixed exchange rate for the Indian Rupee.
(b) To set limits on the government's borrowing and mandate the reduction of fiscal deficit and revenue deficit.
(c) To establish a national planning commission for economic development.
(d) To regulate the flow of foreign portfolio investment into the country.

ANSWER (b) To set limits on the government's borrowing and mandate ...

The FRBM Act, 2003 aims to institutionalise fiscal discipline by limiting government borrowing and requiring a progressive reduction of the fiscal deficit and the revenue deficit. It also promotes transparency in fiscal operations through medium-term fiscal policy statements.

- The Act was enacted in 2003 and came into force in 2004; rules under it were notified in 2004.
- The N.K. Singh Committee (2016) reviewed the FRBM framework and recommended a debt-to-GDP target as the anchor.
- Fiscal deficit = total expenditure minus total receipts excluding borrowings.

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45 What was the primary objective of granting Maharatna, Navratna and Miniratna status to selected Central Public Sector Enterprises under the post-1991 economic reforms?

[SSC CGL 08 Oct 2026, Shift-I]

(a) To increase Government ownership in all sectors
(b) To expand industrial licensing and price regulation
(c) To replace private investment with public investment
(d) To enhance autonomy and improve competitiveness

ANSWER (d) To enhance autonomy and improve competitiveness

The Maharatna, Navratna and Miniratna categories were created to give well-performing CPSEs greater operational and financial autonomy so that they could take commercial decisions quickly and compete better, including in global markets. Higher categories enjoy higher delegated investment powers.

- Navratna and Miniratna status was introduced in 1997; the Maharatna category was introduced in 2010.
- Miniratna CPSEs are divided into Category I and Category II.
- Examples of Maharatna CPSEs include IOC, ONGC, NTPC, SAIL, Coal India and BHEL.

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46 Who was the Governor of the Reserve Bank of India (RBI) during the 1991 balance of payments crisis?

[SSC CGL 08 Oct 2026, Shift-I]

(a) C. Rangarajan
(b) I.G. Patel
(c) Manmohan Singh
(d) S. Venkitaramanan

ANSWER (d) S. Venkitaramanan

S. Venkitaramanan was the Governor of the RBI (December 1990 to December 1992) during the 1991 balance of payments crisis. The crisis led to the economic reforms of 1991.

- Manmohan Singh was the Union Finance Minister and P.V. Narasimha Rao was the Prime Minister in 1991.
- I.G. Patel served as RBI Governor from 1977 to 1982.
- C. Rangarajan became RBI Governor in December 1992 and served until 1997.

47 Literacy is considered essential for human development because it enables people to:

[SSC CGL 08 Oct 2026, Shift-I]

(a) Acquire industrial knowledge, skills, and awareness
(b) Acquire import related knowledge, skills, and awareness
(c) Acquire knowledge, skills, and awareness
(d) Acquire taxation related knowledge, skills, and awareness

ANSWER (c) Acquire knowledge, skills, and awareness

Literacy is essential for human development because it enables people to acquire knowledge, skills and awareness. This improves their productivity, income opportunities, health choices and participation in society.

- Education is one of the three dimensions of the Human Development Index (HDI), along with health and standard of living.
- Literacy rate in the Census is the percentage of persons aged seven years and above who can read and write with understanding.
- Human capital formation through education and health raises the productive capacity of an economy.

48 Which of the following is reflected in the knowledge dimension of the Human Development Index (HDI)?

[SSC CGL 08 Oct 2026, Shift-I]

(a) Population growth
(b) Educational attainment
(c) Internet connectivity only
(d) Technological patents only

ANSWER (b) Educational attainment

The knowledge (education) dimension of the HDI reflects educational attainment, measured through mean years of schooling of adults and expected years of schooling of children.

- The health dimension is measured by life expectancy at birth.
- The standard-of-living dimension is measured by Gross National Income (GNI) per capita in PPP terms.
- The HDI is published by the UNDP in its Human Development Report; the concept was developed by Mahbub ul Haq and Amartya Sen in 1990.

49 What were the specific targeted growth rates for Real GDP and the agriculture sector established under the Twelfth Five-Year Plan (2012–2017)?

[SSC CGL 08 Oct 2026, Shift-I]

(a) Real GDP: 9.0%, Agriculture: 3.7%
(b) Real GDP: 8.0%, Agriculture: 4.0%
(c) Real GDP: 7.6%, Agriculture: 4.5%
(d) Real GDP: 6.5%, Agriculture: 3.5%

ANSWER (b) Real GDP: 8.0%, Agriculture: 4.0%

The Twelfth Five-Year Plan (2012-17) set a target of 8.0 per cent real GDP growth and 4.0 per cent agricultural growth. The target was lowered from the 9.0 per cent proposed in the approach paper because of a slowing global and domestic economy.

- The theme of the Twelfth Plan was 'Faster, More Inclusive and Sustainable Growth'.
- The Eleventh Plan (2007-12) had the theme 'Towards Faster and More Inclusive Growth'.
- The Planning Commission was replaced by NITI Aayog on 1 January 2015, so the Twelfth Plan was the last Five-Year Plan.

50 The Human Development Index (HDI) focuses on Gross National Income (GNI) per capita, rather

than Gross Domestic Product (GDP) per capita, and aims to:

[SSC CGL 08 Oct 2026, Shift-II]

(a) Exclude foreign income earned within a country.
(b) Include income earned by a country's residents abroad.
(c) Measure only government revenue.
(d) Focus solely on manufacturing output.

ANSWER (b) Include income earned by a country's residents abroad.

GNI equals GDP plus net factor income from abroad. By using GNI per capita, the HDI includes the income earned by a country's residents abroad (such as remittances and returns on overseas investments) and excludes income earned within the country by foreign residents.

- GNP = GDP + net factor income from abroad.
- Income is converted into international dollars using purchasing power parity (PPP) so that it can be compared across countries.
- In the HDI, income enters in logarithmic form.

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51 Which of the following was a key objective of the Fifth Five-Year Plan in the industrial sector?

[SSC CGL 08 Oct 2026, Shift-II]

(a) Complete privatization of industries
(b) Expansion of public sector enterprises
(c) Elimination of heavy industries
(d) Focus solely on small-scale industries

ANSWER (b) Expansion of public sector enterprises

In the industrial sector, the Fifth Five-Year Plan continued the emphasis on the expansion of public sector enterprises, especially in core and heavy industries, along with self-reliance. The plan's main objectives were removal of poverty (Garibi Hatao) and self-reliance.

- The Fifth Plan covered 1974-79 but was terminated a year early in 1978 by the Janata government.
- It was followed by the Rolling Plan (1978-80).
- The Industrial Policy Resolution of 1956 had reserved key industries for the public sector.

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52 What economic crisis prompted India to introduce the New Economic Policy (NEP) in 1991?

[SSC CGL 08 Oct 2026, Shift-II]

(a) Fiscal deficit financing crisis
(b) Balance of payments crisis
(c) Inflationary pressure crisis
(d) Foreign borrowing crisis

ANSWER (b) Balance of payments crisis

The New Economic Policy of 1991 was introduced in response to a balance of payments crisis, in which India's foreign exchange reserves fell so low that they could cover imports for only a few weeks. The government had to pledge gold abroad and seek help from the IMF.

- The Gulf War of 1990 raised oil prices and reduced remittances, worsening the crisis.
- The NEP rested on three pillars: Liberalisation, Privatisation and Globalisation (LPG).
- The reforms were launched under Prime Minister P.V. Narasimha Rao and Finance Minister Manmohan Singh.

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53 Which of the following countries has an HDI value classified as "Very High Human Development"?

[SSC CGL 08 Oct 2026, Shift-III]

(a) India
(b) Brazil
(c) Japan
(d) Chad

ANSWER (c) Japan

Japan is classified in the 'Very High Human Development' category of the UNDP's Human Development Index. India falls in the medium human development category, Brazil in the high category and Chad in the low category.

- UNDP classifies countries into four groups: very high, high, medium and low human development.
- Countries such as Norway, Switzerland and Iceland are regularly among the top HDI performers.
- The HDI is computed as the geometric mean of the normalised indices of health, education and income.

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54 The Break-event Chart portrays the relationship between:

[SSC CGL 08 Oct 2026, Shift-III]

(a) Price, cost, profit
(b) Cost, volume, profit
(c) Price, sales, profit
(d) Cost, sales, production

ANSWER (b) Cost, volume, profit

A break-even chart portrays the relationship between cost, volume and profit (CVP analysis). The break-even point is where total revenue equals total cost, so there is neither profit nor loss.

- Below the break-even point the firm incurs a loss; above it the firm earns profit.
- Break-even point = Fixed cost / (Selling price per unit - Variable cost per unit).
- Total cost = Fixed cost + Variable cost.

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55 Which of the following refers to the purchase of government bonds by the central bank to finance the spending needs of the government?

[SSC CGL 09 Oct 2026, Shift-I]

(a) Primary deficit
(b) Monetised deficit
(c) Capital deficit
(d) Fiscal deficit

ANSWER (b) Monetised deficit

A monetised deficit is the part of the government deficit financed by the central bank, either by buying government bonds or by lending directly to the government. It increases the money supply (reserve money) and can be inflationary.

- Primary deficit = Fiscal deficit minus interest payments.
- Fiscal deficit = Total expenditure minus total receipts excluding borrowings.
- Under the FRBM framework, direct RBI financing of the government deficit was phased out from 2006.

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56 Which country has the highest GDP in South Asia?

[SSC CGL 09 Oct 2026, Shift-I]

(a) India
(b) Pakistan
(c) Bangladesh
(d) Sri Lanka

ANSWER (a) India

India has the highest GDP among the countries of South Asia, far ahead of Pakistan, Bangladesh and Sri Lanka. It also has the largest population and land area in the region.

- South Asia includes India, Pakistan, Bangladesh, Sri Lanka, Nepal, Bhutan, Afghanistan and the Maldives.
- Regional cooperation in the area is promoted by SAARC, founded in 1985 with its secretariat at Kathmandu.
- GDP is the market value of all final goods and services produced within a country in a year.

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57 What was the primary objective of reducing import duties after the 1991 economic reforms?

[SSC CGL 09 Oct 2026, Shift-I]

(a) Integrate the Indian economy with the global market
(b) Eliminate exports
(c) Increase monopoly power of Indian firms
(d) Protect domestic industries from competition

ANSWER (a) Integrate the Indian economy with the global market

Import duties were reduced after 1991 mainly to integrate the Indian economy with the global market and to expose domestic industry to competition, which improves efficiency and quality. Earlier high tariffs had protected domestic industry but made it inefficient.

- The Chelliah Committee recommended a gradual reduction of the peak customs duty.
- Import licensing was abolished for most goods, and quantitative restrictions were later removed in 2001.
- Globalisation means integration of the domestic economy with the world economy.

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58 According to the World Happiness Report, corruption is assessed primarily through which of the following?

[SSC CGL 09 Oct 2026, Shift-I]

(a) Reports of political scandals
(b) Recorded cases of corruption
(c) Rates of conviction for corruption
(d) Perceptions of corruption

ANSWER (d) Perceptions of corruption

The World Happiness Report assesses corruption through perceptions of corruption, based on survey questions asked to people about corruption in

government and in business. It is one of the six factors used to explain differences in national happiness.

- The other factors are GDP per capita, social support, healthy life expectancy, freedom to make life choices and generosity.
- The report is published by the UN Sustainable Development Solutions Network, using Gallup World Poll data.
- It is released every year around 20 March, the International Day of Happiness.

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59 If the price of the commodity decreases from Rs. 100 to Rs. 105, and the quantity demanded decreases from 100 to 115, then what is the value of the price elasticity?

[SSC CGL 09 Oct 2026, Shift-II]

(a) 0.33
(b) 3
(c) 0.91
(d) 1.09

ANSWER (b) 3

Price elasticity of demand = percentage change in quantity demanded / percentage change in price. Taking the figures as given, the change in price is 5 on a base of 100, i.e. 5 per cent, and the change in quantity is 15 on a base of 100, i.e. 15 per cent, so elasticity = 15 / 5 = 3.

- Demand is elastic when the value of elasticity is greater than 1, unitary elastic when equal to 1 and inelastic when less than 1.
- Perfectly inelastic demand has elasticity of zero; perfectly elastic demand has infinite elasticity.
- Necessities generally have inelastic demand, while luxuries have elastic demand.

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60 An example of a direct tax is:

[SSC CGL 09 Oct 2026, Shift-II]

(a) Goods and services tax
(b) Excise duty
(c) Corporate tax
(d) Central sales tax

ANSWER (c) Corporate tax

Corporate tax is a direct tax because its burden falls on the company that pays it and cannot be shifted to another person. GST, excise duty and central sales tax are indirect taxes levied on goods and services.

- Other direct taxes include income tax, wealth tax (abolished in 2015) and capital gains tax.
- GST subsumed many indirect taxes such as central excise duty (on most goods), service tax and central sales tax from 1 July 2017.
- In a direct tax, the impact and incidence fall on the same person.

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61 Which of the following trade policy measure was taken as part of India's liberalisation policy in 1991?

[SSC CGL 09 Oct 2026, Shift-II]

(a) Trade tariffs were reduced.
(b) Trade tariffs were increased.
(c) Exports were reduced.
(d) Exports were increased.

ANSWER (a) Trade tariffs were reduced.

As part of the trade policy reforms under liberalisation in 1991, trade tariffs (import duties) were reduced and import licensing was dismantled. The aim was to open the economy to foreign competition and improve efficiency. Increased exports were an intended result, not a policy measure.

- Quantitative restrictions on imports were removed in stages and finally ended in 2001.
- Export promotion measures were also introduced, such as the Export-Import (EXIM) policy of 1992-97.
- The tariff structure was rationalised and the peak rate was reduced over the 1990s.

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62 Which factor constrained industrial expansion in several sectors following the economic reforms introduced in India in 1991?

[SSC CGL 09 Oct 2026, Shift-II]

(a) Excessive growth in export demand
(b) Declining use of foreign technology
(c) Restrictions on private participation
(d) Inadequate investment in infrastructure

ANSWER (d) Inadequate investment in infrastructure

Inadequate investment in infrastructure such as power, roads, ports and railways constrained industrial expansion in several sectors after the 1991 reforms.

Reforms removed licensing barriers, but poor infrastructure continued to limit growth.

- The reforms reduced restrictions on private participation and encouraged foreign technology agreements.
- The industrial licensing system was abolished for most industries under the Industrial Policy of 1991.
- Public investment in infrastructure fell during the fiscal consolidation that followed the reforms.

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63 As per Census of India 2011, what is the **correct** distribution of male and female workers in the Primary sector?

[SSC CGL 09 Oct 2026, Shift-III]

(a) Male – 15,66,43,220; Female – 4,37,41,311
(b) Male – 16,54,47,075; Female – 9,75,75,398
(c) Male – 16,54,47,075; Female – 4,37,41,311
(d) Male – 15,66,43,220; Female – 9,75,75,398

ANSWER (b) Male – 16,54,47,075; Female – 9,75,75,398

As per the official answer key, option B (Male - 16,54,47,075; Female - 9,75,75,398) is the correct distribution of workers in the primary sector as per Census 2011. The primary sector covers agriculture and allied activities such as cultivation, agricultural labour, livestock, forestry, fishing and mining.

- Census 2011 was the 15th national census of India and the 7th since Independence.
- The Census is conducted by the Office of the Registrar General and Census Commissioner, under the Ministry of Home Affairs.
- Workers are classified in the Census into main workers and marginal workers, and by industry into primary, secondary and tertiary sectors.

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64 Which committee was appointed in 1991 to recommend reforms in India's banking and financial sector?

[SSC CGL 09 Oct 2026, Shift-III]

(a) Chelliah Committee
(b) Rangrajan Committee
(c) Malhotra Committee
(d) Narasimham Committee

ANSWER (d) Narasimham Committee

The Narasimham Committee (Committee on the Financial System, 1991) was appointed to recommend reforms in India's banking and financial sector. It suggested reducing the SLR and CRR, deregulating interest rates, and introducing prudential norms such as capital adequacy and income recognition.

- The second Narasimham Committee (1998) recommended bank mergers and a stronger banking structure.
- The Chelliah Committee (1991) dealt with tax reforms.
- The Malhotra Committee (1993) dealt with reforms in the insurance sector.

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65 In the Third Five-Year Plan, which trade policy approach was primarily adopted to enhance the nation's foreign exchange earnings?

[SSC CGL 10 Oct 2026, Shift-I]

(a) Promotion of import-intensive industries
(b) Trade liberalization
(c) Implementation of currency devaluation measures
(d) Export promotion

ANSWER (d) Export promotion

In the Third Five-Year Plan (1961-66), export promotion was the main trade policy approach to raise foreign exchange earnings, as the country faced a shortage of foreign exchange. Import substitution continued alongside it.

- The rupee was devalued in June 1966, after the Third Plan period.
- The Third Plan was called a 'self-reliant and self-generating economy' plan, with priority to agriculture.
- The Third Plan was disrupted by the 1962 war with China and the 1965 war with Pakistan.

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66 The economic reforms initiated in 1991 promoted which of the following policy combinations?

[SSC CGL 10 Oct 2026, Shift-I]

(a) Industrial licensing and import restrictions
(b) Market based pricing and industrial dereservation
(c) Public ownership and centralised price fixation
(d) Export controls and mandatory production quotas

ANSWER (b) Market based pricing and industrial dereservation

The 1991 reforms promoted market-based pricing and industrial dereservation, i.e. opening up to the private sector industries earlier reserved for the public sector. Industrial licensing, import restrictions and administered pricing were reduced.

- Under the Industrial Policy of 1991, licensing was retained only for a short list of industries, and the number of industries reserved for the public sector was reduced sharply.
- The MRTP Act restrictions on large firms were relaxed.
- The reforms are summed up as Liberalisation, Privatisation and Globalisation (LPG).

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67 India approached which institution for financial assistance during the 1991 economic crisis?

[SSC CGL 10 Oct 2026, Shift-I]

(a) World Trade Organisation
(b) European Central Bank
(c) International Monetary Fund
(d) Asian Development Bank

ANSWER (c) International Monetary Fund

During the 1991 balance of payments crisis, India approached the International Monetary Fund (IMF) for financial assistance. The loan came with conditions requiring structural adjustment and stabilisation measures.

- The IMF was established in 1944 under the Bretton Woods system and is headquartered in Washington, D.C.
- The World Bank also supported India's structural adjustment in the early 1990s.
- The WTO, which came into existence in 1995, is not a lender.

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68 Mortality, fertility, and migration together primarily determine which of the following characteristics of a population?

[SSC CGL 10 Oct 2026, Shift-I]

(a) Inflation trends and price levels
(b) Population size and composition
(c) Gross domestic product growth
(d) Fiscal stability and public expenditure

ANSWER (b) Population size and composition

Mortality (deaths), fertility (births) and migration are the three demographic processes that together determine the size and composition (age and sex structure) of a population. Population change = births - deaths + net migration.

- Natural growth rate = birth rate minus death rate.
- Net migration = immigration minus emigration.
- In-migration and out-migration change the age-sex composition of a region.

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69 Which department is primarily responsible for promoting and coordinating Ease of Doing Business (EoDB) reforms in India?

[SSC CGL 10 Oct 2026, Shift-I]

(a) Department for Promotion of Industry and Internal Trade under the Ministry of Commerce and Industry
(b) Department of Legal Affairs under the Ministry of Law and Justice
(c) Department of Economic Affairs under the Ministry of Finance
(d) Development Monitoring and Evaluation Office under NITI Aayog

ANSWER (a) Department for Promotion of Industry and Internal Trade ...

The Department for Promotion of Industry and Internal Trade (DPIIT) under the Ministry of Commerce and Industry is the nodal department for promoting and coordinating Ease of Doing Business reforms, including the Business Reform Action Plan (BRAP) for states.

- DPIIT also administers the FDI policy and Startup India.
- The World Bank's Doing Business report, which ranked countries on ease of doing business, was discontinued in 2021 after data irregularities.

- The Ministry of Commerce and Industry has two departments: Commerce and DPIIT.

70 Which of the following was a specific, monitorable social target set out in India's Eleventh Five-Year Plan (2007–2012)?

[SSC CGL 10 Oct 2026, Shift-I]

(a) Reducing child malnutrition
(b) Expanding defence production
(c) Increasing customs revenue
(d) Privatising public enterprises

ANSWER (a) Reducing child malnutrition

The Eleventh Five-Year Plan (2007-12) set monitorable social targets, including a reduction in child malnutrition. Other targets related to reducing infant mortality and maternal mortality, raising the sex ratio and cutting the poverty ratio.

- Its theme was 'Towards Faster and More Inclusive Growth'.
- The plan targeted a GDP growth rate of 9 per cent per annum.
- Monitorable targets were first prominently adopted in the Tenth Plan.

71 In money supply, M3 refers to which of the following?

[SSC CGL 10 Oct 2026, Shift-II]

(a) M1 + savings deposits with post office savings banks
(b) M1 + net time deposits of banks
(c) M1 - savings deposits with post office savings banks
(d) M1 - net time deposits of banks

ANSWER (b) M1 + net time deposits of banks

SSC Key (a) · Correct answer (b)

The correct answer is B: as per the RBI definition, M3 = M1 + net time deposits of banks. SSC's key (A) is wrong because M1 + savings deposits with post office savings banks is M2, not M3.

- M1 = currency with the public + demand deposits with banks + other deposits with the RBI.
- M4 = M3 + total deposits with the post office savings organisation (excluding National Savings Certificates).
- M3 is called 'broad money'; M3 is the widest measure commonly used for money supply.

72 Which of the following best explains how Foreign Direct Investment (FDI) differs from Foreign Institutional Investment (FII)?

[SSC CGL 10 Oct 2026, Shift-II]

(a) Foreign Direct Investment (FDI) cannot be made in developing economies and is limited to developed countries
(b) Foreign Direct Investment (FDI) consists only of funds invested by foreign governments and excludes private investors
(c) Foreign Direct Investment (FDI) mainly involves short-term investment and trading in financial securities
(d) Foreign Direct Investment (FDI) creates a lasting interest and significant managerial influence in an enterprise

ANSWER (d) Foreign Direct Investment (FDI) creates a lasting ...

FDI creates a lasting interest and significant managerial influence in an enterprise, because the foreign investor acquires a substantial stake or sets up operations in the host country. FII (now called FPI, foreign portfolio investment) is mainly short-term investment in financial securities such as shares and bonds, with no management control.

- FDI is generally more stable and long-term; portfolio flows are volatile ('hot money').
- In India, the SEBI regulates foreign portfolio investors, while FDI policy is framed by DPIIT.
- FDI can be made in developing as well as developed economies and by private firms as well as governments.

73 What can the Human Development Index (HDI) be used to compare?

[SSC CGL 10 Oct 2026, Shift-II]

(a) Human development outcomes across countries
(b) Military capabilities across countries
(c) Human development outcomes only in Asian countries
(d) Human development outcomes only in developed countries

ANSWER (a) Human development outcomes across countries

The HDI is a standard measure that allows comparison of human development outcomes across countries (and across time, and between regions within a country). It combines health, education and income indicators in one index between 0 and 1.

- The HDI was introduced by UNDP in 1990 in the first Human Development Report.
- A higher value, closer to 1, indicates higher human development.
- The Inequality-adjusted HDI (IHDI) adjusts the HDI for inequality in distribution.

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74 Who served as the Deputy Governor of the Reserve Bank of India alongside Governor S. Venkitaramanan during the 1991 economic crisis?

[SSC CGL 10 Oct 2026, Shift-III]

(a) Manmohan Singh
(b) I.G. Patel
(c) C. Rangarajan
(d) Montek Singh Ahluwalia

ANSWER (c) C. Rangarajan

C. Rangarajan served as a Deputy Governor of the RBI during the period when S. Venkitaramanan was Governor, and he later became the Governor himself (December 1992 to November 1997). He was closely associated with the stabilisation and external sector reforms of that period.

- Manmohan Singh was the Union Finance Minister in 1991 and had earlier served as RBI Governor (1982-85).
- I.G. Patel was RBI Governor from 1977 to 1982.
- Montek Singh Ahluwalia was Commerce Secretary and then Finance Secretary around 1991-93, and later Deputy Chairman of the Planning Commission (2004-14).

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75 What specific subtitle and core theme were officially adopted for India's Twelfth Five-Year Plan (2012–2017)?

[SSC CGL 10 Oct 2026, Shift-III]

(a) Growth with Social Justice and Regional Equality
(b) Towards Faster and More Inclusive Growth
(c) Faster, More Inclusive and Sustainable Growth
(d) Growth, Economic Stability and Self-Reliance

ANSWER (c) Faster, More Inclusive and Sustainable Growth

The official theme of the Twelfth Five-Year Plan (2012-17) was 'Faster, More Inclusive and Sustainable Growth'. The addition of 'sustainable' distinguishes it from the Eleventh Plan, whose theme was 'Towards Faster and More Inclusive Growth'.

- The Twelfth Plan was the last Five-Year Plan; the Planning Commission was replaced by NITI Aayog in January 2015.
- The Plan's GDP growth target was 8.0 per cent and agriculture target 4.0 per cent.

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76 Which of the following is the best example of dynamic economic analysis?

[SSC CGL 10 Oct 2026, Shift-III]

(a) Examining consumer demand at a particular point in time
(b) Comparing the inflation rates of two countries during the same year
(c) Analysing how consumer demand changes over several years
(d) Examining an economy while assuming that all variables remain unchanged

ANSWER (c) Analysing how consumer demand changes over several years

Dynamic analysis studies how economic variables change over time and how the economy moves from one equilibrium to another. Analysing how consumer demand changes over several years is therefore dynamic analysis, while analysis at a point in time with variables held constant is static.

- Static analysis examines equilibrium at a given point of time, ignoring time lags and adjustment.
- Comparative statics compares two equilibrium positions, without studying the path between them.
- The terms 'static' and 'dynamic' in economics were popularised by Ragnar Frisch.

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77 Which of the following is the correct explanation of a consumer surplus?

[SSC CGL 12 Oct 2026, Shift-I]

(a) What the consumer pays (-) what it is worth
(b) What the consumer is ready to pay (-) what they actually pay
(c) What the seller quotes as the price (-) what the consumer actually pays
(d) What the seller quotes as the price (-) cost of manufacturing to the seller

ANSWER (b) What the consumer is ready to pay (-) what they actually pay

Consumer surplus = the maximum price a consumer is ready to pay minus the price actually paid. It measures the extra satisfaction (net benefit) a consumer gets from buying a good.

- Producer surplus = the price received by the seller minus the minimum price the seller is willing to accept (cost of production).
- Consumer surplus is shown graphically as the area below the demand curve and above the price line.
- The concept is based on the law of diminishing marginal utility.

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78 What is the formula for net investment?

[SSC CGL 12 Oct 2026, Shift-I]

(a) Gross investment - taxes
(b) Gross investment - interest expense
(c) Gross investment - depreciation
(d) Gross investment - dividend

ANSWER (c) Gross investment - depreciation

Net investment = Gross investment - Depreciation (consumption of fixed capital). It shows the actual addition to the capital stock of an economy.

- If gross investment equals depreciation, net investment is zero and the capital stock remains unchanged.
- Net National Product (NNP) = GNP - Depreciation.
- Gross investment = Net investment + Replacement investment (depreciation).

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79 As an outcome of the economic reforms initiated in 1991, which sector recorded the highest average annual growth rate during 2007–12?

[SSC CGL 12 Oct 2026, Shift-I]

(a) Agriculture sector
(b) Industrial sector
(c) Services sector
(d) Domestic sector

ANSWER (c) Services sector

The services sector recorded the highest average annual growth rate during 2007-12, ahead of industry and agriculture. Since the 1991 reforms, services have been the fastest-growing and largest sector in India's GDP.

- Services contribute the largest share of India's GDP, followed by industry and agriculture.
- Agriculture remains the largest employer despite its smaller share in GDP.
- Sectors of the economy: primary (agriculture), secondary (industry) and tertiary (services).

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80 One of the key objectives of the Chelliah Committee during the 1991 economic reforms was to make India's taxation system:

[SSC CGL 12 Oct 2026, Shift-I]

(a) Centralised and uniform
(b) Broad-based and fair
(c) State-controlled only
(d) Export-oriented only

ANSWER (b) Broad-based and fair

The Chelliah Committee (Tax Reforms Committee, 1991, chaired by Raja J. Chelliah) aimed to make India's tax system broad-based and fair, with moderate rates, simplicity and less evasion. It recommended reducing tax rates and rationalising customs duties.

- It recommended the introduction of a value added tax (VAT) in stages.
- VAT was introduced at the state level from 2005, and GST replaced it in 2017.
- The Narasimham Committee (1991) is associated with financial sector reforms.

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81 Which sector was accorded the highest priority under the Second Five-Year Plan?

[SSC CGL 12 Oct 2026, Shift-I]

(a) Heavy and basic industries
(b) Agriculture and irrigation
(c) Foreign trade promotion
(d) School education sector

ANSWER (a) Heavy and basic industries

The Second Five-Year Plan (1956-61) gave highest priority to heavy and basic industries, based on the

Mahalanobis model. It aimed at rapid industrialisation through the public sector.

- The steel plants at Bhilai, Durgapur and Rourkela were set up during this plan.
- The First Plan (1951-56) gave priority to agriculture and irrigation, based on the Harrod-Domar model.
- The Industrial Policy Resolution of 1956 was adopted in the same period.

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82 What is the central idea of the Harrod-Domar model of economic growth?

[SSC CGL 12 Oct 2026, Shift-II]

(a) Fiscal policy interventions drive growth trajectories
(b) Growth is driven by a foreign trade surplus
(c) Growth is determined by the interaction of savings and investment
(d) Factor endowments, particularly land and labor, constrain growth possibilities

ANSWER (c) Growth is determined by the interaction of savings and ...

The Harrod-Domar model holds that economic growth is determined by the interaction of savings and investment, i.e. the growth rate depends on the savings rate and the capital-output ratio (g = s / v). It stresses capital accumulation as the key to growth.

- The model was developed independently by Roy Harrod (1939) and Evsey Domar (1946).
- India's First Five-Year Plan (1951-56) was based on the Harrod-Domar model.
- The Solow model, in contrast, emphasises technology and diminishing returns to capital.

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83 The Logistics Performance Index (LPI) is an important benchmark published by which global institution?

[SSC CGL 12 Oct 2026, Shift-II]

(a) International Monetary Fund
(b) World Trade Organization
(c) The World Bank Group
(d) United Nations Conference

ANSWER (c) The World Bank Group

The Logistics Performance Index (LPI) is published by the World Bank Group. It benchmarks countries on trade logistics performance, covering aspects such as customs, infrastructure, shipments, tracking and timeliness.

- The World Bank was established in 1944 and is headquartered in Washington, D.C.
- India's National Logistics Policy was launched in September 2022.
- PM Gati Shakti, a national master plan for multimodal connectivity, was launched in October 2021.

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84 Which of the following areas experienced limits on public expenditure during the economic reforms introduced in India in 1991?

[SSC CGL 12 Oct 2026, Shift-II]

(a) Defence, transport and communication services
(b) Industry, trade and commerce
(c) Education, health and rural development
(d) Banking, life insurance and finance

ANSWER (c) Education, health and rural development

As per the standard assessment of the post-1991 reform period, fiscal consolidation and the need to reduce the fiscal deficit placed limits on public expenditure in social sectors such as education, health and rural development. This is often cited as a criticism of the reforms.

- The 1991 stabilisation programme aimed at reducing the fiscal deficit.
- Reforms reduced subsidies and cut public investment in several areas.
- Critics argue the reforms did not adequately address the social sector and employment.

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85 The banking sector reforms introduced after the 1991 economic reforms were implemented under the regulatory oversight of:

[SSC CGL 12 Oct 2026, Shift-III]

(a) Insurance Regulatory Development Authority of India
(b) Reserve Bank of India
(c) National Bank for Agriculture and Rural Development
(d) State Bank of India

ANSWER (b) Reserve Bank of India

The banking sector reforms after 1991 were implemented under the regulatory oversight of the

Reserve Bank of India, which is the central bank and regulator of banks in India. The reforms followed the Narasimham Committee recommendations.

- The RBI was established on 1 April 1935 and nationalised in 1949.
- The Banking Regulation Act, 1949 empowers the RBI to regulate commercial banks.
- NABARD (1982) is the apex institution for agricultural and rural credit; IRDAI regulates insurance.

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86 During the first Five-Year Plan, which of the following most accurately represents the trade balance scenario?

[SSC CGL 13 Oct 2026, Shift-I]

(a) India consistently maintained a trade surplus driven by robust export performance
(b) Trade data is unavailable for this period
(c) The trade balance remained neutral, with exports and imports being roughly equal
(d) India generally experienced trade deficits due to large-scale imports for industrialization

ANSWER (d) India generally experienced trade deficits due to ...

During the First Five-Year Plan (1951-56), India generally experienced trade deficits because of large-scale imports of capital goods, machinery and foodgrains needed for development. Exports could not keep pace with imports.

- Foreign exchange scarcity became acute in the Second Plan period (1956-61).
- A trade deficit means imports of goods exceed exports of goods.
- The First Plan was based on the Harrod-Domar model and gave priority to agriculture and irrigation.

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87 Under the economic reforms introduced since 1991, which of the following pairs of Central Public Sector Enterprises (CPSEs) has been granted Maharatna status?

[SSC CGL 13 Oct 2026, Shift-I]

(a) Indian Oil Corporation Limited and Steel Authority of India Limited
(b) Hindustan Aeronautics Limited and Mahanagar Telephone Nigam Limited
(c) Bharat Sanchar Nigam Limited and Airports Authority of India
(d) Tourism Corporation Limited and Mahanagar Telephone Nigam Limited

ANSWER (a) Indian Oil Corporation Limited and Steel Authority of ...

Indian Oil Corporation Limited (IOC) and Steel Authority of India Limited (SAIL) both hold Maharatna status. The Maharatna category, introduced in 2010, gives CPSEs greater financial autonomy, including the power to invest larger amounts without government approval.

- MTNL and BSNL are not Maharatna CPSEs.
- Other Maharatna CPSEs include ONGC, NTPC, Coal India, BHEL, GAIL and Power Grid.
- Navratna and Miniratna categories were created in 1997.

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88 Which of the following was the primary stabilisation measures taken under the New Economic Policy (NEP) of 1991?

[SSC CGL 13 Oct 2026, Shift-I]

(a) Long-term measures to improve efficiency
(b) Short-term measures to control inflation
(c) Measures to increase international competitiveness
(d) Measures to remove rigidities in the economy

ANSWER (b) Short-term measures to control inflation

Stabilisation measures under the 1991 NEP were short-term measures meant to correct the balance of payments problem and bring inflation under control. They included devaluation of the rupee and reduction of the fiscal deficit.

- Structural reforms are long-term measures that improve efficiency, increase international competitiveness and remove rigidities in the economy.
- Structural reforms covered industrial, trade, financial, tax and public sector policies.
- The NEP was announced in July 1991.

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89 Which dimension of Human Development Index (HDI) is most directly linked with longevity?

[SSC CGL 13 Oct 2026, Shift-I]

(a) Knowledge (b) Income
(c) Employment (d) Health

ANSWER (d) Health

The health dimension of the HDI is most directly linked with longevity. It is measured by life expectancy at birth.

- The knowledge dimension is measured by mean years of schooling and expected years of schooling.
- The income dimension is measured by GNI per capita (PPP).
- Employment is not a dimension of the HDI.

90 In the calculation of the Human Development Index (HDI), purchasing power parity (PPP) is primarily used to:

[SSC CGL 13 Oct 2026, Shift-I]

(a) Compare income levels across countries after accounting for differences in the cost of living
(b) Compare unemployment levels across countries after accounting for differences in labour-force participation
(c) Compare population growth rates across countries after accounting for differences in demographic trends
(d) Compare literacy levels across countries after accounting for differences in educational systems

ANSWER (a) Compare income levels across countries after accounting ...

Purchasing power parity (PPP) adjusts income for differences in the cost of living and price levels across countries, so that the incomes of different countries can be compared in terms of what they can actually buy. The HDI therefore uses GNI per capita in PPP terms.

- PPP is expressed in international dollars.
- The theory of PPP was popularised by Gustav Cassel.
- PPP-based GDP comparisons give a larger weight to economies like India than market exchange rates do.

91 What primary mandate was given to the Planning Commission of India upon its establishment in March 1950?

[SSC CGL 13 Oct 2026, Shift-I]

(a) Conducting national demographic census surveys
(b) Managing direct foreign investment flows
(c) Formulating balanced national resource utilization
(d) Operating basic and heavy industries

ANSWER (c) Formulating balanced national resource utilization

The Planning Commission, set up on 15 March 1950 by an executive resolution of the Government of India, was mandated to formulate a plan for the most effective and balanced utilisation of the country's resources. It was a non-constitutional, non-statutory body.

- The Prime Minister was the ex-officio chairman of the Planning Commission.
- The first Five-Year Plan began in 1951.
- The Commission was replaced by NITI Aayog on 1 January 2015.

92 In open market operations, the RBI buys and sells _____ to regulate the money supply.

[SSC CGL 13 Oct 2026, Shift-II]

(a) shares (b) debentures
(c) government securities (d) bonds

ANSWER (c) government securities

In open market operations (OMO), the RBI buys and sells government securities to regulate the money supply and liquidity. Buying securities injects money into the economy, while selling them withdraws money.

- Other quantitative tools of monetary policy include bank rate, repo rate, CRR and SLR.
- Repo rate is the rate at which the RBI lends short-term funds to banks against government securities.
- The Monetary Policy Committee (MPC), formed in 2016, decides the policy rate.

93 Which of the following is commonly cited as a major advantage of privatisation?

[SSC CGL 13 Oct 2026, Shift-II]

(a) It guarantees the achievement of all social-welfare objectives and equitable outcomes
(b) It removes competition from the market and reduces market rivalry
(c) It eliminates every form of market failure and economic inefficiency
(d) It may improve organisational accountability and operational efficiency

ANSWER (d) It may improve organisational accountability and ...

A commonly cited advantage of privatisation is that it may improve organisational accountability and operational efficiency, because private owners face profit motives and market competition. It does not guarantee social-welfare goals or remove market failure.

- Privatisation means transfer of ownership or management of a public sector enterprise to the private sector.
- Disinvestment is the sale of part of the government's equity in a public sector enterprise.
- Critics note that privatisation may reduce public welfare objectives and may create private monopolies.

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94 What is meant by disinvestment of public sector enterprises in India?

[SSC CGL 13 Oct 2026, Shift-III]

(a) Merging two loss-making public sector companies
(b) Nationalising a private sector company
(c) Selling off part of the equity of PSEs to the public
(d) Closing down a public sector enterprise permanently

ANSWER (c) Selling off part of the equity of PSEs to the public

Disinvestment means selling off part of the government's equity in public sector enterprises (PSEs) to the public or private investors. It raises revenue for the government and promotes wider ownership and efficiency.

- Disinvestment began in 1991-92 with the sale of minority shares of selected PSEs.
- Strategic disinvestment involves transfer of management control to a private buyer.
- Disinvestment is handled by the Department of Investment and Public Asset Management (DIPAM) under the Ministry of Finance.

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95 Which of the following sectors was declared the "prime moving force" of the Indian economy under the Tenth Five-Year Plan (2002–2007)?

[SSC CGL 13 Oct 2026, Shift-III]

(a) Industrial sector
(b) Agriculture sector
(c) Service sector
(d) External trade sector

ANSWER (b) Agriculture sector

The Tenth Five-Year Plan (2002-07) declared the agriculture sector as the 'prime moving force' of the Indian economy. The plan stressed that faster agricultural growth was necessary for overall growth and poverty reduction.

- The Tenth Plan set a GDP growth target of 8 per cent per annum.
- It introduced monitorable targets for key development indicators.
- The Twelfth Plan (2012-17) was the last Five-Year Plan.

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96 Which of the following correctly distinguishes movement along a demand curve from a shift in the demand curve?

[SSC CGL 13 Oct 2026, Shift-III]

(a) Both are caused only by price changes.
(b) Movement occurs due to income changes and shifts due to price changes.
(c) Movement occurs due to own price changes, shift due to other determinants.
(d) A shift means only a change in quantity demanded.

ANSWER (c) Movement occurs due to own price changes, shift due to ...

A movement along the demand curve (extension or contraction of demand) is caused by a change in the good's own price, other things remaining equal. A shift of the demand curve (increase or decrease in demand) is caused by other determinants such as income, tastes, prices of related goods and expectations.

- Rightward shift = increase in demand; leftward shift = decrease in demand.

- Change in quantity demanded refers to movement along the curve; change in demand refers to a shift.
- The law of demand states that, other things equal, quantity demanded falls when price rises.

97 **Fill in the blank:**
Integration of the economy of the country with the world economy is known as____.

[SSC CGL 14 Oct 2026, Shift-I]

(a) Globalisation
(b) Nationalisation
(c) Disinvestment
(d) Liberalisation

ANSWER (a) Globalisation

Integration of a country's economy with the world economy is known as globalisation. It involves free flow of goods, services, capital, technology and people across national borders.

- Liberalisation means removal of government controls and restrictions on economic activity.
- Nationalisation is the transfer of private enterprises to government ownership.
- India's LPG reforms of 1991 stand for Liberalisation, Privatisation and Globalisation.

98 What major policy action was taken during the "Three Annual Plans" of India (1966–1969), colloquially called the "Plan Holiday"?

[SSC CGL 14 Oct 2026, Shift-I]

(a) Nationalization of major commercial banks
(b) Implementation of new agricultural strategies
(c) Initiation of structural economic reforms
(d) Mandatory implementation of population restrictions

ANSWER (b) Implementation of new agricultural strategies

During the Plan Holiday of 1966-69, a new agricultural strategy was implemented, centred on high-yielding variety (HYV) seeds, fertilisers and irrigation. This marked the beginning of the Green Revolution in India.

- The Plan Holiday followed the wars of 1962 and 1965, a severe drought and the devaluation of the rupee in 1966.
- The Fourth Five-Year Plan began in 1969.
- Fourteen major commercial banks were nationalised in July 1969, after the Plan Holiday had ended; it was not the key action of these annual plans.

99 A university raises its tuition fee by 20%. As a result, student enrolment decreases by 30%, while all other factors remain unchanged. Which of the following statements correctly describes the price elasticity of demand and the resulting change in the university's total tuition revenue?

[SSC CGL 14 Oct 2026, Shift-I]

(a) Demand is inelastic, and total tuition revenue increases.
(b) Demand is elastic, and total tuition revenue decreases.
(c) Demand is unit elastic, and total tuition revenue remains unchanged.
(d) Demand is perfectly elastic, and total tuition revenue becomes zero.

ANSWER (b) Demand is elastic, and total tuition revenue decreases.

Price elasticity of demand = 30 / 20 = 1.5, which is greater than 1, so demand is elastic. When demand is elastic, a rise in price reduces total revenue: new revenue = 1.2 x 0.7 = 0.84 of the earlier revenue.

- Elastic demand (Ed > 1): price and total revenue move in opposite directions.
- Inelastic demand (Ed < 1): price and total revenue move in the same direction.
- Unit elastic demand (Ed = 1): total revenue remains unchanged when price changes.

100 Which of the following ministries prepared the budget in India?

[SSC CGL 14 Oct 2026, Shift-II]

(a) Commerce and Industry
(b) Finance
(c) Planning
(d) Corporate affairs

ANSWER (b) Finance

The Union Budget in India is prepared by the Ministry of Finance, mainly by the Budget Division of the Department of Economic Affairs. It is presented in Parliament as the 'Annual Financial Statement' under Article 112 of the Constitution.

- The financial year runs from 1 April to 31 March.
- The Union Budget is presented to the Lok Sabha by the Finance Minister.

- The first Budget of independent India was presented by R.K. Shanmukham Chetty in November 1947.

101 In money supply, M3 refers to which of the following?

[SSC CGL 14 Oct 2026, Shift-II]

(a) M1 + savings deposits with post office savings banks
(b) M1 - savings deposits with post office savings banks
(c) M1 + net time deposits of banks
(d) M1 - net time deposits of banks

ANSWER (c) M1 + net time deposits of banks

M3 = M1 + net time deposits of banks. It is called broad money and is the most widely used measure of the money supply in India.

- M1 = currency with the public + demand deposits with banks + other deposits with the RBI.
- M2 = M1 + savings deposits with post office savings banks.
- M4 = M3 + total deposits with the post office savings organisation (excluding National Savings Certificates).

102 Which of the following industries is an example of a Basic Industry?

[SSC CGL 14 Oct 2026, Shift-II]

(a) Toothpaste industry
(b) Soap industry
(c) Iron and steel industry
(d) Textiles and Apparel industry

ANSWER (c) Iron and steel industry

The iron and steel industry is a basic industry because its products serve as raw material or input for many other industries such as machinery, construction and transport. Basic industries are also called core industries.

- Other basic industries include cement, coal, electricity, fertilisers and petroleum.
- Toothpaste, soap and textiles are consumer goods industries.
- Basic industries form the foundation for the growth of other industries.

103 What was the primary objective of token privatisation or disinvestment under the economic reforms of 1991?

[SSC CGL 14 Oct 2026, Shift-II]

(a) Expanding public ownership across industries
(b) Obtaining revenue to reduce budget deficits
(c) Increasing industrial licensing requirements nationally
(d) Promoting administrative control over prices

ANSWER (b) Obtaining revenue to reduce budget deficits

Under the 1991 reforms, token privatisation or disinvestment, that is the sale of small portions of government equity in selected public sector enterprises, was mainly aimed at obtaining revenue to reduce budget deficits. Improving efficiency and widening ownership were additional aims.

- Disinvestment started in 1991-92 with sale of minority shares.
- The Department of Disinvestment was created in 1999 and is now DIPAM.
- Strategic sale involves transfer of management control to a private party.

104 In 1991, what was the primary aim of introducing liberalisation?

[SSC CGL 14 Oct 2026, Shift-II]

(a) Restricting more sectors of economy
(b) Opening up various sectors of economy
(c) Nationalising more industries
(d) Reducing foreign investment

ANSWER (b) Opening up various sectors of economy

The primary aim of liberalisation in 1991 was opening up various sectors of the economy by removing government controls such as industrial licensing, import restrictions and entry barriers. It encouraged private and foreign participation and competition.

- Liberalisation, Privatisation and Globalisation (LPG) were the three pillars of the 1991 reforms.
- Industrial licensing was abolished for most industries.
- Foreign direct investment up to 51 per cent was allowed through automatic approval in many high-priority industries.

105 The Second Five-Year Plan was based on which economic model, and what was its primary objective?

[SSC CGL 14 Oct 2026, Shift-II]

(a) Mahalanobis model; Rapid industrialization
(b) Harrod–Domar model; Agricultural development
(c) Keynesian model; Demand management
(d) Classical model; Trade expansion

ANSWER (a) Mahalanobis model; Rapid industrialization

The Second Five-Year Plan (1956-61) was based on the Mahalanobis model, drafted by P.C. Mahalanobis, and its primary objective was rapid industrialisation with emphasis on heavy and basic industries in the public sector.

- The Second Plan was also called the Nehru-Mahalanobis plan.
- The First Plan (1951-56) was based on the Harrod-Domar model.
- The Mahalanobis model is a two-sector (later four-sector) model that gives priority to the capital goods sector.

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106 The improvement in food demand after the 1991 reforms was mainly attributed to:

[SSC CGL 14 Oct 2026, Shift-III]

(a) Higher economic growth
(b) Increased farm subsidies
(c) Higher import duties
(d) Expanded irrigation

ANSWER (a) Higher economic growth

The improvement in food demand after the 1991 reforms was mainly attributed to higher economic growth, which raised incomes and hence the demand for food, including high-value items such as fruits, vegetables, milk and meat.

- As income rises, the share of cereals in food expenditure falls and the demand for protein-rich and high-value food items rises (Engel's law).
- Engel's law: as income rises, the proportion of income spent on food falls.
- Higher incomes also improved nutrition and consumption patterns.

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107 Which indicator is used to measure the standard-of-living dimension of the Human Development Index (HDI)?

[SSC CGL 14 Oct 2026, Shift-III]

(a) Gross National Income (GNI) per capita Purchasing Power Parity (PPP)
(b) Gross Domestic Product (GDP) per capita Purchasing Power Parity (PPP)
(c) Net National Product (NNP) per capita Purchasing Power Parity (PPP)
(d) Disposable income per capita Purchasing Power Parity (PPP)

ANSWER (a) Gross National Income (GNI) per capita Purchasing Power ...

The standard-of-living dimension of the HDI is measured by Gross National Income (GNI) per capita in purchasing power parity (PPP) terms. GNI is used instead of GDP because it includes income earned by residents abroad.

- Health is measured by life expectancy at birth.
- Education is measured by mean years of schooling and expected years of schooling.
- Since 2010, the HDI has been calculated using the geometric mean of the three dimension indices.

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108 The Human Development Index (HDI) uses logarithmic transformation for Gross National Income (GNI) per capita, and aims to:

[SSC CGL 15 Oct 2026, Shift-I]

(a) Reduce the impact of extremely high incomes.
(b) Give more weight to higher incomes.
(c) Exclude income from natural resource extraction.
(d) Adjust for inflation.

ANSWER (a) Reduce the impact of extremely high incomes.

The HDI takes the logarithm of income to reflect the diminishing marginal importance of income for human development: each additional unit of income adds less to well-being at higher income levels. This reduces the impact of extremely high incomes.

- Income is capped at a maximum value in the HDI calculation, and minimum values are also fixed (goalposts).
- PPP adjustment, not logarithm, handles differences in price levels.

- The HDI value lies between 0 and 1.

109 Which of the following constituted the core thrust areas of the Rolling Plan (1978–1980), which superseded the Fifth Five-Year Plan in its policy orientation?

[SSC CGL 15 Oct 2026, Shift-I]

(a) Rural development and social welfare programme
(b) Space technology development
(c) Strategic disinvestment and privatization of state-owned enterprises
(d) Promotion of outward-looking, export-driven economic strategies

ANSWER (a) Rural development and social welfare programme

The Rolling Plan (1978-80), introduced by the Janata Party government after it terminated the Fifth Plan in 1978, laid its core thrust on rural development and social welfare programmes, with emphasis on employment and the removal of poverty.

- The Rolling Plan concept, under which targets are revised every year, was introduced in India by the Janata government.
- The Sixth Five-Year Plan was launched in 1980 by the Congress government.
- The Janata government's approach also reflected a greater priority to agriculture and small-scale industries.

110 Which one of the following industries uses limestone as a principal raw material?

[SSC CGL 15 Oct 2026, Shift-I]

(a) Aluminium
(b) Cement
(c) Fertiliser
(d) Ferromanganese

ANSWER (b) Cement

The cement industry uses limestone as its principal raw material, along with clay, gypsum and other materials. Limestone is a sedimentary rock mainly composed of calcium carbonate.

- Limestone is also used as a flux in the iron and steel industry.
- Bauxite is the principal ore for aluminium.
- Major limestone-producing states include Rajasthan, Madhya Pradesh, Andhra Pradesh, Gujarat and Karnataka.

111 Which international organisation, established in 1995 as the successor to the General Agreement on Tariffs and Trade (GATT), regulates global trade rules?

[SSC CGL 15 Oct 2026, Shift-I]

(a) International Monetary Fund
(b) United Nations Conference on Trade and Development
(c) World Trade Organization
(d) Organisation for Economic Co-operation and Development

ANSWER (c) World Trade Organization

The World Trade Organization (WTO) was established on 1 January 1995 as the successor to the General Agreement on Tariffs and Trade (GATT) and regulates global trade rules. It resulted from the Uruguay Round of negotiations.

- The WTO is headquartered in Geneva, Switzerland.
- GATT was signed in 1947 and came into force in 1948.
- The WTO's highest decision-making body is the Ministerial Conference, which meets at least once every two years.

112 Devaluation of the rupee in 1991 led to which of the following outcomes?

[SSC CGL 15 Oct 2026, Shift-II]

(a) Decrease in exports of goods
(b) Increase in foreign exchange inflow
(c) Decrease in foreign investment
(d) Increase in import restrictions

ANSWER (b) Increase in foreign exchange inflow

Devaluation makes the domestic currency cheaper in terms of foreign currencies, so exports become cheaper and more competitive abroad and imports become costlier. The result is higher export earnings and a larger inflow of foreign exchange. In July 1991

the rupee was devalued in two steps as part of the response to the balance-of-payments crisis.

- The 1991 crisis arose because foreign exchange reserves had fallen to a level sufficient for only about two to three weeks of imports.
- India pledged gold to the Bank of England and the Bank of Japan to raise foreign exchange.
- The rupee was made partially convertible in 1992-93 (LERMS) and convertible on the current account in 1994.

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113 Which structural shift marked the initiation of the Second Five-Year Plan in India (1956–1961)?

[SSC CGL 15 Oct 2026, Shift-II]

(a) Maximizing rural employment opportunities
(b) Prioritizing heavy basic industries
(c) Achieving absolute food self-sufficiency
(d) Reducing complete reliance on imports

ANSWER (b) Prioritizing heavy basic industries

The Second Five-Year Plan was based on the Mahalanobis model, which gave priority to heavy and basic industries (capital goods, steel, power) to build an industrial base for long-run growth. The public sector was given the commanding role, and the Industrial Policy Resolution of 1956 supported this strategy.

- The plan was drafted under the leadership of P.C. Mahalanobis.
- Steel plants at Bhilai, Rourkela and Durgapur were set up during this plan.
- The First Plan (1951–56) had followed the Harrod-Domar model with stress on agriculture.

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114 Which statement best reflects a major paradox associated with industrialization?

[SSC CGL 15 Oct 2026, Shift-II]

(a) Industrialisation decreases urban migration and reduces population concentration.
(b) Economic growth may occur and be accompanied by ecological damage and inequality.
(c) Industrial development reduces consumerism and limits material consumption.
(d) Urban centres are self-sufficient and function as independent ecosystems.

ANSWER (b) Economic growth may occur and be accompanied by ...

The paradox of industrialisation is that it raises output, income and employment, yet it also tends to cause environmental degradation (pollution, resource depletion) and widening inequality between regions and groups. Hence growth alone is not development, which is why sustainable and inclusive growth is stressed.

- Industrialisation generally increases, not decreases, rural-to-urban migration.
- Sustainable development meets present needs without compromising the needs of future generations.
- Urban centres depend on their hinterland for food, water and raw materials.

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115 Why is the demand for salt generally less price-elastic than the demand for branded chocolates?

[SSC CGL 15 Oct 2026, Shift-II]

(a) Salt has more close substitutes than branded chocolates.
(b) Salt accounts for a larger proportion of consumers' income.
(c) Salt is a necessity and has relatively few close substitutes.
(d) Branded chocolates are inferior goods.

ANSWER (c) Salt is a necessity and has relatively few close ...

Price elasticity of demand is low for necessities and for goods with few close substitutes, because consumers must buy them even when the price rises. Salt is a necessity, has hardly any substitute and takes a very small share of income, so its demand is inelastic. Branded chocolates are a luxury with many substitutes, so demand for them is more elastic.

- Elasticity is higher when a good has many close substitutes and takes a large share of income.
- Luxury goods generally have elastic demand.
- The longer the time period, the more elastic demand tends to be.

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116 Who was appointed as the Finance Minister of India in June 1991 to lead the economic reforms?

[SSC CGL 15 Oct 2026, Shift-III]

(a) I.G. Patel (b) Pranab Mukherjee
(c) Manmohan Singh (d) C. Rangarajan

ANSWER (c) Manmohan Singh

Dr. Manmohan Singh became Finance Minister in June 1991 in the P.V. Narasimha Rao government and presented the Union Budget of 24 July 1991, which launched the New Economic Policy of liberalisation, privatisation and globalisation (LPG).

- The New Industrial Policy was announced on 24 July 1991.
- The Narasimham Committee (1991) recommended banking-sector reforms.
- C. Rangarajan was RBI Governor from 1992 to 1997.

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117 Which statement accurately describes the actual growth outcomes of the First Five-Year Plan?

[SSC CGL 15 Oct 2026, Shift-III]

(a) Actual growth 4.3% (b) Actual growth 3.6%
(c) Actual growth 2.8% (d) Actual growth 3.3%

ANSWER (b) Actual growth 3.6%

The First Five-Year Plan (1951–56) had a growth target of 2.1% per annum, but the actual growth achieved was 3.6%, so the target was exceeded. The plan followed the Harrod-Domar model and gave highest priority to agriculture, including irrigation and power.

- Major projects: Bhakra Nangal, Hirakud and Damodar Valley.
- The plan was presented by Jawaharlal Nehru.
- The Planning Commission was set up in March 1950.

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118 If the selling price of milk rises sharply, what is the most likely effect on the supply of butter, assuming milk can either be sold directly or used to produce butter?

[SSC CGL 15 Oct 2026, Shift-III]

(a) Butter supply increases.
(b) Butter supply decreases.
(c) Butter supply remains unchanged.
(d) Butter supply changes only temporarily.

ANSWER (b) Butter supply decreases.

Milk is the input for butter. When milk becomes more profitable to sell directly, producers divert milk away from butter-making, and a higher input price also raises the cost of producing butter. Hence the supply curve of butter shifts to the left and butter supply decreases.

- A rise in input prices decreases supply (leftward shift).
- A change in the commodity's own price causes a movement along the supply curve.
- Goods that compete for the same resource are called goods in competitive supply.

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119 What does the increased contribution of the service sector after India's 1991 economic reforms primarily indicate?

[SSC CGL 16 Oct 2026, Shift-I]

(a) A structural collapse of the agricultural sector
(b) A structural decline in the industrial sector
(c) A structural reduction in labour productivity
(d) A structural transformation of the economy

ANSWER (d) A structural transformation of the economy

A rising share of services in national income, along with a falling share of agriculture, shows a structural transformation of the economy, which is a normal feature of development as an economy moves from a primary-based to a service-based structure. Agriculture did not collapse; its share fell because other sectors grew faster.

- Services now contribute the largest share of India's GVA.
- Agriculture still employs the largest share of the workforce.
- Sectors: primary (agriculture), secondary (industry) and tertiary (services).

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120 What is the primary objective of the Business Reforms Action Plan (BRAP)?

[SSC CGL 16 Oct 2026, Shift-I]

(a) Improve the defence business regulatory environment in States and Union Territories
(b) Improve the business regulatory environment in States and Union Territories
(c) Improve the agricultural business regulatory environment in States and Union Territories
(d) Improve the banking business regulatory environment in States and Union Territories

ANSWER (b) Improve the business regulatory environment in States and ...

The Business Reforms Action Plan (BRAP) is a framework under which States and Union Territories are assessed and ranked on the implementation of reforms that improve the business regulatory environment. It is run by the Department for Promotion of Industry and Internal Trade (DPIIT).

- BRAP assessments began in 2015.
- States are ranked in categories such as Top Achievers and Achievers.
- It encourages competitive federalism among States.

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121 Following the economic reforms introduced in India in 1991, why did many domestic industries face stronger competition in the Indian market?

[SSC CGL 16 Oct 2026, Shift-I]

(a) Due to expansion of public sector manufacturing enterprises
(b) Due to greater availability of cheaper imported goods
(c) Due to increase in industrial licensing requirements
(d) Due to higher minimum support prices nationwide

ANSWER (b) Due to greater availability of cheaper imported goods

The 1991 reforms reduced import tariffs, abolished most import licensing and opened sectors to foreign investment. Cheaper imported goods and foreign firms therefore entered the Indian market, which increased competition for domestic industries.

- Industrial licensing was abolished for most industries, not increased.
- Customs duties were brought down sharply from the very high pre-1991 levels.
- The reforms are summarised as liberalisation, privatisation and globalisation.

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122 Which of the following factors would increase the demand for laptops and shift their demand curve to the right?

[SSC CGL 16 Oct 2026, Shift-I]

(a) An increase in the price of laptops
(b) A decrease in consumer income, assuming laptops are normal goods
(c) An increase in the price of internet services used with laptops
(d) An increase in consumers' preference for online education

ANSWER (d) An increase in consumers' preference for online education

A rightward shift of the demand curve means demand rises at every price, and it is caused by factors other than the good's own price: higher income (normal goods), a favourable change in tastes and preferences, or a fall in the price of complements. A stronger preference for online education raises the need for laptops and shifts demand to the right.

- A change in the good's own price causes only a movement along the demand curve.
- A fall in income reduces demand for normal goods.
- A rise in the price of a complement (internet services) reduces demand.

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123 The term "BRIC," referring to Brazil, Russia, India, and China as major emerging economies, was originally coined by:

[SSC CGL 16 Oct 2026, Shift-II]

(a) Jim O'Neill
(b) Joseph Stiglitz
(c) Nouriel Roubini
(d) Jeffrey Sachs

ANSWER (a) Jim O'Neill

The term BRIC was coined in 2001 by Jim O'Neill, then an economist at Goldman Sachs, to describe fast-growing emerging economies expected to dominate the global economy. The BRIC countries later formed a political grouping, which became BRICS when South Africa joined in 2010.

- The first BRIC summit was held in Yekaterinburg, Russia, in 2009.
- The New Development Bank (NDB), headquartered in Shanghai, was set up by BRICS.
- BRICS has since expanded with new members.

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124 Which structural change in the sectoral composition of India's national income is most consistent with the post-1991 reform period?

[SSC CGL 16 Oct 2026, Shift-II]

(a) Decline in industry's and services' shares, rise in agriculture's share
(b) Equalisation of agriculture's, industry's, and services' shares
(c) Rise in agriculture's share, decline in industry's and services' shares
(d) Decline in agriculture's share, rise in industry and services

ANSWER (d) Decline in agriculture's share, rise in industry and ...

After 1991 the share of agriculture in GDP declined steadily, while the shares of industry and especially services rose, with services becoming the largest contributor. This is the typical pattern of structural change in a developing economy.

- Options A and C describe the same, wrong, direction of change.
- The shares of the three sectors have never been equal.
- The service sector has been the main driver of India's growth since the 1990s.

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125 What does the Business Reforms Action Plan (BRAP) framework primarily encourage States and Union Territories to do?

[SSC CGL 16 Oct 2026, Shift-II]

(a) Restrict investments by imposing additional regulatory controls
(b) Increase business compliance costs by introducing more procedures
(c) Avoid adopting digital systems for delivering regulatory services
(d) Promote competitive federalism by implementing business regulatory reforms

ANSWER (d) Promote competitive federalism by implementing business ...

The BRAP framework ranks States and Union Territories on the implementation of business regulatory reforms such as single window systems, online services and simplified procedures. By making States compete for better rankings and investment, it promotes competitive federalism.

- BRAP is implemented by DPIIT under the Ministry of Commerce and Industry.
- Reforms reduce compliance costs and promote digital delivery of services.
- Competitive federalism means States compete with one another for investment and development.

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126 What is the goal of India's Millet Mission (2023–25) in the context of economic geography?

[SSC CGL 16 Oct 2026, Shift-III]

(a) Increase foreign direct investment in agri-tech
(b) Boost high-value urban rooftop farming
(c) Promote climate-resilient farming in tribal/ eastern regions
(d) Export high-protein wheat to Africa

ANSWER (c) Promote climate-resilient farming in tribal/eastern regions

Millets (Shree Anna) are hardy, drought-tolerant crops that grow on poor soils with little water, so promoting them supports climate-resilient farming, nutrition and the livelihoods of small farmers, especially in rain-fed, tribal and eastern regions. As per the official answer key, option C is the correct answer.

- 2023 was observed as the International Year of Millets, on a proposal moved by India and adopted by the UN General Assembly.
- Jowar, bajra and ragi are major millets.
- Millets are also known as nutri-cereals.

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127 Which region is projected to face greatest aging stress in terms of care and dependency by 2036?

[SSC CGL 16 Oct 2026, Shift-III]

(a) Central India (Chhattisgarh, MP)
(b) North-East India
(c) Southern India (Kerala, Tamil Nadu)
(d) Jammu & Kashmir

ANSWER (c) Southern India (Kerala, Tamil Nadu)

Southern States such as Kerala and Tamil Nadu are at an advanced stage of demographic transition, with low fertility and longer life expectancy, so their share of elderly people (60 years and above) is projected to be the highest and to put the greatest pressure on care and dependency by 2036. As per the official answer key, option C is correct.

- Kerala already has the highest proportion of elderly among the States.
- India's elderly population is rising faster than the total population.

- Bihar and Uttar Pradesh have a younger age structure because of higher fertility.

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128 Why were higher domestic saving and investment rates important for India's economic growth after the 1991 reforms?

[SSC CGL 22 Oct 2026, Shift-I]

(a) They increase fiscal deficits and weaken financial stability
(b) They discourage entrepreneurship-and limit business expansion
(c) They enhance capital formation and long-term growth potential
(d) They reduce productive capacity and constrain economic growth

ANSWER (c) They enhance capital formation and long-term growth ...

Savings finance investment, and investment leads to capital formation, which expands productive capacity and raises the long-run growth potential of the economy. India's saving and investment rates rose considerably after the reforms, supporting faster GDP growth.

- Capital formation means adding to the stock of capital goods such as machinery and infrastructure.
- In the Harrod-Domar model growth depends on the saving rate and the capital-output ratio.
- Household savings form the largest part of India's domestic savings.

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129 What is the primary objective of introducing risk-based inspection systems?

[SSC CGL 22 Oct 2026, Shift-I]

(a) Focus inspections on higher-risk entities while reducing unnecessary inspections
(b) Focus risk-based inspections equally on all business entities
(c) Focus risk-based inspections on increasing the frequency of inspections
(d) Focus risk-based inspections on replacing digital governance systems

ANSWER (a) Focus inspections on higher-risk entities while reducing ...

Risk-based inspection allocates regulatory attention according to the level of risk: high-risk establishments are inspected more closely, while low-risk ones face fewer inspections. This reduces unnecessary inspections, lowers the compliance burden and makes enforcement efficient.

- It is a key Ease of Doing Business reform.
- Inspections are often selected through computerised, random or data-driven systems.
- It reduces harassment and discretion in inspections.

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130 The shift from an officially administered exchange-rate system to a market-determined exchange-rate system is an example of which type of reform?

[SSC CGL 22 Oct 2026, Shift-II]

(a) Industrial exchange policy reform
(b) Public-sector exchange ownership reform
(c) Fiscal exchange policy reform
(d) Foreign exchange reform

ANSWER (d) Foreign exchange reform

Moving from a fixed, officially administered exchange rate to a market-determined rate is a foreign exchange reform. After the 1991 devaluation, India adopted a dual exchange rate system (LERMS) in 1992-93 and moved to a unified, market-determined rate in March 1993.

- The rupee became convertible on the current account in August 1994.
- Foreign exchange reforms are part of external sector reforms.
- FEMA (1999) replaced FERA and liberalised foreign exchange management.

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131 Which of the following is a key principle underlying Ease of Doing Business (EoDB) reforms?

[SSC CGL 22 Oct 2026, Shift-II]

(a) Promoting transparency and efficiency in regulatory processes
(b) Promoting secrecy and inefficiency in regulatory processes
(c) Promoting complexity and delays in regulatory processes
(d) Promoting multiple approvals and duplication in regulatory processes

ANSWER (a) Promoting transparency and efficiency in regulatory ...

EoDB reforms aim to make it simple, quick and cheap to start and run a business, and they rest on transparency, efficiency, simplification and reduced discretion in regulatory processes. The other options describe features that EoDB reforms try to remove.

- Measures include single window clearance, online approvals and risk-based inspections.
- The World Bank's Doing Business report ranked countries until it was discontinued in 2021.
- India's rank in the 2020 report was 63.

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132 As a result of post-1991 agricultural reforms, Indian policy encouraged a shift away from food grain production for domestic consumption. Under these new policy strategies, which of the following became the primary market for agricultural production?

[SSC CGL 22 Oct 2026, Shift-II]

(a) Domestic consumer market
(b) International export market
(c) Regulated wholesale market
(d) Cooperative procurement market

ANSWER (b) International export market

As per the official key, the international export market became the primary market. After 1991, with liberalisation and the opening up of trade, policy encouraged farmers to move from foodgrains to cash and export-oriented crops such as fruits, vegetables, spices and floriculture.

- India became a member of the WTO in 1995 (WTO's Agreement on Agriculture came into force that year).
- Export-oriented farming is linked to a shift in the cropping pattern away from foodgrains.
- Foodgrain production for domestic consumption continues to be supported through MSP and public procurement.

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133 Why is the demand for transportation regarded as a derived demand?

[SSC CGL 22 Oct 2026, Shift-II]

(a) Transport demand arises from independent activities.
(b) Transport demand arises from other activities.
(c) Transport demand arises from luxury activities.
(d) Transport demand arises from government policies.

ANSWER (b) Transport demand arises from other activities.

Derived demand is the demand for a good or service that arises from the demand for another good or activity. People seldom travel or ship goods for the sake of transport itself; they do so to reach work, markets, education or trade. So the demand for transport is derived from these other activities.

- Demand for factors of production (labour, raw materials) is also derived demand.
- Demand for steel depends on demand for cars and buildings.
- Direct demand is for goods consumed for their own satisfaction.

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134 What does Overseas Direct Investment (ODI) by Indian firms primarily indicate?

[SSC CGL 22 Oct 2026, Shift-III]

(a) Decline in competitiveness
(b) Restriction on capital flows
(c) Expansion of corporate presence abroad
(d) Dependence solely on domestic markets

ANSWER (c) Expansion of corporate presence abroad

Overseas Direct Investment means investment by an Indian entity in the equity or debt of a foreign entity, such as a joint venture or wholly owned subsidiary abroad. It shows that Indian firms are expanding their corporate presence in global markets, which reflects growing competitiveness.

- ODI is regulated by the RBI under FEMA.
- FDI is investment into India by foreign investors; ODI is the reverse.
- Tata Motors' acquisition of Jaguar Land Rover (2008) is a well-known example of ODI.

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135 Which of the following best describes the Business Reform Action Plan (BRAP)?

[SSC CGL 22 Oct 2026, Shift-III]

(a) A framework for assessing business related judicial reforms implemented by States and Union Territories
(b) A framework for assessing business related taxation reforms implemented by States and Union Territories
(c) A framework for assessing business related constitutional reforms implemented by States and Union Territories
(d) A framework for assessing business related regulatory reforms implemented by States and Union Territories

ANSWER (d) A framework for assessing business related regulatory ...

BRAP is a framework to assess the business-related regulatory reforms implemented by States and Union Territories, covering areas such as land, labour, environment, utilities, construction permits and single window systems. States are ranked on the basis of reform implementation and stakeholder feedback.

- It is administered by DPIIT.
- It aims to improve the investment climate and promote competitive federalism.
- Rankings are released in categories such as Top Achievers and Achievers.

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136 Who among the following economists explained the substitution and the income effect?

[SSC CGL 23 Oct 2026, Shift-I]

(a) Hicks and Allen
(b) Lionel Robbins
(c) Ursula Webb
(d) Abba Lerner

ANSWER (a) Hicks and Allen

J.R. Hicks and R.G.D. Allen explained the price effect on consumer demand by splitting it into the substitution effect and the income effect, using indifference curve analysis. The substitution effect arises from the change in relative prices and the income effect from the change in real income.

- J.R. Hicks received the Nobel Prize in Economics in 1972.
- Lionel Robbins gave the scarcity definition of economics.
- Marshall's cardinal utility approach differs from the Hicks-Allen ordinal approach.

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137 Which of the following economic approaches best reflects the principle of 'minimum government, maximum governance'?

[SSC CGL 23 Oct 2026, Shift-I]

(a) Economic import substitution
(b) Extensive licensing
(c) State monopoly
(d) Economic liberalisation

ANSWER (d) Economic liberalisation

'Minimum government, maximum governance' means reducing government control over economic activity and unnecessary regulation while improving the quality of service delivery. Economic liberalisation, which removes licensing, controls and entry barriers, reflects this principle. Licensing and state monopoly are forms of greater state control.

- Liberalisation, privatisation and globalisation (LPG) began in 1991.
- The licence-permit raj was dismantled by the reforms.
- Import substitution was the inward-looking strategy of the pre-1991 period.

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138 The Human Development Index (HDI) primarily encourages public debate about which of the following?

[SSC CGL 23 Oct 2026, Shift-I]

(a) Government taxation priorities
(b) Government development priorities
(c) Government electoral priorities
(d) Government defence priorities

ANSWER (b) Government development priorities

The Human Development Index measures achievement in health (life expectancy), education (years of schooling) and standard of living (income). Because it shows how well a country converts income into well-being, it encourages public debate on government development priorities such as spending on health and education.

- HDI is published in the UNDP's Human Development Report.
- The concept was developed by Mahbub ul Haq and Amartya Sen in 1990.
- HDI values range from 0 to 1.

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139 Which of the following is the strongest criticism of excessive reliance on market forces in India after the 1991 economic reforms?

[SSC CGL 23 Oct 2026, Shift-II]

(a) Markets generally reduce productivity
(b) Markets may neglect marginalized groups without state support
(c) Markets usually prevent innovation
(d) Markets always ensure equitable outcomes

ANSWER (b) Markets may neglect marginalized groups without state ...

Markets allocate resources on the basis of purchasing power and profit, so without state support they may neglect marginalised groups, backward regions and public goods such as health and education. This is the strongest and most accepted criticism of over-reliance on markets, and it justifies the role of the state in inclusive growth.

- Markets tend to promote efficiency and innovation, so options A and C are incorrect.
- Markets do not always ensure equity, so option D is incorrect.
- Welfare schemes and public investment correct market failures.

---

140 The human development approach underlying the Human Development Index (HDI) is primarily concerned with which of the following?

[SSC CGL 23 Oct 2026, Shift-II]

(a) Promotion of trade liberalization
(b) Acceleration of urbanization
(c) Expansion of military power
(d) Expansion of human capabilities

ANSWER (d) Expansion of human capabilities

The human development approach, associated with Amartya Sen's capability approach and Mahbub ul Haq, treats people as the real wealth of a nation and views development as expanding people's choices and capabilities, i.e., the freedom to live a long, healthy and educated life with a decent standard of living.

- The first Human Development Report was published by UNDP in 1990.
- HDI has three dimensions: health, education and income.
- Income is a means; human well-being is the end of development.

---

141 Ease of Doing Business reforms are most closely associated with which broader constitutional goal?

[SSC CGL 23 Oct 2026, Shift-II]

(a) Promoting judicial review and constitutional accountability
(b) Promoting emergency governance and constitutional stability
(c) Promoting a welfare state and socioeconomic development
(d) Promoting electoral representation and constitutional participation

ANSWER (c) Promoting a welfare state and socioeconomic development

EoDB reforms attract investment and promote enterprise, which generates employment, income and growth. This links them to the constitutional ideal of a welfare state and socio-economic development, expressed in the Preamble (justice: social, economic and political) and the Directive Principles of State Policy.

- Directive Principles are contained in Part IV (Articles 36–51).
- Article 38 directs the State to promote the welfare of the people.
- The idea of a welfare state is derived from the Directive Principles.

---

142 Which region showed a per capita income increase from 55% to 89% of the national average between 2001 and 2024?

[SSC CGL 23 Oct 2026, Shift-III]

(a) Bihar
(b) Uttar Pradesh
(c) Odisha
(d) Chhattisgarh

ANSWER (c) Odisha

As per the working paper of the Economic Advisory Council to the Prime Minister (EAC-PM), Odisha's per capita income rose from about 55-56% of the national average in 2000-01 to nearly 89% (about 88.5%) in 2023-24, so Odisha is the correct answer. The rise reflects strong growth driven by mining, metals, industry and services.

- Odisha's capital is Bhubaneswar.

- Odisha is rich in iron ore, bauxite, chromite and coal.
- The EAC-PM is an independent body that advises the Prime Minister on economic issues.

---

143 The SWAMIH (Special Window for Affordable and Mid-Income Housing) Fund, established under the Ministry of Finance in India, is classified under which category of Alternative Investment Fund (AIF)?

[SSC CGL 24 Oct 2026, Shift-I]

(a) Category-III Alternative Investment Fund (AIF)
(b) Category-II Alternative Investment Fund (AIF)
(c) Category-I Alternative Investment Fund (AIF)
(d) Public-Private Infrastructure Fund (PIF)

ANSWER (b) Category-II Alternative Investment Fund (AIF)

The SWAMIH Investment Fund I is a Category-II Alternative Investment Fund registered with SEBI, set up to provide last-mile funding for the completion of stalled affordable and mid-income housing projects. It is managed by SBICAP Ventures.

- Category-I AIFs cover venture capital, SME and infrastructure funds.
- Category-II AIFs include private equity and debt funds and do not use leverage other than for day-to-day operational needs.
- Category-III AIFs include hedge funds that may use complex trading strategies.

---

144 Why is a reduction in public investment in social sectors considered a concern for economic development?

[SSC CGL 24 Oct 2026, Shift-I]

(a) Worsens inequities in education and healthcare
(b) Eliminates regional disparities and social inequalities
(c) Increases human capability and productivity automatically
(d) Improves equality and access to services

ANSWER (a) Worsens inequities in education and healthcare

Public spending on education and healthcare builds human capital and gives access to the poor, who cannot afford private services. If it is reduced, the poor lose access to quality services, which widens inequities in education and healthcare and slows human development.

- Education and health are the main components of human development.
- Public goods and merit goods are mostly provided by the State.
- The Economic Survey and Budget track social-sector expenditure.

---

145 Which of the following best describes the key feature of a Single Window System?

[SSC CGL 24 Oct 2026, Shift-I]

(a) Providing integrated access to multiple approvals and clearances through a unified interface
(b) Requiring applicants to obtain clearances through separate departmental portals
(c) Transferring licensing functions from government agencies to private authorities
(d) Requiring applicants to approach different departments independently for approvals

ANSWER (a) Providing integrated access to multiple approvals and ...

A Single Window System lets an investor apply for, track and receive multiple approvals and clearances from different departments through one unified (usually online) interface. This saves time and cost and reduces duplication and discretion.

- The National Single Window System (NSWS) was launched in 2021 for investors.
- Single window systems are a core BRAP reform area.
- Invest India facilitates investors at the national level.

---

146 The significant devaluation of the Indian rupee in 1966 (from ₹4.76 to ₹7.50 per USD) was largely a result of the economic challenges and policy failures associated with the _____ Five-Year Plan.

[SSC CGL 24 Oct 2026, Shift-II]

(a) First
(b) Second
(c) Third
(d) Fourth

ANSWER (c) Third

The rupee was devalued in June 1966 from Rs 4.76 to Rs 7.50 per US dollar. The Third Five-Year Plan (1961–

66) saw the wars with China (1962) and Pakistan (1965), two droughts, rising inflation and a serious balance-of-payments problem, and the plan failed to meet its targets, leading to the devaluation.

- The Third Plan stressed self-reliant growth.
- After the Third Plan, three Annual Plans (1966–69) were implemented, known as the plan holiday.
- The next major devaluation was in 1991.

---

147 As part of the post-1991 economic reforms, what type of autonomy was granted to Maharatna, Navratna and Miniratna public sector enterprises?

[SSC CGL 24 Oct 2026, Shift-II]

(a) Commercial, diplomatic and regulatory autonomy
(b) Administrative, judicial and legislative autonomy
(c) Financial, political and constitutional autonomy
(d) Financial, managerial and operational autonomy

ANSWER (d) Financial, managerial and operational autonomy

Under the reforms, better-performing public sector enterprises were granted the Maharatna, Navratna and Miniratna status, giving them greater financial, managerial and operational autonomy so that they could take commercial decisions and compete. The higher the category, the greater the investment powers.

- The Navratna and Miniratna schemes were introduced in 1997 and the Maharatna scheme in 2010.
- Miniratna enterprises are placed in Category-I and Category-II.
- Examples of Maharatna CPSEs: ONGC, NTPC, SAIL, Coal India.

---

148 As part of the 1991 economic reforms, the Narasimham Committee recommended a four-tier structure for which sector?

[SSC CGL 24 Oct 2026, Shift-III]

(a) Insurance sector
(b) Banking sector
(c) Energy sector
(d) Telecom sector

ANSWER (b) Banking sector

The Narasimham Committee (1991) on the financial system recommended a four-tier structure for the banking sector: 3 or 4 large international banks at the top, 8 to 10 national banks, local banks confined to specific regions, and rural banks (RRBs) focused on agriculture. It also advised reducing SLR and CRR and deregulating interest rates.

- The Committee was chaired by M. Narasimham.
- The second Narasimham Committee was set up in 1998.
- The reforms introduced prudential norms such as capital adequacy and NPA classification.

---

149 Natural capital is often compared to money deposited in a bank. Which of the following best explains the implication of this analogy?

[SSC CGL 24 Oct 2026, Shift-III]

(a) Natural resources can always regenerate if managed by governments.
(b) Sustainable use means utilizing only the regenerative capacity of resources.
(c) Non-renewable resources are equivalent to fixed deposits.
(d) Economic growth depends entirely on resource extraction.

ANSWER (b) Sustainable use means utilizing only the regenerative ...

Just as one can live sustainably on the interest from a bank deposit without reducing the principal, we should use only the regenerative capacity (the 'interest') of natural capital and not deplete the stock itself. This is the idea of sustainable use of resources.

- Sustainable development meets present needs without compromising future generations (Brundtland Report, 1987).
- Renewable resources can regenerate if not over-exploited; non-renewable resources are finite.
- Extraction beyond the rate of regeneration leads to resource depletion.

---

150 If a consumer's income increases, resulting in greater consumption of good X and lower consumption of good Y, which of the following is correct?

[SSC CGL 24 Oct 2026, Shift-III]

(a) Both X and Y are inferior goods.
(b) X is an inferior good, while Y is a normal good.
(c) X is a normal good, while Y is an inferior good.
(d) Both X and Y are normal goods.

ANSWER (c) X is a normal good, while Y is an inferior good.

A normal good is one whose consumption rises when income rises (positive income elasticity), while an inferior good is one whose consumption falls when income rises (negative income elasticity). Here X rises with income, so it is a normal good, and Y falls, so it is an inferior good.

- Coarse grains are a common example of inferior goods.
- Giffen goods are a special type of inferior good with a positive price-demand relation.
- Luxury goods are normal goods with income elasticity greater than one.

---

151 During which of the following was the enactment of the Industrial Development and Regulation Act (IDRA) of 1951, aimed at regulating India's industrial sector?

[SSC CGL 27 Oct 2026, Shift-I]

(a) First Five-Year Plan
(b) Second Five-Year Plan
(c) Third Five-Year Plan
(d) Fourth Five-Year Plan

ANSWER (a) First Five-Year Plan

The Industries (Development and Regulation) Act, 1951 was enacted at the start of the First Five-Year Plan (1951–56). It brought a licensing system under which the government regulated the establishment, expansion and location of industries, and it formed the base of the licence-permit raj until 1991.

- The Industrial Policy Resolution of 1948 preceded the Act.
- The Industrial Policy Resolution of 1956 was announced during the Second Plan.
- The licensing system was largely dismantled by the New Industrial Policy of 1991.

---

152 In the context of economic reforms since 1991, which form of privatisation involves transferring ownership of public enterprises entirely to the private sector?

[SSC CGL 27 Oct 2026, Shift-I]

(a) Cooperative ownership
(b) Joint sector partnership
(c) Total denationalisation
(d) Partial disinvestment

ANSWER (c) Total denationalisation

Total denationalisation means transferring the ownership and control of a public enterprise entirely to the private sector. In partial disinvestment, the government sells only a part of its equity and may retain ownership or management control.

- Disinvestment in India began in 1991-92 with the sale of minority stakes.
- The Department of Investment and Public Asset Management (DIPAM) handles disinvestment.
- In a strategic sale, management control passes to a private buyer.

---

153 What was the primary expected outcome of abolishing import licensing requirements under India's economic reforms?

[SSC CGL 27 Oct 2026, Shift-II]

(a) Increased efficiency and competition
(b) Complete elimination of imports and foreign goods
(c) Increased government control and regulation over trade
(d) Restriction of foreign competition and market access

ANSWER (a) Increased efficiency and competition

Abolishing import licensing exposed domestic producers to foreign competition and made inputs and technology easily available. This was expected to raise efficiency, quality and competitiveness. The other options describe the opposite of the liberalising intent.

- Import licensing was abolished for most capital and intermediate goods in 1991-92.
- Tariff rates were lowered progressively.
- The reforms aimed at integrating the Indian economy with the global economy.

---

154 Ease of Doing Business (EoDB) reforms seek to enhance India's attractiveness as an investment destination for which of the following?

[SSC CGL 27 Oct 2026, Shift-II]

(a) Domestic investors while excluding foreign investors
(b) Foreign investors while excluding domestic investors
(c) Both domestic and foreign investors
(d) Government agencies rather than private investors

ANSWER (c) Both domestic and foreign investors

EoDB reforms improve the general business climate through simpler approvals, transparency and lower costs. These benefits apply to all private investors, so they enhance India's attractiveness for both domestic and foreign investors.

- Reforms include digital approvals, single window clearance and decriminalisation of minor offences.
- FDI is allowed in most sectors under the automatic route.
- Investment promotion is handled by DPIIT and Invest India.

---

155 Following the economic reforms introduced in India in 1991, which production shift was encouraged by export-oriented agricultural policies?

[SSC CGL 27 Oct 2026, Shift-II]

(a) From horticultural crops to pulses
(b) From pulses to horticultural crops
(c) From food grains to cash crops
(d) From cash crops to food grains

ANSWER (c) From food grains to cash crops

Export-oriented policies after 1991 encouraged farmers to shift area from food grains to cash (commercial) crops, such as cotton, fruits, vegetables, oilseeds and spices, which have export demand and better returns. This raised concerns about food security and the income risk faced by farmers.

- Cash crops are grown for sale, not for own consumption.
- Agriculture was also affected by reduced public investment after the reforms.
- The WTO Agreement on Agriculture (1995) brought agricultural trade under multilateral rules.

---

156 A leftward shift in the demand curve of a commodity indicates:

[SSC CGL 27 Oct 2026, Shift-II]

(a) Decrease in quantity demanded
(b) Increase in demand
(c) Decrease in demand
(d) Increase in quantity demanded

ANSWER (c) Decrease in demand

A leftward shift of the demand curve means that less is demanded at every price, i.e., a decrease in demand, caused by factors other than price such as a fall in income, a change in tastes or a fall in the price of a substitute. A decrease in quantity demanded, by contrast, is a movement upward along the same curve due to a price rise.

- Rightward shift: increase in demand.
- Movement along the curve: change in quantity demanded (own price changes).
- Shift of the curve: change in demand (other factors change).

---

157 After the 1991 reforms, which sector continued to remain reserved for the public sector?

[SSC CGL 28 Oct 2026, Shift-I]

(a) Consumer goods and Railway Transport
(b) Atomic energy and Railway Transport
(c) Textile industry and Automobile sector
(d) Automobile sector and Atomic energy

ANSWER (b) Atomic energy and Railway Transport

After the New Industrial Policy of 1991, the list of industries reserved for the public sector was cut sharply (from 17 to a few). Among the options, atomic energy and railway transport remained reserved, while consumer goods, textiles and automobiles were open to private investment.

- Industrial licensing was retained only for a short list of industries.
- The number of reserved industries was reduced further later on.
- Defence production has since been opened partly to the private sector.

---

158 Politically administered prices were replaced under which economic reform strategy?

[SSC CGL 28 Oct 2026, Shift-I]

(a) Cooperative pricing
(b) Dual pricing
(c) Public pricing
(d) Market determined pricing

ANSWER (d) Market determined pricing

Under the reforms, politically administered prices (set by the government) were replaced by market-determined pricing, in which demand and supply set the price. This was part of the move from a controlled to a market-oriented economy.

- Price controls were removed on many goods such as cement and steel.
- Dual pricing existed earlier in goods such as sugar and cement (levy and open market).
- Interest rates and exchange rates were also made market-determined.

---

159 India's Ease of Doing Business reform agenda primarily emphasizes which of the following?

[SSC CGL 28 Oct 2026, Shift-I]

(a) The use of manual procedures for granting business approvals.
(b) The use of centralized physical offices for issuing business licences.
(c) The digitization and online delivery of business related regulatory services.
(d) The use of physical documentation for completing business compliance procedures.

ANSWER (c) The digitization and online delivery of business related ...

India's EoDB agenda focuses on digitising regulatory services and delivering them online, so that approvals, licences and compliance can be completed without visiting offices or filing paper documents. This reduces time, cost and discretion.

- Examples: online building permits, e-filing of returns and the National Single Window System.
- BRAP evaluates States on online delivery of services.
- Manual, physical and centralised processes are what the reforms seek to replace.

---

160 Which of the following would cause a movement along a supply curve rather than a shift in the supply curve?

[SSC CGL 28 Oct 2026, Shift-I]

(a) An improvement in production technology
(b) An increase in the number of producers
(c) An increase in the commodity's own price
(d) An increase in input prices

ANSWER (c) An increase in the commodity's own price

A change in the commodity's own price causes a movement along the same supply curve (an extension or contraction of supply). Changes in technology, the number of producers or input prices shift the whole curve (an increase or decrease in supply).

- Better technology and more producers shift supply to the right.
- Higher input prices shift supply to the left.
- Law of supply: price and quantity supplied are directly related, other things remaining equal.

---

161 Which of the following best describes a limitation of open planning in India?

[SSC CGL 28 Oct 2026, Shift-II]

(a) It prevents foreign investment
(b) It encourages dictatorial decision-making
(c) It complicates forming an optimal development strategy
(d) It excludes citizens from policy formation

ANSWER (c) It complicates forming an optimal development strategy

Open planning allows public participation, debate and many viewpoints in the planning process. Its limitation is that, with many competing interests and opinions, it becomes more difficult to arrive at a single optimal development strategy. The other options describe features that are contrary to the open, participatory character of such planning.

- Planning in India was introduced through the Planning Commission (1950), replaced by NITI Aayog in 2015.
- India follows indicative planning within a mixed economy.
- The National Development Council approved the Five-Year Plans.

---

162 What was the main goal of the indirect tax reforms introduced as part of India's 1991 economic liberalisation?

[SSC CGL 28 Oct 2026, Shift-II]

(a) To promote public sector enterprises
(b) To facilitate a common national market
(c) To increase agricultural subsidies
(d) To reduce foreign investment inflows

ANSWER (b) To facilitate a common national market

Indirect tax reforms aimed to simplify the tax structure, remove the cascading effect of taxes and facilitate a common national market with free movement of goods across States. Reforms such as MODVAT and the Chelliah Committee recommendations culminated in the GST, launched on 1 July 2017.

- The Tax Reforms Committee (1991–93) was headed by Raja J. Chelliah.
- GST replaced many central and State indirect taxes.
- 'One Nation, One Tax, One Market' is the GST idea.

---

163 **Fill in the blank:**
Tax reforms under 1991 economic reforms were concerned with____.

[SSC CGL 28 Oct 2026, Shift-III]

(a) fiscal policy only
(b) monetary policy only
(c) industrial policy only
(d) trade policy only

ANSWER (a) fiscal policy only

Taxation, public expenditure and borrowing are the instruments of fiscal policy, so tax reforms under the 1991 reforms were concerned with fiscal policy. They aimed at reducing the rates of direct taxes, simplifying the tax structure and broadening the tax base.

- Monetary policy is conducted by the RBI through interest rates and money supply.
- The Chelliah Committee (1991) recommended tax reforms.
- Fiscal policy is the responsibility of the Government of India.

---

164 What does a consumption combination lying below the consumer's budget line indicate?

[SSC CGL 28 Oct 2026, Shift-III]

(a) Some portion of the consumer's utility remains unattained.
(b) Some portion of the required expenditure exceeds the consumer's income.
(c) Some portion of the consumer's income remains unspent.
(d) Some portion of the maximum possible utility remains unattained.

ANSWER (c) Some portion of the consumer's income remains unspent.

The budget line shows all combinations of two goods that exhaust the consumer's entire income. A bundle lying below the line is affordable but costs less than the income, so some part of income remains unspent, whereas a bundle above the line is unaffordable.

- Points on the budget line use up the whole income.
- The slope of the budget line equals the ratio of the prices of the two goods.
- A rise in income shifts the budget line parallel to the right.


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06
CHAPTER

Physics

Questions with Explanations *49 questions · 53 shifts*

01 Which of the following is the SI unit of magnetic flux?

[SSC CGL 30 Sep 2026, Shift-III]

(a) Farad (b) Henry
(c) Pascal (d) Weber

ANSWER (d) Weber

The SI unit of magnetic flux is the weber (Wb), where 1 Wb = 1 V·s (volt-second). Magnetic flux is the product of the magnetic field and the area perpendicular to it.

- Farad is the unit of capacitance, Henry of inductance and Pascal of pressure.
- 1 weber = 1 tesla × 1 square metre.
- The CGS unit of magnetic flux is the maxwell.

02 The half-life of a radionuclide is 4 hours. If its initial mass is 160 g (gram), what mass of the radionuclide will remain undecayed after 12 hours?

[SSC CGL 01 Oct 2026, Shift-I]

(a) 20 (gram) (b) 40 (gram)
(c) 80 (gram) (d) 10 (gram)

ANSWER (a) 20 (gram)

12 hours is 12 ÷ 4 = 3 half-lives. After each half-life the mass halves: 160 g → 80 g → 40 g → 20 g. So 20 g remains undecayed. In general, $N = N_0 \times (½)^n$, where n is the number of half-lives.

- Half-life is the time in which half of the radioactive nuclei decay.
- The half-life of a given radionuclide is independent of temperature, pressure and its initial amount.
- The SI unit of radioactivity is the becquerel (Bq).

03 Which of the following is the SI unit of resistivity?

[SSC CGL 01 Oct 2026, Shift-II]

(a) Ohm-meter (b) Ohm
(c) Coulomb (d) Ampere-meter

ANSWER (a) Ohm-meter

The SI unit of resistivity is the ohm-metre (Ω·m). From $R = \rho L/A$, resistivity $\rho = RA/L$, so its unit is $\Omega \times m^2 \div m = \Omega\cdot m$.

- Resistivity depends on the material and temperature, not on the length or area of the conductor.
- The SI unit of resistance is the ohm (Ω); that of conductance is the siemens (S).
- The reciprocal of resistivity is conductivity, measured in S/m.

04 The capacitance of a capacitor is doubled, while the potential difference across it is reduced to half its initial value. By what factor does the energy stored in the capacitor change?

[SSC CGL 01 Oct 2026, Shift-II]

(a) 1 (b) ⅓
(c) ¼ (d) ½

ANSWER (d) ½

The energy stored in a capacitor is $U = ½CV^2$. With C becoming 2C and V becoming V/2, the new energy is $½ \times 2C \times (V/2)^2 = ½ \times 2C \times V^2/4 = ¼CV^2$, which is half of the original $½CV^2$. So the energy changes by a factor of ½.

- Energy stored depends on the square of the potential difference, so halving V reduces it to one-fourth, while doubling C doubles it.
- Equivalent forms: $U = ½QV = Q^2/2C$.

- The SI unit of capacitance is the farad (F).

05 A wire of length L and diameter d extends under a tensile force F. If both its length and diameter are doubled while the same force is applied, what will be its new extension relative to the original extension? Assume that the material remains unchanged and the wire is within its elastic limit.

[SSC CGL 05 Oct 2026, Shift-I]

(a) The same (b) Half
(c) One-fourth (d) One-eighth

ANSWER (b) Half

From Young's modulus $Y = (F/A)/(\Delta L/L)$, the extension is $\Delta L = FL/(AY)$. Doubling the length doubles L, while doubling the diameter makes the area A four times ($A \propto d^2$). So the new extension = (2L)/(4A) = ½ of the original. Hence the extension becomes half.

- Young's modulus is a property of the material and does not change with the dimensions of the wire.
- Hooke's law holds only within the elastic limit.
- The SI unit of Young's modulus is the pascal (N/m^2).

06 Consider the following statements about the exosphere:
1. Gas particles in this layer are so less in numbers that collisions between them are extremely rare.
2. This layer has high air density and significant weather activity.
Which of the statements given is/are correct?

[SSC CGL 05 Oct 2026, Shift-II]

(a) Only 1 (b) Only 2
(c) Both 1 and 2 are correct (d) Neither 1 nor 2 is correct

ANSWER (a) Only 1

Statement 1 is correct: the exosphere is the outermost layer of the atmosphere, where the air is extremely thin and gas particles (mainly hydrogen and helium) are so few that collisions between them are very rare. Statement 2 is incorrect: the exosphere has very low air density, and weather phenomena occur in the troposphere, not here.

- The exosphere lies above the thermosphere and gradually merges into outer space.
- Many satellites in low Earth orbit travel through the thermosphere/exosphere region.
- Weather occurs in the troposphere, the lowest layer, which contains most of the atmosphere's water vapour.

07 Two identical point charges separated by a distance (d) exert an electrostatic force (F) on each other. If the distance between them is reduced to d/3, while the charges and the surrounding medium remain unchanged, what will be the new electrostatic force?

[SSC CGL 05 Oct 2026, Shift-II]

(a) 3 (force) (b) 6(force)
(c) 9 (force) (d) 27 (force)

ANSWER (c) 9 (force)

By Coulomb's law $F = kq_1q_2/r^2$, the force is inversely proportional to the square of the distance. When the distance becomes d/3, the force becomes $(3)^2 = 9$ times, i.e. 9F.

- Coulomb's force is along the line joining the two charges; like charges repel and unlike charges attract.
- The force depends on the medium: it is reduced by a factor equal to the dielectric constant of the medium.
- In SI units, $k = 9 \times 10^9\ N{\cdot}m^2/C^2$ (in vacuum).

08 Which of the following does not belong to the solar system?

[SSC CGL 05 Oct 2026, Shift-III]

(a) Planet (b) Galaxy
(c) Meteor (d) Comet

ANSWER (b) Galaxy

A galaxy does not belong to the solar system; rather, the solar system is a small part of a galaxy. Our solar system lies in the Milky Way galaxy, whereas planets, meteors and comets are all members of the solar system.

- The solar system consists of the Sun, eight planets, their satellites, dwarf planets, asteroids, comets and meteoroids.
- The Milky Way is a spiral galaxy.

- A comet develops a tail when it comes close to the Sun.

09 Which of the following is a scalar quantity?

[SSC CGL 05 Oct 2026, Shift-III]

(a) Displacement (b) Velocity
(c) Acceleration (d) Speed

ANSWER (d) Speed

Speed is a scalar quantity because it has only magnitude and no direction. Displacement, velocity and acceleration are vector quantities, as each has both magnitude and direction.

- Other scalar quantities include distance, mass, time, energy, work, power and temperature.
- Other vector quantities include force, momentum, torque and weight.
- Speed is the magnitude of velocity.

10 Which physical quantity is given by the product of force and the displacement in the direction of that force?

[SSC CGL 06 Oct 2026, Shift-I]

(a) Work (b) Momentum
(c) Impulse (d) Power

ANSWER (a) Work

Work is the product of force and the displacement in the direction of the force, $W = F \cdot d \cdot \cos\theta$. Its SI unit is the joule (J), and work is a scalar quantity.

- If the displacement is perpendicular to the force ($\theta = 90°$), the work done is zero.
- Power is the rate of doing work; its SI unit is the watt.
- Impulse is force multiplied by time and equals the change in momentum.

11 If the amplitude of an object undergoing simple harmonic motion is doubled while all other system parameters remain unchanged, how does its total mechanical energy change?

[SSC CGL 06 Oct 2026, Shift-II]

(a) It remains the same
(b) It becomes twice its original value
(c) It becomes four times its original value
(d) It becomes eight times its original value

ANSWER (c) It becomes four times its original value

The total mechanical energy of a particle in simple harmonic motion is $E = \frac{1}{2}kA^2 = \frac{1}{2}m\omega^2A^2$, so it is proportional to the square of the amplitude. Doubling the amplitude makes the energy $2^2 = 4$ times the original value.

- In SHM, the total energy remains constant, while kinetic and potential energy keep interchanging.
- Energy is maximum (all kinetic) at the mean position and all potential at the extreme positions.
- The time period of SHM does not depend on the amplitude.

12 For which of the following physical quantities is the SI unit the candela?

[SSC CGL 06 Oct 2026, Shift-III]

(a) Impulse (b) Velocity
(c) Magnetic permeability (d) Luminous intensity

ANSWER (d) Luminous intensity

The candela (cd) is the SI unit of luminous intensity. It is one of the seven SI base units.

- The seven SI base units are metre, kilogram, second, ampere, kelvin, mole and candela.
- The SI unit of luminous flux is the lumen, and that of illuminance is the lux.
- The SI unit of magnetic permeability is henry per metre (H/m).

13 Which of the following pairs **correctly** matches the physical quantity with its SI unit?

[SSC CGL 07 Oct 2026, Shift-I]

(a) Magnetic flux density – Weber
(b) Magnetic flux – Tesla
(c) Inductance – Henry
(d) Electric charge – Volt

ANSWER (c) Inductance – Henry

Inductance is measured in henry (H), so this pair is correct. The other pairs are wrong: magnetic flux density is measured in tesla, magnetic flux in weber, and electric charge in coulomb (volt is the unit of potential difference).

- 1 tesla = 1 weber per square metre.
- 1 henry = 1 volt-second per ampere.

- The SI unit of electric potential is the volt (1 V = 1 J/C).

14 Which statement **accurately** describes the behavior of the ionosphere during solar activity?

[SSC CGL 07 Oct 2026, Shift-I]

(a) Ionosphere remains completely shielded from solar plasma.

(b) Ionospheric density fluctuates with solar flare events.

(c) Ultraviolet rays stabilize the ionospheric electron density.

(d) Ionospheric layers expand only during the lunar night.

ANSWER (b) Ionospheric density fluctuates with solar flare events.

During solar activity, the intense X-rays and ultraviolet radiation from solar flares ionise the upper atmosphere more strongly, so the electron density of the ionosphere fluctuates with solar flare events. This can disturb radio communication and satellite-based navigation signals.

- The ionosphere is a region of the upper atmosphere (overlapping the mesosphere and thermosphere) containing ions and free electrons.
- It reflects radio waves, which makes long-distance radio communication possible.
- The ionosphere is also affected by the day–night cycle, as ionisation depends on solar radiation.

15 Why can a constant-volume gas thermometer provide nearly the same temperature reading regardless of the gas used?

[SSC CGL 07 Oct 2026, Shift-II]

(a) The density of every gas is kept identical at all temperatures.

(b) Gas pressure becomes independent of changes in volume.

(c) Real gases approach ideal-gas behaviour at sufficiently low pressure.

(d) Mercury expansion compensates for the non-ideal behaviour of gases.

ANSWER (c) Real gases approach ideal-gas behaviour at sufficiently ...

At sufficiently low pressure, real gases approach ideal-gas behaviour, so all gases follow the same relation ($P \propto T$ at constant volume). The temperature obtained by extrapolating the readings to zero pressure is therefore nearly the same for every gas, which is why the ideal-gas scale is taken as the standard.

- For an ideal gas at constant volume, pressure is directly proportional to absolute temperature (Gay-Lussac's law).
- Real gases deviate from ideal behaviour at high pressure and low temperature.
- The triple point of water (273.16 K) is the fixed point used to calibrate the Kelvin scale.

16 What is the term for the natural tendency of an object to resist any change in its state of rest or uniform motion?

[SSC CGL 08 Oct 2026, Shift-I]

(a) Force applied

(b) Acceleration

(c) Inertia of the object

(d) Momentum of an object

ANSWER (c) Inertia of the object

The natural tendency of an object to resist any change in its state of rest or of uniform motion is called inertia. This is the content of Newton's first law of motion, and the inertia of a body is measured by its mass.

- Inertia of rest, inertia of motion and inertia of direction are its three types.
- The greater the mass of a body, the greater its inertia.
- Newton's first law is also called the law of inertia.

17 A 2 kg block moving at 6 m/s collides head-on with a stationary 4 kg block. The two blocks stick together after the collision. Assuming no external horizontal force acts on the system, what fraction of the initial kinetic energy is lost?

[SSC CGL 08 Oct 2026, Shift-I]

(a) 1/3

(b) 1/4

(c) 1/2

(d) 2/3

ANSWER (d) 2/3

By conservation of momentum, $2 \times 6 = (2 + 4) \times v$, so $v = 2$ m/s. Initial KE = $\frac{1}{2} \times 2 \times 6^2 = 36$ J; final KE = $\frac{1}{2} \times 6 \times 2^2$

= 12 J. The loss is 24 J, i.e. 24/36 = 2/3 of the initial kinetic energy.

- In a perfectly inelastic collision the bodies stick together and the maximum possible kinetic energy is lost.
- Momentum is conserved in all collisions when no external force acts, but kinetic energy is conserved only in elastic collisions.
- The lost kinetic energy is converted mainly into heat and sound.

---

18 An object is placed 30 cm (centimeter) in front of a thin converging lens whose focal length is 15 cm (centimeter). What is the distance of the image from the lens?

[SSC CGL 08 Oct 2026, Shift-II]

(a) 10 (centimeter) (b) 15 (centimeter)
(c) 30 (centimeter) (d) Infinity

ANSWER (c) 30 (centimeter)

Using the lens formula $1/v - 1/u = 1/f$ with $u = -30$ cm and $f = +15$ cm: $1/v = 1/15 - 1/30 = 1/30$, so $v = 30$ cm. The object is at 2F, so the image is formed at 2F on the other side of the lens, and it is real, inverted and of the same size as the object.

- When the object is at 2F of a convex lens, the image is real, inverted and equal in size.
- When the object is at the focus F, the image is formed at infinity.
- The power of a lens is $P = 1/f$ (f in metres), measured in dioptres.

---

19 What is the SI unit of electric current?

[SSC CGL 08 Oct 2026, Shift-III]

(a) Volt (b) Ohm
(c) Ampere (d) Watt

ANSWER (c) Ampere

The SI unit of electric current is the ampere (A). One ampere is the flow of one coulomb of charge per second, 1 A = 1 C/s. It is one of the seven SI base units.

- Current is measured with an ammeter, which is connected in series in a circuit.
- Volt is the unit of potential difference, ohm of resistance and watt of power.
- Electric current is a scalar quantity.

---

20 Why is the first-order Stark energy correction zero for the nondegenerate hydrogen (1s) ground state in a uniform external electric field?

[SSC CGL 09 Oct 2026, Shift-II]

(a) Because the electric field does not interact with bound electrons
(b) Because the ground-state wavefunction is rotationally symmetric
(c) Because the perturbation commutes with the hydrogen Hamiltonian
(d) Because all excited states are energetically degenerate with the ground state

ANSWER (b) Because the ground-state wavefunction is rotationally ...

The first-order Stark correction is the expectation value $\langle 1s|eEz|1s\rangle$. The 1s ground-state wavefunction is spherically (rotationally) symmetric and has definite parity, so the atom has no permanent electric dipole moment and this integral vanishes. The energy shift therefore appears only at second order, as the quadratic Stark effect.

- The z-operator is odd under inversion, while $|\psi_{1s}|^2$ is even, so the integral is zero.
- Excited states with n = 2 are degenerate in hydrogen and show a linear (first-order) Stark effect.
- The Stark effect is the shift or splitting of spectral lines in an electric field (the Zeeman effect is its magnetic counterpart).

---

21 What is the SI unit of magnetic flux density?

[SSC CGL 10 Oct 2026, Shift-I]

(a) Tesla (b) Weber
(c) Henry (d) Gauss

ANSWER (a) Tesla

The SI unit of magnetic flux density (magnetic induction, B) is the tesla (T), where $1\ T = 1\ Wb/m^2$. Gauss is its unit in the CGS system, and $1\ T = 10^4$ gauss.

- Magnetic flux density is flux per unit area perpendicular to the field.
- The SI unit of magnetic flux is the weber, and of inductance the henry.
- The unit tesla is named after Nikola Tesla.

---

22 Which physical quantity is represented by the area under a velocity-time graph?

[SSC CGL 10 Oct 2026, Shift-III]

(a) Force (b) Speed
(c) Displacement (d) Acceleration

ANSWER (c) Displacement

The area under a velocity-time graph represents the displacement of the object, and the slope of the graph gives its acceleration. (The area under a speed-time graph gives the distance travelled.)

- The slope of a position-time graph gives velocity.
- The area under an acceleration-time graph gives the change in velocity.
- Displacement can be positive, negative or zero, but distance is always positive.

---

23 An ideal 12 V (volt) battery is connected across two resistors of 3 Ω(Omega) and 6 Ω(Omega) connected in series. What is the power dissipated in the 6 Ω(Omega) resistor?

[SSC CGL 12 Oct 2026, Shift-II]

(a) 6 (watt) (b) 10 (watt)
(c) 10.7 (watt) (d) 24 (watt)

ANSWER (c) 10.7 (watt)

In series, the total resistance is 3 + 6 = 9 Ω, so the current is I = 12/9 = 4/3 A. The power dissipated in the 6 Ω resistor is $P = I^2R = (4/3)^2 \times 6 = (16/9) \times 6 \approx 10.7$ W.

- In a series circuit, the same current flows through every resistor.
- The voltage across the 6 Ω resistor is 8 V, so $P = V^2/R = 64/6 \approx 10.7$ W, which gives the same answer.
- The SI unit of power is the watt (1 W = 1 J/s).

---

24 Fill in the blank:
Kinetic friction is generally _____ than the maximum static friction.

[SSC CGL 13 Oct 2026, Shift-I]

(a) greater (b) equal
(c) less (d) unrelated

ANSWER (c) less

Kinetic friction is generally less than the maximum (limiting) static friction. That is why it takes more force to start moving an object than to keep it moving once it has begun to slide.

- Static friction is self-adjusting: it equals the applied force until the limiting value is reached.
- Rolling friction is smaller than both sliding (kinetic) and static friction.
- The coefficient of friction is a dimensionless quantity.

---

25 Which of the following is equivalent to the SI unit of electrical resistance?

[SSC CGL 13 Oct 2026, Shift-III]

(a) Joule/Coulomb (b) Volt/Ampere
(c) Ampere/Volt (d) Coulomb/Joule

ANSWER (b) Volt/Ampere

The SI unit of electrical resistance is the ohm, and from Ohm's law R = V/I, 1 ohm = 1 volt/ampere. (Joule/coulomb is also a volt, not an ohm.)

- Ohm's law: V = IR at constant temperature.
- Ampere/volt is the unit of conductance, the siemens (S).
- 1 volt = 1 joule per coulomb.

---

26 How many joules (J) are equivalent to 1 kilowatt hour (kWh)?

[SSC CGL 14 Oct 2026, Shift-I]

(a) 3.6×10^3 J (b) 3.6×10^4 J
(c) 3.6×10^5 J (d) 3.6×10^6 J

ANSWER (d) 3.6×10^6 J

1 kWh = 1000 W × 3600 s = 3.6×10^6 J. The kilowatt-hour is the commercial unit of electrical energy and is what electricity bills are based on.

- One 'unit' of electricity on the bill is 1 kWh.
- 1 watt = 1 joule per second.
- Energy in kWh = power (kW) × time (hours).

---

27 During a transit, a planet blocks 1% of its star's light. Assuming the star has uniform brightness, what is the ratio of the planet's radius to the star's radius?

[SSC CGL 14 Oct 2026, Shift-I]

(a) 0.01 (b) 0.1
(c) 0.2 (d) 0.5

ANSWER (b) 0.1

The fraction of starlight blocked equals the ratio of the areas of the planet's disc and the star's disc: $(R_p/R_s)^2 = 0.01$. Hence $R_p/R_s = \sqrt{0.01} = 0.1$.

- The transit method detects exoplanets by the small periodic dip in a star's brightness.
- The Kepler space telescope discovered thousands of exoplanets using the transit method.
- Area of a circle = πR^2, so the π cancels in the ratio.

---

28 A particle performs simple harmonic motion with amplitude A. When its displacement from the mean position is A/2 what percentage of its total mechanical energy is kinetic energy?

[SSC CGL 14 Oct 2026, Shift-II]

(a) 25% of total
(b) 50% of total
(c) 75% of total
(d) 100% of total

ANSWER (c) 75% of total

At displacement x, KE = $\frac{1}{2}k(A^2 - x^2)$ and the total energy is $\frac{1}{2}kA^2$. So $KE/E = 1 - (x/A)^2$. At $x = A/2$, $KE/E = 1 - \frac{1}{4} = \frac{3}{4}$, i.e. 75% of the total energy (the remaining 25% is potential energy).

- At the mean position the energy is entirely kinetic, and at the extreme position it is entirely potential.
- KE and PE are equal when $x = A/\sqrt{2}$.
- Total energy in SHM = $\frac{1}{2}kA^2$.

---

29 The magnetic flux through a single-turn conducting loop changes uniformly from 8 Wb(weber) to 2 Wb(weber) in 0.5 s (second). What is the magnitude of the average induced emf (electromotive force) in the loop?

[SSC CGL 15 Oct 2026, Shift-I]

(a) 3 (Volt)
(b) 6 (Volt)
(c) 12 (Volt)
(d) 18 (Volt)

ANSWER (c) 12 (Volt)

By Faraday's law, the magnitude of the induced emf is $|\Delta\Phi/\Delta t|$ per turn. Here $|\Delta\Phi| = 8 - 2 = 6$ Wb and $\Delta t = 0.5$ s, so emf = 6/0.5 = 12 V.

- Lenz's law gives the direction of the induced emf (the minus sign in $\varepsilon = -d\Phi/dt$).
- For N turns, emf = $N \times (\Delta\Phi/\Delta t)$.
- 1 weber/second = 1 volt.

---

30 Ampere-second is a unit of which physical quantity?

[SSC CGL 15 Oct 2026, Shift-II]

(a) Electric current
(b) Electric potential
(c) Electric charge
(d) Electric resistance

ANSWER (c) Electric charge

Since charge Q = current × time, the ampere-second is a unit of electric charge, and 1 A·s = 1 coulomb (C).

- The ampere-hour (Ah) is a larger unit of charge, 1 Ah = 3600 C, used to rate batteries.
- The charge of one electron is about 1.6×10^{-19} C.
- The SI unit of current is the ampere, of potential the volt and of resistance the ohm.

---

31 An asteroid has a semi-major axis (orbital radius) of 9 AU (Astronomical Units). According to Kepler's third law, what is the asteroid's orbital period?

[SSC CGL 15 Oct 2026, Shift-II]

(a) 27 years
(b) 18 years
(c) 17 years
(d) 81 years

ANSWER (a) 27 years

Kepler's third law states $T^2 \propto a^3$; with T in years and a in AU, $T^2 = a^3$. For a = 9 AU, $T^2 = 729$, so T = 27 years.

- Kepler's first law: planets move in elliptical orbits with the Sun at one focus.
- Kepler's second law: the line joining a planet and the Sun sweeps equal areas in equal times.
- 1 AU is the average Earth–Sun distance.

---

32 Which of the following is the SI unit of electrical capacitance?

[SSC CGL 15 Oct 2026, Shift-III]

(a) Weber
(b) Farad
(c) Tesla
(d) Ohm

ANSWER (b) Farad

The SI unit of electrical capacitance is the farad (F), where 1 F = 1 coulomb/volt. It is named after Michael Faraday.

- Weber is the unit of magnetic flux, tesla of magnetic flux density and ohm of resistance.
- In practice, microfarad (μF) and picofarad (pF) are commonly used.

- Capacitance of a parallel-plate capacitor = $\varepsilon_0 A/d$.

33 Which physical quantity is represented by the slope of a distance-time graph?

[SSC CGL 16 Oct 2026, Shift-I]

(a) Speed
(b) Force
(c) Acceleration
(d) Displacement

ANSWER (a) Speed

The slope of a distance-time graph represents speed, since speed = distance ÷ time. A steeper slope means a greater speed, and a straight line means uniform speed.

- A horizontal line on a distance-time graph means the object is at rest.
- The slope of a position-time (displacement-time) graph gives velocity.
- The slope of a velocity-time graph gives acceleration.

34 Which physical quantity is represented by the slope of a line on a velocity-time graph?

[SSC CGL 16 Oct 2026, Shift-II]

(a) Speed
(b) Distance
(c) Acceleration
(d) Displacement

ANSWER (c) Acceleration

The slope of a velocity-time graph represents acceleration, since acceleration = change in velocity ÷ time. A horizontal line means zero acceleration (constant velocity).

- The area under a velocity-time graph gives displacement.
- The SI unit of acceleration is m/s^2.
- Negative acceleration (retardation) means the velocity decreases with time.

35 Which physical reaction occurs in passengers inside a moving bus when it suddenly comes to a halt?

[SSC CGL 16 Oct 2026, Shift-II]

(a) They fall forward abruptly
(b) They fall backwards abruptly
(c) They move upward abruptly
(d) They move sideways abruptly

ANSWER (a) They fall forward abruptly

When a moving bus suddenly stops, the lower part of a passenger's body stops with the bus, but the upper part tends to continue in its state of motion because of inertia. So the passengers fall forward abruptly. This is explained by Newton's first law (inertia of motion).

- When a bus suddenly starts, passengers fall backwards because of inertia of rest.
- When a bus takes a sharp turn, passengers are thrown outwards because of inertia of direction.
- Seat belts in cars protect passengers from the effects of inertia during sudden braking.

36 What physical quantity does an odometer measure in a vehicle?

[SSC CGL 22 Oct 2026, Shift-I]

(a) Speed of the vehicle
(b) Distance travelled
(c) Time elapsed
(d) Acceleration rate

ANSWER (b) Distance travelled

An odometer measures the distance travelled by a vehicle. The speed of the vehicle, in contrast, is shown by the speedometer.

- Distance is a scalar quantity, with the SI unit metre (vehicles commonly show it in kilometres).
- A tachometer measures the rotational speed of the engine (rpm).
- Average speed = total distance ÷ total time.

37 Which of the following is the frequency range of infrasonic sound waves?

[SSC CGL 22 Oct 2026, Shift-I]

(a) Less than 10 Hertz only
(b) Less than 20 Hertz only
(c) Less than 30 Hertz only
(d) More than 20 Hertz only

ANSWER (b) Less than 20 Hertz only

Infrasonic sound waves have frequencies below 20 Hz, which is lower than the range of human hearing. The audible range for humans is about 20 Hz to 20,000 Hz, and waves above 20,000 Hz are ultrasonic.

- Elephants and whales use infrasonic sound to communicate over long distances.
- Earthquakes and volcanic eruptions produce infrasonic waves.

- Ultrasound is used in sonar, medical imaging (sonography) and cleaning of delicate parts.

38 Which quantity is calculated by dividing the total distance travelled by the total time interval?

[SSC CGL 22 Oct 2026, Shift-II]

(a) Average speed (b) Average velocity
(c) Average acceleration (d) Instantaneous speed

ANSWER (a) Average speed

Average speed is the total distance travelled divided by the total time taken. Average velocity, on the other hand, is the total displacement divided by the total time.

- Average speed is a scalar, while average velocity is a vector.
- Average speed is never less than the magnitude of average velocity.
- Instantaneous speed is the speed at a particular instant of time.

39 What is the commercial unit used for measuring electrical energy?

[SSC CGL 22 Oct 2026, Shift-III]

(a) Kilowatt second (b) Calorie
(c) Kilowatt hour (d) Joule

ANSWER (c) Kilowatt hour

The commercial unit of electrical energy is the kilowatt-hour (kWh), and 1 kWh = 3.6×10^6 J. It is the 'unit' used in electricity bills.

- The SI unit of energy is the joule.
- Calorie is a unit of heat energy (1 cal ≈ 4.18 J).
- Electrical energy consumed is measured by an energy meter.

40 In which of the following mediums do sound waves travel fastest at a given temperature?

[SSC CGL 22 Oct 2026, Shift-III]

(a) Solid materials (b) Liquid substances
(c) Gaseous mediums (d) A perfect vacuum

ANSWER (a) Solid materials

Sound travels fastest in solids, slower in liquids and slowest in gases, because the particles in solids are packed closely and the medium is more elastic. In a vacuum, sound cannot travel at all, since it is a mechanical wave that needs a material medium.

- The speed of sound in air at 20°C is about 343 m/s.
- Sound travels faster in water (about 1,480 m/s) than in air.
- The speed of sound in air increases as the temperature rises.

41 When velocity is constant, what is the value of acceleration?

[SSC CGL 23 Oct 2026, Shift-II]

(a) Maximum (b) Zero
(c) Negative (d) Constant

ANSWER (b) Zero

Acceleration is the rate of change of velocity. When the velocity is constant, there is no change in velocity, so the acceleration is zero.

- Constant velocity means constant speed in a straight line.
- In uniform circular motion the speed is constant but the velocity changes, so there is acceleration.
- The SI unit of acceleration is m/s^2.

42 Mechanical energy is the sum of kinetic energy and which of the following forms of energy?

[SSC CGL 23 Oct 2026, Shift-II]

(a) Heat energy only (b) Chemical energy only
(c) Potential energy only (d) Nuclear energy only

ANSWER (c) Potential energy only

Mechanical energy is the sum of kinetic energy and potential energy of a body or system. In the absence of non-conservative forces such as friction, the total mechanical energy remains conserved.

- Kinetic energy = $\frac{1}{2}mv^2$; gravitational potential energy = mgh.
- In free fall, potential energy is converted into kinetic energy, but the total stays the same.
- The SI unit of all forms of energy is the joule.

43 What is the process of converting a solid directly into gas called?

[SSC CGL 23 Oct 2026, Shift-III]

(a) Evaporation (b) Sublimation
(c) Condensation (d) Deposition

ANSWER (b) Sublimation

The process in which a solid changes directly into gas without passing through the liquid state is called sublimation. Common examples are camphor, naphthalene balls, ammonium chloride and dry ice (solid carbon dioxide).

- Deposition is the reverse process, in which a gas changes directly into a solid.
- Evaporation is the change of a liquid into vapour below its boiling point, from the surface.
- Condensation is the change of vapour into liquid.

---

44 Which of the following is the SI unit of entropy?

[SSC CGL 24 Oct 2026, Shift-I]

(a) Joule (b) Kelvin
(c) Joule per kelvin (d) Watt per kelvin

ANSWER (c) Joule per kelvin

Entropy is defined through the heat exchanged in a reversible process divided by the temperature, $dS = dQ/T$, so its SI unit is joule per kelvin (J/K).

- Boltzmann's relation $S = k \ln W$ links entropy with the number of microstates.
- The second law of thermodynamics states that the entropy of an isolated system never decreases.
- Boltzmann constant also has the unit J/K.

---

45 Which of the following statements is **correct** regarding the speed of an object in uniform circular motion?

[SSC CGL 24 Oct 2026, Shift-I]

(a) Always changing its value (b) Constant throughout motion
(c) Zero at all points (d) Negative at all times

ANSWER (b) Constant throughout motion

In uniform circular motion the speed (magnitude of velocity) remains constant throughout the motion. However, the direction of velocity keeps changing, so the velocity and hence the acceleration are not constant.

- The acceleration is directed towards the centre, called centripetal acceleration, $a = v^2/r$.
- Speed is a scalar and can never be negative.
- The centripetal force does no work because it is always perpendicular to the displacement.

---

46 A body is projected vertically upward with an initial speed of 20 m/s (meters per second). Neglecting air resistance and taking g (gravity) = 10 m/s^2 (meters per second squared), what maximum height does it reach above the point of projection?

[SSC CGL 27 Oct 2026, Shift-I]

(a) 10 (meter) (b) 15 (meter)
(c) 20 (meter) (d) 25 (meter)

ANSWER (c) 20 (meter)

At the maximum height the final velocity is zero, so $v^2 = u^2 - 2gh$ gives $h = u^2/2g = (20)^2/(2 \times 10) = 400/20 = 20$ m.

- The time to reach the maximum height is $t = u/g = 2$ s.
- The total time of flight (back to the starting point) is $2u/g = 4$ s.
- At the highest point the velocity is zero, but the acceleration is still g, directed downwards.

---

47 A solid disc and a ring are released simultaneously from rest at the same height on the same inclined plane. Both objects roll without slipping. Which of the following reaches the bottom of the incline first?

[SSC CGL 27 Oct 2026, Shift-II]

(a) The ring
(b) The solid disc
(c) The solid disc and the ring simultaneously
(d) The solid disc or the ring, depending on their masses

ANSWER (b) The solid disc

For rolling without slipping, the acceleration is $a = g \sin\theta \div (1 + k^2/R^2)$. For a solid disc $k^2/R^2 = ½$ and for a ring $k^2/R^2 = 1$, so the disc has the greater acceleration (⅔ g sinθ against ½ g sinθ). The solid disc therefore reaches the bottom first, regardless of mass or radius.

- The ring has the largest moment of inertia (MR^2) for a given mass and radius, so it is the slowest.
- A solid sphere ($k^2/R^2 = 2/5$) would beat both the disc and the ring.
- The result is independent of the mass and radius of the objects.

---

48 A fixed amount of an ideal gas expands at constant pressure. If its volume becomes three times its initial volume, what will be its final absolute temperature in comparison with its initial absolute temperature?

[SSC CGL 28 Oct 2026, Shift-I]

(a) It remains the same
(b) It becomes twice the initial temperature
(c) It becomes three times the initial temperature
(d) It becomes nine times the initial temperature

ANSWER (c) It becomes three times the initial temperature

By Charles's law, at constant pressure the volume of a fixed mass of gas is directly proportional to its absolute temperature ($V \propto T$, or $V_1/T_1 = V_2/T_2$). So when the volume becomes three times, the absolute temperature also becomes three times.

- Charles's law holds only when the temperature is measured on the absolute (kelvin) scale.
- Boyle's law: at constant temperature, $P \propto 1/V$.
- Gay-Lussac's law: at constant volume, $P \propto T$.

---

49 A ring and a solid sphere of equal mass and radius are released from rest on the same inclined plane. If both objects roll without slipping, which one has greater linear acceleration?

[SSC CGL 28 Oct 2026, Shift-II]

(a) The ring has greater linear acceleration
(b) The solid sphere has greater linear acceleration
(c) Both have equal linear acceleration
(d) Their linear acceleration depends only on the angle of inclination

ANSWER (b) The solid sphere has greater linear acceleration

For rolling without slipping, $a = g \sin\theta \div (1 + k^2/R^2)$. For a ring $k^2/R^2 = 1$, so $a = ½ g \sin\theta$, while for a solid sphere $k^2/R^2 = 2/5$, so $a = (5/7) g \sin\theta$. The solid sphere has the greater linear acceleration.

- The smaller the moment of inertia (for the same mass and radius), the greater the acceleration of a rolling body.
- The result does not depend on the mass or radius of the bodies, only on their shape (mass distribution).
- A body that slides without friction down the plane would have the largest acceleration, g sinθ.


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07
CHAPTER

Chemistry

Questions with Explanations *8 questions · 53 shifts*

01 One mole of an ideal gas undergoes a reversible isothermal expansion from 10 L(liter) to 20 L (liter) at a constant temperature of 300 K (kelvin). What is the work done by the gas, approximately?

[SSC CGL 30 Sep 2026, Shift-II]

(a) 0 (joule)
(b) 700 (joule)
(c) 3500 (joule)
(d) 1700 (joule)

ANSWER (d) 1700 (joule)

For a reversible isothermal expansion of an ideal gas, the work done by the gas is W = nRT ln(V2/V1) = 1 × 8.314 × 300 × ln 2 = 8.314 × 300 × 0.693, which is about 1729 J, i.e. approximately 1700 J. Since the temperature is constant, the internal energy does not change, so the heat absorbed equals the work done.

- In an isothermal process, ΔU = 0 for an ideal gas, so q = −w (sign conventions vary).
- Work in an isothermal process can also be written as W = nRT ln(P1/P2).
- Option A (0 J) would apply only to a free expansion into a vacuum.

02 In a hydrogen–oxygen fuel cell, why are porous electrodes coated or impregnated with a catalyst primarily used?

[SSC CGL 06 Oct 2026, Shift-I]

(a) To provide large surface area and enhance reaction kinetics
(b) To increase mechanical strength of the electrodes
(c) To store hydrogen and oxygen inside the electrode permanently
(d) To prevent formation of water during the reaction

ANSWER (a) To provide large surface area and enhance reaction kinetics

In a hydrogen–oxygen fuel cell, porous electrodes are coated with a catalyst (usually platinum) so that they offer a very large surface area for gas–electrode–electrolyte contact and speed up the electrode reactions (kinetics). Without a catalyst, the oxidation of hydrogen and the reduction of oxygen would be too slow to give a useful current.

- Overall reaction: $2H_2 + O_2 \rightarrow 2H_2O$; water is the only product.
- A fuel cell converts chemical energy directly into electrical energy and works as long as fuel is supplied.
- Fuel cells have been used in space missions such as Apollo, where the water produced was used for drinking.

03 Which of the following is the most abundant element in the 'Entire Earth' (from crust to inner core)?

[SSC CGL 10 Oct 2026, Shift-III]

(a) Oxygen
(b) Silicon
(c) Iron
(d) Magnesium

ANSWER (c) Iron

Iron is the most abundant element in the Earth as a whole, because the huge core is made mainly of iron (with nickel) and the mantle also contains iron. Oxygen is the most abundant element only in the Earth's crust, followed by silicon.

- Order of abundance in the crust: oxygen, silicon, aluminium, iron, calcium.
- For the whole Earth, the main elements are iron, oxygen, silicon and magnesium, in that order.

- The Earth's core is divided into a liquid outer core and a solid inner core, both iron-nickel rich.

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04 In the moving boundary method used to determine an ion's transport number, what is the primary purpose of adding an indicator electrolyte to the principal electrolyte?

[SSC CGL 12 Oct 2026, Shift-I]

(a) To increase the conductivity of the solution
(b) To ensure complete dissociation of the principal electrolyte
(c) To form a sharp and visible boundary for measuring ion migration
(d) To prevent current flow through the cell

ANSWER (c) To form a sharp and visible boundary for measuring ion ...

In the moving boundary method, an indicator electrolyte (having a common ion with the principal electrolyte, but an ion of lower mobility) is layered over the principal electrolyte so that a sharp, visible boundary forms between the two solutions. The movement of this boundary under an electric current is measured to find the distance travelled by the ion and hence its transport number.

- Transport number is the fraction of the total current carried by a particular ion: $t_+ + t_- = 1$.
- The other common experimental method is Hittorf's method.
- The indicator ion must move slower than the ion under study so that the boundary stays sharp.

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05 The concept of "secondary pollutants" in the Air Quality Index (AQI) is best illustrated by:

[SSC CGL 15 Oct 2026, Shift-I]

(a) Direct emissions of particulate matter from industrial sources.
(b) Sulfur dioxide emitted from power plants.
(c) Ozone formed from the interaction of NOx and VOCs.
(d) Carbon monoxide from vehicle exhaust.

ANSWER (c) Ozone formed from the interaction of NOx and VOCs.

Secondary pollutants are not emitted directly; they form in the atmosphere through chemical reactions among primary pollutants. Ground-level (tropospheric) ozone is a classic secondary pollutant, formed when oxides of nitrogen (NOx) and volatile organic compounds (VOCs) react in the presence of sunlight.

- Primary pollutants include particulate matter, SO_2, CO and NOx, which are emitted directly from sources.
- Peroxyacetyl nitrate (PAN) is another secondary pollutant found in photochemical smog.
- India's National AQI, launched in 2014, covers eight pollutants, including PM10, PM2.5, NO_2, SO_2, CO, O_3, NH_3 and Pb.

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06 Which gas is known as 'laughing gas'?

[SSC CGL 16 Oct 2026, Shift-III]

(a) Nitrous oxide (N_2O)
(b) Nitric oxide (NO)
(c) Carbon dioxide (CO_2)
(d) Sulfur dioxide (SO_2)

ANSWER (a) Nitrous oxide (N_2O)

Nitrous oxide (N_2O) is known as laughing gas because inhaling a small amount produces a mild feeling of euphoria. It was first prepared by Joseph Priestley (1772) and its anaesthetic use was noted by Humphry Davy.

- It is used as a mild anaesthetic in dentistry and as a propellant in whipped-cream dispensers.
- N_2O is also a greenhouse gas, with a much higher warming potential per molecule than CO_2.
- Nitric oxide (NO) is a colourless gas; SO_2 is a pungent gas that causes acid rain.

---

07 Which element has the highest electronegativity?

[SSC CGL 27 Oct 2026, Shift-III]

(a) Oxygen
(b) Nitrogen
(c) Fluorine
(d) Chlorine

ANSWER (c) Fluorine

Fluorine has the highest electronegativity of all elements (about 4.0 on the Pauling scale) because of its very small atomic size and high effective nuclear charge. Electronegativity increases across a period from left to right and decreases down a group.

- The order among the options is F > O > Cl > N (3.98, 3.44, 3.16, 3.04 on the Pauling scale).
- Francium and caesium are among the least electronegative elements.

- Linus Pauling introduced the electronegativity scale.

08 Which pollutant is primarily responsible for the formation of acid rain?

[SSC CGL 27 Oct 2026, Shift-III]

(a) Carbon dioxide (b) Sulfur dioxide
(c) Methane (d) Ozone

ANSWER (b) Sulfur dioxide

Sulfur dioxide (SO_2), along with oxides of nitrogen (NOx), is mainly responsible for acid rain. In the atmosphere these gases are oxidised and dissolve in rain water to form sulfuric acid and nitric acid, which lowers the rain's pH below about 5.6.

- Burning of coal and oil in power plants and smelters is the major source of SO_2.
- Normal rain is slightly acidic (pH about 5.6) because of dissolved CO_2, which forms carbonic acid.
- Acid rain damages marble monuments (the Taj Mahal is a well-known concern), forests and aquatic life.



08
CHAPTER

Biology

Questions with Explanations *51 questions · 53 shifts*

01 What is the major health risk associated with long-term use of anabolic steroids by athletes?

[SSC CGL 30 Sep 2026, Shift-II]

(a) Increased bone thickness and strength
(b) Severe dehydration and fluid loss
(c) Hormonal imbalance and organ damage
(d) Better immunity and faster recovery

ANSWER (c) Hormonal imbalance and organ damage

Long-term use of anabolic steroids causes hormonal imbalance and damage to organs such as the liver, heart and reproductive system. These drugs are synthetic derivatives of the male hormone testosterone, so they disturb the body's natural hormone regulation.

- Effects include shrinking of testes and reduced sperm count in men, and masculine features in women.
- Anabolic steroids are banned in sport by the World Anti-Doping Agency (WADA).
- They increase muscle mass quickly but raise the risk of heart disease and liver tumours.

02 Which process is most directly responsible for the majority of cancer-related deaths?

[SSC CGL 30 Sep 2026, Shift-II]

(a) Increased local proliferation of tumor cells
(b) Loss of cell cycle checkpoints in dividing cells
(c) Formation of metastases in distant organs
(d) Formation of benign tumor masses in primary tissue

ANSWER (c) Formation of metastases in distant organs

Most cancer-related deaths are caused by metastasis, the spread of cancer cells from the primary site to distant organs where they form secondary tumours. Metastatic tumours damage vital organs such as the lungs, liver and brain and are very hard to treat.

- Benign tumours do not spread to other tissues, while malignant tumours do.
- Loss of cell cycle checkpoints and mutations in tumour-suppressor genes such as p53 lead to uncontrolled division.
- Substances that cause cancer are called carcinogens.

03 Which of the following best describes the primary ecological function of a food web within a natural habitat?

[SSC CGL 30 Sep 2026, Shift-III]

(a) It shows a series of branching lines of interconnected food chains
(b) It shows the seasonal migration routes of various animal species in a region
(c) It estimates the total biomass of producers present at a given trophic level
(d) It identifies the dominant predators that control the population sizes of other species

ANSWER (a) It shows a series of branching lines of interconnected ...

A food web is a network of many interconnected food chains in an ecosystem, so it shows the branching feeding relationships among organisms. Because one organism feeds on and is eaten by several others, a food web gives stability to the ecosystem.

- A food chain is a single linear sequence of feeding, whereas a food web is made up of many food chains.
- Energy flow is unidirectional, and only about one-tenth of energy passes to the next trophic level (Lindeman's 10% law).

- Producers form the first trophic level of every food web.

04 Excessive curvature of the eye lens causes which defect?

[SSC CGL 30 Sep 2026, Shift-III]

(a) Presbyopia (b) Hypermetropia
(c) Myopia (d) Night blindness

ANSWER (c) Myopia

Excessive curvature of the eye lens (or elongation of the eyeball) causes myopia, or short-sightedness. The image of a distant object is then formed in front of the retina, so distant objects look blurred.

- Myopia is corrected with a concave (diverging) lens.
- Hypermetropia (long-sightedness) is corrected with a convex lens, and presbyopia with bifocal lenses.
- Night blindness is caused by deficiency of Vitamin A.

05 A student repeatedly lifts a 5-kilogram bag and experiences muscle fatigue during the activity. Which substance is traditionally described as accumulating in the muscles when the oxygen supply is insufficient?

[SSC CGL 01 Oct 2026, Shift-II]

(a) Glucose (b) Lactic acid
(c) Chlorophyll (d) Hemoglobin

ANSWER (b) Lactic acid

When oxygen supply to muscles is insufficient, glucose is broken down by anaerobic respiration and lactic acid accumulates. This is traditionally held responsible for muscle fatigue and cramps during heavy exercise.

- In anaerobic respiration in yeast, ethanol and carbon dioxide are formed instead.
- Glycolysis, the first step of respiration, occurs in the cytoplasm.
- Haemoglobin carries oxygen in blood, and chlorophyll is the plant pigment for photosynthesis.

06 During physical exercise, a person's pulse rate rises from 70 beats per minute to 110 beats per minute. By how many beats per minute does the pulse rate increase?

[SSC CGL 01 Oct 2026, Shift-III]

(a) 20 beats per minute (b) 30 beats per minute
(c) 40 beats per minute (d) 50 beats per minute

ANSWER (c) 40 beats per minute

The increase in pulse rate is the final value minus the initial value: 110 − 70 = 40 beats per minute. During exercise muscles need more oxygen, so the heart beats faster to supply it.

- The pulse is the rhythmic expansion of an artery with each heartbeat.
- The resting heart rate of a healthy adult is generally about 72 beats per minute.
- The heartbeat is initiated by the sinoatrial (SA) node, the natural pacemaker.

07 Which mechanism is primarily responsible for the continuous renewal of the small intestinal epithelium?

[SSC CGL 05 Oct 2026, Shift-II]

(a) Uniform division across villi and crypts
(b) Stem cell proliferation in crypts producing migrating cells
(c) Villus tip cells re-entering the cell cycle
(d) Paneth cells dividing to generate all lineages

ANSWER (b) Stem cell proliferation in crypts producing migrating cells

The small intestinal epithelium is renewed by stem cells located in the crypts of Lieberkühn. These stem cells divide and produce cells that migrate upward along the villi, and the old cells at the villus tip are shed.

- Renewal of the intestinal lining takes only a few days, making it one of the fastest-renewing tissues of the body.
- Paneth cells at the base of crypts secrete antimicrobial substances such as lysozyme.
- Villi increase the surface area for absorption of digested food.

08 A single bacterial cell reproduces by binary fission, causing the number of cells to double every 20 minutes. How many bacterial cells will be present after 1 hour?

[SSC CGL 06 Oct 2026, Shift-I]

(a) 4 cells (b) 6 cells
(c) 8 cells (d) 16 cells

ANSWER (c) 8 cells

One hour has three intervals of 20 minutes, so the cells double three times: 1 → 2 → 4 → 8. Hence $2^3 = 8$ bacterial cells are present after 1 hour.

- Binary fission is the common asexual method of reproduction in bacteria.
- Under favourable conditions bacteria multiply rapidly, which is called exponential growth.
- Bacteria are prokaryotes and lack a membrane-bound nucleus.

---

09 A prey population increases from 400 individuals to 600 individuals over one year. What is the percentage growth in the population during this period?

[SSC CGL 06 Oct 2026, Shift-III]

(a) 25% (b) 33%
(c) 60% (d) 50%

ANSWER (d) 50%

Percentage growth = (increase ÷ original) × 100. The increase is 600 − 400 = 200, so the growth is (200 ÷ 400) × 100 = 50%.

- Population growth depends on natality, mortality, immigration and emigration.
- Population density is the number of individuals per unit area or volume.
- Growth in a population with unlimited resources is exponential (J-shaped curve), and with limited resources it is logistic (S-shaped curve).

---

10 An antibody titre increases from 1:20 before vaccination to 1:320 after vaccination. By what factor has the antibody titre increased?

[SSC CGL 06 Oct 2026, Shift-III]

(a) 16-fold (b) 12-fold
(c) 19-fold (d) 20-fold

ANSWER (a) 16-fold

The fold increase is the final titre divided by the initial titre. Taking the titres as 20 and 320, 320 ÷ 20 = 16, so the antibody titre increased 16-fold.

- A titre is a measure of antibody concentration, found by serial dilution of serum.
- Vaccination stimulates memory B-cells, which give a faster and stronger secondary response.
- Antibodies are proteins called immunoglobulins.

---

11 Why are pollinators such as insects, birds, and bats considered ecologically important?

[SSC CGL 07 Oct 2026, Shift-I]

(a) They are more economically valuable than entire forest ecosystems.
(b) They demonstrate the ecological interdependence between forests and agriculture.
(c) They are the primary species threatened by tourism.
(d) They directly support industrial manufacturing processes.

ANSWER (b) They demonstrate the ecological interdependence between ...

Pollinators carry pollen from one flower to another, which links wild plants in forests with the crops grown in farmland. This shows the ecological interdependence between forests and agriculture, as many food crops depend on pollination.

- Pollination by insects is called entomophily, by birds ornithophily and by bats chiropterophily.
- Honeybees are among the most important pollinators of crops.
- Decline in pollinators threatens fruit and seed production and so food security.

---

12 A healthy green plant is kept in complete darkness for three consecutive days. Which biological process is the plant unable to carry out because light is unavailable?

[SSC CGL 07 Oct 2026, Shift-III]

(a) Respiration (b) Photosynthesis
(c) Transpiration (d) Germination

ANSWER (b) Photosynthesis

Photosynthesis needs light energy, so a plant kept in complete darkness cannot carry it out. Respiration, however, goes on day and night because it does not depend on light.

- Photosynthesis: $6CO_2 + 6H_2O \rightarrow C_6H_{12}O_6 + 6O_2$, in the presence of light and chlorophyll.

- The light reaction takes place in the grana of the chloroplast and the dark reaction (Calvin cycle) in the stroma.
- A plant grown in darkness becomes pale and elongated, which is called etiolation.

13 A person has difficulty digesting fats because bile is not being produced properly. Which organ is most likely affected?

[SSC CGL 08 Oct 2026, Shift-I]

(a) Heart
(b) Liver
(c) Kidney
(d) Lungs

ANSWER (b) Liver

Bile is produced by the liver, so a defect in bile production points to the liver. Bile is stored in the gall bladder and helps in the emulsification of fats, which are then digested by lipase.

- The liver is the largest gland of the human body.
- Bile contains bile salts and pigments such as bilirubin, but no digestive enzymes.
- Bile also makes the food in the small intestine alkaline.

14 A child consumes a diet that contains very few fresh fruits and vegetables. After several months, the child develops bleeding gums and reduced resistance to infections. Which vitamin deficiency is the most likely cause of these symptoms?

[SSC CGL 08 Oct 2026, Shift-II]

(a) Vitamin A
(b) Vitamin B_1 (thiamine)
(c) Vitamin D
(d) Vitamin C (ascorbic acid)

ANSWER (d) Vitamin C (ascorbic acid)

Bleeding gums and reduced resistance to infection are symptoms of scurvy, which is caused by deficiency of Vitamin C (ascorbic acid). Fresh fruits and vegetables are the main sources of this vitamin.

- Rich sources of Vitamin C include amla, citrus fruits, guava and tomato.
- Vitamin C is needed for the formation of collagen and is water-soluble.
- Deficiency of Vitamin A causes night blindness, of B_1 causes beriberi and of D causes rickets.

15 Which of the following pairs (Type of Algae – Nutrient Rich In) is correctly matched?

[SSC CGL 09 Oct 2026, Shift-I]

(a) Chlorella – Rich in Calcium
(b) Spirulina – Rich in Protein
(c) Ulva – Rich in Vitamin B12
(d) Sargassum – Rich in Iron

ANSWER (b) Spirulina – Rich in Protein

Spirulina is rich in protein and is used as a food supplement. It is a blue-green alga (cyanobacterium) and is a source of single-cell protein (SCP).

- Chlorella is a green alga also used as a protein-rich food supplement.
- Ulva is commonly called sea lettuce, and Sargassum is a brown alga used as a source of alginates.
- Spirulina is cultivated in India as a nutritional supplement and as feed.

16 Consider the following statements regarding the Buff-tip moth:
1. The larvae of the buff-tip moth are capable of stripping an entire tree bare within a few weeks.
2. "Phalera cf. bucephala" is the scientific name of the buff-tip moth.
Which of the statements given above is/are **correct**?

[SSC CGL 09 Oct 2026, Shift-II]

(a) 1 only
(b) 2 only
(c) Both 1 and 2
(d) Neither 1 nor 2

ANSWER (c) Both 1 and 2

As per the official answer key, both statements are correct. The buff-tip moth (genus Phalera, Phalera bucephala) has caterpillars that feed together on tree leaves and can strip a whole tree of its leaves within a few weeks.

- The adult buff-tip moth is well camouflaged and looks like a broken twig of silver birch.
- The moth belongs to the family Notodontidae, and its caterpillars feed in groups.
- Insects are scientifically named using binomial nomenclature, given by Carl Linnaeus.

17 In a pond ecosystem, pesticide exposure causes a substantial decline in the population of fish that help regulate aquatic insect populations.

After some time, the mosquito population increases rapidly. What is the most likely ecological explanation for this increase?

[SSC CGL 10 Oct 2026, Shift-I]

(a) Reduced competition among mosquito larvae for aquatic resources
(b) Increased reproductive activity of mosquitoes due to pesticide exposure
(c) Reduced predation on mosquito larvae following the decline in fish population
(d) Decreased water temperature leading to greater mosquito survival

ANSWER (c) Reduced predation on mosquito larvae following the ...

Fish feed on mosquito larvae, so when the fish population declines, predation on the larvae falls and more of them survive. The result is a rapid rise in the mosquito population, an example of how removing a predator disturbs the food web.

- Gambusia (mosquito fish) is used in biological control of mosquito larvae.
- Biological control uses natural enemies such as predators and parasites to control pests.
- Pesticides can also accumulate in food chains through biomagnification.

---

18 Which vital micronutrient is crucial for DNA replication and, when deficient, results in megaloblastic anaemia?

[SSC CGL 10 Oct 2026, Shift-II]

(a) Folate
(b) Vitamin B12
(c) Iron
(d) Vitamin C

ANSWER (b) Vitamin B12

SSC Key (b) · Disputed question

As per the official key, the answer is Vitamin B12 (cobalamin), whose deficiency causes megaloblastic anaemia in which red blood cells are large and immature because DNA synthesis is impaired. The question is debatable: both vitamin B12 and folate deficiency cause megaloblastic anaemia, and folate is directly needed for DNA synthesis, so option A is equally defensible.

- Vitamin B12 contains the mineral cobalt; its deficiency can also cause pernicious anaemia and nerve damage.
- Folate is vitamin B9; deficiency in pregnancy is linked to neural tube defects.
- Iron deficiency causes microcytic hypochromic anaemia; vitamin C deficiency causes scurvy.

---

19 Cardiac output is 5 L/min (liters per minute), and the heart rate is 100 beats/min (beats per minute). What is the stroke volume?

[SSC CGL 10 Oct 2026, Shift-III]

(a) 40 (milliliter)
(b) 50 (milliliter)
(c) 60 (milliliter)
(d) 70 (milliliter)

ANSWER (b) 50 (milliliter)

Cardiac output = heart rate × stroke volume, so stroke volume = cardiac output ÷ heart rate. Converting 5 L to 5000 mL, 5000 ÷ 100 = 50 mL per beat.

- Stroke volume is the volume of blood pumped by each ventricle in one beat.
- In a healthy adult the stroke volume is about 70 mL and the cardiac output about 5 litres per minute.
- Cardiac output is measured in litres per minute.

---

20 Under standard biochemical conditions, the hydrolysis of one mole of ATP (adenosine triphosphate) releases approximately 7.3 kcal (kilocalorie) of free energy. Assuming complete energy coupling, how many moles of ATP (adenosine triphosphate) must be hydrolysed to provide 29.2 kcal (kilocalorie) of energy?

[SSC CGL 10 Oct 2026, Shift-III]

(a) 2
(b) 3
(c) 4
(d) 5

ANSWER (c) 4

The moles of ATP required equal the total energy needed divided by the energy per mole: 29.2 ÷ 7.3 = 4 moles. Hence 4 moles of ATP must be hydrolysed.

- ATP is called the energy currency of the cell.
- Hydrolysis of ATP to ADP and inorganic phosphate releases energy, as the terminal phosphate bond is a high-energy bond.
- Most ATP in a cell is produced in the mitochondria, the 'powerhouse of the cell'.

---

21 A student takes 18 breaths per minute. How many breaths will the student take in 2 hours?

[SSC CGL 12 Oct 2026, Shift-II]

(a) 1080 (b) 2160
(c) 3600 (d) 1800

ANSWER (b) 2160

Two hours equal 2 × 60 = 120 minutes. The number of breaths is 18 × 120 = 2160.

- The normal breathing rate of a healthy adult at rest is about 12 to 20 breaths per minute.
- Breathing is controlled by the respiratory centre in the medulla oblongata of the brain.
- The diaphragm is the main muscle of respiration.

---

22 Two identical green plants are kept under different environmental conditions. Plant A is exposed to sunlight, whereas Plant B is kept in complete darkness for one week. Plant B becomes weak and pale. What is the main reason for this change?

[SSC CGL 12 Oct 2026, Shift-III]

(a) Absence of respiration
(b) Excess production of oxygen
(c) Absence of photosynthesis
(d) Excess production of chlorophyll

ANSWER (c) Absence of photosynthesis

Without light, Plant B cannot perform photosynthesis, so it makes no food and chlorophyll formation also stops. The plant therefore becomes weak and pale, a condition called etiolation.

- Light is needed for the synthesis of chlorophyll in most plants.
- Respiration continues in darkness, using the food already stored in the plant.
- Photosynthesis is the main source of oxygen in the atmosphere.

---

23 A vaccine may introduce weakened or inactive microbes, or parts of them, into the body. What is the main purpose of vaccination?

[SSC CGL 13 Oct 2026, Shift-I]

(a) Increase blood pressure
(b) Develop immunity against a specific disease
(c) Destroy red blood cells
(d) Temporarily stop digestion

ANSWER (b) Develop immunity against a specific disease

Vaccination aims to develop immunity against a specific disease. The weakened or inactive microbe (or its part) stimulates the immune system to produce antibodies and memory cells without causing the disease.

- Edward Jenner developed the first vaccine (for smallpox) in 1796.
- Vaccination gives active acquired immunity, whereas injecting ready-made antibodies gives passive immunity.
- Smallpox was declared eradicated from the world in 1980.

---

24 Which of the below statement(s) is/are incorrect about B-cells:
1. Produce antibodies
2. Mature in thymus
3. Part of adaptive immunity
4. Derived from bone marrow

[SSC CGL 13 Oct 2026, Shift-II]

(a) 2 only (b) 1 and 3
(c) 3 and 4 (d) 1,2,3 and 4 all

ANSWER (a) 2 only

Only statement 2 is incorrect. B-cells are formed and mature in the bone marrow (not in the thymus); it is the T-cells that mature in the thymus.

- B-cells produce antibodies and form part of adaptive (humoral) immunity.
- On activation, B-cells differentiate into plasma cells and memory cells.
- The thymus is a primary lymphoid organ in which T-lymphocytes mature.

---

25 Which type of plasmid lacks a complete conjugation system and therefore requires a self-transmissible helper plasmid for transfer between bacterial cells?

[SSC CGL 13 Oct 2026, Shift-III]

(a) Conjugative plasmid (b) Self-transmissible plasmid
(c) Mobilizable plasmid (d) Col plasmid

ANSWER (c) Mobilizable plasmid

A mobilizable plasmid lacks a complete set of conjugation (transfer) genes, so it can move to another bacterial cell only with the help of a self-transmissible (conjugative) helper plasmid present in the same cell. Conjugative plasmids carry all the genes needed for their own transfer.

- The F (fertility) plasmid of E. coli is a conjugative plasmid.
- Conjugation involves direct cell-to-cell transfer of DNA through a pilus.
- Plasmids are small, circular, extrachromosomal DNA molecules in bacteria.

---

26 Which component of innate immunity functions through a regulated proteolytic cascade that can culminate in membrane attack complex formation and pathogen lysis?

[SSC CGL 13 Oct 2026, Shift-III]

(a) Cytokines
(b) Complement proteins
(c) Chemokines
(d) Lysozyme

ANSWER (b) Complement proteins

Complement proteins form a cascade in which each activated protein activates the next by proteolytic cleavage. The end result can be the membrane attack complex, which makes pores in the pathogen's membrane and lyses it.

- The complement system also helps in opsonisation (making microbes easier for phagocytes to engulf).
- Lysozyme is an enzyme in tears, saliva and mucus that breaks down bacterial cell walls.
- Chemokines attract white blood cells to the site of infection, and cytokines such as interferons are signalling proteins.

---

27 A region experiences rapid deforestation followed by irregular river flow, floods during monsoon, and drought afterward. Which ecological principle does this most strongly demonstrate?

[SSC CGL 14 Oct 2026, Shift-I]

(a) Competitive exclusion among species for water resources
(b) Ecological succession after water related disturbance
(c) Regulation of water flow within watersheds
(d) Stabilisation of energy pyramids in water based ecosystems

ANSWER (c) Regulation of water flow within watersheds

Forests regulate water flow within a watershed: tree roots and leaf litter let rainwater soak into the soil and release it slowly to streams. When forests are removed, runoff increases in the monsoon and causes floods, while groundwater recharge falls and causes drought later.

- Forests reduce soil erosion by binding the soil with roots.
- A watershed is the land area that drains into a common river or water body.
- Afforestation and watershed management help restore water balance.

---

28 A village community uses contaminated pond water for drinking and other daily activities. After a few days, many residents develop severe diarrhoea and vomiting. Which disease is most likely spreading through the contaminated water?

[SSC CGL 14 Oct 2026, Shift-III]

(a) Malaria
(b) Cholera
(c) Tuberculosis
(d) Rabies

ANSWER (b) Cholera

Severe diarrhoea and vomiting after drinking contaminated water indicate cholera, a water-borne disease caused by the bacterium Vibrio cholerae. It spreads through water and food contaminated with faeces and leads to severe dehydration.

- Treatment is by Oral Rehydration Solution (ORS) to replace lost fluids and salts.
- Malaria is caused by Plasmodium and spread by female Anopheles mosquitoes.
- Tuberculosis (Mycobacterium tuberculosis) spreads through air, and rabies (virus) through the bite of an infected animal.

---

29 A bacterial culture initially contains 200 bacteria and doubles in size every hour. How many bacteria will be present after 3 hours?

[SSC CGL 15 Oct 2026, Shift-I]

(a) 400
(b) 800
(c) 1200
(d) 1600

ANSWER (d) 1600

The culture doubles every hour, so after 3 hours the number is $200 \times 2^3 = 200 \times 8 = 1600$. The sequence is 200 → 400 → 800 → 1600.

- Bacterial growth under ideal conditions is exponential (geometric).
- The time taken for a bacterial population to double is called the generation time.
- Bacteria reproduce mainly by binary fission.

---

30 Which intermediate filament protein is most specifically associated with muscle cells?

[SSC CGL 15 Oct 2026, Shift-III]

(a) Vimentin
(b) Desmin
(c) Neurofilament proteins
(d) Glial fibrillary acidic protein

ANSWER (b) Desmin

Desmin is the intermediate filament protein most specific to muscle cells, where it links the Z-discs of neighbouring myofibrils and holds the contractile apparatus in place.

- Vimentin is found in mesenchymal cells such as fibroblasts.
- Neurofilament proteins occur in neurons, and glial fibrillary acidic protein (GFAP) in astrocytes.
- Cytoskeleton has three main parts: microfilaments, intermediate filaments and microtubules.

---

31 When a fully turgid plant cell is placed in a solution with the same solute concentration as its cell sap, which change is most likely to occur first?

[SSC CGL 15 Oct 2026, Shift-III]

(a) Cell-wall collapse
(b) Decreased turgor pressure
(c) Increased water influx
(d) Plasma-membrane rigidity

ANSWER (b) Decreased turgor pressure

A fully turgid cell has a positive pressure potential, so its water potential is higher than that of an external solution with the same solute concentration. Water therefore moves out slightly and the turgor pressure decreases first.

- Water potential of a cell = solute potential + pressure potential.
- In a fully turgid cell, the wall pressure balances the osmotic pressure, and no more water enters.
- In a hypertonic solution, water leaves the cell and plasmolysis occurs.

---

32 With reference to Earth's biosphere, consider the following statements and choose the **correct** option:
1. Photosynthesis is the primary process responsible for oxygen production.
2. Forests are the only natural source of oxygen on Earth.
3. Marine ecosystems play a major role in maintaining atmospheric oxygen levels.
Which of the statements above is/are **correct**?

[SSC CGL 16 Oct 2026, Shift-I]

(a) Only 1
(b) 1 and 3 are correct
(c) 2 and 3 are correct
(d) 1, 2 and 3 all are correct

ANSWER (b) 1 and 3 are correct

Statements 1 and 3 are correct. Photosynthesis is the main process that releases oxygen, and marine ecosystems, especially phytoplankton, contribute a major share of the oxygen in the atmosphere. Statement 2 is wrong because forests are not the only natural source; oceans and other vegetation also produce oxygen.

- Phytoplankton such as diatoms and algae are the main producers of the oceans.
- The oxygen released in photosynthesis comes from the splitting of water.
- Oxygen in the atmosphere is about one-fifth of the air by volume.

---

33 Which statement best distinguishes abiotic components from biotic components in an ecosystem?

[SSC CGL 16 Oct 2026, Shift-II]

(a) Soil bacteria are abiotic because they are microscopic.
(b) Organic compounds belong exclusively to biotic components.
(c) Temperature and topography affect species distribution.
(d) Producers are abiotic because they convert solar energy.

ANSWER (c) Temperature and topography affect species distribution.

Abiotic components are the non-living physical factors such as temperature, light, water, soil and topography, and these determine where species can live. Hence the statement that temperature and topography affect species distribution describes abiotic factors correctly.

- Soil bacteria and producers are living, so they are biotic components.
- Biotic components include producers, consumers and decomposers.
- Abiotic substances in an ecosystem also include inorganic and organic matter such as humus and dead remains.

---

34 A wetland ecosystem is invaded by aquatic weeds after nutrient enrichment from fertilizers. Which sequence correctly describes the ecological process?

[SSC CGL 16 Oct 2026, Shift-II]

(a) Oxygen enrichment → fish proliferation → reduced decomposition → algal decline
(b) Nutrient loading → eutrophication → oxygen depletion → aquatic mortality
(c) Weed invasion → salinity increase → coral bleaching → reef degradation
(d) Nutrient reduction → increased decomposition → oxygen depletion → fish extinction

ANSWER (b) Nutrient loading → eutrophication → oxygen depletion → ...

Excess nutrients (nitrates and phosphates) from fertilizers cause eutrophication, an explosive growth of algae and aquatic weeds. When these die, their decomposition uses up dissolved oxygen, and fish and other aquatic life die.

- Water hyacinth (Eichhornia crassipes) is an invasive aquatic weed of Indian water bodies.
- Algal growth on water surfaces is called an algal bloom.
- Biochemical Oxygen Demand (BOD) measures the oxygen needed by microbes to decompose organic matter in water.

---

35 A region experiences deforestation, soil erosion, altered river flow, and local climate shifts. Which conclusion reflects the most integrated ecosystem perspective?

[SSC CGL 22 Oct 2026, Shift-I]

(a) Only the carbon cycle is affected.
(b) Ecosystem degradation disrupts interconnected cycles.
(c) Soil erosion occurs independently of biodiversity loss.
(d) Abiotic components recover instantly after disturbance.

ANSWER (b) Ecosystem degradation disrupts interconnected cycles.

In an ecosystem, living and non-living components are connected through cycles of water, carbon, nutrients and energy. Deforestation therefore affects soil, water and climate together, so ecosystem degradation disrupts interconnected cycles.

- Forests help regulate local climate, rainfall and soil fertility.
- Loss of vegetation increases soil erosion and silting of rivers.
- Recovery of a disturbed ecosystem is slow and happens through ecological succession.

---

36 Which of the following statements about the gharial is most accurate?

[SSC CGL 22 Oct 2026, Shift-I]

(a) Gharials are widespread across India.
(b) Gharials are threatened mainly by a shortage of natural prey.
(c) Gharial is endemic to India and highly threatened.
(d) Gharials are commonly found in both freshwater and marine habitats.

ANSWER (c) Gharial is endemic to India and highly threatened.

SSC Key (c) · Disputed question

As per the official key, C is the best option: the gharial (Gavialis gangeticus) is a critically endangered, fish-eating crocodilian of the Indian subcontinent. The wording 'endemic to India' is loose, since the species is native to the subcontinent and breeding populations survive in India and Nepal.

- It is found only in clean freshwater rivers, not in marine habitats; its main threats are loss of river habitat, sand mining and fishing nets.
- The National Chambal Sanctuary is a key stronghold of the species.
- The gharial is listed in Schedule I of the Wildlife (Protection) Act, 1972.

---

37 In biodiversity conservation, why is the preservation of wild relatives of crop plants considered strategically important?

[SSC CGL 22 Oct 2026, Shift-III]

(a) They are aesthetically valuable tourist attractions.
(b) They reduce dependence on forests for timber.
(c) They provide useful genes for crop improvement.
(d) They stabilize marine food chains.

ANSWER (c) They provide useful genes for crop improvement.

Wild relatives of crop plants carry useful genes for disease resistance, pest resistance and tolerance to drought or salinity. Plant breeders transfer these genes to cultivated varieties, so wild relatives are important for crop improvement.

- Wild rice Oryza nivara provided a gene for resistance to grassy stunt virus in cultivated rice.
- India's National Bureau of Plant Genetic Resources (NBPGR) in New Delhi conserves crop genetic resources.
- Conservation outside natural habitat (ex situ), such as in gene banks, is used to preserve crop diversity.

---

38 Which of the following bird-group classifications is correct?

[SSC CGL 22 Oct 2026, Shift-III]

(a) Ducks and geese → wading birds
(b) Stilts and sandpipers → swimming birds
(c) Gulls and terns → seabirds
(d) Herons and cranes → desert birds

ANSWER (c) Gulls and terns → seabirds

Gulls and terns are seabirds, as they live largely over the sea and coasts and feed on fish and other marine life. The other classifications are wrong.

- Ducks and geese are swimming birds (waterfowl).
- Stilts and sandpipers are wading birds (shorebirds) with long legs.
- Herons and cranes are wetland (wading) birds, not desert birds.

---

39 Which of the following structural features serves as a defining evolutionary milestone characteristic of the division Pteridophyta?

[SSC CGL 23 Oct 2026, Shift-I]

(a) Presence of true flowers
(b) Presence of vascular tissues
(c) Absence of true roots
(d) Development of naked ovules

ANSWER (b) Presence of vascular tissues

The defining milestone of Pteridophytes is the presence of vascular tissues (xylem and phloem). They are the first terrestrial plants to have vascular tissue, and they have true roots, stems and leaves.

- Pteridophytes reproduce by spores and do not bear flowers or seeds; examples are ferns, Selaginella and Equisetum.
- Naked ovules are characteristic of gymnosperms.
- Bryophytes lack vascular tissues.

---

40 Which of the following is a major cause of amphibian decline in India?

[SSC CGL 23 Oct 2026, Shift-II]

(a) Expansion of natural wetlands and suitable habitats
(b) Habitat loss, climate change and environmental pollution
(c) Increased breeding habitats and resource availability
(d) Absence of invasive species and ecological competition

ANSWER (b) Habitat loss, climate change and environmental pollution

Amphibian decline in India is mainly due to habitat loss, climate change and environmental pollution. Amphibians have a thin, permeable skin and depend

on both water and land, so they are very sensitive to such changes.

- Amphibians are considered indicators of environmental health.
- The Western Ghats is a major hotspot of amphibian diversity in India.
- Diseases such as chytridiomycosis, caused by a fungus, have also caused amphibian declines worldwide.

---

41 Which statement best describes the ecological importance of protozoa and zooplankton in aquatic ecosystems?

[SSC CGL 23 Oct 2026, Shift-II]

(a) They are top carnivores in aquatic ecosystems.
(b) They form the base of aquatic food chains.
(c) They are responsible for coral bleaching.
(d) They only exist in marine ecosystems.

ANSWER (b) They form the base of aquatic food chains.

Protozoa and zooplankton are microscopic organisms that float in water and serve as food for larger animals such as small fish. They therefore form an important base of aquatic food chains and link phytoplankton with higher consumers.

- Plankton is divided into phytoplankton (plant-like producers) and zooplankton (animal-like consumers).
- Zooplankton and protozoa occur in freshwater as well as marine habitats.
- Coral bleaching is caused mainly by rising sea temperature, which makes corals expel their algae.

---

42 Which plant is used as a bio-indicator to detect pollution from automobile exhaust?

[SSC CGL 23 Oct 2026, Shift-III]

(a) Tulsi
(b) Neem
(c) Lichen
(d) Lettuce

ANSWER (c) Lichen

Lichens are used as bio-indicators of air pollution because they are very sensitive to pollutants such as sulphur dioxide from vehicle exhaust and industry. They do not grow in polluted air, so their absence signals poor air quality.

- A lichen is a symbiotic association between an alga (or cyanobacterium) and a fungus.
- Lichens are pioneer species in primary succession on bare rock.
- Lichens absorb water and minerals from air directly, so they readily take in pollutants.

---

43 Which statement best distinguishes ecosystem diversity from species diversity.

[SSC CGL 24 Oct 2026, Shift-I]

(a) Ecosystem diversity measures aquatic habitats and water-based processes.
(b) Species diversity includes different species and their relative abundance.
(c) Ecosystem diversity includes varied habitats and ecological processes.
(d) Species diversity is unrelated to ecological interactions and ecosystem functions.

ANSWER (c) Ecosystem diversity includes varied habitats and ...

Ecosystem diversity refers to the variety of habitats, such as forests, grasslands, wetlands and deserts, and the ecological processes in them. Species diversity, on the other hand, refers to the variety of species within a region.

- Biodiversity has three levels: genetic diversity, species diversity and ecosystem diversity.
- India has four biodiversity hotspots: the Himalaya, Indo-Burma, Western Ghats and Sundaland (Nicobar Islands).
- Species diversity is usually greater in tropical regions than in temperate regions.

---

44 Which species is considered an indicator of healthy Indian grassland ecosystems?

[SSC CGL 24 Oct 2026, Shift-I]

(a) Indian bullfrog
(b) Great Indian bustard
(c) Olive Ridley turtle
(d) Rock python

ANSWER (b) Great Indian bustard

The Great Indian Bustard (Godawan) is regarded as the flagship and indicator species of Indian grasslands. It is

a ground-nesting bird of dry grasslands and its survival depends on healthy grassland habitat.

- It is the state bird of Rajasthan and is listed as Critically Endangered by the IUCN.
- It is protected under Schedule I of the Wildlife (Protection) Act, 1972.
- Desert National Park in Jaisalmer is an important habitat of the bird.

45 A child develops soft and weak bones that become bowed because of improper mineralisation. Which deficiency disease is most likely responsible for this condition?

[SSC CGL 24 Oct 2026, Shift-III]

(a) Scurvy
(b) Rickets
(c) Beriberi
(d) Anemia

ANSWER (b) Rickets

Soft, weak and bowed bones due to poor mineralisation are the features of rickets in children, caused by deficiency of Vitamin D. Vitamin D helps the body absorb calcium and phosphorus needed for bone formation.

- In adults, Vitamin D deficiency causes osteomalacia.
- Sunlight helps the skin to synthesise Vitamin D.
- Scurvy is due to Vitamin C deficiency, beriberi to Vitamin B_1 and anaemia mainly to iron deficiency.

46 On a hot day, a plant loses water vapour from its leaves through tiny openings on the leaf surface. What are these openings called?

[SSC CGL 24 Oct 2026, Shift-III]

(a) Veins
(b) Chloroplasts
(c) Root hairs
(d) Stomata

ANSWER (d) Stomata

The tiny openings on the leaf surface through which a plant loses water vapour are called stomata. Each stoma is surrounded by two guard cells that open and close it, and this loss of water vapour is called transpiration.

- Stomata also allow exchange of gases (CO_2 and O_2) during photosynthesis and respiration.
- Guard cells are kidney-shaped in dicots and dumbbell-shaped in grasses.
- Transpiration pulls water up through the xylem and cools the plant.

47 Which statement best explains how biodiversity contributes to food security?

[SSC CGL 28 Oct 2026, Shift-I]

(a) Food security depends only on increasing fertilizer use.
(b) Conserving wild relatives of crops is essential for future agricultural resilience.
(c) Genetic diversity decreases agricultural adaptability.
(d) Protected areas have no role in food security.

ANSWER (b) Conserving wild relatives of crops is essential for ...

Conserving wild relatives of crops and their genetic diversity gives breeders the genes needed for resistance to pests, diseases and climate stress. This makes future agriculture more resilient and so supports food security.

- Genetic diversity helps crops and livestock adapt to changing environments.
- Reliance on a few uniform varieties makes crops vulnerable to epidemics.
- Gene banks and protected areas help conserve crop genetic resources.

48 In a tropical evergreen forest, vegetation on the forest floor is generally sparse mainly because:

[SSC CGL 28 Oct 2026, Shift-I]

(a) The soil lacks nutrients due to heavy rainfall.
(b) Herbivores consume most ground vegetation.
(c) Dense canopy blocks sunlight.
(d) High humidity inhibits seed germination.

ANSWER (c) Dense canopy blocks sunlight.

Tropical evergreen forests have tall trees forming a dense, multi-layered canopy, which blocks most sunlight from reaching the forest floor. Without enough light, ground vegetation remains sparse.

- These forests occur in regions of heavy rainfall (over 200 cm), such as the Western Ghats, north-east India and the Andaman and Nicobar Islands.
- Trees here do not shed leaves together in any one season, so the forest remains green throughout the year.

- Ebony, mahogany and rosewood are typical trees of these forests.

49 Which of the following best explains why ecosystems are considered interdependent systems?

[SSC CGL 28 Oct 2026, Shift-III]

(a) Every ecosystem contains equal numbers of organisms.
(b) Abiotic components function independently of living organisms.
(c) Disturbance in one environmental sphere affects the functioning of others.
(d) Ecosystems depend only on climatic conditions.

ANSWER (c) Disturbance in one environmental sphere affects the ...

Ecosystems are interdependent because the atmosphere, hydrosphere, lithosphere and biosphere are linked by flows of energy and matter. A disturbance in one sphere therefore affects the functioning of the others.

- Examples: deforestation (biosphere) alters rainfall (atmosphere) and river flow (hydrosphere).
- Biogeochemical cycles link living and non-living parts of the environment.
- Energy flows in one direction, whereas nutrients cycle.

50 A fertilized egg, called a zygote, undergoes repeated cell divisions. The number of cells follows this pattern:
1 cell → 2 cells → 4 cells → 8 cells
If the number of cells continues to double after each division, how many cells will be present after the next division?

[SSC CGL 28 Oct 2026, Shift-III]

(a) 10
(b) 16
(c) 12
(d) 20

ANSWER (b) 16

The number of cells doubles with every division, so the next division gives $8 \times 2 = 16$ cells. The pattern is 2^0, 2^1, 2^2, 2^3, and then $2^4 = 16$.

- The early repeated divisions of the zygote are called cleavage.
- Cleavage is mitotic division, in which cell number increases but the overall size of the embryo does not.
- The ball of cells formed after cleavage is called the morula, which later becomes the blastocyst.

51 A person who smokes regularly develops damage to the alveoli, the tiny air sacs in the lungs, and experiences difficulty breathing. Which disease is most likely responsible for this condition?

[SSC CGL 28 Oct 2026, Shift-III]

(a) Malaria
(b) Emphysema
(c) Cholera
(d) Typhoid

ANSWER (b) Emphysema

Smoking damages the walls of the alveoli, which merge into larger air spaces and reduce the surface area for gas exchange. This disease is emphysema, which makes breathing difficult.

- Emphysema and chronic bronchitis together form COPD (chronic obstructive pulmonary disease).
- Smoking can also cause lung cancer and cardiovascular diseases.
- Alveoli are the sites of exchange of oxygen and carbon dioxide between air and blood.


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09
CHAPTER

Static GK

Questions with Explanations *244 questions · 53 shifts*

PART A Sports

01 How many points are awarded for a successful "touchdown" in American Football?

[SSC CGL 30 Sep 2026, Shift-II]

(a) 3 (b) 5
(c) 6 (d) 7

ANSWER (c) 6

A touchdown is worth 6 points in American football. After a touchdown, the team gets a chance to score an extra point (1 point by kick) or a two-point conversion.

- A field goal is worth 3 points.
- A safety is worth 2 points.
- A touchdown is scored by carrying or catching the ball in the opponent's end zone.

02 Which Indian cricket stadium hosted the 2023 ICC World Cup final?

[SSC CGL 30 Sep 2026, Shift-II]

(a) Wankhede Stadium (b) M. Chinnaswamy Stadium
(c) Narendra Modi Stadium (d) Eden Gardens

ANSWER (c) Narendra Modi Stadium

The final of the 2023 ICC Men's Cricket World Cup was held at the Narendra Modi Stadium in Ahmedabad, Gujarat, on 19 November 2023. Australia defeated India in the final to win the title.

- The Narendra Modi Stadium (earlier Sardar Patel Stadium, Motera) is the largest cricket stadium in the world by seating capacity.
- The 2023 World Cup was hosted entirely by India.
- Wankhede Stadium (Mumbai) hosted the 2011 World Cup final.

03 Which Indian tennis player, at age 43, set the Open Era record by winning the Australian Open 2024 men's doubles title?

[SSC CGL 30 Sep 2026, Shift-III]

(a) Leander Paes (b) Mahesh Bhupathi
(c) Rohan Bopanna (d) Sumit Nagal

ANSWER (c) Rohan Bopanna

Rohan Bopanna won the Australian Open 2024 men's doubles title with Matthew Ebden of Australia in January 2024, becoming the oldest man to win a Grand Slam title in the Open Era at the age of 43. It was his first Grand Slam men's doubles title, and he also became the oldest world No. 1 in doubles.

- Rohan Bopanna received the Arjuna Award (2018) and the Padma Shri (2023).
- Leander Paes and Mahesh Bhupathi are former Indian doubles stars who won multiple Grand Slam titles.
- The Australian Open is held in Melbourne (Melbourne Park) in January.

04 Which Indian sport involves riding a horse and attempting to spear a small target?

[SSC CGL 01 Oct 2026, Shift-I]

(a) Polo (b) Tent Pegging
(c) Jousting (d) Rodeo

ANSWER (b) Tent Pegging

Tent Pegging is the equestrian sport in which a rider at full gallop tries to pick up or strike a small peg fixed in the ground with a lance or sword. It is an ancient cavalry skill, popular in the Indian subcontinent and practised in the Indian Army.

- Polo is a team sport played on horseback with mallets and a ball.

- Jousting is a medieval European contest between two mounted knights with lances.
- Rodeo is an American cowboy sport involving events such as bronco riding and bull riding.

05 In which year was Kho-Kho included in the South Asian Games?

[SSC CGL 01 Oct 2026, Shift-I]

(a) 2014 (b) 2016
(c) 2019 (d) 2022

ANSWER (b) 2016

Kho-Kho was included in the South Asian Games in 2016, when the 12th South Asian Games were hosted by India at Guwahati and Shillong. Kho-Kho is a traditional Indian tag sport.

- In Kho-Kho, 9 players of a team are on the field at a time, and a team has 12 players in its squad.
- The Kho-Kho Federation of India is the governing body of the sport in India.
- The South Asian Games are a multi-sport event held among the nations of South Asia, organised by the South Asian Olympic Council.

06 Who among the following was the first Indian to win a Grand Slam title?

[SSC CGL 01 Oct 2026, Shift-I]

(a) Mahesh Bhupati (b) Leander Paes
(c) Sania Mirza (d) Rohan Bopanna

ANSWER (a) Mahesh Bhupati

Mahesh Bhupathi was the first Indian to win a Grand Slam title, taking the mixed doubles at the 1997 French Open. He later won men's doubles Grand Slams with Leander Paes.

- Bhupathi and Paes won the 1999 French Open and Wimbledon men's doubles titles.
- Sania Mirza won six Grand Slam titles (women's and mixed doubles).
- Rohan Bopanna won the 2024 Australian Open men's doubles title.

07 At the Paris Olympics 2024, which Indian female shooter won an Olympic medal in the 10m Air Pistol event, becoming the first-ever woman from India to do so?

[SSC CGL 01 Oct 2026, Shift-I]

(a) Esha Singh (b) Manu Bhaker
(c) Apurvi Chandela (d) Anjali Bhagwat

ANSWER (b) Manu Bhaker

Manu Bhaker won the bronze medal in the women's 10m Air Pistol at the Paris Olympics 2024, becoming the first Indian woman to win an Olympic medal in shooting. She also won bronze in the 10m Air Pistol mixed team event with Sarabjot Singh.

- She became the first Indian athlete in independent India to win two medals at a single Olympics.
- Abhinav Bindra won India's first individual Olympic gold in 10m Air Rifle at Beijing 2008.
- India's shooting medals at Paris 2024 all came in bronze.

08 Which Indian athlete is known for her achievements in sprint running and is often referred to as "Dhing Express"?

[SSC CGL 01 Oct 2026, Shift-II]

(a) P.T. Usha (b) Anju Bobby George
(c) Hima Das (d) Dutee Chand

ANSWER (c) Hima Das

Hima Das from Assam is known as the "Dhing Express", named after her village Dhing in Nagaon district. In 2018 she won the 400m gold at the IAAF World U20 Championships in Finland, the first Indian to win a global track gold.

- P.T. Usha is called the "Payyoli Express".
- Anju Bobby George won bronze in long jump at the 2003 World Championships.
- Dutee Chand is a sprinter who won silver medals at the 2018 Asian Games.

09 The Singh Sisters from Punjab contributed to India's rise in which underrepresented court sport?

[SSC CGL 01 Oct 2026, Shift-II]

(a) Tennis (b) Handball
(c) Basketball (d) Kho-Kho

ANSWER (c) Basketball

As per the official answer key, the Singh Sisters are associated with Basketball, a court sport that has been less prominent in India than cricket or hockey.

Basketball in India is governed by the Basketball Federation of India (BFI).

- Basketball was invented in 1891 by James Naismith in the USA.
- A basketball team has five players on court at a time.
- BFI conducts the National Basketball Championship.

10 Where was the location of the 2017 Senior National Judo Championships?

[SSC CGL 01 Oct 2026, Shift-II]

(a) Jaipur
(b) Lucknow
(c) Guwahati
(d) Chennai

ANSWER (d) Chennai

The Senior National Judo Championships 2016-17, organised by the Judo Federation of India, were held in Chennai. Hence Chennai is the correct answer.

- Judo originated in Japan and was developed by Jigoro Kano in 1882.
- Judo has been an Olympic sport since the Tokyo Olympics of 1964.
- Sushila Devi Likmabam won a silver medal in judo at the 2022 Commonwealth Games.

11 Which principle makes an athlete responsible for any substance found in their sample?

[SSC CGL 01 Oct 2026, Shift-III]

(a) Negligence
(b) Strict Liability
(c) Intentionality
(d) Consent

ANSWER (b) Strict Liability

Under the Strict Liability principle of the World Anti-Doping Code, an athlete is responsible for any prohibited substance found in their sample. Intent, fault or negligence need not be proved for an anti-doping rule violation to be established.

- The World Anti-Doping Agency (WADA) was established in 1999.
- Intent only affects the length of the sanction, not whether a violation has occurred.
- In India, NADA implements the anti-doping programme.

12 Which of the following **correctly** matches the width measurements of the pommel horse in gymnastics?

[SSC CGL 01 Oct 2026, Shift-III]

(a) Top – 30 cm, Bottom – 35 cm
(b) Top – 35 cm, Bottom – 30 cm
(c) Top – 40 cm, Bottom – 35 cm
(d) Top – 25 cm, Bottom – 30 cm

ANSWER (b) Top – 35 cm, Bottom – 30 cm

As per the official answer key, the pommel horse is 35 cm wide at the top and 30 cm wide at the bottom, so option B is correct. The pommel horse is an apparatus used only in men's artistic gymnastics.

- It has two handles called pommels on its top surface.
- Men's artistic gymnastics has six apparatus: floor, pommel horse, rings, vault, parallel bars and horizontal bar.
- Women's artistic gymnastics has four: vault, uneven bars, balance beam and floor.

13 What is the term for a score of zero in tennis?

[SSC CGL 05 Oct 2026, Shift-I]

(a) Love
(b) Deuce
(c) Advantage
(d) Ace

ANSWER (a) Love

In tennis, "Love" is the term for a score of zero. A score of 40-40 is called "Deuce", and the point scored after deuce is called "Advantage".

- An "Ace" is a serve that the receiver fails to touch.
- Tennis points run Love, 15, 30, 40 and game.
- The four Grand Slams are the Australian Open, French Open, Wimbledon and US Open.

14 The final of the 2017 FIFA U-17 World Cup was held in Kolkata. Which stadium hosted the final match?

[SSC CGL 05 Oct 2026, Shift-I]

(a) Salt Lake Stadium
(b) Rabindra Sarobar Stadium
(c) Mohun Bagan Ground
(d) East Bengal Ground

ANSWER (a) Salt Lake Stadium

The final of the 2017 FIFA U-17 World Cup was played at the Salt Lake Stadium (Vivekananda Yuba Bharati Krirangan), Kolkata, on 28 October 2017. England defeated Spain 5-2 in the final.

- It was the first FIFA tournament hosted by India.
- The Salt Lake Stadium is one of the largest football stadiums in India.
- India's 2017 team played its matches as the host nation.

---

15 What is “En Passant” in chess?

[SSC CGL 05 Oct 2026, Shift-I]

(a) Special pawn capture
(b) Checkmate move
(c) Opening strategy
(d) Bishop promotion

ANSWER (a) Special pawn capture

En passant (French for "in passing") is a special pawn capture in chess. When an opponent's pawn advances two squares from its starting position and lands beside your pawn, you may capture it as if it had moved only one square, but only on the very next move.

- Only a pawn can make or be captured by an en passant capture.
- A pawn reaching the last rank is promoted, and not a bishop.
- Kingside castling is written O-O in chess notation.

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16 Which is correct about the long jump runway and take-off board?

[SSC CGL 05 Oct 2026, Shift-I]

(a) Plasticine indicator width: 1.22 m; placed 3 m from pit
(b) Take-off board width: 1.22 m; runway length: 20 cm
(c) Runway width: 10 cm; take-off board thickness: 45°
(d) Runway length: 40–45 m; take-off board length: 1.22 m

ANSWER (d) Runway length: 40–45 m; take-off board length: 1.22 m

In long jump the runway is usually 40-45 m long, and the take-off board is 1.22 m long (and 20 cm wide), so option D is correct. The other options mix up units and dimensions.

- The take-off board is 20 cm wide and 10 cm deep.
- A plasticine indicator strip is placed after the board to record foul jumps.
- The jump is measured from the nearest mark in the pit to the take-off line.

---

17 With 18 Grand Slam titles, who among the following is considered India's most successful tennis players?

[SSC CGL 05 Oct 2026, Shift-II]

(a) Rohan Bopanna
(b) Sania Mirza
(c) Mahesh Bhupati
(d) Leander Paes

ANSWER (d) Leander Paes

Leander Paes won 18 Grand Slam titles (8 in men's doubles and 10 in mixed doubles), making him India's most successful tennis player in Grand Slams. He is also the Olympic bronze medallist of Atlanta 1996.

- Paes won the bronze in men's singles at the 1996 Atlanta Olympics.
- He was conferred the Padma Bhushan.
- Mahesh Bhupathi was the first Indian to win a Grand Slam title.

---

18 Which of the following is not included in the women's heptathlon?

[SSC CGL 05 Oct 2026, Shift-II]

(a) 100 metres hurdles
(b) Javelin throw
(c) 400 metres
(d) Shot put

ANSWER (c) 400 metres

The women's heptathlon consists of seven events: 100m hurdles, high jump, shot put, 200m, long jump, javelin throw and 800m. The 400m is not part of it (it appears in the men's decathlon).

- The heptathlon is spread over two days.
- The men's decathlon has ten events, including the 400m and 1500m.
- Swapna Barman won the heptathlon gold at the 2018 Asian Games.

---

19 Consider the following statements about the Beach Games 2024 held in Diu:
1) Madhya Pradesh topped the medal tally with 18 medals, including 7 golds.

2) Maharashtra won the gold medal in Beach Soccer by defeating Lakshadweep in the final. Which of the statements is/are correct?

[SSC CGL 05 Oct 2026, Shift-II]

(a) Only 1 is Correct
(b) Only 2 is Correct
(c) 1 and 2 are Correct
(d) Neither 1 nor 2 is Correct

ANSWER (a) Only 1 is Correct

Statement 1 is correct: Madhya Pradesh topped the medal tally of the first Khelo India Beach Games at Diu with 18 medals, including 7 golds. Statement 2 is not correct as per the official answer key, so only statement 1 is correct.

- The inaugural Beach Games were held at Ghoghla Beach, Diu, in January 2024.
- They were organised by the Ministry of Youth Affairs and Sports.
- Diu is part of the Union Territory of Dadra and Nagar Haveli and Daman and Diu.

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20 Which Indian city hosted the 2010 Commonwealth Games?

[SSC CGL 05 Oct 2026, Shift-III]

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

ANSWER (b) New Delhi

New Delhi hosted the 2010 Commonwealth Games (3-14 October 2010), the 19th edition of the Games and the first held in India. India finished second in the medal table with 38 gold and 101 medals in total.

- The main venue was the Jawaharlal Nehru Stadium, New Delhi.
- The 2022 Commonwealth Games were held in Birmingham, England.
- India hosted the 1951 Asian Games in New Delhi as well.

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21 National Team Chess Championship 2024-25 held in _____.

[SSC CGL 05 Oct 2026, Shift-III]

(a) Pune
(b) New Delhi
(c) Chandigarh
(d) Ahmedabad

ANSWER (d) Ahmedabad

The National Team Chess Championship 2024-25, conducted by the All India Chess Federation (AICF), was held in Ahmedabad from 5 to 11 March 2025. Hence Ahmedabad is the correct answer.

- AICF is the governing body of chess in India.
- Chess originated in India as Chaturanga.
- India won both the open and women's gold at the 2024 Budapest Chess Olympiad.

---

22 How many active players are there per team in a regulation water polo match?

[SSC CGL 06 Oct 2026, Shift-I]

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

ANSWER (c) 7

A water polo team has seven active players in the water at a time: six field players and one goalkeeper. The remaining squad members act as substitutes.

- Water polo is played in a pool with two goals at either end.
- Players may not touch the bottom of the pool in deep-water play.
- Only the goalkeeper may hold the ball with two hands.

---

23 In which year did the National Games of India take place in Jharkhand?

[SSC CGL 06 Oct 2026, Shift-I]

(a) 2009
(b) 2011
(c) 2013
(d) 2015

ANSWER (b) 2011

The 34th National Games were held in Jharkhand (Ranchi) in 2011. Services topped the medal table.

- The 35th National Games were held in Kerala in 2015.
- The 36th National Games were held in Gujarat in 2022.
- The 38th National Games were held in Uttarakhand in 2025.

---

24 Consider the following statements about the grip and placement of the shot in the gliding technique in Shot Put:
1) The shot is held primarily in the palm with

fingers loosely wrapped around it.
2) The shot is placed near the jaw bone, just below the ear and over the collar bone.
3) Fingers are spread apart slightly with the thumb providing support while holding the shot.
Which of the statements given above are correct?

[SSC CGL 06 Oct 2026, Shift-I]

(a) Only 1 and 2 are Correct
(b) Only 2 and 3 are Correct
(c) Only 1 and 3 are correct
(d) 1, 2 and 3 are Correct

ANSWER (b) Only 2 and 3 are Correct

Statements 2 and 3 are correct. The shot rests at the base of the spread fingers, not deep in the palm, with the thumb giving support, and it is placed against the neck just under the ear. Statement 1 is wrong because the shot is not held in the palm.

- The glide technique was popularised by Parry O'Brien.
- The men's shot weighs 7.26 kg and the women's 4 kg.
- The shot is put from a circle 2.135 m in diameter.

---

25 With which sport is the term "googly" traditionally associated?

[SSC CGL 06 Oct 2026, Shift-II]

(a) Hockey
(b) Cricket
(c) Football
(d) Kabaddi

ANSWER (b) Cricket

"Googly" is a term from cricket. It is a delivery bowled by a wrist spinner that turns the opposite way to the normal leg break, so it deceives the batter.

- It was invented by the English cricketer B.J.T. Bosanquet and was once called the "Bosie" in Australia.
- A leg-spinner's googly turns from off to leg for a right-handed batter.
- A "doosra" is the off-spinner's equivalent.

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26 In Kabaddi, what is the maximum number of substitutions per team?

[SSC CGL 06 Oct 2026, Shift-II]

(a) 3
(b) 4
(c) 5
(d) 6

ANSWER (c) 5

In Kabaddi, seven players of each team are on court and up to five substitutes are allowed, so a squad has twelve players. Hence the answer is 5.

- The court for men measures 13 m x 10 m.
- Pro Kabaddi League started in 2014.
- Kabaddi was included in the Asian Games from 1990 in Beijing.

---

27 At which Summer Olympics did the Indian men's hockey team fail to win a medal for the first time since 1928?

[SSC CGL 06 Oct 2026, Shift-II]

(a) Montreal 1976
(b) Munich 1972
(c) Moscow 1980
(d) Los Angeles 1984

ANSWER (a) Montreal 1976

At Montreal 1976 the Indian men's hockey team failed to win a medal for the first time since its Olympic debut in 1928, finishing seventh. These were also the first Olympics where hockey was played on artificial turf.

- India won its eighth hockey gold at Moscow 1980.
- India won gold in six consecutive Olympics from 1928 to 1956.
- India won bronze at Tokyo 2020 and Paris 2024.

---

28 Which Indian wrestler became the youngest-ever Olympic medallist from India by winning Bronze in the 57kg category at the Paris 2024 Olympics?

[SSC CGL 06 Oct 2026, Shift-III]

(a) Bajrang Punia
(b) Ravi Kumar Dahiya
(c) Aman Sehrawat
(d) Antim Panghal

ANSWER (c) Aman Sehrawat

Aman Sehrawat won the bronze medal in the men's freestyle 57 kg category at the Paris 2024 Olympics, becoming India's youngest Olympic medallist at the age of 21. He was India's only wrestling medallist at Paris 2024.

- Ravi Kumar Dahiya won silver in 57 kg at Tokyo 2020.
- Bajrang Punia won bronze in 65 kg at Tokyo 2020.
- Antim Panghal is a women's wrestler.

---

29 The Indian Premier League (IPL) 2025 final, in which Royal Challengers Bengaluru won their maiden title, was played on 3 June 2025 at which of the following venues?

[SSC CGL 07 Oct 2026, Shift-I]

(a) Eden Gardens, Kolkata
(b) Narendra Modi Stadium, Ahmedabad
(c) Wankhede Stadium, Mumbai
(d) Muthiah Annamalai Chidambaram Stadium, Chennai

ANSWER (b) Narendra Modi Stadium, Ahmedabad

The IPL 2025 final was played on 3 June 2025 at the Narendra Modi Stadium, Ahmedabad, where Royal Challengers Bengaluru beat Punjab Kings by 6 runs to win their maiden title.

- The Narendra Modi Stadium in Motera is among the largest cricket stadiums in the world.
- It hosted the 2023 ODI World Cup final.
- The IPL began in 2008.

30 How many innings are there in a standard baseball game?

[SSC CGL 07 Oct 2026, Shift-II]

(a) 7 (b) 8
(c) 9 (d) 10

ANSWER (c) 9

A standard baseball game consists of nine innings. In each inning both teams get a turn to bat and to field.

- Each team has nine players on the field.
- A tied game continues into extra innings.
- Each inning has a top half and a bottom half.

31 Identify the Indian city that hosted the 2017 Asian Athletics Championships.

[SSC CGL 07 Oct 2026, Shift-II]

(a) Chennai (b) Bhubaneswar
(c) Pune (d) Guwahati

ANSWER (b) Bhubaneswar

Bhubaneswar hosted the 22nd Asian Athletics Championships in July 2017 at the Kalinga Stadium. India topped the medal table at this event.

- Kalinga Stadium is in Odisha.
- Bhubaneswar also hosted the 2018 and 2023 Men's Hockey World Cup matches (with Rourkela in 2023).
- Odisha is the main sponsor of the Indian hockey teams.

32 India's first-ever medal at the Commonwealth Games was won in which year?

[SSC CGL 07 Oct 2026, Shift-II]

(a) 1934 (b) 1958
(c) 1966 (d) 1970

ANSWER (a) 1934

India's first Commonwealth Games medal came in 1934 at the London British Empire Games, when wrestler Rashid Anwar won a bronze medal. India's first gold came later, from Milkha Singh in the 1958 Cardiff Games.

- India first took part in the Games in 1934.
- Milkha Singh won the 440 yards gold in 1958.
- The Games were earlier called the British Empire Games.

33 At the 2022 Asian Games held in Hangzhou in 2023, India achieved a historic milestone by crossing which medal count for the first time?

[SSC CGL 07 Oct 2026, Shift-II]

(a) 50 medals (b) 75 medals
(c) 100 medals (d) 150 medals

ANSWER (c) 100 medals

At the Hangzhou Asian Games (held in September-October 2023), India crossed the 100-medal mark for the first time, finishing with 107 medals (28 gold, 38 silver, 41 bronze).

- India finished fourth in the medal table.
- India's previous best was 70 medals at Jakarta 2018.
- China topped the table.

34 Which year was the National Anti-Doping Act passed in India?

[SSC CGL 07 Oct 2026, Shift-III]

(a) 2018 (b) 2020
(c) 2022 (d) 2024

ANSWER (c) 2022

The National Anti-Doping Act was passed by Parliament in 2022. It gave statutory backing to the National Anti-Doping Agency (NADA) and the National Dope Testing Laboratory.

- NADA was set up in 2009 under the Ministry of Youth Affairs and Sports.
- The Act also provides for a National Board for Anti-Doping in Sports.
- The Act aligns Indian law with the World Anti-Doping Code.

35 In cricket, which condition allows a batter to be dismissed despite no prior contact between the bat and the ball?

[SSC CGL 07 Oct 2026, Shift-III]

(a) Clean catch
(b) Ball hits body first
(c) Hit twice
(d) Obstruction

ANSWER (b) Ball hits body first

A batter can be out leg before wicket (LBW) when the ball hits the body (usually the pad) first, without touching the bat, provided the other conditions of the Law are met. Hence "ball hits body first" is the answer.

- For LBW the ball must not pitch outside leg stump and must be going on to hit the stumps.
- The ball must hit the batter in line with the stumps (or outside off stump if no shot is offered).
- LBW is not possible if the batter has hit the ball first.

36 Which sport is associated with the Thomas Cup?

[SSC CGL 08 Oct 2026, Shift-I]

(a) Badminton
(b) Tennis
(c) Hockey
(d) Cricket

ANSWER (a) Badminton

The Thomas Cup is the world team championship trophy for men's badminton, contested since 1949. India won it for the first time in 2022, defeating Indonesia 3-0 in the final.

- The Uber Cup is the equivalent women's team event.
- The Sudirman Cup is the mixed team event.
- The Thomas Cup is organised by the Badminton World Federation (BWF).

37 In which event did India earn its first World Championship gold in athletics?

[SSC CGL 08 Oct 2026, Shift-I]

(a) Men's Javelin Throw
(b) Women's Long Jump
(c) Women's 400m
(d) Men's Steeplechase

ANSWER (a) Men's Javelin Throw

Neeraj Chopra won India's first World Championships gold in athletics in the men's javelin throw at Budapest in 2023, with a throw of 88.17 m.

- Anju Bobby George won India's first World Championships medal (bronze, long jump) in 2003.
- Neeraj Chopra won Olympic gold at Tokyo 2020 and silver at Paris 2024.
- Chopra won silver at the 2022 World Championships in Eugene.

38 Where was the setting for the final match of the 2021 Indian Super League season?

[SSC CGL 08 Oct 2026, Shift-I]

(a) Margao
(b) Kochi
(c) Kolkata
(d) Mumbai

ANSWER (a) Margao

The final of the 2021-22 Indian Super League was played at the Fatorda Stadium in Margao, Goa. Hyderabad FC beat Kerala Blasters on penalties to win their first title.

- The 2021-22 season was played in Goa because of the pandemic.
- Fatorda Stadium is also called the Jawaharlal Nehru Stadium, Margao.
- The ISL began in 2014.

39 What is the chess notation for castling kingside?

[SSC CGL 08 Oct 2026, Shift-II]

(a) O-O
(b) Kc1
(c) CK
(d) KxK

ANSWER (a) O-O

In chess notation, kingside castling is written O-O, and queenside castling is written O-O-O. In castling, the

king moves two squares towards a rook and the rook jumps over it.

- Castling is allowed only if neither the king nor that rook has moved earlier.
- The king must not be in check, nor pass through an attacked square.
- Castling is the only move in which two pieces move at once.

40 What is the weight of a standard shot put used by men?

[SSC CGL 08 Oct 2026, Shift-II]

(a) 6.26 kg
(b) 8.26.5kg
(c) 9.26 kg
(d) 7.26 kg

ANSWER (d) 7.26 kg

The shot used by men in shot put weighs 7.26 kg (16 lb), while the women's shot weighs 4 kg. Hence 7.26 kg is the correct answer.

- The men's discus weighs 2 kg and the women's 1 kg.
- The men's javelin weighs at least 800 g.
- The men's hammer weighs 7.26 kg, the same as the shot.

41 P V Sindhu became the first Indian to win the Badminton World Championship in the year _____.

[SSC CGL 08 Oct 2026, Shift-III]

(a) 2016
(b) 2019
(c) 2012
(d) 2008

ANSWER (b) 2019

P.V. Sindhu became the first Indian to win the BWF World Championships gold in 2019 at Basel, Switzerland, defeating Nozomi Okuhara of Japan in the final.

- Sindhu won silver at Rio 2016 and bronze at Tokyo 2020 in the Olympics.
- She was also a World Championships medallist earlier, with two bronze and two silver medals.
- She received the Padma Bhushan in 2020.

42 Which organization is responsible for monitoring and regulating the use of performance-enhancing drugs in sports?

[SSC CGL 08 Oct 2026, Shift-III]

(a) International Olympic Committee (IOC)
(b) World Anti-Doping Agency (WADA)
(c) National Anti-Doping Agency (NADA)
(d) International Association of Athletics Federations (IAAF)

ANSWER (b) World Anti-Doping Agency (WADA)

The World Anti-Doping Agency (WADA) is the global body responsible for monitoring and regulating the use of performance-enhancing drugs in sport. It publishes the World Anti-Doping Code and the Prohibited List.

- WADA was established in 1999 on the initiative of the IOC.
- Its headquarters are in Montreal, Canada.
- NADA is India's national body, working under the WADA Code.

43 **Fill in the blanks:**
18th Circle Style National Kabaddi Championship (Women) was held in _____

[SSC CGL 08 Oct 2026, Shift-III]

(a) Charkhi Dadri
(b) Patiala
(c) Jaipur
(d) Amritsar

ANSWER (a) Charkhi Dadri

The 18th Senior Circle Style National Kabaddi Championship was held at Charkhi Dadri, Haryana, from 11 to 13 April 2025. Hence Charkhi Dadri is the correct answer.

- Circle style kabaddi is the form played in the Kabaddi World Cup (circle style) in Punjab.
- The tournament is organised under the Amateur Kabaddi Federation of India (AKFI).
- Charkhi Dadri is a district of Haryana.

44 In which city was the first-ever Santosh Trophy football final held in 1941?

[SSC CGL 09 Oct 2026, Shift-I]

(a) Kolkata
(b) Mumbai
(c) New Delhi
(d) Chennai

ANSWER (a) Kolkata

The Santosh Trophy, India's national football championship for states and institutions, began in

1941, and its first final was held in Kolkata (Calcutta). It is organised by the All India Football Federation (AFF).

- The trophy is named after Maharaja Manmatha Nath Roy Chowdhury of Santosh.
- It is a competition among state and institutional teams.
- Kolkata is regarded as the home of Indian football.

45 What medal did the Indian men's hockey team win at the Paris 2024 Olympic Games?

[SSC CGL 09 Oct 2026, Shift-I]

(a) Gold
(b) Silver
(c) Bronze
(d) None of these

ANSWER (c) Bronze

The Indian men's hockey team won the bronze medal at the Paris 2024 Olympics by beating Spain 2-1 in the bronze-medal match. It was India's second consecutive Olympic bronze after Tokyo 2020.

- It was India's first back-to-back Olympic hockey medals since 1968 and 1972.
- Goalkeeper P.R. Sreejesh retired after this tournament.
- Harmanpreet Singh captained the team.

46 In which year was the first ever MotoGP race held in India, and at which circuit?

[SSC CGL 09 Oct 2026, Shift-II]

(a) 2021, Madras Motor Race Track
(b) 2022, Kari Motor Speedway
(c) 2023, Buddh International Circuit
(d) 2024, Hyderabad Street Circuit

ANSWER (c) 2023, Buddh International Circuit

India's first MotoGP race (MotoGP Bharat) was held in September 2023 at the Buddh International Circuit, Greater Noida, Uttar Pradesh. Marco Bezzecchi won the race.

- The Buddh International Circuit also hosted India's Formula 1 Grand Prix from 2011 to 2013.
- Jaypee Group built the circuit.
- It is located in Greater Noida.

47 Which Indian woman boxer won a medal at the London 2012 Olympics?

[SSC CGL 09 Oct 2026, Shift-II]

(a) Nikhat Zareen
(b) Lovlina Borgohain
(c) Mary Kom
(d) Sarita Devi

ANSWER (c) Mary Kom

Mary Kom won the bronze medal in the women's flyweight (51 kg) category at the London 2012 Olympics. It was the first Olympics in which women's boxing was included.

- Lovlina Borgohain won bronze in 69 kg at Tokyo 2020.
- Vijender Singh won India's first Olympic boxing medal in 2008.
- Nikhat Zareen is a two-time world champion.

48 In which city was the first-ever Asian Games held in 1951?

[SSC CGL 09 Oct 2026, Shift-II]

(a) Tokyo, Japan
(b) Bangkok, Thailand
(c) New Delhi, India
(d) Seoul, South Korea

ANSWER (c) New Delhi, India

The first Asian Games were held in New Delhi in 1951 (4-11 March). Japan topped the medal table, and India finished second.

- The Asian Games Federation was formed in New Delhi in 1949 under the lead of Guru Dutt Sondhi.
- India hosted the Games again in 1982.
- The 2022 Asian Games were held at Hangzhou, China, in 2023.

49 What is the core principle behind the Athlete Biological Passport (ABP) used in anti-doping?

[SSC CGL 09 Oct 2026, Shift-III]

(a) Direct detection
(b) Genetic mapping
(c) Indirect monitoring
(d) Dietary tracking

ANSWER (c) Indirect monitoring

The Athlete Biological Passport works on indirect monitoring. Instead of detecting a drug directly, it tracks selected biological markers in an athlete's blood or urine over time, and unusual variations indicate possible doping.

- It was introduced by WADA around 2009.
- It can reveal blood doping, which direct tests often miss.
- It is managed through WADA's ADAMS database.

50 Bajrang Punia is best known for competing in which sporting discipline?

[SSC CGL 09 Oct 2026, Shift-III]

(a) Boxing (b) Wrestling
(c) Weightlifting (d) Judo

ANSWER (b) Wrestling

Bajrang Punia is a freestyle wrestler, best known for competing in the 65 kg category. He won bronze at the Tokyo 2020 Olympics.

- He won gold at the 2018 Commonwealth Games and 2018 Asian Games.
- He received the Major Dhyan Chand Khel Ratna in 2019.
- He was awarded the Padma Shri in 2019.

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51 BFI, the governing body for basketball in India, organizes which national-level championship annually?

[SSC CGL 10 Oct 2026, Shift-I]

(a) India Slam League
(b) National Club Basketball Cup
(c) National Basketball Championship
(d) National Dribble League

ANSWER (c) National Basketball Championship

The Basketball Federation of India (BFI) organises the National Basketball Championship every year, for senior men and women as well as other age groups. Hence option C is correct.

- BFI is affiliated to FIBA, the world governing body of basketball.
- FIBA was founded in 1932.
- Basketball was invented by James Naismith in 1891.

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52 Where did the conclusive match of the 2016 Kabaddi World Cup take place?

[SSC CGL 10 Oct 2026, Shift-I]

(a) Ahmedabad (b) Mumbai
(c) Patna (d) Jaipur

ANSWER (a) Ahmedabad

The final of the 2016 Kabaddi World Cup was held at Ahmedabad (Arena by TransStadia) on 22 October 2016. India defeated Iran 38-29 to win the title.

- The tournament was held from 7 to 22 October 2016.
- India has won all the standard-style Kabaddi World Cups it has played.
- Kabaddi is the national game of Bangladesh, and is also very popular in India.

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53 Which Indian sportsperson is famously known as the "Payyoli Express"?

[SSC CGL 10 Oct 2026, Shift-I]

(a) Hima Das (b) P.T. Usha
(c) Anju Bobby George (d) Shiny Abraham

ANSWER (b) P.T. Usha

P.T. Usha is known as the "Payyoli Express", after her native place Payyoli in Kozhikode, Kerala. She finished fourth in the 400m hurdles at the 1984 Los Angeles Olympics, missing the bronze by 1/100th of a second.

- She received the Arjuna Award in 1983 and the Padma Shri in 1985.
- She won four gold medals at the 1986 Seoul Asian Games.
- Hima Das is called the "Dhing Express".

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54 The first-ever Ranji Trophy final in 1935 was held in which city?

[SSC CGL 10 Oct 2026, Shift-II]

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

ANSWER (a) Mumbai

The first Ranji Trophy was played in the 1934-35 season, and its final was held in Bombay (now Mumbai), where Bombay won the title. The trophy is named after K.S. Ranjitsinhji.

- The trophy was donated by the Maharaja of Patiala.
- Mumbai is the most successful team in Ranji Trophy history.
- The Ranji Trophy is India's premier domestic first-class cricket tournament.

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55 How many gold medals did India win at the 2022 Asian Games held in Hangzhou in 2023?

[SSC CGL 10 Oct 2026, Shift-II]

(a) 18 (b) 22
(c) 28 (d) 38

ANSWER (c) 28

India won 28 gold medals at the Hangzhou Asian Games (2022 edition, held in 2023), its best-ever gold tally. The total was 107 medals.

- India's previous best gold tally was 16 at Jakarta 2018.
- India's total of 107 medals included 38 silver and 41 bronze.
- It was the first time India crossed 100 medals.

56 How many frames are there in a standard ten-pin bowling game?

[SSC CGL 12 Oct 2026, Shift-I]

(a) 8 (b) 9
(c) 10 (d) 11

ANSWER (c) 10

A standard game of ten-pin bowling has ten frames. In each frame the bowler gets up to two deliveries to knock down the ten pins.

- Knocking all pins in the first delivery is a "strike".
- Knocking all pins in two deliveries is a "spare".
- The maximum score in a game is 300.

57 During which year were the National Shooting Championships held in Trivandrum, Kerala?

[SSC CGL 12 Oct 2026, Shift-I]

(a) 2013 (b) 2019
(c) 2022 (d) 2020

ANSWER (c) 2022

The 65th National Shooting Championship (rifle/pistol) was held in Thiruvananthapuram, Kerala, in late 2022. Hence 2022 is the correct answer.

- The National Shooting Championships are organised by the National Rifle Association of India (NRAI).
- Abhinav Bindra won India's first individual Olympic gold in shooting in 2008.
- Manu Bhaker won two shooting bronze medals at Paris 2024.

58 Who won India's first Olympic medal in boxing?

[SSC CGL 12 Oct 2026, Shift-I]

(a) Mary Kom (b) Vijender Singh
(c) Shiva Thapa (d) Lovlina Borgohain

ANSWER (b) Vijender Singh

Vijender Singh won India's first Olympic medal in boxing, a bronze in the middleweight (75 kg) category at the Beijing 2008 Olympics.

- Mary Kom won bronze at London 2012.
- Lovlina Borgohain won bronze at Tokyo 2020.
- Vijender Singh received the Khel Ratna in 2009.

59 In which sport did Karnam Malleswari win India's first-ever Olympic medal by a woman at the 2000 Sydney Olympic Games?

[SSC CGL 12 Oct 2026, Shift-I]

(a) Boxing (b) Weightlifting
(c) Wrestling (d) Shooting

ANSWER (b) Weightlifting

Karnam Malleswari won the bronze medal in weightlifting (69 kg) at the 2000 Sydney Olympics, becoming the first Indian woman to win an Olympic medal.

- She is from Andhra Pradesh.
- Mirabai Chanu won silver in weightlifting (49 kg) at Tokyo 2020.
- Weightlifting events are classified by body-weight categories.

60 In which city was the first National Kho-Kho Championship held?

[SSC CGL 12 Oct 2026, Shift-II]

(a) Kolkata (b) Delhi
(c) Vijayawada (d) Nagpur

ANSWER (c) Vijayawada

The first National Kho-Kho Championship was held in Vijayawada, Andhra Pradesh, in 1959-60. Hence Vijayawada is the correct answer.

- Kho-Kho is a traditional Indian tag sport played by two teams of nine players.

- The first Kho Kho World Cup was held in New Delhi in January 2025.
- India won both the men's and women's titles at that World Cup.

61 Who was the first Indian woman to win a medal in Shooting at Olympics?

[SSC CGL 12 Oct 2026, Shift-II]

(a) Heena Sidhu
(b) Manu Bhaker
(c) Apurvi Chandela
(d) Anjum Moudgil

ANSWER (b) Manu Bhaker

Manu Bhaker was the first Indian woman to win an Olympic medal in shooting, taking bronze in the 10m Air Pistol at Paris 2024.

- She later added a second bronze in the 10m Air Pistol mixed team event.
- Abhinav Bindra won India's first individual Olympic gold, in shooting, at Beijing 2008.
- Rajyavardhan Singh Rathore won shooting silver in 2004.

62 Which rule applies when a player is the final one to touch the ball before it goes out of bounds in Basketball?

[SSC CGL 12 Oct 2026, Shift-II]

(a) The play is restarted with a jump ball at center court.
(b) The ball is awarded to the same team for a throw-in.
(c) The ball is awarded to the opposing team at the nearest boundary line.
(d) The play continues without interruption.

ANSWER (c) The ball is awarded to the opposing team at the nearest ...

In basketball, when a player is the last to touch the ball before it goes out of bounds, the ball is awarded to the opposing team, which takes a throw-in from the boundary line nearest to where the ball went out.

- A jump ball is used to start the game and in held-ball situations.
- A basketball team has five players on court.
- The shot clock in FIBA games is 24 seconds.

63 Sprinter S. Dhanalakshmi received an eight-year ban in 2025 after testing positive for drostanolone. This sanction most likely indicates a:

[SSC CGL 12 Oct 2026, Shift-III]

(a) First violation
(b) Second violation
(c) Minor offence
(d) Filing error

ANSWER (b) Second violation

Sekar Dhanalakshmi's eight-year ban in 2025 was for her second doping offence; she had earlier been banned for three years in 2022. Under anti-doping rules, repeat violations attract much longer bans, so the sanction indicates a second violation.

- Drostanolone is a prohibited anabolic steroid.
- An intentional first anabolic-steroid violation normally carries a four-year ban.
- In India, NADA imposes such sanctions on athletes.

64 What does a yellow card signify in football?

[SSC CGL 12 Oct 2026, Shift-III]

(a) A goal is awarded
(b) A caution to the player
(c) A substitution is required
(d) The match is terminated

ANSWER (b) A caution to the player

A yellow card in football is shown by the referee as a caution to a player for unsporting behaviour or a minor offence. Two yellow cards in a match lead to a red card and the player is sent off.

- A red card means immediate dismissal from the match.
- A player who is sent off cannot be replaced by a substitute.
- The yellow and red cards were introduced at the 1970 FIFA World Cup.

65 Who became the first Indian fencer to qualify for the Olympics?

[SSC CGL 13 Oct 2026, Shift-I]

(a) Bhavani Devi
(b) Mary Kom
(c) Dipa Karmakar
(d) Anshu Malik

ANSWER (a) Bhavani Devi

C.A. Bhavani Devi became the first Indian fencer to qualify for the Olympics, doing so for the Tokyo 2020 Games in the sabre event. She also won a match in the round of 64 at Tokyo, a first for an Indian fencer.

- She is from Chennai, Tamil Nadu.

- Sabre is one of the three weapons in fencing, with foil and epee.
- Dipa Karmakar is a gymnast who finished fourth in vault at Rio 2016.

66 In which city was the final of the 2011 Cricket World Cup contested?

[SSC CGL 13 Oct 2026, Shift-I]

(a) Mumbai
(b) Delhi
(c) Kolkata
(d) Chennai

ANSWER (a) Mumbai

The final of the 2011 Cricket World Cup was played at the Wankhede Stadium, Mumbai, on 2 April 2011. India beat Sri Lanka by six wickets under captain M.S. Dhoni to win their second World Cup.

- India's first World Cup win came in 1983 under Kapil Dev.
- The 2011 World Cup was co-hosted by India, Sri Lanka and Bangladesh.
- Yuvraj Singh was named Player of the Tournament.

67 Which Indian city hosted the first-ever Women's Premier League (WPL) final in 2023, and which team won the trophy?

[SSC CGL 13 Oct 2026, Shift-II]

(a) Mumbai, Mumbai Indians
(b) Delhi, Mumbai Indians
(c) Delhi, Delhi Capitals
(d) Mumbai, Delhi Capitals

ANSWER (a) Mumbai, Mumbai Indians

The first Women's Premier League final, held on 26 March 2023 at the Brabourne Stadium in Mumbai, was won by the Mumbai Indians, who beat Delhi Capitals by seven wickets.

- Harmanpreet Kaur captained Mumbai Indians.
- The inaugural WPL season was played entirely in Mumbai.
- Royal Challengers Bangalore won the 2024 WPL.

68 Who among the following is the first and only Indian woman to score hat-trick in Hockey in Olympics?

[SSC CGL 13 Oct 2026, Shift-II]

(a) Vandana Katariya
(b) Ritu Rani
(c) Savita Punia
(d) Rani Rampal

ANSWER (a) Vandana Katariya

Vandana Katariya became the first Indian woman to score a hat-trick in hockey at the Olympics, scoring three goals against South Africa at Tokyo 2020. She is the only Indian woman to have achieved this feat.

- The match was a group-stage game won by India.
- Rani Rampal captained India at Tokyo 2020.
- India's women finished fourth at Tokyo 2020.

69 What was the total number of gold medals won by India at the 2022 Commonwealth Games?

[SSC CGL 13 Oct 2026, Shift-II]

(a) 16
(b) 22
(c) 26
(d) 30

ANSWER (b) 22

India won 22 gold medals at the 2022 Commonwealth Games in Birmingham, finishing fourth with 61 medals in all (22 gold, 16 silver, 23 bronze).

- Australia topped the medal table.
- India's best-ever tally was at Delhi 2010, with 38 gold.
- Neeraj Chopra missed those Games due to injury.

70 How many players are on a standard team in a game of Ultimate Frisbee?

[SSC CGL 14 Oct 2026, Shift-II]

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

ANSWER (c) 7

An Ultimate Frisbee team has seven players on the field at a time. The game is played with a flying disc, which players pass without running while holding it.

- The objective is to catch the disc in the opponent's end zone.
- The sport is self-officiated under the "Spirit of the Game".
- It is governed internationally by World Flying Disc Federation (WFDF).

71 In which Indian city did the 2016 South Asian Games' table tennis events primarily take place?

[SSC CGL 14 Oct 2026, Shift-II]

(a) Bhopal (b) Guwahati
(c) Imphal (d) Aizawl

ANSWER (b) Guwahati

The 2016 South Asian Games were hosted by India at Guwahati and Shillong in February 2016, and, as per the official answer key, the table tennis events were mainly held at Guwahati.

- It was the 12th edition of the South Asian Games.
- India topped the medal table.
- The Games are held under the South Asian Olympic Council.

72 Which organization, abbreviated as NADA, is responsible for monitoring and ensuring fair play in sports through anti-doping measures in India?

[SSC CGL 14 Oct 2026, Shift-II]

(a) National Athletic Drug Agency
(b) National Anti-Doping Agency
(c) National Association of Drug Analysis
(d) National Athlete Development Authority

ANSWER (b) National Anti-Doping Agency

NADA stands for the National Anti-Doping Agency, India's national organisation for dope control in sport. It was set up in 2009 under the Ministry of Youth Affairs and Sports.

- It was given statutory status by the National Anti-Doping Act, 2022.
- The National Dope Testing Laboratory (NDTL) is in New Delhi.
- It works in line with the World Anti-Doping Code of WADA.

73 In which year did the National Games of India officially adopt its current name (shifting from "Indian Olympic Games")?

[SSC CGL 14 Oct 2026, Shift-II]

(a) 1924 (b) 1940
(c) 1947 (d) 1952

ANSWER (b) 1940

The National Games of India began in 1924 as the Indian Olympic Games, first held at Lahore, and were officially renamed the National Games in 1940.

- They are organised by the Indian Olympic Association (IOA).
- The 37th National Games were held in Goa in 2023.
- The 38th National Games were held in Uttarakhand in 2025.

74 Who became the first Indian athlete to win two medals at a single edition of the Olympic Games during Paris 2024?

[SSC CGL 14 Oct 2026, Shift-III]

(a) Neeraj Chopra (b) PV Sindhu
(c) Manu Bhaker (d) Mirabai Chanu

ANSWER (c) Manu Bhaker

Manu Bhaker won two bronze medals at Paris 2024 (10m Air Pistol individual and 10m Air Pistol mixed team with Sarabjot Singh), becoming the first Indian athlete in independent India to win two medals at a single Olympics.

- P.V. Sindhu won two Olympic medals, but at different Games (Rio 2016 and Tokyo 2020).
- Sushil Kumar and Sindhu are the only Indians with two individual Olympic medals before Manu.
- Neeraj Chopra won silver at Paris 2024.

75 Who won the first medal for India at the 2020 Tokyo Olympics?

[SSC CGL 15 Oct 2026, Shift-I]

(a) Ravi Kumar Dahiya (b) Mirabai Chanu
(c) PV Sindhu (d) Bajrang Punia

ANSWER (b) Mirabai Chanu

Mirabai Chanu won India's first medal at the Tokyo 2020 Olympics, a silver in the women's 49 kg weightlifting event on 24 July 2021.

- India won seven medals at Tokyo 2020, its best-ever Olympic tally at that time.
- Neeraj Chopra won India's only gold, in javelin.
- Mirabai Chanu is from Manipur.

76 Who among the following is known as the 'Wizard of hockey'?

[SSC CGL 15 Oct 2026, Shift-I]

(a) Dhanraj Pillay (b) Balbir Singh
(c) Dhyan Chand (d) Leslie Claudius

ANSWER (c) Dhyan Chand

Major Dhyan Chand is known as the "Wizard of Hockey" for his exceptional ball control. He won three consecutive Olympic gold medals for India in 1928, 1932 and 1936.

- His birthday, 29 August, is celebrated as National Sports Day.
- The Khel Ratna Award was renamed Major Dhyan Chand Khel Ratna Award in 2021.
- He was born in Prayagraj (then Allahabad).

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77 In artistic gymnastics, which of the following apparatus is used only in men's events at the international level?

[SSC CGL 15 Oct 2026, Shift-I]

(a) Balance Beam (b) Uneven Bars
(c) Rings (d) Floor

ANSWER (c) Rings

The rings (still rings) are used only in men's artistic gymnastics at the international level. Balance beam and uneven bars are women's apparatus, while the floor is used by both.

- Men's apparatus: floor, pommel horse, rings, vault, parallel bars, horizontal bar.
- Women's apparatus: vault, uneven bars, balance beam, floor.
- Vault and floor exercise are common to both.

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78 Who is the Indian boxer who became the first Indian woman to win six AIBA (Association Internationale de Boxe Amateur) World Boxing Championship titles?

[SSC CGL 16 Oct 2026, Shift-I]

(a) Mary Kom (b) Lovlina Borgohain
(c) Nikhat Zareen (d) Sarita Devi

ANSWER (a) Mary Kom

Mary Kom won six world titles in the AIBA Women's World Boxing Championships (2002, 2005, 2006, 2008, 2010 and 2018), the first woman to do so. She is from Manipur.

- She won bronze at the London 2012 Olympics.
- She received the Padma Vibhushan in 2020.
- She is the first Indian woman boxer to qualify for the Olympics.

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79 Which countries jointly hosted the 2025 Women's Cricket World Cup?

[SSC CGL 16 Oct 2026, Shift-I]

(a) India and Sri Lanka (b) India and Bangladesh
(c) India and Nepal (d) India and Pakistan

ANSWER (a) India and Sri Lanka

India and Sri Lanka jointly hosted the 2025 Women's Cricket World Cup under a hybrid arrangement, with India's matches against Pakistan played in Sri Lanka. Hence option A is correct.

- It was the 13th edition of the Women's Cricket World Cup.
- The tournament was organised by the International Cricket Council (ICC).
- Sri Lanka's venue was Colombo (R. Premadasa Stadium).

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80 In which city did the 2025 Men's Hockey Asia Cup, hosted by India, conclude?

[SSC CGL 16 Oct 2026, Shift-I]

(a) Ranchi (b) Chennai
(c) Rajgir (d) Bhubaneswar

ANSWER (c) Rajgir

The 2025 Men's Hockey Asia Cup was held in Rajgir, Bihar, and concluded there with India beating South Korea 4-1 in the final. It was India's fourth Asia Cup title.

- The win gave India direct qualification for the 2026 Hockey World Cup.
- The matches were played at the Rajgir Sports Complex.
- The tournament was held in August-September 2025.

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81 Which of the following actions is classified as tampering under the doping control regulations?

[SSC CGL 16 Oct 2026, Shift-II]

(a) Training (b) Bribing
(c) Coaching (d) Testing

ANSWER (b) Bribing

Bribing is classified as tampering. Under the World Anti-Doping Code, tampering or attempted tampering with any part of doping control is itself an anti-doping

rule violation, and examples include bribing or intimidating a doping control official or witness. Training, coaching and testing are normal activities, not violations.

- The World Anti-Doping Agency (WADA) was set up in 1999 and its headquarters are in Montreal, Canada.
- The World Anti-Doping Code lists the anti-doping rule violations (ADRVs), including tampering, possession and trafficking.
- In India, the National Anti-Doping Agency (NADA) is the body responsible for dope control.

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82 In which Olympic Games did India achieve its highest-ever total medal count of 7 medals?

[SSC CGL 16 Oct 2026, Shift-II]

(a) Beijing 2008
(b) London 2012
(c) Tokyo 2020
(d) Paris 2024

ANSWER (c) Tokyo 2020

India won its highest-ever tally of 7 medals at the Tokyo 2020 Olympics (held in 2021): 1 gold, 2 silver and 4 bronze. The next best was London 2012 with 6 medals; at Paris 2024 India won 6 medals.

- Neeraj Chopra won the gold in javelin throw at Tokyo, India's first Olympic gold in athletics.
- Mirabai Chanu (weightlifting) and Ravi Dahiya (wrestling) won the two silver medals.
- The Indian men's hockey team won bronze at Tokyo, ending a 41-year medal drought.

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83 In Kho-Kho, what is the term for the player sitting in the square facing the direction of play?

[SSC CGL 16 Oct 2026, Shift-III]

(a) Chaser
(b) Runner
(c) Attacker
(d) Defender

ANSWER (a) Chaser

The player sitting in a square is called a Chaser. In Kho-Kho, eight chasers sit in the squares along the central lane, alternate chasers facing opposite directions, while the ninth chaser is the active chaser who pursues the runners.

- Each team has 9 players on the field and 12 in the squad.
- The chasing team's players cannot turn their shoulders or face against the direction they are sitting in.
- The players of the defending side are called runners (defenders).

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84 In weightlifting, what does the term "snatch" refer to?

[SSC CGL 16 Oct 2026, Shift-III]

(a) Lifting barbell from floor to overhead in one continuous motion
(b) Lifting the barbell to the shoulders before pressing overhead
(c) A warm-up exercise before competition
(d) A penalty given for incorrect lifting technique

ANSWER (a) Lifting barbell from floor to overhead in one continuous ...

Snatch is a lift in which the barbell is raised from the floor to overhead in one continuous motion. It is one of the two competition lifts in Olympic weightlifting; the other is the clean and jerk, where the bar is first taken to the shoulders and then driven overhead.

- The athlete's score is the sum of the best snatch and the best clean and jerk.
- Each lifter gets three attempts in each lift.
- Weightlifting has been an Olympic sport since 1896 (with a break), and Karnam Malleswari won India's first Olympic weightlifting medal (bronze) in 2000.

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85 What was the total number of medals won by India at the Paris 2024 Summer Olympics?

[SSC CGL 22 Oct 2026, Shift-I]

(a) 5 medals
(b) 6 medals
(c) 7 medals
(d) 10 medals

ANSWER (b) 6 medals

India won a total of 6 medals at the Paris 2024 Olympics: 1 silver and 5 bronze. There was no gold medal. The silver came from Neeraj Chopra in javelin throw.

- The five bronze medals came in shooting (Manu Bhaker; Manu Bhaker and Sarabjot Singh in the mixed team; Swapnil Kusale), men's hockey and wrestling (Aman Sehrawat).
- Manu Bhaker became the first Indian to win two medals in a single Olympics after Independence.

- The Indian men's hockey team won back-to-back bronze medals.

86 Which Indian badminton pair won the country's first-ever Asian Games gold medal in badminton at the 2022 Asian Games?

[SSC CGL 22 Oct 2026, Shift-I]

(a) PV Sindhu and Saina Nehwal
(b) Satwiksairaj Rankireddy and Chirag Shetty
(c) Lakshya Sen and HS Prannoy
(d) Jwala Gutta and Ashwini Ponnappa

ANSWER (b) Satwiksairaj Rankireddy and Chirag Shetty

Satwiksairaj Rankireddy and Chirag Shetty won the men's doubles gold, India's first-ever Asian Games gold medal in badminton. The 2022 Asian Games were held at Hangzhou, China, in September–October 2023 after being postponed.

- They beat the South Korean pair of Choi Solgyu and Kim Won-ho in the final.
- India's men's badminton team also won a silver at the same Games.
- The Games were postponed by a year because of the COVID-19 pandemic.

87 At just 13 years old, who became the youngest girl in the world to scale Mount Everest and later also scaled Mount Elbrus?

[SSC CGL 22 Oct 2026, Shift-II]

(a) Kaamya Karthikeyan (b) Malavath Poorna
(c) Arunima Sinha (d) Bachendri Pal

ANSWER (b) Malavath Poorna

Malavath Poorna, from Telangana, became the youngest girl in the world to scale Mount Everest, in May 2014 when she was 13 years old. She later also climbed Mount Elbrus, the highest peak of Europe, as part of the Seven Summits goal.

- Bachendri Pal was the first Indian woman to climb Everest (1984).
- Arunima Sinha was the first female amputee to climb Everest (2013).
- Kaamya Karthikeyan became the youngest girl to climb Mount Aconcagua and later completed the Seven Summits in 2024 at the age of 16.

88 The International Cricket Council (ICC) Women's Cricket World Cup 2025 was scheduled to be held during which period?

[SSC CGL 22 Oct 2026, Shift-II]

(a) 25 September – 31 October 2025
(b) 30 September – 2 November 2025
(c) 1 October – 5 November 2025
(d) 5 October – 10 November 2025

ANSWER (b) 30 September – 2 November 2025

The ICC Women's Cricket World Cup 2025 was held from 30 September to 2 November 2025, hosted by India and Sri Lanka. India beat South Africa in the final to win their first Women's World Cup title.

- Deepti Sharma was named Player of the Tournament.
- Sri Lanka hosted its matches in Colombo because of the hybrid arrangement with Pakistan's games.
- Australia are the most successful team in the history of the tournament.

89 The 2025 Men's Federation Internationale de Hockey (FIH) Hockey Junior World Cup, hosted by India, started on 28 November 2025 in which state?

[SSC CGL 22 Oct 2026, Shift-II]

(a) Odisha (b) Tamil Nadu
(c) Bihar (d) Uttar Pradesh

ANSWER (b) Tamil Nadu

The 2025 FIH Men's Junior World Cup began on 28 November 2025 in Tamil Nadu. The matches were held in Chennai and Madurai, and the tournament ran until 10 December 2025 with 24 teams.

- Chennai's matches were played at the Mayor Radhakrishnan Hockey Stadium.
- India had earlier hosted the Junior World Cup in Lucknow (2016) and Bhubaneswar (2021).
- The International Hockey Federation (FIH) is headquartered in Lausanne, Switzerland.

90 Who became the first athlete from independent India to win an individual Olympic medal at the 1952 Helsinki Olympic Games?

[SSC CGL 22 Oct 2026, Shift-III]

(a) K.D. Jadhav (b) Milkha Singh
(c) Abhinav Bindra (d) Leander Paes

ANSWER (a) K.D. Jadhav

K.D. (Khashaba Dadasaheb) Jadav won the bronze medal in men's freestyle wrestling (bantamweight) at the 1952 Helsinki Olympics. He was the first athlete from independent India to win an individual Olympic medal.

- He belonged to Goleshwar village in Satara district, Maharashtra.
- Norman Pritchard won two silver medals in athletics at the 1900 Paris Olympics, before independence.
- Leander Paes won a bronze in tennis at the 1996 Atlanta Olympics.

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91 Nikhat Zareen, who won a gold medal at the 2022 Commonwealth Games, is associated with which sport?

[SSC CGL 22 Oct 2026, Shift-III]

(a) Wrestling (b) Boxing
(c) Archery (d) Shooting

ANSWER (b) Boxing

Nikhat Zareen is a boxer. She won the gold medal in the light flyweight (48–50 kg) category at the 2022 Commonwealth Games in Birmingham, and she is also a two-time World Champion (2022 and 2023).

- She belongs to Nizamabad, Telangana.
- Mary Kom, Sarita Devi and Lovlina Borgohain are other well-known Indian women boxers.
- Lovlina Borgohain won a bronze medal at the Tokyo 2020 Olympics.

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92 The 2014 Lusofonia Games, a multi-sport event for Portuguese-speaking countries, were held in which Indian city?

[SSC CGL 23 Oct 2026, Shift-I]

(a) Mumbai (b) Chennai
(c) Kolkata (d) Goa

ANSWER (d) Goa

The 2014 Lusofonia Games were held in Goa. The Games are a multi-sport event for the countries and regions linked by the Portuguese language, and Goa took part because of its Portuguese colonial history.

- Goa was a Portuguese colony until 1961 and became a full state of India in 1987.
- The first Lusofonia Games were held in 2006 in Macau.
- Goa was one of the host cities of Lusofonia only once, in 2014.

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93 In Judo, what is the term for a 'full point' that ends the match immediately?

[SSC CGL 23 Oct 2026, Shift-I]

(a) Waza-ari (b) Yuko
(c) Ippon (d) Koka

ANSWER (c) Ippon

Ippon is the full point in Judo, and scoring it ends the match immediately. It is given for a throw that lands the opponent largely on the back with force and speed, or for a successful hold-down, choke or armlock.

- Waza-ari is a half point, and Yuko and Koka are lower scores used in older rules.
- Judo is a Japanese martial art founded by Jigoro Kano in 1882.
- Judo became an Olympic sport at the 1964 Tokyo Games.

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94 What medal did Neeraj Chopra win in the men's javelin throw event at the Paris 2024 Olympic Games?

[SSC CGL 23 Oct 2026, Shift-II]

(a) Gold (b) Silver
(c) Bronze (d) None of these

ANSWER (b) Silver

Neeraj Chopra won the silver medal in the men's javelin throw at Paris 2024 with a throw of 89.45 m. Arshad Nadeem of Pakistan won the gold with an Olympic-record throw of 92.97 m.

- Neeraj had won the gold at the Tokyo 2020 Olympics.
- He became the first Indian track-and-field athlete to win two Olympic medals after independence.
- He won the World Championships gold in 2023 in Budapest.

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95 In Badminton, which term describes a soft shot hit just over the net, forcing the opponent to move forward?

[SSC CGL 23 Oct 2026, Shift-II]

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

ANSWER (c) Drop Shot

A drop shot is a soft shot hit just over the net so that it falls close to the net, forcing the opponent to rush forward. A smash is a powerful downward shot, a drive is a fast flat shot, and a clear sends the shuttle high to the back of the court.

- The shuttlecock (shuttle) is made of feathers or synthetic material and has 16 feathers in a feather shuttle.
- The net height is 1.55 m at the posts.
- Badminton has been an Olympic sport since 1992.

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96 What does the term "Chukker" refer to in polo?

[SSC CGL 23 Oct 2026, Shift-III]

(a) Type of penalty (b) Number of players
(c) A period of play (d) Horse breed

ANSWER (c) A period of play

A chukker is a period of play in polo. A polo match is divided into chukkers, each lasting about seven minutes, and the players usually change their ponies between chukkers.

- Each polo team has four players on the field.
- Polo is played on horseback with a mallet and a ball.
- Polo is believed to have originated in Persia (ancient Iran) and was popularised in India by the British.

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97 Which Indian chess grandmaster became the first to win the FIDE World Chess Championship in 2000?

[SSC CGL 23 Oct 2026, Shift-III]

(a) Vishwanathan Anand (b) Pentala Harikrishna
(c) Vidit Gujrathi (d) Rameshbabu Praggnanandhaa

ANSWER (a) Vishwanathan Anand

Viswanathan Anand won the FIDE World Chess Championship in 2000 (held in Tehran), becoming the first Indian and the first Asian to hold the world title. Later he won the undisputed World Championship in 2007, 2008, 2010 and 2012.

- He was India's first chess Grandmaster (1988).
- He was awarded the first Rajiv Gandhi Khel Ratna in 1991–92.
- D. Gukesh became the youngest undisputed World Chess Champion in December 2024.

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98 Which sport contributed the highest number of medals for India (12 medals) at the 2022 Commonwealth Games in Birmingham?

[SSC CGL 24 Oct 2026, Shift-I]

(a) Boxing (b) Weightlifting
(c) Wrestling (d) Athletics

ANSWER (c) Wrestling

Wrestling gave India the most medals, 12, at the 2022 Commonwealth Games in Birmingham (6 gold, 1 silver and 5 bronze). India finished fourth overall in the medal tally with 61 medals.

- Weightlifting gave India 10 medals, including 3 gold.
- Ravi Dahiya and Naveen also won gold in wrestling.
- Bajrang Punia won the 65 kg gold, Sakshi Malik the 62 kg gold and Deepak Punia the 86 kg gold.

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99 The platform in weightlifting refers to:

[SSC CGL 24 Oct 2026, Shift-I]

(a) Judging panel (b) Warm-up area
(c) Competition lifting area (d) Medal podium

ANSWER (c) Competition lifting area

In weightlifting, the platform is the competition lifting area on which the athlete performs the lifts. It is a square, level surface, 4 m by 4 m, and the bar must be lifted within it.

- The warm-up area is separate from the competition platform.
- Three referees judge each lift using white and red lights.
- The two lifts in competition are the snatch and the clean and jerk.

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100 What is the term for a 'draw' in a chess match?

[SSC CGL 24 Oct 2026, Shift-II]

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

ANSWER (b) Stalemate

Stalemate is the position in which the player to move has no legal move but is not in check, and the game is declared a draw. A draw can also result from agreement, repetition of position or insufficient material. Checkmate ends the game with a win, a gambit is an opening sacrifice, and castling is a special king-rook move.

- Under the FIDE rules, a win gives 1 point, a draw gives half a point and a loss gives zero.
- The International Chess Federation (FIDE) was founded in 1924 in Paris.
- International Chess Day is observed on 20 July.

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101 Which of the following is a national kabaddi championship in India?

[SSC CGL 24 Oct 2026, Shift-II]

(a) PKL (b) Kabaddi League
(c) Federation Cup (d) Senior Nationals

ANSWER (d) Senior Nationals

The Senior National Kabaddi Championship is the national championship in India, in which state and service teams compete. PKL (Pro Kabaddi League) is a franchise-based league, not a national championship, and 'Kabaddi League' is a generic term. As per the official answer key, Senior Nationals is the correct answer.

- The Pro Kabaddi League started in 2014.
- Kabaddi was introduced in the Asian Games in 1990 (Beijing), and India won the gold.
- The Amateur Kabaddi Federation of India (AKFI) governs the sport in India.

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102 Who was India's first Olympic Gold medalist?

[SSC CGL 24 Oct 2026, Shift-II]

(a) Rajyavardhan Singh Rathore (b) Abhinav Bindra
(c) Sushil Kumar (d) Vijender Singh

ANSWER (b) Abhinav Bindra

Abhinav Bindra was India's first individual Olympic gold medallist. He won the gold in the men's 10 m air rifle event at the 2008 Beijing Olympics. (India's earlier Olympic golds, from 1928, were won by the hockey team.)

- Rajyavardhan Singh Rathore won the silver in double trap shooting at Athens 2004.
- Sushil Kumar won a bronze in 2008 and a silver in 2012 in wrestling.
- Vijender Singh won a bronze in boxing at the 2008 Beijing Olympics.

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103 Which statement about India's performance at the 2023 Commonwealth Youth Games in Trinbago is true?

[SSC CGL 24 Oct 2026, Shift-II]

(a) India won five medals: two silver and three bronze.
(b) India won medals only in swimming and netball.
(c) India competed in rugby sevens and beach volleyball only.
(d) Shoan Ganguly won bronze in men's 400m individual medley swimming.

ANSWER (a) India won five medals: two silver and three bronze.

At the 2023 Commonwealth Youth Games in Trinbago (Trinidad and Tobago, 4–11 August 2023), India won five medals: two silver and three bronze, finishing 17th. The silver medals came from Shoan Ganguly (swimming, men's 400 m individual medley) and Asha Kiran Barla (athletics, women's 800 m), and the three bronzes came in athletics. So option D is wrong, because Shoan Ganguly won silver, not bronze.

- The bronze medals were won by Sasi Anupriya (shot put), Pooja (high jump) and Arjun (javelin throw).
- Four of the five medals came from athletics.
- The Commonwealth Youth Games are for athletes aged 14 to 18.

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104 Which category of substances under the World Anti-Doping Code is more likely to have a credible non-doping explanation?

[SSC CGL 24 Oct 2026, Shift-III]

(a) Non-specified (b) Specified
(c) Prohibited (d) Natural

ANSWER (b) Specified

Specified substances are more likely to have a credible non-doping explanation. These are substances more likely to have been taken for a purpose other than enhancing performance, such as in common medicines, so the Code allows a lower sanction if the athlete proves the use was not intended to enhance performance.

- All substances on the Prohibited List are either specified or non-specified.
- Substances such as anabolic agents are non-specified, and carry heavier sanctions.
- The Prohibited List is published every year by WADA.

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105 In football, what is the standard length of a "penalty mark" from the goal line?

[SSC CGL 24 Oct 2026, Shift-III]

(a) 11 meters (12 yards)
(b) 10 meters (11 yards)
(c) 9.15 meters (10.5 yards)
(d) 12 meters (13 yards)

ANSWER (a) 11 meters (12 yards)

The penalty mark in football is 11 metres (12 yards) from the goal line, placed centrally in front of the goal. A penalty kick is awarded for a direct free-kick offence by the defending team inside its own penalty area.

- The 9.15 m (10 yards) distance is the minimum distance opponents must keep from the ball at a free kick, as also the radius of the centre circle.
- The goal is 7.32 m wide and 2.44 m high.
- A standard match has two halves of 45 minutes each.

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106 In the inaugural Kho-Kho World Cup 2025, which country emerged as the Men's Champion?

[SSC CGL 24 Oct 2026, Shift-III]

(a) Nepal
(b) India
(c) Bangladesh
(d) Sri Lanka

ANSWER (b) India

India won the men's title at the inaugural Kho-Kho World Cup 2025, held in New Delhi in January 2025. In the final, India beat Nepal 54–36. The Indian women's team also won the women's title, defeating Nepal in their final.

- The tournament was held from 13 to 19 January 2025.
- Pratik Waikar captained the Indian men's team, and Priyanka Ingle captained the women's team.
- Kho-Kho is a traditional Indian tag sport.

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107 In weightlifting, if three red lights appear after a lift, it indicates:

[SSC CGL 24 Oct 2026, Shift-III]

(a) Record attempt
(b) Disqualification
(c) Unsuccessful lift
(d) Reattempt allowed

ANSWER (c) Unsuccessful lift

Three red lights indicate an unsuccessful lift (no lift). Each of the three referees shows a white light for a good lift or a red light for a failed one, and a lift is valid when at least two of the three show white.

- The lift is judged by the three referees using lights, and the decision is shown on the display board.
- A lift can be declared a failure for reasons such as the bar not being fully locked out or the lifter moving the feet.
- Each lifter gets three attempts in each of the two lifts.

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108 Who became the youngest-ever winner of the International Chess Federation (FIDE) Candidates Tournament held in April 2024?

[SSC CGL 24 Oct 2026, Shift-III]

(a) R Praggnanandhaa
(b) Vidit Gujrathi
(c) D Gukesh
(d) Nihal Sarin

ANSWER (c) D Gukesh

D. Gukesh became the youngest-ever winner of the FIDE Candidates Tournament, held in Toronto in April 2024, at the age of 17. This earned him the right to challenge the reigning champion for the World Championship.

- He went on to defeat Ding Liren of China in December 2024 to become the youngest undisputed World Chess Champion, at 18.
- The Candidates Tournament decides the challenger for the World Championship match.

- He earlier broke the record of Garry Kasparov, who had been the youngest Candidates winner.

109 Which of the following sportsperson became the first Indian fencer to qualify for the Olympics at the Tokyo 2020 Games (held in 2021)?

[SSC CGL 24 Oct 2026, Shift-III]

(a) Bhavani Devi
(b) Deepika Kumari
(c) Apurvi Chandela
(d) Manu Bhaker

ANSWER (a) Bhavani Devi

C.A. Bhavani Devi became the first Indian fencer to qualify for the Olympics, at Tokyo 2020 (held in 2021). She competed in the sabre event and won her opening round before losing in the next round.

- She hails from Chennai, Tamil Nadu.
- Deepika Kumari is an archer, while Apurvi Chandela and Manu Bhaker are shooters.
- Bhavani Devi won the sabre gold at the 2022 Commonwealth Fencing Championships.

110 At which venue was the second Test of India's tour of England during the 2025–27 International Cricket Council (ICC) World Test Championship cycle played from 2-6 July 2025?

[SSC CGL 24 Oct 2026, Shift-III]

(a) Lord's, London
(b) Old Trafford, Manchester
(c) Edgbaston, Birmingham
(d) Headingley, Leeds

ANSWER (c) Edgbaston, Birmingham

The second Test of India's 2025 tour of England was played at Edgbaston, Birmingham, from 2 to 6 July 2025. India won by 336 runs, its first-ever Test win at Edgbaston, and levelled the series 1–1.

- Shubman Gill, the Indian captain, scored 269 and 161 in the match.
- Akash Deep took ten wickets in the match.
- The series is called the Anderson–Tendulkar Trophy.

111 In which city was the 2025 Men's Hockey Asia Cup held from 29 August to 7 September 2025, where India won its fourth title and secured direct qualification for the 2026 Federation Internationale de Hockey (FIH) Hockey World Cup?

[SSC CGL 24 Oct 2026, Shift-III]

(a) Kalinga Stadium, Bhubaneswar
(b) Major Dhyan Chand Stadium, New Delhi
(c) Bihar Sports University Hockey Stadium, Rajgir
(d) Birsa Munda Hockey Stadium, Rourkela

ANSWER (c) Bihar Sports University Hockey Stadium, Rajgir

The 2025 Men's Hockey Asia Cup was held in Rajgir, Bihar, at the Bihar Sports University Hockey Stadium. India beat South Korea 4–1 in the final to win their fourth Asia Cup title (after 2003, 2007 and 2017) and qualified directly for the 2026 FIH Hockey World Cup.

- The 2026 Men's Hockey World Cup is being hosted by Belgium and the Netherlands.
- India won the Asia Cup after eight years, the last title being in 2017.
- Rajgir is in Nalanda district of Bihar.

112 Which Indian athlete is known as the "Flying Sikh"?

[SSC CGL 27 Oct 2026, Shift-I]

(a) P.T. Usha
(b) Milkha Singh
(c) Dhyan Chand
(d) Sachin Tendulkar

ANSWER (b) Milkha Singh

Milkha Singh is known as the 'Flying Sikh'. The name is said to have been given to him by Pakistan's President Ayub Khan after he won a race in Lahore in 1960. He finished fourth in the 400 m at the 1960 Rome Olympics.

- He won the 400 m gold at the 1958 Asian Games and the 1958 Commonwealth Games.
- He was awarded the Padma Shri in 1959.
- The film 'Bhaag Milkha Bhaag' (2013) is based on his life.

113 What is the line that a Kabaddi raider must cross to be considered safe in the opponent's territory called?

[SSC CGL 27 Oct 2026, Shift-I]

(a) Lobby line
(b) Baulk line
(c) Bonus line
(d) Mid-line

ANSWER (b) Baulk line

The Baulk line is the line a raider must cross in the opponent's court for the raid to count; a raider who

does not cross it must return, and the raid is then not counted as a valid touch. As per the official answer key, Baulk line is the correct answer. The bonus line lies beyond it and is used for a bonus point.

- The baulk line is 3.75 m from the mid-line in the men's court.
- The lobby is the strip along the sides that becomes part of the court only when touches occur.
- The bonus line is 1 m beyond the baulk line.

114 Which Indian sportsperson is nicknamed "Golden Girl"?

[SSC CGL 27 Oct 2026, Shift-I]

(a) PT Usha
(b) Mary Kom
(c) Sania Mirza
(d) Saina Nehwal

ANSWER (a) PT Usha

P.T. Usha is nicknamed the 'Golden Girl' of Indian athletics. She is also known as the 'Payyoli Express' and the 'Queen of Indian track and field'. She narrowly missed an Olympic medal in the 400 m hurdles at the 1984 Los Angeles Olympics, finishing fourth by a margin of 1/100th of a second.

- She won four gold medals and one silver at the 1986 Seoul Asian Games.
- She was awarded the Arjuna Award in 1983 and the Padma Shri in 1985.
- She was elected President of the Indian Olympic Association in 2022.

115 On which date did the Syed Modi India International 2025, part of the Badminton World Federation (BWF) World Tour Super 300 series, come to an end?

[SSC CGL 27 Oct 2026, Shift-II]

(a) 28 November 2025
(b) 29 November 2025
(c) 30 November 2025
(d) 1 December 2025

ANSWER (c) 30 November 2025

The Syed Modi India International 2025, a BWF World Tour Super 300 event, was held from 25 to 30 November 2025 at the Babu Banarasi Das Indoor Stadium in Lucknow. It therefore ended on 30 November 2025, the day of the finals.

- Treesa Jolly and Gayatri Gopichand won the women's doubles title.
- Jason Gunawan won the men's singles and Hina Akechi the women's singles.
- The tournament is named after Syed Modi, a former national badminton champion from Lucknow.

116 In which country was the 2025 Badminton World Federation (BWF) World Tour Finals, featuring leading badminton players including Indian participants, held?

[SSC CGL 27 Oct 2026, Shift-II]

(a) China
(b) Malaysia
(c) Thailand
(d) Indonesia

ANSWER (a) China

The 2025 BWF World Tour Finals were held in China, in Hangzhou, from 17 to 21 December 2025. The year-end event brings together the top eight players or pairs in each discipline based on the World Tour rankings.

- An Se-young of South Korea won the women's singles and Christo Popov of France the men's singles.
- Hangzhou also hosted the 2022 Asian Games (held in 2023).
- The event is the season-ending tournament of the BWF World Tour.

117 In cricket, what does the term "Duck" refer to?

[SSC CGL 27 Oct 2026, Shift-III]

(a) A low bounce
(b) A batsman scoring zero runs
(c) A wide delivery
(d) A slow ball

ANSWER (b) A batsman scoring zero runs

In cricket, a duck means a batsman getting out without scoring any runs. Getting out on the first ball faced is called a golden duck, and on the second ball a silver duck, while getting out without facing a ball is a diamond duck.

- A batsman dismissed for a duck in both innings of a Test is said to have scored a 'pair'.
- A 'king pair' means a golden duck in both innings.
- The term comes from the shape of the digit zero, which looks like a duck's egg.

118 Consider the following statements:
1. Leander Paes has won an Olympic medal in tennis.
2. P.V. Sindhu is the only Indian woman with two Olympic medals in badminton.
3. Abhinav Bindra has two Olympic medals.
Which of the following statements is/are **correct**?

[SSC CGL 27 Oct 2026, Shift-III]

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

ANSWER (a) Only 1 and 2 are correct

Statements 1 and 2 are correct. Leander Paes won a bronze medal in men's singles tennis at the 1996 Atlanta Olympics. P.V. Sindhu won a silver at Rio 2016 and a bronze at Tokyo 2020, the only Indian woman to win two Olympic medals in badminton. Statement 3 is wrong: Abhinav Bindra won only one Olympic medal, the gold in 10 m air rifle at Beijing 2008.

- Sindhu is the first Indian woman to win two individual Olympic medals; Manu Bhaker later won two medals in shooting at Paris 2024.
- Saina Nehwal won a bronze at London 2012, the first Olympic badminton medal for India.
- Bindra had also finished 4th in Rio 2016 shooting but won no medal there.

119 The T12 classification in Paralympic athletics is designated for athletes with:

[SSC CGL 27 Oct 2026, Shift-III]

(a) Complete vision loss
(b) Partial visual impairment
(c) Intellectual disability
(d) Upper limb amputation

ANSWER (b) Partial visual impairment

The T12 class in Paralympic athletics is for athletes with partial visual impairment. In the T11–T13 series, T11 is for athletes with very low or no vision, T12 for moderate visual impairment and T13 for the mildest impairment. T denotes track (and jumping) events.

- F denotes field (throwing) events.
- T11 athletes run with a guide and are required to wear blackout goggles.
- Intellectual impairment is classified as T20/F20.

120 Which venue hosted the India Open Super 750 badminton tournament held from 13–18 January 2026?

[SSC CGL 28 Oct 2026, Shift-I]

(a) Indira Gandhi Arena, New Delhi
(b) Babu Banarasi Das Indoor Stadium, Lucknow
(c) Kanteerava Indoor Stadium, Bengaluru
(d) Ganti Mohana Chandra Balayogi Indoor Stadium, Hyderabad

ANSWER (a) Indira Gandhi Arena, New Delhi

The India Open Super 750, held from 13 to 18 January 2026, was hosted at the Indira Gandhi Indoor Stadium (IG Stadium) in New Delhi. The event is a BWF World Tour Super 750 tournament, the level just below the Super 1000 events.

- Super 750 is the second-highest category of BWF World Tour events after Super 1000.
- The India Open was first held in 2008.
- The India Open is regularly hosted in New Delhi.

121 The India Open Super 750 badminton tournament, held from 13–18 January 2026, was hosted in which city?

[SSC CGL 28 Oct 2026, Shift-I]

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

ANSWER (a) New Delhi

The India Open Super 750 badminton tournament (13–18 January 2026) was hosted in New Delhi, at the Indira Gandhi Indoor Stadium. Lucknow hosts the Syed Modi International, a Super 300 event, in November.

- Super 750 is the second-highest level of the BWF World Tour.
- The India Open has also been held at the K.D. Jadhav Indoor Hall, New Delhi, in earlier years.
- Hyderabad hosts the Hyderabad Open (Super 100).

122 How many players from each team are on a basketball court at a time?

[SSC CGL 28 Oct 2026, Shift-II]

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

ANSWER (a) 5

Five players from each team are on a basketball court at a time. Each team can have up to 12 players on its roster, and substitutions are allowed during stoppages.

- Under FIBA rules, a game has four quarters of 10 minutes each.
- The basket (hoop) is placed 3.05 m (10 feet) above the floor.
- Basketball was invented by Dr. James Naismith in 1891 in the USA.

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123 "Pin" is a winning position in which sport?

[SSC CGL 28 Oct 2026, Shift-II]

(a) Boxing
(b) Wrestling
(c) Weightlifting
(d) Shooting

ANSWER (b) Wrestling

Pin (fall) is a winning position in wrestling. A wrestler wins by pin when both of the opponent's shoulders are held down on the mat for a required short period, which ends the bout immediately.

- The two styles of Olympic wrestling are freestyle and Greco-Roman.
- In Greco-Roman wrestling, holds below the waist are not allowed.
- A wrestling bout can also be won by technical superiority or points.

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124 Consider the following statements about India's participation in the 1936 Berlin Summer Olympics:
1) The men's hockey team won their third consecutive gold medal.
2) Rashid Anwar competed in men's freestyle wrestling.
Which of the above statements are **correct**?

[SSC CGL 28 Oct 2026, Shift-II]

(a) Only 1 is Correct
(b) Only 2 is Correct
(c) 1 and 2 are Correct
(d) Neither 1 nor 2 are Correct

ANSWER (c) 1 and 2 are Correct

Both statements are correct. At Berlin 1936 the Indian men's hockey team, led by Dhyan Chand, beat Germany 8–1 in the final to win its third consecutive Olympic gold (after 1928 and 1932). Rashid Anwar competed in men's freestyle (welterweight) wrestling at the same Games.

- Dhyan Chand's birthday, 29 August, is celebrated as National Sports Day.
- Rashid Anwar had won India's first medal at the Commonwealth (then British Empire) Games, a bronze in 1934.
- India won six consecutive Olympic hockey golds from 1928 to 1956.

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125 Which of these is an ADRV (Anti-Doping Rule Violation) even without a positive test?

[SSC CGL 28 Oct 2026, Shift-III]

(a) Losing
(b) Refusal to submit sample
(c) Following a diet plan
(d) Training regularly

ANSWER (b) Refusal to submit sample

Refusal to submit a sample is an Anti-Doping Rule Violation (ADRV) even without a positive test. Under the World Anti-Doping Code, evading, refusing or failing to submit to sample collection after notification is itself a violation, and attracts the same kind of sanction as a positive result.

- Other violations that do not need a positive test include whereabouts failures, tampering, possession and trafficking.
- The Code states that an athlete is strictly liable for any prohibited substance found in his/her sample.
- Whereabouts failures mean three missed tests or filing failures within 12 months.

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126 In the history of the Santosh Trophy, West Bengal holds the record for the most successive titles. In which specific decade did they achieve six back-to-back triumphs?

[SSC CGL 28 Oct 2026, Shift-III]

(a) 1970 – 1976
(b) 1993 – 1999
(c) 1941 – 1947
(d) 2005 – 2011

ANSWER (b) 1993 – 1999

West Bengal (Bengal) won six consecutive Santosh Trophy titles from 1993–94 to 1998–99, so the answer is 1993–1999, in the 1990s. This is the longest winning streak in the tournament's history.

- The Santosh Trophy is India's national football championship for states and institutions.

- The first edition was held in 1941–42 and was won by Bengal.
- The trophy is named after the Maharaja of Santosh, Manmatha Nath Roy Chowdhury.

127 In football, how long is one half of a standard match?

[SSC CGL 28 Oct 2026, Shift-III]

(a) 30 minutes (b) 40 minutes
(c) 45 minutes (d) 50 minutes

ANSWER (c) 45 minutes

One half of a standard football match lasts 45 minutes, so a full match is 90 minutes, with an interval of up to 15 minutes at half-time. Injury or stoppage time may be added at the end of each half.

- If extra time is played, it consists of two halves of 15 minutes each.
- A football team has 11 players on the field, including the goalkeeper.
- The FIFA World Cup is held every four years.

128 In boxing, which of the following is NOT a individual punch technique?

[SSC CGL 28 Oct 2026, Shift-III]

(a) Jab (b) Hook
(c) Combination (d) Uppercut

ANSWER (c) Combination

Combination is not an individual punch technique. A combination is a sequence of two or more punches thrown together, whereas the jab, hook and uppercut are single punches. The other basic punches are the cross and the straight.

- The jab is a quick, straight punch with the lead hand.
- The hook is a semicircular punch aimed at the side of the head or body.
- The uppercut is an upward punch aimed at the chin or body.

129 At which venue was the fourth edition of the Oriental Cup football tournament held from 7–16 July 2025?

[SSC CGL 28 Oct 2026, Shift-III]

(a) Salt Lake Stadium, Kolkata
(b) Kalinga Stadium, Bhubaneswar
(c) Dr. Ambedkar Stadium, New Delhi
(d) Jawaharlal Nehru Stadium, Kochi

ANSWER (c) Dr. Ambedkar Stadium, New Delhi

The Oriental Cup is a school football tournament held in Delhi, and its fourth edition (from 7 July) was played at the Dr. Ambedkar Stadium, New Delhi. As per the official answer key, Dr. Ambedkar Stadium is the correct answer.

- Dr. Ambedkar Stadium is in the Delhi Gate area of New Delhi.
- The Oriental Cup features boys' and girls' school teams from Delhi.
- Football is among the most popular school sports in Delhi.

130 The 2025 World Athletics Championships, in which Indian athletes such as Neeraj Chopra participated, were hosted in which city from 13 to 21 September 2025?

[SSC CGL 28 Oct 2026, Shift-III]

(a) Osaka, Japan (b) Tokyo, Japan
(c) Kyoto, Japan (d) Nagoya, Japan

ANSWER (b) Tokyo, Japan

The 2025 World Athletics Championships were held in Tokyo, Japan, from 13 to 21 September 2025, at the Japan National Stadium. It was the 20th edition of the championships.

- Tokyo also hosted the Summer Olympics in 1964 and 2020 (held in 2021).
- The Japan National Stadium was the main stadium for the Tokyo 2020 Olympics.
- World Athletics is headquartered in Monaco.

PART B Awards & Honours

131 Which of the following author-language pairs (Poetry category) for the Sahitya Akademi Award 2025 is **correctly** matched?

[SSC CGL 01 Oct 2026, Shift-III]

(a) Sadhu Bhadreshdas – Urdu
(b) Pritpal Singh Betab – Sanskrit
(c) Nandini Sidha Reddy – Telugu
(d) Khajur Singh Thakur – Gujarati

ANSWER (c) Nandini Sidha Reddy – Telugu

Nandini Sidha Reddy, a Telugu poet from Telangana, is among the 24 winners of the Sahitya Akademi Award 2025 (announced in March 2026) for poetry in Telugu.

- The Sahitya Akademi Award carries a plaque, a shawl and Rs 1 lakh.
- The Sahitya Akademi gives awards in 24 languages.

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132 Which Polish author was awarded the Nobel Prize in Literature in 2018 for her narrative imagination?

[SSC CGL 05 Oct 2026, Shift-II]

(a) Wisława Szymborska
(b) Olga Tokarczuk
(c) Dorota Masłowska
(d) Hanna Krall

ANSWER (b) Olga Tokarczuk

Olga Tokarczuk received the Nobel Prize in Literature for 2018 'for a narrative imagination that with encyclopedic passion represents the crossing of boundaries as a form of life'; the 2018 prize was announced in 2019.

- Wisława Szymborska, another Polish poet, won the Nobel Prize in Literature in 1996.
- Tokarczuk's novel Flights won the International Booker Prize in 2018.

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133 Which Indian President received the "Grand Order of the Chain of the Yellow Star" in 2023?

[SSC CGL 06 Oct 2026, Shift-I]

(a) Droupadi Murmu
(b) Ram Nath Kovind
(c) Dr. A. P. J. Abdul Kalam
(d) Pratibha Patil

ANSWER (a) Droupadi Murmu

President Droupadi Murmu received the Grand Order of the Chain of the Yellow Star, Suriname's highest civilian honour, in June 2023 during her visit to Suriname; she was the first Indian to receive it.

- Suriname is a country in South America with a large population of Indian origin.
- Murmu is the 15th President of India and the first tribal woman to hold the office.

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134 Rabindranath Tagore is the author of national anthems of India and which other country?

[SSC CGL 06 Oct 2026, Shift-II]

(a) Nepal
(b) Sri lanka
(c) Bangladesh
(d) Bhutan

ANSWER (c) Bangladesh

Rabindranath Tagore wrote 'Jana Gana Mana', the national anthem of India, and 'Amar Shonar Bangla', the national anthem of Bangladesh.

- Tagore won the Nobel Prize in Literature in 1913 for Gitanjali, the first non-European to do so.
- Ananda Samarakoon, who composed Sri Lanka's anthem, was a student at Tagore's Santiniketan.

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135 Which of the following pairs of author and language (Poetry category) for the Sahitya Akademi Award 2025 is **correctly** matched?

[SSC CGL 07 Oct 2026, Shift-III]

(a) Prasun Bandyopadhyay – Bengali
(b) Khajur Singh Thakur – Odia
(c) Girijakumar Baliyar Singh – Gujarati
(d) Pritpal Singh Betab – Dogri

ANSWER (a) Prasun Bandyopadhyay – Bengali

Prasun Bandyopadhyay received the Sahitya Akademi Award 2025 in Bengali for his poetry collection 'Shrestha Kabita'. The other pairs are wrongly matched: Khajur Singh Thakur won in Dogri, Girijakumar Baliyar Singh in Odia and Pritpal Singh Betab in Urdu.

- The Sahitya Akademi Award 2025 was announced on 16 March 2026 for 24 languages.
- Poetry awardees: Khajur Singh Thakur (Dogri, 'Thakur Satsayie'), Girijakumar Baliyar Singh (Odia, 'Padapurana'), Yogesh Vaidya (Gujarati, 'Bhattkhadaki').
- Each award carries a plaque, a shawl and Rs 1 lakh.

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136 Who won the 2019 Booker Prize jointly with "Margaret Atwood", becoming the first black woman to win the award?

[SSC CGL 09 Oct 2026, Shift-I]

(a) Tayari Jones
(b) Bernardine Evaristo
(c) Zadie Smith
(d) Jesmyn Ward

ANSWER (b) Bernardine Evaristo

Bernardine Evaristo, a British author, shared the 2019 Booker Prize with Margaret Atwood and became the first black woman to win it. She won for her novel 'Girl, Woman, Other', while Atwood was honoured for 'The Testaments'.

- The Booker jury broke the rule against splitting the prize in 2019.
- Margaret Atwood is a Canadian author who had earlier won the Booker for 'The Blind Assassin' (2000).
- The Booker Prize is awarded for fiction written in English and published in the UK or Ireland.

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137 Smt. Naseem Bano received Padma Shri for excellence in which of the following fields?

[SSC CGL 09 Oct 2026, Shift-I]

(a) Singing
(b) Dance
(c) Embroidery
(d) Sculpting

ANSWER (c) Embroidery

Naseem Bano of Lucknow was awarded the Padma Shri (2024) for her excellence in Chikankari, a traditional embroidery craft. Chikankari is a delicate hand-embroidery on fine fabric, associated with Lucknow.

- Lucknow Chikankari is a Geographical Indication (GI) tagged craft of Uttar Pradesh.
- Padma Awards are announced on the eve of Republic Day every year.
- The order of civilian honours is Bharat Ratna, Padma Vibhushan, Padma Bhushan and Padma Shri.

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138 Which of the following pairs of book titles and language (Poetry category) for the Sahitya Akademi Award 2025 is **correctly** matched?

[SSC CGL 09 Oct 2026, Shift-III]

(a) Shrestha Kabita – Dogri
(b) Bhattkhadaki – Gujarati
(c) Padapurana – Telugu
(d) Animesha – Odia

ANSWER (b) Bhattkhadaki – Gujarati

'Bhattkhadaki' by Yogesh Vaidya won the Sahitya Akademi Award 2025 in Gujarati (poetry). The other pairs are wrong: 'Shrestha Kabita' is Bengali, 'Padapurana' is Odia and 'Animesha' is Telugu.

- The Sahitya Akademi Award 2025 was announced on 16 March 2026 for 24 languages.
- 'Animesha' by Nandini Sidha Reddy won in Telugu poetry.
- 'Padapurana' by Girijakumar Baliyar Singh won in Odia poetry.

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139 Which award was conferred upon Justice (Retd.) Shri Jagdish Singh Khehar in 2025?

[SSC CGL 09 Oct 2026, Shift-III]

(a) Padma Shri
(b) Padma Vibhushan
(c) Bharat Ratna
(d) Padma Bhushan

ANSWER (b) Padma Vibhushan

Justice (Retd.) Jagdish Singh Khehar, former Chief Justice of India, was conferred the Padma Vibhushan in 2025. Padma Vibhushan is the second-highest civilian honour of India, awarded for exceptional and distinguished service.

- Khehar was the 44th Chief Justice of India (January to August 2017).
- He headed the bench in the Triple Talaq case (2017) and the nine-judge bench that upheld the Right to Privacy as a fundamental right (2017).
- He also wrote a judgment in the NJAC case (2015), which struck down the National Judicial Appointments Commission.

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140 Who was the first recipient of Jnanpith Award in India?

[SSC CGL 10 Oct 2026, Shift-II]

(a) T.S. Bandyopadhyaya
(b) G.S. Kurup
(c) Uma Shankar Joshi
(d) K.V. Puttappa

ANSWER (b) G.S. Kurup

G. Sankara Kurup (Malayalam) was the first recipient of the Jnanpith Award, given in 1965 for his poetry collection 'Odakkuzhal'. The award was instituted in 1961 and is administered by the Bharatiya Jnanpith.

- Tarashankar Bandyopadhyay (Bengali) received it in 1966.
- K.V. Puttappa 'Kuvempu' (Kannada) and Umashankar Joshi (Gujarati) shared the award in 1967.

- Ashapurna Devi (Bengali) was the first woman recipient (1976).

141 Which Sri Lankan author won the Booker Prize in 2022 for "The Seven Moons of Maali Almeida"?

[SSC CGL 12 Oct 2026, Shift-II]

(a) Shehan Karunatilaka (b) Romesh Gunesekera
(c) Michael Ondaatje (d) Anuk Arudpragasam

ANSWER (a) Shehan Karunatilaka

Shehan Karunatilaka, a Sri Lankan author, won the 2022 Booker Prize for his novel 'The Seven Moons of Maali Almeida'. The novel is a darkly comic fantasy-thriller set against the civil war in Sri Lanka.

- Michael Ondaatje (Sri Lankan-born Canadian) won the Booker in 1992 for 'The English Patient', shared with Barry Unsworth.
- Karunatilaka is the second Sri Lankan-born writer, after Ondaatje, to win the Booker.
- The Booker Prize was first awarded in 1969.

142 Who were jointly awarded the 58th Jnanpith Award for their contributions to Urdu and Sanskrit literature respectively?

[SSC CGL 15 Oct 2026, Shift-III]

(a) Javed Akhtar and Swami Ramdev
(b) Gulzar and Jagadguru Rambhadracharya
(c) Ruskin Bond and Sadhguru
(d) Amitav Ghosh and Devdutt Pattanaik

ANSWER (b) Gulzar and Jagadguru Rambhadracharya

The 58th Jnanpith Award (for 2023) was jointly given to the Urdu poet and lyricist Gulzar and the Sanskrit scholar Jagadguru Rambhadracharya. Both were honoured for their contribution to Urdu and Sanskrit literature respectively.

- Gulzar (Sampooran Singh Kalra) has also received the Dadasaheb Phalke Award (2013) and the Sahitya Akademi Award (2002, Urdu).
- Rambhadracharya, based in Chitrakoot (Uttar Pradesh), is a Sanskrit scholar and religious leader who received the Padma Vibhushan in 2015.
- The Jnanpith is given for literature in languages of the Eighth Schedule and English.

143 DR. Bhim Singh Bhavesh, who was honoured with the Padma Shri in 2025, is known for his social work in which Indian state?

[SSC CGL 16 Oct 2026, Shift-II]

(a) Uttar Pradesh (b) Bihar
(c) Madhya Pradesh (d) Jharkhand

ANSWER (b) Bihar

Dr. Bhim Singh Bhavesh was honoured with the Padma Shri in 2025 for social work in Bihar, where he works for the upliftment of the Musahar community. The Musahar are among the most marginalised Scheduled Caste communities of the state.

- Padma Awards for 2025 were announced on the eve of the 76th Republic Day.
- Padma Shri is the fourth-highest civilian honour of India.
- Padma awards are conferred in fields such as art, social work, public affairs, science, trade, medicine, literature, sports and civil service.

144 Gokul Chandra Das, who received the Padma Shri in 2025, is renowned for his mastery of which traditional Bengali percussion instrument?

[SSC CGL 22 Oct 2026, Shift-I]

(a) Tabla (b) Dhak
(c) Shehnai (d) Sitar

ANSWER (b) Dhak

Gokul Chandra Das of West Bengal received the Padma Shri in 2025 for his mastery of the Dhak, a large traditional Bengali drum. The Dhak is played with sticks and is closely associated with Durga Puja.

- The Dhak is a membranophone (drum) hung from the shoulders of the player.
- Durga Puja in Kolkata was inscribed on UNESCO's Representative List of the Intangible Cultural Heritage of Humanity in 2021.
- Tabla is a pair of hand drums, Shehnai a wind instrument and Sitar a string instrument.

145 Which country conferred its highest civilian honor, the "Mitra Vibhushana," on Prime Minister Narendra Modi in 2025?

[SSC CGL 22 Oct 2026, Shift-I]

(a) Nepal (b) Sri Lanka
(c) Bangladesh (d) Bhutan

ANSWER (b) Sri Lanka

Sri Lanka conferred the 'Mitra Vibhushana' on Prime Minister Narendra Modi in April 2025, during his visit to Colombo. The honour is given to foreign nationals who have strengthened Sri Lanka's friendship with other nations.

- Bhutan honoured Modi with the Order of the Druk Gyalpo in 2024.
- Sri Lanka's capital Colombo is the commercial capital, while Sri Jayawardenepura Kotte is the legislative capital.
- India and Sri Lanka are separated by the Palk Strait.

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146 Which Indian violin virtuoso was honored with the Padma Vibhushan in the 2025 Republic Day honors?

[SSC CGL 22 Oct 2026, Shift-II]

(a) Vyjayanthimala Bali (b) L. Subramaniam
(c) Vishwa Mohan Bhatt (d) Amjad Ali Khan

ANSWER (b) L. Subramaniam

L. Subramaniam, the renowned violin maestro, was honoured with the Padma Vibhushan in the 2025 Republic Day honours. He is known for blending Indian classical music with Western styles on the violin.

- Vyjayanthimala Bali, a Bharatanatyam dancer, received the Padma Vibhushan in 2024.
- Vishwa Mohan Bhatt is a Mohan Veena player and Amjad Ali Khan is a sarod maestro (Padma Vibhushan 2001).
- Padma Vibhushan is the second-highest civilian award after the Bharat Ratna.

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147 Who among the following Indians is not a recipient of the Ramon Magsaysay Award?

[SSC CGL 23 Oct 2026, Shift-I]

(a) Sanjiv Chaturvedi (b) Francis Kulandai
(c) Pallavi Krishnan (d) R. Ravi Kannan

ANSWER (c) Pallavi Krishnan

Pallavi Krishnan is not a recipient of the Ramon Magsaysay Award, whereas the other three are. Sanjiv Chaturvedi (2015), Kulandei Francis (1981) and R. Ravi Kannan (2023) are Indian awardees.

- Sanjiv Chaturvedi, an Indian Forest Service officer, won it in 2015 for emergent leadership (fighting corruption).
- R. Ravi Kannan, a cancer surgeon who works in Assam, was honoured in 2023.
- The award is named after Ramon Magsaysay, a former President of the Philippines, and is given by a foundation in Manila.

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148 Which of the following authors received the Sahitya Akademi Award 2025 for the Short Stories collection “Mid Birna Chenne Saon Inag Sagai”?

[SSC CGL 27 Oct 2026, Shift-II]

(a) Bhagwan Atlani (b) Prakash Bhattarai
(c) Sahaisuli Brahma (d) Sumitra Soren

ANSWER (d) Sumitra Soren

Sumitra Soren won the Sahitya Akademi Award 2025 in Santali for the short-story collection 'Mid Birna Chenne Saon Inag Sagai'. The other names are winners in other languages.

- Bhagwan Atlani won in Sindhi (short stories, 'Waghoo').
- Prakash Bhattarai won in Nepali (essays) and Sahaisuli Brahma in Bodo (novel).
- Santali is included in the Eighth Schedule through the 92nd Constitutional Amendment Act, 2003.

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149 Which tribal woman from Karnataka, known as the “Encyclopedia of the Forest,” was awarded the Padma Shri?

[SSC CGL 27 Oct 2026, Shift-II]

(a) Tulsi Gowda (b) Saalu Marada Thimmakka
(c) Sudha Murty (d) Medha Patkar

ANSWER (a) Tulsi Gowda

Tulsi Gowda, a tribal woman of the Halakki community from Uttara Kannada in Karnataka, is called the 'Encyclopedia of the Forest' for her deep knowledge of plants and herbs. She received the Padma Shri in 2020 for her environmental conservation work.

- Saalu Marada Thimmakka, known as 'Vriksha Mata', received the Padma Shri in 2019.

- Sudha Murty is an author and philanthropist who received the Padma Shri (2006) and the Padma Bhushan (2023).
- Medha Patkar is associated with the Narmada Bachao Andolan.

150 Who among the following authors has NEVER received the Sahitya Akademi Award?

[SSC CGL 28 Oct 2026, Shift-II]

(a) Amitav Ghosh (b) Shashi Tharoor
(c) Ruskin Bond (d) Chetan Bhagat

ANSWER (d) Chetan Bhagat

Chetan Bhagat has never received the Sahitya Akademi Award. Amitav Ghosh won it for 'The Shadow Lines' (1989), Ruskin Bond for 'Our Trees Still Grow in Dehra' (1992) and Shashi Tharoor for 'An Era of Darkness' (2019).

- Amitav Ghosh also received the 54th Jnanpith Award (2018).
- The Sahitya Akademi was established in 1954 and is headquartered in New Delhi.
- Chetan Bhagat is known for popular novels such as 'Five Point Someone'.

151 Who is the first Indian monk to be honored with the American President's Volunteer Service Award?

[SSC CGL 28 Oct 2026, Shift-II]

(a) Shantisagar (b) Jinendra Varni
(c) Jain Acharya Lokesh (d) Madhvacharya

ANSWER (c) Jain Acharya Lokesh

Jain Acharya Lokesh Muni became the first Indian monk to be honoured with the American President's Volunteer Service Award (reported in April 2024). He is a Jain monk and peace activist, and founder of Ahimsa Vishwa Bharati.

- Ahimsa Vishwa Bharati works for peace, non-violence and interfaith harmony.
- Jain philosophy places Ahimsa (non-violence) at the centre of its teachings.
- Mahavira was the 24th Tirthankara of Jainism.

152 Which individual is widely known as the 'Father of the Green Revolution in India' and later served in leadership roles in international agricultural and food-security organizations?

[SSC CGL 28 Oct 2026, Shift-III]

(a) M.S. Swaminathan (b) Norman Borlaug
(c) Verghese Kurien (d) A. P. J. Abdul Kalam

ANSWER (a) M.S. Swaminathan

M.S. Swaminathan is known as the 'Father of the Green Revolution in India' for promoting high-yielding varieties of wheat and rice. He later served as Director General of the International Rice Research Institute (IRRI), Philippines.

- Norman Borlaug is regarded as the Father of the Green Revolution at the world level (Nobel Peace Prize, 1970).
- Verghese Kurien is known as the Father of the White Revolution (Operation Flood).
- Swaminathan was awarded the Bharat Ratna posthumously in 2024.

153 Which unsung hero is known for reviving traditional water harvesting systems (Johads) in Rajasthan?

[SSC CGL 28 Oct 2026, Shift-III]

(a) Rajendra Singh (b) Anna Hazare
(c) Baba Amte (d) Vandana Shiva

ANSWER (a) Rajendra Singh

Rajendra Singh, known as the 'Waterman of India', revived traditional rainwater-harvesting structures called johads in Rajasthan, mainly in the Alwar region, through the Tarun Bharat Sangh. His work brought back dried-up rivers and groundwater.

- He received the Ramon Magsaysay Award (2011) and the Stockholm Water Prize (2015).
- Anna Hazare is known for the watershed development at Ralegan Siddhi (Maharashtra) and anti-corruption movements.
- Baba Amte worked for leprosy patients at Anandwan, and Vandana Shiva leads Navdanya on seed conservation.

PART C Books & Authors

154 Who won the 1976 Booker Prize for "Heat and Dust," a novel that juxtaposes colonial India with postcolonial experiences?

[SSC CGL 30 Sep 2026, Shift-II]

(a) Salman Rushdie
(b) J.G. Farrell
(c) Ruth Prawer Jhabvala
(d) Anita Desai

ANSWER (c) Ruth Prawer Jhabvala

Ruth Prawer Jhabvala won the Booker Prize for her novel 'Heat and Dust', which contrasts colonial India with the India of the 1970s (the prize is generally dated 1975). Other writers named in the options did not win for this novel.

- Jhabvala also won two Academy Awards for Best Adapted Screenplay ('A Room with a View' and 'Howards End'), working with the Merchant-Ivory team.
- J.G. Farrell won the Booker in 1973 for 'The Siege of Krishnapur'.
- Salman Rushdie won the Booker in 1981 for 'Midnight's Children'.

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155 Which book by Vikram Chandra won the Commonwealth Writers' Prize for Best First Book in 1996?

[SSC CGL 30 Sep 2026, Shift-II]

(a) Love and Longing in Bombay
(b) Sacred Games
(c) Red Earth and Pouring Rain
(d) The Gypsy Goddess

ANSWER (c) Red Earth and Pouring Rain

Vikram Chandra's debut novel 'Red Earth and Pouring Rain' (1995) won the Commonwealth Writers' Prize for Best First Book in 1996. The novel is a story-within-a-story that moves between colonial India and the present day.

- 'Love and Longing in Bombay' (1997) is Chandra's collection of short stories.
- 'Sacred Games' (2006) is a crime novel set in Mumbai, later adapted into a web series.
- The Commonwealth Writers' Prize was later renamed the Commonwealth Book Prize.

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156 Who among the following received the DSC Prize for South Asian Literature in 2016 for Sleeping on Jupiter?

[SSC CGL 01 Oct 2026, Shift-I]

(a) Anuradha Roy
(b) Arundhati Roy
(c) Perumal Murugan
(d) Jhumpa Lahiri

ANSWER (a) Anuradha Roy

Anuradha Roy won the DSC Prize for South Asian Literature in 2016 for her novel 'Sleeping on Jupiter'. The novel was also shortlisted for the Man Booker Prize in 2015.

- The DSC Prize was instituted in 2010 for fiction about South Asia.
- Arundhati Roy won the Booker Prize in 1997 for 'The God of Small Things'.
- Jhumpa Lahiri won the Pulitzer Prize for Fiction (2000) for 'Interpreter of Maladies'.

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157 Which Irish author won the Booker Prize in 2005 for "The Sea"?

[SSC CGL 01 Oct 2026, Shift-I]

(a) Roddy Doyle
(b) John Banville
(c) Colm Toibin
(d) Sebastian Barry

ANSWER (b) John Banville

John Banville, an Irish author, won the 2005 Booker Prize for his novel 'The Sea'. The novel is narrated by an art historian who returns to the seaside town of his childhood after the death of his wife.

- Roddy Doyle won the Booker in 1993 for 'Paddy Clarke Ha Ha Ha'.
- Banville also writes crime fiction under the pen name Benjamin Black.
- Colm Tóibín and Sebastian Barry have been shortlisted for the Booker Prize but did not win it.

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158 'Train to Pakistan' is a novel written by which of the following novelists?

[SSC CGL 01 Oct 2026, Shift-I]

(a) Salman Rushdie
(b) Khushwant Singh
(c) Ismat Chugtai
(d) Mulk Raj Anand

ANSWER (b) Khushwant Singh

'Train to Pakistan' (1956) is a novel by Khushwant Singh. It is set in the fictional border village of Mano Majra during the Partition of India in 1947.

- Salman Rushdie wrote 'Midnight's Children', and Ismat Chughtai is known for the short story 'Lihaaf'.
- Mulk Raj Anand wrote 'Untouchable' and 'Coolie'.
- Khushwant Singh also wrote 'Delhi' and the two-volume 'A History of the Sikhs'.

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159 Who is the author of the grammar text Ashtadhyayi?

[SSC CGL 05 Oct 2026, Shift-I]

(a) Patanjali (b) Panini
(c) Kalidasa (d) Bharata

ANSWER (b) Panini

The Ashtadhyayi is the Sanskrit grammar text composed by Panini. It consists of eight chapters (adhyayas) containing about 4,000 sutras (rules) and is the foundation of classical Sanskrit grammar.

- Patanjali wrote the 'Mahabhashya', a commentary on Panini's grammar, and the Yoga Sutras are also attributed to him.
- Kalidasa wrote 'Abhijnanashakuntalam' and 'Meghaduta'.
- Bharata Muni wrote the 'Natyashastra', the ancient treatise on performing arts.

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160 Who among the following was NOT awarded the Nobel Prize for Literature?

[SSC CGL 05 Oct 2026, Shift-II]

(a) Rabindranath Tagore (b) V.S. Naipaul
(c) R.K. Narayan (d) Kazuo Ishiguro

ANSWER (c) R.K. Narayan

R.K. Narayan was never awarded the Nobel Prize for Literature, although he is among India's greatest English-language novelists. Tagore (1913), V.S. Naipaul (2001) and Kazuo Ishiguro (2017) are Nobel laureates in literature.

- Rabindranath Tagore was the first non-European and the first Asian to win the Nobel Prize, for 'Gitanjali'.
- R.K. Narayan created the fictional town of Malgudi, and his works include 'Swami and Friends' and 'The Guide'.
- Naipaul was of Indian origin, born in Trinidad, and Ishiguro is a British writer born in Japan.

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161 Which Indian English novel, written in 1956, is often cited as the first modern English novel from India?

[SSC CGL 06 Oct 2026, Shift-II]

(a) Untouchable (b) Train to Pakistan
(c) The Serpent and the Rope (d) The Guide

ANSWER (b) Train to Pakistan

SSC Key (d) · Correct answer (b)

The correct answer is B, Train to Pakistan: Khushwant Singh's novel on the Partition, set in the village of Mano Majra, was published in 1956. SSC's key (D, The Guide) is wrong because R. K. Narayan's The Guide appeared only in 1958, so it cannot be the 1956 novel.

- Untouchable by Mulk Raj Anand was published in 1935.
- The Serpent and the Rope by Raja Rao was published in 1960.
- The Guide won R. K. Narayan the Sahitya Akademi Award (English) in 1960.

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162 Which of the following statements correctly describes the award recognition received by the book 'The Mistress of Spices' written by Chitra Divakaruni?

[SSC CGL 06 Oct 2026, Shift-II]

(a) Received Booker Prize for South Asian politics
(b) Won Sahitya Akademi Award for Indian English literature
(c) Honored with Pulitzer Prize for immigrant struggles
(d) Shortlisted for Women's Prize for Fiction for magical realism and diaspora.

ANSWER (d) Shortlisted for Women's Prize for Fiction for magical ...

'The Mistress of Spices' (1997), the debut novel of Indian-American author Chitra Banerjee Divakaruni, was shortlisted for the Orange Prize for Fiction, the award now called the Women's Prize for Fiction. The novel blends magical realism with the diaspora experience, telling the story of Tilo, a spice-shop owner in Oakland, California, who uses the magic of spices to help her customers.

- Divakaruni's other well-known works include Sister of My Heart and The Palace of Illusions (the Mahabharata retold from Draupadi's viewpoint).
- The novel was adapted into a film (2005) starring Aishwarya Rai.
- The Booker Prize is not given for 'South Asian politics'; the Pulitzer Prize and Sahitya Akademi Award were not won for this book.

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163 Who is the author of the poetry collection "Animesha", which received the Sahitya Akademi Award 2025?

[SSC CGL 07 Oct 2026, Shift-I]

(a) Sa. Tamilselvan
(b) Nandini Sidha Reddy
(c) Pritpal Singh Betab
(d) Girijakumar Baliyar Singh

ANSWER (b) Nandini Sidha Reddy

'Animesha' is a Telugu poetry collection by Nandini Sidha Reddy, selected for the Sahitya Akademi Award 2025 (announced in March 2026 for 24 languages). The Sahitya Akademi gives its annual awards in 24 Indian languages for the best literary work of the year.

- Sahitya Akademi was established in 1954 and is headquartered in New Delhi.
- The award carries a plaque, a shawl and a cash prize of Rs 1 lakh.
- Other 2025 winners include 'Bharkhama' (Rajasthani stories) and 'Dada Seerisu Tande' (Kannada short stories).

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164 Who is the author of the short story collection "Bharkhama", which received the Sahitya Akademi Award 2025?

[SSC CGL 07 Oct 2026, Shift-I]

(a) Jitender Kumar Soni
(b) Nandini Sidha Reddy
(c) Pritpal Singh Betab
(d) Girijakumar Baliyar Singh

ANSWER (a) Jitender Kumar Soni

'Bharkhama' is a Rajasthani short-story collection by Jitender Kumar Soni, which won the Sahitya Akademi Award 2025 in the Rajasthani language category. Rajasthani is one of the 24 languages in which the Akademi gives awards.

- Nandini Sidha Reddy won for the Telugu poetry collection 'Animesha'.
- Amaresh Nugadoni won for the Kannada story collection 'Dada Seerisu Tande'.
- Bhagwan Atlani won in Sindhi for the stories 'Waghoo'.

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165 The Harshacharita was composed by which writer?

[SSC CGL 07 Oct 2026, Shift-II]

(a) Kalidasa
(b) Banabhatta
(c) Dandin
(d) Bharata

ANSWER (b) Banabhatta

The Harshacharita was composed by Banabhatta, the court poet of King Harshavardhana of Kanauj (7th century CE). It is a biography of Harsha written in Sanskrit prose and is regarded as an early example of historical biography in Sanskrit.

- Banabhatta's other famous work is 'Kadambari', a Sanskrit prose romance.
- Chinese traveller Xuanzang visited India during Harsha's reign.
- Kalidasa wrote 'Abhijnanashakuntalam'; Dandin wrote 'Dashakumaracharita'; Bharata is credited with the 'Natyashastra'.

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166 Which Indian writer became the youngest to win the Sahitya Akademi Yuva Puraskar in 2011?

[SSC CGL 08 Oct 2026, Shift-II]

(a) Arundhathi Subramaniam
(b) Tanuj Solanki
(c) Meena Kandasamy
(d) Vikram Sampath

ANSWER (d) Vikram Sampath

As per the official answer key, Vikram Sampath is the writer named for the Sahitya Akademi Yuva Puraskar in the English category; it was given for his book 'My Name Is Gauhar Jaan!', a biography of the gramophone-era singer Gauhar Jaan of Calcutta.

- The Yuva Puraskar is given by the Sahitya Akademi to writers aged 35 years or below.
- The Sahitya Akademi, India's national academy of letters, was established in 1954 and is headquartered in New Delhi.
- Vikram Sampath is also known for his biographies of Savarkar.

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167 In 2009, which Indian author became the youngest person to win the Man Asian Literary Prize for The White Tiger?

[SSC CGL 08 Oct 2026, Shift-II]

(a) Chetan Bhagat
(b) Kiran Desai
(c) Aravind Adiga
(d) Amitav Ghosh

ANSWER (c) Aravind Adiga

SSC Key (c) · Disputed question

The answer is Aravind Adiga, author of the novel 'The White Tiger'. The question is flawed, however: The White Tiger won the Man Booker Prize in 2008, not the Man Asian Literary Prize in 2009.

- Adiga's debut novel 'The White Tiger' is a satirical story of Balram Halwai, told as letters to the Chinese Premier.
- Kiran Desai won the Booker Prize in 2006 for 'The Inheritance of Loss'.
- Arundhati Roy won the Booker Prize in 1997 for 'The God of Small Things'.

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168 Who authored the epic novel A Suitable Boy, regarded as one of the longest works in English literature?

[SSC CGL 09 Oct 2026, Shift-II]

(a) Vikram Seth
(b) Amitav Ghosh
(c) Rohinton Mistry
(d) Shashi Tharoor

ANSWER (a) Vikram Seth

'A Suitable Boy' (1993) was written by Vikram Seth. Set in post-independence India of the early 1950s, it follows Lata's search for a husband and is among the longest single-volume novels in English.

- Vikram Seth's other works include 'The Golden Gate' (a novel in verse) and 'An Equal Music'.
- Amitav Ghosh wrote 'The Shadow Lines' and the Ibis trilogy; Rohinton Mistry wrote 'A Fine Balance'.
- Shashi Tharoor wrote 'The Great Indian Novel'.

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169 Which Nobel Laureate wrote “Blindness”, a powerful allegory about a mysterious epidemic and the collapse of civilization?

[SSC CGL 10 Oct 2026, Shift-II]

(a) Jose Saramago
(b) Mario Vargas Llosa
(c) Gabriel Garcia Marquez
(d) Orhan Pamuk

ANSWER (a) Jose Saramago

'Blindness' was written by the Portuguese author Jose Saramago, who won the Nobel Prize in Literature in 1998. The novel (original title 'Ensaio sobre a Cegueira', 1995) describes a sudden epidemic of 'white blindness' that spreads through a city and exposes the breakdown of social order.

- Saramago was the first Portuguese-language writer to win the Nobel Prize in Literature.
- Mario Vargas Llosa (Peru) won the Nobel in 2010 and Gabriel Garcia Marquez (Colombia) in 1982.
- Orhan Pamuk (Turkey) won the Nobel in 2006.

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170 Maruti Chitampalli, a renowned author from Maharashtra, India, is also popularly known as:

[SSC CGL 10 Oct 2026, Shift-III]

(a) Aranya Rishi
(b) Aranya Yogi
(c) Green Warrior
(d) Aranya Vidhwan

ANSWER (a) Aranya Rishi

Maruti Chitampalli, the well-known Marathi naturalist and writer, is popularly called 'Aranya Rishi' (the sage of the forest). He worked in the forest service and wrote extensively in Marathi on forests, wildlife, birds and animal behaviour.

- His writing is valued for introducing nature and wildlife to Marathi readers in simple language.
- 'Aranya' means forest, and 'Rishi' means sage; the title reflects his lifelong devotion to forests.
- The other options are not titles associated with him.

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171 Who is the author of My Life as a Comrade: The Story of an Extraordinary Politician and the World That Shaped Her?

[SSC CGL 12 Oct 2026, Shift-II]

(a) K.K. Shailaja with Anjali Menon
(b) K.K. Shailaja with Priyanka Sarkar
(c) K.K. Shailaja with Manju Sara Rajan
(d) K.K. Shailaja with Arundhati Subramaniam

ANSWER (c) K.K. Shailaja with Manju Sara Rajan

'My Life as a Comrade' is the autobiography of K.K. Shailaja, the CPI(M) leader and former Health Minister of Kerala, written with Manju Sara Rajan. The book, published in 2023, traces her journey from a schoolteacher to a leading politician.

- Shailaja was Kerala's Health Minister (2016–2021) and is widely known for the state's handling of the Nipah outbreak and COVID-19.
- She was widely referred to as 'Teacher Amma' (Shailaja Teacher).

- The 'with' co-writer credit appears on the cover of the book.

172 Which of the following Urdu books and their author won the Bal Sahitya Puraskar 2025?

[SSC CGL 12 Oct 2026, Shift-III]

(a) Auraq-e-Science by Abdul Ansari
(b) Qaumi Sitare by Ghazanfar Iqbal
(c) Abba Jaan by Raunaq Jamal
(d) Ummeedun Ke Phool by Habib Saifi

ANSWER (b) Qaumi Sitare by Ghazanfar Iqbal

The Bal Sahitya Puraskar 2025 in Urdu was awarded to Ghazanfar Iqbal for 'Qaumi Sitare', a book of articles. The Bal Sahitya Puraskar is given by the Sahitya Akademi for outstanding children's literature in 24 languages.

- The Akademi also gives the Yuva Puraskar for young writers (35 years or younger) every year.
- The award consists of a plaque and a cash prize of Rs 50,000.
- The presentation ceremony is held around Children's Day (14 November).

173 Deepa Bhasthi translated the 2025 International Booker Prize-winning book Heart Lamp into English from which language?

[SSC CGL 12 Oct 2026, Shift-III]

(a) Malayalam (b) Kannada
(c) Tamil (d) Odia

ANSWER (b) Kannada

Deepa Bhasthi translated 'Heart Lamp' into English from Kannada. The book is a collection of short stories by Banu Mushtaq and won the International Booker Prize 2025, the first Kannada-language work to win it.

- The International Booker Prize is awarded for a work translated into English, and the prize money (GBP 50,000) is shared equally between author and translator.
- Deepa Bhasthi is the first Indian translator to share the prize with an author for a Kannada work.
- In 2022, Geetanjali Shree's Hindi novel 'Tomb of Sand' (translated by Daisy Rockwell) won the same prize.

174 Who among the following is the author of the Sanskrit play Mudrarakshasa?

[SSC CGL 13 Oct 2026, Shift-I]

(a) Kalidasa (b) Banabhatta
(c) Vishakadatta (d) Brihatratha

ANSWER (c) Vishakadatta

The Sanskrit play Mudrarakshasa was written by Vishakhadatta (about the 4th–8th century CE; the exact date is debated). It is a political drama about Chanakya's strategy to win over Rakshasa, the minister of the Nandas, for Chandragupta Maurya.

- It is one of the few Sanskrit plays on a political theme rather than romance or mythology.
- Vishakhadatta also wrote 'Devichandraguptam', which survives only in fragments.
- Kalidasa wrote 'Abhijnanashakuntalam' and Banabhatta wrote 'Harshacharita'.

175 The 2025 International Booker Prize winner Banu Mushtaq wrote her original work in which language?

[SSC CGL 13 Oct 2026, Shift-I]

(a) Malayalam (b) Kannada
(c) Telugu (d) Marathi

ANSWER (b) Kannada

Banu Mushtaq wrote the stories of 'Heart Lamp' in Kannada, and the English translation by Deepa Bhasthi won the International Booker Prize 2025. She is a writer, lawyer and activist from Karnataka, and the book is the first Kannada work to win the prize.

- 'Heart Lamp' is a collection of twelve short stories written over more than three decades about the lives of women in South Indian Muslim communities.
- It is the second Indian-language work to win the prize, after Geetanjali Shree's Hindi 'Tomb of Sand' (2022).
- The winner of the International Booker Prize is announced in London.

176 Which Indian-origin author won the Women's Prize for Fiction in 2023 for “Demon Copperhead”, inspired by Dickens’ David Copperfield?

[SSC CGL 13 Oct 2026, Shift-II]

(a) Kamila Shamsie (b) Arundhati Roy
(c) Barbara Kingsolver (d) Jhumpa Lahiri

ANSWER (c) Barbara Kingsolver

SSC Key (c) · Disputed question

Barbara Kingsolver won the 2023 Women's Prize for Fiction for 'Demon Copperhead', a novel set in Appalachia that reworks Charles Dickens's 'David Copperfield'. The question is flawed because she is an American author and not of Indian origin, so the stem is wrong; the key still gives C.

- Kingsolver also shared the 2023 Pulitzer Prize for Fiction for the same novel.
- The Women's Prize for Fiction was founded in 1996.
- Arundhati Roy won the Booker Prize in 1997 and Jhumpa Lahiri the Pulitzer Prize in 2000.

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177 Who won the 2025 Shakti Bhatt Prize for her debut memoir The Lucky Ones?

[SSC CGL 13 Oct 2026, Shift-III]

(a) Shubhangi Swarup (b) Zara Chowdhary
(c) Deepti Kapoor (d) Meena Kandasamy

ANSWER (b) Zara Chowdhary

The Shakti Bhatt First Book Prize 2025 was won by Zara Chowdhary for her debut memoir 'The Lucky Ones'. The Shakti Bhatt Prize is given every year to a debut author in India for a first book, in memory of the young editor Shakti Bhatt.

- The prize is awarded for a first book and includes a cash prize.
- The other names are authors of different works: Shubhangi Swarup ('Latitudes of Longing'), Deepti Kapoor ('Age of Vice'), Meena Kandasamy ('The Gypsy Goddess').
- 'The Lucky Ones' is a memoir about the author's childhood and family.

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178 "Playing It My Way" is the autobiography of which legendary Indian cricketer?

[SSC CGL 14 Oct 2026, Shift-III]

(a) Sunil Gavaskar (b) Sourav Ganguly
(c) Sachin Tendulkar (d) Kapil Dev

ANSWER (c) Sachin Tendulkar

'Playing It My Way' (2014) is the autobiography of Sachin Tendulkar, written with sports journalist Boria Majumdar. It was published after Tendulkar's retirement from international cricket in November 2013.

- Sunil Gavaskar's autobiography is 'Sunny Days'.
- Sourav Ganguly's autobiography is 'A Century Is Not Enough'.
- Kapil Dev's autobiography is 'Straight from the Heart'.

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179 Which Tanzanian-born British author won the Nobel Prize in Literature in 2021?

[SSC CGL 15 Oct 2026, Shift-I]

(a) Abdulrazak Gurnah (b) Chinua Achebe
(c) Ngugi wa Thiong'o (d) Ben Okri

ANSWER (a) Abdulrazak Gurnah

Abdulrazak Gurnah, born in Zanzibar (now part of Tanzania) and based in Britain, won the Nobel Prize in Literature 2021 for his uncompromising and compassionate penetration of the effects of colonialism and the fate of refugees. His well-known novels include 'Paradise', 'By the Sea' and 'Afterlives'.

- 'Paradise' (1994) was shortlisted for the Booker Prize.
- Chinua Achebe (Nigeria) wrote 'Things Fall Apart'; Ngugi wa Thiong'o (Kenya) wrote 'Weep Not, Child'.
- Ben Okri (Nigeria-born) won the 1991 Booker Prize for 'The Famished Road'.

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180 Which Indian author won the 2023 International Booker Prize for 'Tomb of Sand'?

[SSC CGL 15 Oct 2026, Shift-I]

(a) Arundhati Roy (b) Krishna Sobti
(c) Geetanjali Shree (d) Kiran Desai

ANSWER (c) Geetanjali Shree

Geetanjali Shree won the International Booker Prize for 'Tomb of Sand', the English translation by Daisy Rockwell of her Hindi novel 'Ret Samadhi'. Note that the prize was actually announced in May 2022 (the question mentions 2023), and it was the first Hindi

work and the first book originally in any Indian language to win it.

- The prize money of GBP 50,000 was shared between the author and the translator.
- Arundhati Roy won the 1997 Booker Prize for 'The God of Small Things'.
- Kiran Desai won the 2006 Booker Prize for 'The Inheritance of Loss'.

181 Which Maithili memoir won the Sahitya Akademi Award 2025?

[SSC CGL 16 Oct 2026, Shift-I]

(a) Jeete Jee Allahabad
(b) Dhatri Paat San Gaam
(c) Karhi Khelar Sadhu
(d) Banaras Aa Hum

ANSWER (b) Dhatri Paat San Gaam

'Dhatri Paat San Gaam' won the Sahitya Akademi Award 2025 in Maithili in the memoir category. Maithili is one of the 22 languages of the Eighth Schedule and one of the 24 languages in which the Akademi gives awards.

- 'Jeete Jee Allahabad' by Mamta Kalia is the Hindi memoir winner of the same year.
- Maithili was included in the Eighth Schedule by the 92nd Constitutional Amendment Act, 2003.
- The other titles in the options are not the Maithili winner.

182 Which Hindi memoir won the Sahitya Akademi Award 2025?

[SSC CGL 22 Oct 2026, Shift-II]

(a) Karhi Khelar Sadhu
(b) Jeete Jee Allahabad
(c) Dada Seerisu Tande
(d) Safar Jaari Hai

ANSWER (b) Jeete Jee Allahabad

'Jeete Jee Allahabad' by Mamta Kalia won the Sahitya Akademi Award 2025 in Hindi. It is a memoir of the author's years in Allahabad (now Prayagraj), a major centre of Hindi literature.

- Mamta Kalia is a noted Hindi writer, poet and story writer.
- 'Dada Seerisu Tande' is a Kannada short-story collection (by Amaresh Nugadoni) and not a Hindi work.
- The Sahitya Akademi Award is given for books in 24 languages every year.

183 Who became the first Arabic-language writer to win the International Booker Prize in 2019?

[SSC CGL 23 Oct 2026, Shift-I]

(a) Hoda Barakat
(b) Naguib Mahfouz
(c) Jokha Alharthi
(d) Adania Shibli

ANSWER (c) Jokha Alharthi

Jokha Alharthi of Oman became the first Arabic-language writer to win the International Booker Prize, in 2019, for 'Celestial Bodies' (translated by Marilyn Booth). She was also the first Omani woman to have a novel translated into English.

- The novel follows three sisters in an Omani village and shows the country's transition from slavery and tradition to modernity.
- Naguib Mahfouz (Egypt) won the Nobel Prize in Literature in 1988.
- Hoda Barakat won the 2019 International Prize for Arabic Fiction (IPAF), and Adania Shibli is a Palestinian author.

184 Which author wrote “The Golden House” and “Quichotte,” both longlisted for the Booker Prize, but neither won it?

[SSC CGL 24 Oct 2026, Shift-II]

(a) Arundhati Roy
(b) Amitav Ghosh
(c) Salman Rushdie
(d) Kiran Nagarkar

ANSWER (c) Salman Rushdie

SSC Key (c) · Disputed question

Salman Rushdie wrote both 'The Golden House' (2017) and 'Quichotte' (2019), so he is the intended answer. The question is flawed: Quichotte was shortlisted for the 2019 Booker, but The Golden House was not on the 2017 longlist, and Rushdie has won the Booker Prize, for Midnight's Children in 1981.

- 'Midnight's Children' also won the 'Booker of Bookers' in 1993.
- Rushdie's 'The Satanic Verses' was published in 1988.
- Booker Prize 1997 went to Arundhati Roy for 'The God of Small Things'.

185 Which of the following statements accurately describes the book 'Centres of Power: My Years in the Prime Minister's Office and Security Council'?

[SSC CGL 24 Oct 2026, Shift-II]

(a) Diplomatic memoir on India's foreign policy
(b) Fictional tale of post-independence politics
(c) Biography of Indian Prime Ministers' policies
(d) Collection of parliamentary speeches

ANSWER (a) Diplomatic memoir on India's foreign policy

'Centres of Power: My Years in the Prime Minister's Office and Security Council' is a diplomatic memoir by Chinmay R. Gharekhan, a former Indian diplomat. It is an insider's account of India's foreign policy, based on his years in the Prime Minister's Office (under Indira Gandhi and Rajiv Gandhi) and at the UN Security Council.

- The book was published by Rupa Publications in 2023.
- A memoir is a first-person account of the author's own experiences, so it is neither fiction nor a collection of speeches.
- Gharekhan also served as India's Permanent Representative to the United Nations.

186 Which of the following Indian authors has never won the Sahitya Akademi Award or the Padma Awards as of 2023?

[SSC CGL 27 Oct 2026, Shift-I]

(a) R.K. Narayan
(b) Salman Rushdie
(c) Amitav Ghosh
(d) Mahasweta Devi

ANSWER (b) Salman Rushdie

Salman Rushdie had not received either the Sahitya Akademi Award or a Padma Award as of 2023, although he won the Booker Prize for 'Midnight's Children' (1981) and the 'Booker of Bookers'. The other three received one or both of these honours.

- R.K. Narayan won the Sahitya Akademi Award (1958) for 'The Guide' and was awarded the Padma Bhushan and Padma Vibhushan.
- Mahasweta Devi won the Sahitya Akademi Award (1979) and the Padma Vibhushan.
- Amitav Ghosh received the Padma Shri (2007) and the Jnanpith Award (2018).

187 Which of the following best describes the literary significance of 'Diary of a Malayali Madman' by N. Prabhakaran and Jayasree Kalathil?

[SSC CGL 27 Oct 2026, Shift-I]

(a) Acclaimed Malayalam work with cultural insights
(b) Historical novel about Kerala's ancient kingdoms
(c) Collection of political essays on Kerala governance
(d) Translation of Sanskrit poetry into Malayalam

ANSWER (a) Acclaimed Malayalam work with cultural insights

'Diary of a Malayali Madman' is the English translation by Jayasree Kalathil of the acclaimed Malayalam novel by N. Prabhakaran. It is a Malayalam work that offers sharp insight into Kerala's society and culture through a darkly humorous narrative.

- Jayasree Kalathil is the translator; N. Prabhakaran is the original Malayalam author.
- It is a work of fiction, not a political essay collection, a historical novel or a translation of Sanskrit verse.
- Translated Indian-language fiction is increasingly recognised through awards such as the JCB Prize for Literature.

188 Which Indian Cabinet Minister was in the news for authoring the book "Why Bharat Matters"?

[SSC CGL 27 Oct 2026, Shift-III]

(a) Rajnath Singh
(b) Amit Shah
(c) Dr. S. Jaishankar
(d) Nirmala Sitharaman

ANSWER (c) Dr. S. Jaishankar

'Why Bharat Matters' (2024) was written by Dr. S. Jaishankar, India's Minister of External Affairs. The book presents his view of India's foreign policy, its civilisational strengths and its role in a changing world order.

- Jaishankar's earlier book is 'The India Way: Strategies for an Uncertain World' (2020).
- He is a former Foreign Secretary of India (2015–2018) and a former ambassador to the USA and China.
- He was awarded the Padma Shri in 2019.

189 Who wrote “Dada Seerisu Tande”, the short story collection that won the Sahitya Akademi Award 2025?

[SSC CGL 28 Oct 2026, Shift-I]

(a) Haobam Nalini (b) Amaresh Nugadoni
(c) Bhagwan Atlani (d) Jitender Kumar Soni

ANSWER (b) Amaresh Nugadoni

'Dada Seerisu Tande' is a Kannada short-story collection by Amaresh Nugadoni, which won the Sahitya Akademi Award 2025 in Kannada. The Akademi names winners in 24 languages every year.

- Bhagwan Atlani won in Sindhi for 'Waghoo' (stories).
- Jitender Kumar Soni won in Rajasthani for 'Bharkhama' (stories).
- Kannada is one of the classical languages of India (declared in 2008).

190 Patanjali’s Mahabhashya is a detailed commentary on which ancient Sanskrit grammar text?

[SSC CGL 28 Oct 2026, Shift-II]

(a) Manusmriti (b) Ashtadhyayi
(c) Arthashastra (d) Natyashastra

ANSWER (b) Ashtadhyayi

Patanjali's Mahabhashya is a detailed commentary on Panini's Ashtadhyayi, the foundational Sanskrit grammar text, and on Katyayana's Vartikas. It dates from about the 2nd century BCE and is a key source for the history of Sanskrit and the society of its time.

- Panini's Ashtadhyayi contains about 4,000 sutras divided into eight chapters.
- Patanjali is also traditionally credited with the 'Yoga Sutras', though scholars debate whether the two are the same person.
- Manusmriti is a law text, Arthashastra (Kautilya) deals with statecraft, and Natyashastra (Bharata) deals with drama.

PART D Important Days & Events

191 At the confluence of which two water bodies do thousands of pilgrims gather to take a holy dip during the Ganga Sagar Mela?

[SSC CGL 05 Oct 2026, Shift-II]

(a) Ganga and the Bay of Bengal
(b) Yamuna and Arabian Sea
(c) Brahmaputra and Bay of Bengal
(d) Narmada and Indian Ocean

ANSWER (a) Ganga and the Bay of Bengal

At the Ganga Sagar Mela pilgrims take a holy dip at the confluence of the river Ganga and the Bay of Bengal. The fair is held on Sagar Island in West Bengal around Makar Sankranti in January.

- Sagar Island lies in the South 24 Parganas district of West Bengal, in the Ganga delta.
- The Kapil Muni Ashram (temple) on the island is the main centre of the fair.
- The Ganga is called the Hooghly in this lower stretch.

192 The Pushkar Mela, known for its camel trade and vibrant cultural events is celebrated in which state of India?

[SSC CGL 06 Oct 2026, Shift-II]

(a) Rajasthan (b) Uttar Pradesh
(c) Gujarat (d) Maharashtra

ANSWER (a) Rajasthan

The Pushkar Mela, famous for its camel and livestock trade and cultural events, is held at Pushkar in Rajasthan. It takes place every year around Kartik Purnima (October–November).

- Pushkar is in the Ajmer district of Rajasthan and is known for its sacred lake and one of the few temples dedicated to Brahma.
- The fair is among the largest camel fairs in the world.
- Nagaur Fair (Rajasthan) is famous for cattle trade.

193 The vibrant cultural festival “Putul Samaroh” is organized by which of the following states?

[SSC CGL 09 Oct 2026, Shift-III]

(a) Madhya Pradesh (b) Rajasthan
(c) Andhra Pradesh (d) Himachal Pradesh

ANSWER (a) Madhya Pradesh

Putul Samaroh is a puppetry festival organised in Madhya Pradesh, with its editions held in Bhopal. It

presents traditional and modern puppet forms such as glove, rod, string and shadow puppetry.

- Kathputli (string puppetry) is a well-known tradition of Rajasthan.
- Tholu Bommalata is the shadow puppetry of Andhra Pradesh and Togalu Gombeyatta that of Karnataka.
- Ravanchhaya is the shadow puppet tradition of Odisha.

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194 The Heikru Hitongba festival is primarily associated with which of the following events?

[SSC CGL 16 Oct 2026, Shift-II]

(a) Traditional boat race
(b) Flower decoration event
(c) Music dance festival
(d) Harvest food celebration

ANSWER (a) Traditional boat race

Heikru Hidongba (Hitongba) is associated with a traditional boat race held in Manipur, in the Thoubal area, in the month of September. The word 'hidongba' refers to the boat race.

- It is a festival of Manipur, celebrated mainly by the Meitei community.
- Boat racing is a part of Manipur's traditional culture, with the Yaoshang festival being its spring festival.

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195 Which Wildlife Sanctuary hosted the national-level celebration of World Wetlands Day 2026?

[SSC CGL 16 Oct 2026, Shift-II]

(a) Asola Bhatti Wildlife Sanctuary
(b) Burachapori Wildlife Sanctuary
(c) Gir Wildlife Sanctuary
(d) Kaimur Wildlife Sanctuary

ANSWER (a) Asola Bhatti Wildlife Sanctuary

The national-level celebration of World Wetlands Day 2026 was held at the Asola Bhatti Wildlife Sanctuary in Delhi, organised by the Ministry of Environment, Forest and Climate Change. World Wetlands Day is observed every year on 2 February.

- World Wetlands Day marks the adoption of the Ramsar Convention on 2 February 1971.
- The Ramsar Convention, a treaty for conservation and wise use of wetlands, was signed in Ramsar, Iran.
- Asola Bhatti Wildlife Sanctuary lies on the Delhi Ridge, the northern end of the Aravalli range.

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196 Which Indian state's Khecheopalri Lake was declared a Ramsar site in February 2025?

[SSC CGL 16 Oct 2026, Shift-III]

(a) Sikkim
(b) Himachal Pradesh
(c) Uttarakhand
(d) Arunachal Pradesh

ANSWER (a) Sikkim

Khecheopalri Lake, a sacred lake in West Sikkim, was declared a Ramsar site in February 2025. It is revered by both Buddhists and Hindus and is also called the 'wish-fulfilling lake'.

- Ramsar sites are wetlands of international importance under the Ramsar Convention, 1971.
- India's first Ramsar sites, declared in 1981, were Chilika Lake (Odisha) and Keoladeo National Park (Rajasthan).
- The Ramsar list is maintained by the Convention secretariat and nominated by member countries.

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197 Why is the Hornbill Festival known as the "Festival of Festivals"?

[SSC CGL 22 Oct 2026, Shift-I]

(a) It showcases all Naga tribes in one place
(b) It attracts global music artists
(c) It celebrates the regional winter harvest
(d) It promotes modern state industries

ANSWER (a) It showcases all Naga tribes in one place

The Hornbill Festival is called the 'Festival of Festivals' because it showcases all the Naga tribes at one place, bringing together their dances, music, crafts and food. It is held every year in December at Kisama Heritage Village near Kohima, Nagaland.

- The festival is named after the hornbill, a bird admired in Naga folklore.
- It was started by the Government of Nagaland in 2000 and is held from 1 to 10 December.
- Nagaland has several major tribes such as the Angami, Ao, Lotha, Sema and Konyak.

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198 In which Indian state is the traditional festival of Pang-Lhabsol associated?

[SSC CGL 22 Oct 2026, Shift-II]

(a) Nagaland (b) Sikkim
(c) Assam (d) Mizoram

ANSWER (b) Sikkim

Pang Lhabsol is a traditional Buddhist festival of Sikkim, in which Mount Kanchenjunga is worshipped as the guardian deity of the state. It is celebrated mainly by the Bhutia and Lepcha communities.

- The festival also commemorates the treaty of blood-brotherhood between the Lepchas and the Bhutias.
- It falls in the seventh month of the Tibetan calendar, around August–September.
- Kanchenjunga is the third highest mountain in the world and lies on the Sikkim–Nepal border.

199 Which of the following festivals marks the beginning of the New Year in the traditional Sikh calendar?

[SSC CGL 24 Oct 2026, Shift-II]

(a) Guru Nanak Jayanti (b) Vaisakhi
(c) Lohri (d) Bandi Chhor Divas

ANSWER (b) Vaisakhi

Vaisakhi, celebrated in mid-April, marks the beginning of the New Year in the traditional (Bikrami) Sikh calendar, as it falls on the first day of the month of Vaisakh. It also commemorates the founding of the Khalsa Panth by Guru Gobind Singh in 1699 at Anandpur Sahib.

- Vaisakhi is also a harvest festival of the Rabi crop, specially in Punjab.
- Guru Nanak Jayanti marks the birth anniversary of the first Sikh Guru, Guru Nanak Dev.
- Bandi Chhor Divas is observed in memory of Guru Hargobind's release from Gwalior Fort.

200 The Baisakhi Mela in Haryana marks the start of which harvest season?

[SSC CGL 27 Oct 2026, Shift-I]

(a) Kharif (b) Rabi
(c) Summer (d) Winter

ANSWER (b) Rabi

The Baisakhi Mela marks the start of the Rabi harvest season, as the crops sown in winter, mainly wheat, ripen and are harvested in April. Baisakhi is celebrated in mid-April.

- Rabi crops are sown in October–December and harvested in March–April; examples are wheat, barley, mustard and gram.
- Kharif crops are sown with the monsoon in June–July and harvested in September–October; examples are rice, maize and cotton.
- Zaid crops are grown in the short summer season between Rabi and Kharif.

201 In which of the following states is the Chapchar Kut festival primarily celebrated?

[SSC CGL 27 Oct 2026, Shift-II]

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

ANSWER (b) Mizoram

Chapchar Kut is the most popular spring festival of Mizoram, celebrated in March after the jhum (shifting cultivation) land has been cleared and before the sowing season begins. It is marked with dance, song and feasting.

- Other Mizo festivals are Mim Kut (after maize harvest) and Pawl Kut (harvest festival).
- Cheraw, the bamboo dance, is a popular Mizo dance performed at festivals.
- Jhum is the local name for shifting cultivation in the North-East.

PART E Miscellaneous Static GK

202 What is a key goal of the Human Development Index (HDI)?

[SSC CGL 30 Sep 2026, Shift-II]

(a) To shift the focus from solely economic development to human development.
(b) To only measure economic growth.
(c) To only measure military strength.
(d) To only measure environmental impact.

ANSWER (a) To shift the focus from solely economic development to ...

The Human Development Index (HDI) was introduced to shift the focus of development from income alone to

people's well-being. It measures achievement in three dimensions: a long and healthy life, knowledge and a decent standard of living.

- HDI was introduced in 1990 by Mahbub ul Haq and is published by the UNDP in its Human Development Report.
- The three indicators are life expectancy at birth, years of schooling (expected and mean) and gross national income per capita.
- HDI values lie between 0 and 1; a higher value means higher human development.

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203 Which of the following commissions was set up in the year 1957 to foster the development of nuclear energy in India?

[SSC CGL 01 Oct 2026, Shift-I]

(a) Central Electricity Authority
(b) Atomic Energy Commission
(c) Finance Commission
(d) Scientific Advisory Committee

ANSWER (b) Atomic Energy Commission

The Atomic Energy Commission (AEC) is the apex body in India for the development of nuclear energy; of the given options, only it deals with nuclear power. It was set up with Homi J. Bhabha as its first chairman, and the Department of Atomic Energy (DAE) works under the Prime Minister.

- The AEC was first constituted in August 1948; the Department of Atomic Energy was created in 1954.
- Apsara, Asia's first research reactor, became critical at Trombay in 1956.
- The Atomic Energy Establishment, Trombay was renamed Bhabha Atomic Research Centre (BARC) in 1967.

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204 Which of the following **correctly** identifies speech area overlap between Dravidian and Indo-Aryan groups?

[SSC CGL 01 Oct 2026, Shift-III]

(a) Bihar appears in both Dravidian and Indo-Aryan lists
(b) Kerala appears in both Dravidian and Sino-Tibetan lists
(c) Assam appears in both Austric and Indo-Aryan lists
(d) Tamil Nadu appears in both Austric and Dravidian lists

ANSWER (a) Bihar appears in both Dravidian and Indo-Aryan lists

Option A is the correct answer: Bihar is mainly an Indo-Aryan speech area (Hindi, Maithili, Bhojpuri, Magahi), but Dravidian languages such as Kurukh (Oraon) and Malto are also spoken by tribal groups of the region, so it appears in both lists. Kerala (Malayalam) and Tamil Nadu (Tamil) are Dravidian-speaking states and do not figure in the Sino-Tibetan or Austric lists in this way.

- Major language families of India: Indo-Aryan, Dravidian, Austric (Austroasiatic) and Sino-Tibetan.
- The four recognised Dravidian literary languages are Tamil, Telugu, Kannada and Malayalam.
- Sino-Tibetan languages are concentrated mainly in the Himalayan belt and the North-East.

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205 Which of the following pollutants has only an annual National Ambient Air Quality Standard and is therefore not included in India's routine Air Quality Index (AQI) calculation?

[SSC CGL 01 Oct 2026, Shift-III]

(a) Ammonia (NH_3)
(b) Ozone (O_3)
(c) Carbon monoxide (CO)
(d) Benzene (C_6H_6)

ANSWER (d) Benzene (C_6H_6)

SSC Key (a) · Correct answer (d)

The correct answer is D, Benzene (C_6H_6): it has only an annual NAAQS (5 µg/m³) and is not among the pollutants used to compute the AQI. SSC's key (A, Ammonia) is wrong because ammonia has both a 24-hour and an annual standard and is one of the eight pollutants included in the AQI.

- The eight AQI pollutants are PM10, PM2.5, NO_2, SO_2, CO, O_3, NH_3 and lead (Pb).
- Benzene, benzo(a)pyrene, arsenic and nickel have only annual standards under the NAAQS.
- The National Air Quality Index was launched in 2014 by the Central Pollution Control Board (CPCB).

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206 What is the typical rating scale used in the Gallup survey for happiness?

[SSC CGL 05 Oct 2026, Shift-II]

(a) 1 to 5 (b) 0 to 100
(c) 0 to 10 (d) 1 to 20

ANSWER (c) 0 to 10

The Gallup World Poll asks respondents to rate their life on the Cantril ladder, a scale from 0 (worst possible life) to 10 (best possible life). These responses form the basis of the happiness rankings in the World Happiness Report.

- The World Happiness Report is published by the UN Sustainable Development Solutions Network with Gallup and Oxford's Wellbeing Research Centre.
- Finland has topped the ranking for several consecutive years.
- The ladder score is explained by factors such as GDP per capita, social support, healthy life expectancy, freedom, generosity and perceptions of corruption.

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207 What is a key difficulty in establishing efficient Alternative Dispute Resolution (ADR) processes to boost business operations in regions with fragile legal systems?

[SSC CGL 05 Oct 2026, Shift-II]

(a) Limited access to experienced ADR professionals and problems with enforcing arbitration rulings.
(b) Strong dependence on traditional court systems for resolving trade-related disputes.
(c) Extensive use of common international arbitration standards.
(d) Widespread reliance on informal methods of conflict resolution.

ANSWER (a) Limited access to experienced ADR professionals and ...

Where legal systems are weak, the main obstacle to effective ADR is the shortage of trained arbitrators and mediators and the difficulty of enforcing arbitral awards. Without reliable enforcement, parties lose confidence in arbitration as a substitute for courts.

- ADR mechanisms include arbitration, conciliation, mediation and negotiation.
- In India the Arbitration and Conciliation Act, 1996 governs arbitration, based on the UNCITRAL Model Law.
- Lok Adalats, under the Legal Services Authorities Act, 1987, are a form of ADR whose awards are final and not appealable.

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208 Which is the first state in the country to have its own Internet Service Provider (ISP) license from the Department of Telecommunications?

[SSC CGL 05 Oct 2026, Shift-II]

(a) Kerala (b) Andhra Pradesh
(c) Delhi (d) Punjab

ANSWER (a) Kerala

Kerala became the first state in India to obtain its own Internet Service Provider (ISP) licence from the Department of Telecommunications, through the Kerala Fibre Optic Network (KFON). The project aims to provide internet to government offices and to economically weaker families.

- KFON is a joint venture of the Kerala State Electricity Board and the Kerala State IT Infrastructure Ltd.
- In 2016 Kerala declared internet access a basic human right.
- Kerala was also the first Indian state to achieve 100 per cent literacy in the sense recognised by the National Literacy Mission (1991).

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209 Find incorrect pairs of Indian Famous persons with their field :
1. Kailash Satyarthi: Film Director
2. Lala Lajpat Rai: Freedom Fighter
3. Murlikant Petkar: Book Writer
4. Lata Mangeshkar: Playback Singer

[SSC CGL 05 Oct 2026, Shift-III]

(a) 1 and 3 (b) 1 only
(c) 3 only (d) 2 only

ANSWER (a) 1 and 3

Pairs 1 and 3 are incorrect. Kailash Satyarthi is a child-rights activist (not a film director), and Murlikant Petkar is a Paralympic swimmer (not a book writer). Pairs 2 and 4 are correct.

- Kailash Satyarthi shared the 2014 Nobel Peace Prize with Malala Yousafzai; he founded Bachpan Bachao Andolan.
- Murlikant Petkar won India's first Paralympic gold medal (swimming, 1972 Heidelberg Games) and received the Padma Shri in 2024.

- Lala Lajpat Rai, 'Punjab Kesari', died after being lathi-charged during the protest against the Simon Commission in 1928.

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210 Consider the following statements regarding population growth and demographic trends in India as per Census data:
1.) Kerala recorded the lowest decadal population growth rate (9.4%) during 1991–2001 among all Indian states.
2.) During 2001–2011, all six most populous Indian states showed a decadal growth rate higher than the previous decade.
3.) The adolescent population (aged 10–19 years) in India constituted approximately 20.9% in 2011, with a higher share of males than females.
4.) Puducherry registered a lower decadal population growth in 2001–2011 compared to 1991–2001.
Which of the above statements is/are correct?

[SSC CGL 05 Oct 2026, Shift-III]

(a) 1 and 3 only
(b) 2 and 4 only
(c) 1, 3 and 4 only
(d) 1 and 2 only

ANSWER (a) 1 and 3 only

As per the official key, statements 1 and 3 are correct. Kerala had the lowest decadal growth among states in 1991–2001 (about 9.4 per cent), and India's adolescent population (10–19 years) was about 20.9 per cent in 2011. Statement 2 is wrong because the populous states did not all show higher growth than in the previous decade, and statement 4 is wrong because Puducherry's growth rose in 2001–2011 compared with 1991–2001.

- Kerala again recorded the lowest decadal growth rate in 2001–2011 (4.9 per cent).
- Nagaland recorded negative decadal growth (−0.6 per cent) in 2001–2011.
- India's population in Census 2011 was 121.08 crore.

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211 In Air Quality Index (AQI) health guidance, which type of outdoor activity is classified as heavy exertion?

[SSC CGL 07 Oct 2026, Shift-III]

(a) An intense activity that causes a person to breathe hard
(b) A light activity that causes little or no physical exertion
(c) A sedentary activity that involves sitting outdoors for an extended period
(d) An indoor activity that is performed exclusively inside a building

ANSWER (a) An intense activity that causes a person to breathe hard

In AQI health advisories, heavy exertion means intense activity that makes a person breathe hard, such as running or vigorous sports. Such activity increases breathing and the intake of pollutants, so people are advised to reduce it when air quality is poor.

- AQI health guidance usually separates light, moderate and heavy exertion.
- Children, the elderly and people with heart or lung disease are the most sensitive groups.
- India's National AQI was launched in 2014 and is computed by the CPCB.

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212 Which moon is the **largest** natural satellite of Saturn?

[SSC CGL 08 Oct 2026, Shift-II]

(a) Ganymede
(b) Titan
(c) Europa
(d) Triton

ANSWER (b) Titan

Titan is the largest natural satellite of Saturn and the second largest moon in the solar system. It is the only moon known to have a dense atmosphere, made mainly of nitrogen.

- Ganymede, the largest moon in the solar system, orbits Jupiter.
- Europa is a moon of Jupiter and Triton is the largest moon of Neptune.
- Titan was discovered by Christiaan Huygens in 1655.

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213 In the Indian Census process, which operation is carried out before the Population Enumeration phase?

[SSC CGL 09 Oct 2026, Shift-II]

(a) House Listing and Housing Census
(b) National Sample and Household Survey
(c) Socio-Economic and Caste Census
(d) Agricultural and Livestock Census

ANSWER (a) House Listing and Housing Census

The Census is conducted in two phases. The first phase, House Listing and Housing Census, records the details of buildings, houses and amenities, and it is carried out before the second phase, Population Enumeration, in which each person is counted.

- The Census of India is conducted under the Census Act, 1948.
- The first modern, synchronous census was held in 1881 under W.C. Plowden; Census 2011 was the 15th.
- The Registrar General and Census Commissioner works under the Ministry of Home Affairs.

---

214 A student burns 150 calories by cycling for 30 minutes. If the student continues cycling at the same rate, how many calories will be burned in 2 hours?

[SSC CGL 09 Oct 2026, Shift-III]

(a) 600
(b) 450
(c) 500
(d) 900

ANSWER (a) 600

The student burns 150 calories in 30 minutes, so the rate is 150 calories per half hour. Two hours contain 4 half-hours, hence calories burned = 150 × 4 = 600.

- Method: first convert 2 hours to 120 minutes, then 120 ÷ 30 = 4 units.
- The rate here is 5 calories per minute (150 ÷ 30).
- In direct proportion, doubling the time doubles the calories burned.

---

215 Which of the following types of tourism is most directly promoted in India to support the conservation of cultural and natural heritage?

[SSC CGL 10 Oct 2026, Shift-III]

(a) Industrial tourism
(b) Adventure tourism
(c) Medical tourism
(d) Sustainable Tourism

ANSWER (d) Sustainable Tourism

Sustainable tourism is the form of tourism that meets present needs of tourists and host communities while protecting cultural and natural heritage for the future. It is therefore the type most directly promoted for heritage conservation.

- The Ministry of Tourism runs a 'Swadesh Darshan' scheme for theme-based tourist circuits.
- World Tourism Day is observed on 27 September.
- Ecotourism and responsible tourism are closely linked forms of sustainable tourism.

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216 Which of the following situations best demonstrates the “option value” of nature?

[SSC CGL 10 Oct 2026, Shift-III]

(a) Exploiting forests rapidly and prioritising short term economic gains.
(b) Establishing industries near wetlands and maximising employment opportunities.
(c) Conserving biodiversity and retaining its potential future benefits and uses.
(d) Replacing natural forests entirely and converting the land into agricultural plantations.

ANSWER (c) Conserving biodiversity and retaining its potential ...

Option value is the value placed on keeping a resource available for possible use in the future, even if it is not used now. Conserving biodiversity so that its future benefits, such as new medicines or crop varieties, remain available is the best example.

- Other types of environmental value are use value, non-use (existence) value and bequest value.
- Existence value is the worth people attach to a species simply because it exists.
- Bequest value refers to preserving nature for future generations.

---

217 According to Census terminology, the “Houseless Population” includes persons who:

[SSC CGL 12 Oct 2026, Shift-I]

(a) Live in rented houses
(b) Live in temporary shelters only
(c) Live in government buildings
(d) Do not live in census houses

ANSWER (d) Do not live in census houses

In Census terminology, houseless households are those that do not live in buildings or census houses; they live on pavements, roadsides, under flyovers, in the open

or in temporary places. Hence persons who do not live in census houses form the houseless population.

- A 'census house' is a building or part of a building with a separate main entrance.
- Houseless population is enumerated on the night before the last day of the enumeration period.
- Census houses may be residential, shops, offices or other non-residential buildings.

218 What does the term "$PM_{2.5}$" mean in the context of air pollution?

[SSC CGL 12 Oct 2026, Shift-II]

(a) Particulate matter with a diameter of 2.5 millimeters
(b) Particulate matter with a diameter of 2.5 micrometers
(c) Particulate matter with a diameter of 3.5 millimeters
(d) Particulate matter with a diameter of 3.5 micrometers

ANSWER (b) Particulate matter with a diameter of 2.5 micrometers

PM2.5 denotes particulate matter with a diameter of 2.5 micrometres or less. These particles are fine enough to enter deep into the lungs and even the bloodstream, which makes them especially harmful to health.

- PM10 refers to particles of diameter up to 10 micrometres.
- Common sources of PM2.5 include vehicle exhaust, biomass burning and industrial emissions.
- One micrometre is one-millionth of a metre.

219 What is the function of the GSAT satellite series?

[SSC CGL 12 Oct 2026, Shift-II]

(a) Weather monitoring
(b) Communication
(c) Navigation
(d) Earth imaging

ANSWER (b) Communication

The GSAT series consists of ISRO's geostationary communication satellites. They provide services such as telecommunication, broadcasting, DTH and broadband.

- INSAT satellites are multipurpose, providing communication and meteorological services.
- IRNSS/NavIC satellites are for navigation, and the Cartosat and RISAT series are for Earth observation.
- GSAT satellites are placed in geostationary orbit about 36,000 km above the equator.

220 Which pair of planets in our solar system is unique because they do not possess any natural satellites?

[SSC CGL 12 Oct 2026, Shift-II]

(a) Mercury and Mars
(b) Mars and Venus
(c) Mercury and Venus
(d) Venus and Neptune

ANSWER (c) Mercury and Venus

Mercury and Venus are the only two planets of the solar system with no natural satellites. Mars has two small moons, Phobos and Deimos, and Neptune has many moons including Triton.

- Both Mercury and Venus are inner planets lying closer to the Sun than Earth.
- Venus rotates in a retrograde direction (east to west).
- Earth has one natural satellite, the Moon.

221 In a murder trial, A claims that at the time of the act he was incapable of understanding the nature of his conduct due to unsoundness of mind. Which category does this circumstance primarily fall under the Bharatiya Nyaya Sanhita, 2023 in India?

[SSC CGL 12 Oct 2026, Shift-III]

(a) Relevant fact only
(b) Fact in issue
(c) Documentary evidence
(d) Conclusive proof

ANSWER (b) Fact in issue

As per the official key, the plea of unsoundness of mind is a fact in issue, because the existence of this exception is directly in dispute and the court must decide it for deciding the accused's liability. A fact in

issue is one from which the existence or non-existence of a right or liability follows.

- The general exception of unsoundness of mind is contained in Section 84 of the Bharatiya Nyaya Sanhita, 2023 (earlier Section 84 IPC).
- Categories such as fact in issue, relevant fact and conclusive proof belong to the law of evidence (Bharatiya Sakshya Adhiniyam, 2023, which replaced the Indian Evidence Act, 1872).
- The BNS, BNSS and BSA came into force on 1 July 2024.

222 What is the primary purpose of the Air Quality Index (AQI)?

[SSC CGL 12 Oct 2026, Shift-III]

(a) Communicate earthquake predictions in simplified form
(b) Communicate soil fertility status in simplified form
(c) Communicate water contamination status in simplified form
(d) Communicate air quality status in simplified form

ANSWER (d) Communicate air quality status in simplified form

The Air Quality Index converts complex air-quality data of several pollutants into a single number, colour and category so that the public can easily understand the air quality and its health effects.

- India's National AQI was launched in 2014 under the Swachh Bharat campaign.
- Its six categories are Good, Satisfactory, Moderate, Poor, Very Poor and Severe.
- The CPCB (Central Pollution Control Board) publishes the AQI data.

223 Which one of the following countries is NOT a member of BIMSTEC?

[SSC CGL 13 Oct 2026, Shift-II]

(a) Maldives
(b) Bhutan
(c) Myanmar
(d) Sri Lanka

ANSWER (a) Maldives

The Maldives is not a member of BIMSTEC. Bhutan, Myanmar and Sri Lanka are members.

- BIMSTEC has seven members: Bangladesh, Bhutan, India, Myanmar, Nepal, Sri Lanka and Thailand.
- It was founded in 1997 through the Bangkok Declaration, and its secretariat is in Dhaka.
- BIMSTEC stands for Bay of Bengal Initiative for Multi-Sectoral Technical and Economic Cooperation.

224 Under India's National Air Quality Index framework, at least one of the pollutants used for calculating Air Quality Index (AQI) must be which of the following?

[SSC CGL 13 Oct 2026, Shift-II]

(a) Ammonia (NH_3) or lead (Pb)
(b) Carbon monoxide (CO) or ozone (O_3)
(c) Sulphur dioxide (SO_2) or nitrogen dioxide (NO_2)
(d) Particulate matter ($PM_{2.5}$) or particulate matter (PM_{10})

ANSWER (d) Particulate matter ($PM_{2.5}$) or particulate matter (PM_{10})

Under India's National AQI, the index is calculated from at least three pollutants, and one of them must be PM2.5 or PM10. This ensures that particulate matter, the main pollutant in most Indian cities, is always represented.

- The National AQI considers eight pollutants: PM10, PM2.5, NO_2, SO_2, CO, O_3, NH_3 and Pb.
- The overall AQI is decided by the sub-index of the worst pollutant.
- Data should be available for at least 16 hours in a day for calculation.

225 The shift of a society from high mortality and high fertility rates to low mortality and low fertility rates is known as:

[SSC CGL 14 Oct 2026, Shift-II]

(a) Occupational mobility
(b) Rural urbanisation
(c) Demographic transition
(d) Population stagnation

ANSWER (c) Demographic transition

This shift is called demographic transition. In it a society moves from high birth and death rates to low birth and death rates as it develops economically and socially.

- The classical model has stages: high stationary, early expanding, late expanding and low stationary.
- India is generally placed in the late expanding (third) stage.
- The theory is associated with Warren Thompson (1929) and Frank Notestein.

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226 Which planet has the highest orbital eccentricity?

[SSC CGL 14 Oct 2026, Shift-III]

(a) Mercury
(b) Venus
(c) Earth
(d) Neptune

ANSWER (a) Mercury

Among the planets, Mercury has the highest orbital eccentricity (about 0.206), so its orbit is the most elongated. Venus has the lowest eccentricity among the given options and also among all planets.

- Mercury is the smallest and the closest planet to the Sun.
- Venus's orbit is the most nearly circular of all planets.
- Mercury has the shortest revolution period of about 88 days.

---

227 According to the Census 2011, what was the total Christian population in India and what percentage did it constitute of the country's total population?

[SSC CGL 14 Oct 2026, Shift-III]

(a) 20.8 million and 1.7%
(b) 27.8 million and 2.3%
(c) 27.8 million and 1.7%
(d) 17.2 million and 2.3%

ANSWER (b) 27.8 million and 2.3%

As per Census 2011, Christians numbered about 27.8 million (2.78 crore), constituting 2.3 per cent of India's population. They are the third-largest religious group after Hindus and Muslims.

- Hindus formed 79.8 per cent and Muslims 14.2 per cent of the population in Census 2011.
- Sikhs were 1.7 per cent, Buddhists 0.7 per cent and Jains 0.4 per cent.
- Mizoram, Nagaland and Meghalaya are Christian-majority states.

---

228 Which of the following organisations is correctly matched with one of its major contributions?

[SSC CGL 15 Oct 2026, Shift-III]

(a) World Wide Fund for Nature–India (WWF-India) — Conducting systematic faunal surveys in India
(b) Bombay Natural History Society (BNHS) — Leading wildlife research and influencing conservation policy
(c) Zoological Survey of India (ZSI) — Publishing Down To Earth magazine
(d) Centre for Science and Environment (CSE) — Managing wildlife protected-area networks

ANSWER (b) Bombay Natural History Society (BNHS) — Leading wildlife ...

The Bombay Natural History Society (BNHS) is correctly matched: it is one of India's oldest conservation research bodies and has influenced wildlife policy. In the other options the roles are interchanged: the ZSI conducts faunal surveys, and Down To Earth is published by the CSE.

- BNHS was founded in 1883 in Bombay; the ornithologist Salim Ali led it for years.
- The Zoological Survey of India was established in 1916 with its headquarters at Kolkata.
- The Centre for Science and Environment (CSE) is a Delhi-based public-interest research body.

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229 Which environmentalist from Assam is known for creating a forest single-handedly and is popularly referred to as the “Forest Man of India”?

[SSC CGL 16 Oct 2026, Shift-I]

(a) Jadav Payeng
(b) Sunderlal Bahuguna
(c) Medha Patkar
(d) Chandi Prasad Bhatt

ANSWER (a) Jadav Payeng

Jadav 'Molai' Payeng of Assam is known as the Forest Man of India. Over decades he planted trees on a barren sandbar of the Brahmaputra near Majuli, which grew into the Molai forest.

- Jadav Payeng received the Padma Shri in 2015.
- Sunderlal Bahuguna and Chandi Prasad Bhatt were associated with the Chipko Movement.
- Medha Patkar is known for the Narmada Bachao Andolan.

---

230 Large-scale environmental degradation in modern societies resulted primarily from which of the following?

[SSC CGL 16 Oct 2026, Shift-I]

(a) Rejecting all forms of traditional environmental knowledge.
(b) Using technological innovations that produced no economic benefits.
(c) Economic growth was pursued without considering ecological consequences.
(d) Establishing wildlife sanctuaries that restricted industrial development.

ANSWER (c) Economic growth was pursued without considering ...

Large-scale environmental degradation in modern societies has resulted mainly from pursuing economic growth without considering its ecological consequences. Unchecked industrialisation, resource extraction and urban expansion strained natural systems.

- The idea of sustainable development was popularised by the Brundtland Report, 'Our Common Future' (1987).
- The first Earth Summit was held at Rio de Janeiro in 1992.
- Environmental Impact Assessment is used to weigh ecological costs before projects begin.

---

231 Which of the following conclusions can be inferred from India's traditional practices of respecting and conserving nature?

[SSC CGL 16 Oct 2026, Shift-I]

(a) Conservation in India is solely the responsibility of governments.
(b) Human survival in India is independent of ecosystem functioning.
(c) Environmental ethics are deeply rooted in Indian traditions.
(d) Urbanisation in India completely disconnects people from nature.

ANSWER (c) Environmental ethics are deeply rooted in Indian traditions.

India's traditional practices, such as worship of trees, rivers and animals and the protection of sacred groves, show that environmental ethics are deeply rooted in Indian traditions. The other options contradict this evidence.

- Sacred groves are known as Kavu in Kerala and Devrai in Maharashtra.
- The Bishnoi community of Rajasthan is known for protecting trees and blackbuck; the Khejarli sacrifice took place in 1730.
- Article 51A(g) of the Constitution makes protection of the environment a fundamental duty of every citizen.

---

232 Which pulse is also called pigeon pea?

[SSC CGL 16 Oct 2026, Shift-II]

(a) Gram
(b) Moong
(c) Arhar
(d) Masur

ANSWER (c) Arhar

Arhar (tur) is also called pigeon pea; its scientific name is Cajanus cajan. It is a major kharif pulse and a good source of protein.

- Gram (chickpea) is the most produced pulse in India and is a rabi crop.
- India is the largest producer and consumer of pulses in the world.
- Pulses fix atmospheric nitrogen through root nodules containing Rhizobium bacteria.

---

233 Who is recognized as India's first female elephant mahout?

[SSC CGL 16 Oct 2026, Shift-II]

(a) Parbati Baruah
(b) Rupa Bai
(c) Velliyamma
(d) Sudha Murthy

ANSWER (a) Parbati Baruah

Parbati Baruah (Pratima Baruah Pandey) of Assam, daughter of the royal family of Gauripur, is recognised as India's first female elephant mahout. She was awarded the Padma Shri in 2024 for her work in human-elephant conflict management.

- She is known as the 'Queen of Elephants'.
- Her father, Prakritish Chandra Baruah, was also a noted elephant expert.
- The Asian elephant is the National Heritage Animal of India (declared 2010).

---

234 Which statement most accurately captures the relationship between biodiversity and human survival described?

[SSC CGL 22 Oct 2026, Shift-II]

(a) Biodiversity has aesthetic value but no economic importance.
(b) Human societies function independently of ecosystems.
(c) Biodiversity provides essential ecosystem services.
(d) Only domesticated species support human welfare.

ANSWER (c) Biodiversity provides essential ecosystem services.

Biodiversity provides essential ecosystem services such as food, clean water, pollination, climate regulation and soil fertility, on which human survival depends. The other options deny this dependence.

- The Millennium Ecosystem Assessment groups services as provisioning, regulating, cultural and supporting.
- The Convention on Biological Diversity was adopted at the 1992 Rio Earth Summit.
- International Day for Biological Diversity is observed on 22 May.

---

235 Large dams are often described as creating a "development paradox" because they:

[SSC CGL 22 Oct 2026, Shift-II]

(a) Completely fail to generate electricity and provide irrigation benefits.
(b) Improve agricultural productivity and generate electricity without causing ecological damage.
(c) Promote economic growth while causing ecological and social disruption.
(d) Reduce irrigation efficiency and limit water availability in all regions.

ANSWER (c) Promote economic growth while causing ecological and ...

Large dams are called a development paradox because they promote economic growth through irrigation, power and flood control, yet cause ecological damage and social disruption such as displacement and loss of habitat.

- Narmada Bachao Andolan, led by Medha Patkar, opposed the Sardar Sarovar dam.
- Tehri Dam on the Bhagirathi is among the tallest dams in India.
- Hirakud on the Mahanadi is one of the longest earthen dams in the world.

---

236 Name of the tribal panchayat in Kerala?

[SSC CGL 23 Oct 2026, Shift-III]

(a) Attappady
(b) Sholayur
(c) Edamalakkudy
(d) Amboori

ANSWER (c) Edamalakkudy

Edamalakkudy, in Idukki district, is Kerala's first tribal grama panchayat, formed in 2010, and is inhabited by the Muthuvan tribe. It is mostly reachable on foot through forests.

- It lies in the Munnar region of Idukki district.
- Attappady in Palakkad is another prominent tribal area of Kerala, but it is not a separate tribal panchayat.
- Idukki district contains the Periyar Tiger Reserve and the Idukki arch dam.

---

237 What is the function of India's NavIC system?

[SSC CGL 23 Oct 2026, Shift-III]

(a) Solar imaging
(b) Climate modeling
(c) Satellite TV broadcasting
(d) Regional navigation

ANSWER (d) Regional navigation

NavIC (Navigation with Indian Constellation) is India's independent regional satellite navigation system developed by ISRO. It provides accurate position and timing services over India and about 1,500 km around it.

- NavIC was earlier called the Indian Regional Navigation Satellite System (IRNSS).
- Its constellation has seven satellites, of which three are in geostationary and four in geosynchronous inclined orbit.
- It offers a Standard Positioning Service for all users and a Restricted Service for authorised users.

---

238 According to India's National Air Quality Index classification, which category corresponds to an Air Quality Index (AQI) range of 301–400?

[SSC CGL 24 Oct 2026, Shift-I]

(a) Severe
(b) Moderate
(c) Very Poor
(d) Poor

ANSWER (c) Very Poor

In India's National AQI, the range 301–400 is categorised as Very Poor, which may cause respiratory illness on prolonged exposure.

- Good: 0–50; Satisfactory: 51–100; Moderate: 101–200.
- Poor: 201–300; Very Poor: 301–400; Severe: 401–500.
- Each category is shown with a different colour, with Severe in dark red/maroon.

---

239 Which of the following is a significant environmental concern in the Indian Ocean?

[SSC CGL 24 Oct 2026, Shift-II]

(a) Melting polar ice caps
(b) Desertification
(c) Coral reef bleaching
(d) Deforestation

ANSWER (c) Coral reef bleaching

Coral reef bleaching is a significant environmental concern in the Indian Ocean. Rising sea-surface temperatures cause corals to expel their symbiotic algae (zooxanthellae), turning them white and weakening them.

- India's major coral reef areas are the Gulf of Mannar, Gulf of Kachchh, Lakshadweep and Andaman and Nicobar Islands.
- Marine heatwaves and El Niño events have caused mass bleaching in the Indian Ocean.
- The other options are land or polar processes and not marine problems of this ocean.

---

240 Two trains of equal length are moving on parallel tracks in opposite directions at speeds of 62 km/h (kilometers per hour) and 208 km/h (kilometers per hour). A passenger sitting in one train observes the other train pass completely in 15 seconds. What is the length of each train?

[SSC CGL 24 Oct 2026, Shift-II]

(a) 750 (meters)
(b) 900 (meters)
(c) 1,125 (meters)
(d) 1,250 (meters)

ANSWER (c) 1,125 (meters)

Trains moving in opposite directions have relative speed 62 + 208 = 270 km/h = 270 × 5/18 = 75 m/s. The passenger sees the whole other train pass in 15 seconds, so its length = 75 × 15 = 1,125 m. Both trains are of equal length, so each is 1,125 m.

- For opposite directions add speeds; for the same direction subtract speeds.
- To convert km/h to m/s multiply by 5/18.
- Since the passenger is a point in the first train, only the length of the other train is covered.

---

241 Which of the following strategies is the most ecologically sustainable for long-term water-resource management?

[SSC CGL 27 Oct 2026, Shift-II]

(a) Mega-dam construction, river diversion, and centralised water storage.
(b) Groundwater extraction, deep-well expansion, and emergency pumping.
(c) Rainwater harvesting, afforestation, and local catchment management.
(d) Canal expansion, cash-crop irrigation, and increased water diversion.

ANSWER (c) Rainwater harvesting, afforestation, and local catchment ...

Rainwater harvesting, afforestation and local catchment management recharge groundwater and conserve water at its source without major ecological disruption, so they are the most sustainable approach. The other options increase extraction or alter natural flows.

- Jal Shakti Abhiyan: Catch the Rain promotes rainwater harvesting.
- Atal Bhujal Yojana aims at sustainable groundwater management with community participation.
- World Water Day is observed on 22 March.

---

242 Which of the following situations most clearly demonstrates environmental injustice?

[SSC CGL 27 Oct 2026, Shift-II]

(a) Urban communities depending on rivers while receiving adequate water supplies
(b) Tribal communities disproportionately displaced by dams despite limited benefits
(c) Increased hydropower generation in industrial regions
(d) Farming communities adopting drip irrigation to conserve water

ANSWER (b) Tribal communities disproportionately displaced by dams ...

Environmental injustice means that the burdens of environmental harm fall disproportionately on the poor and marginalised while the benefits go elsewhere. Tribal communities being displaced by dams despite receiving limited benefits is a clear example.

- The concept stresses fair distribution of environmental benefits and burdens.
- Forest Rights Act, 2006 recognises the rights of forest-dwelling tribal communities.
- Rehabilitation and resettlement are governed by the Right to Fair Compensation and Transparency in Land Acquisition, Rehabilitation and Resettlement Act, 2013.

---

243 What is the full form of ISRO's "NAVIC" system?

[SSC CGL 27 Oct 2026, Shift-III]

(a) Navigation India for Communication
(b) Navigation with Indian Constellation
(c) National Indian Vehicular Information Control
(d) Navigational Indian Vehicle Intelligence Center

ANSWER (b) Navigation with Indian Constellation

The full form of NavIC is Navigation with Indian Constellation. It is India's regional navigation satellite system built by ISRO.

- NavIC also means 'sailor' in Hindi.
- It was formerly named IRNSS (Indian Regional Navigation Satellite System).
- The first satellite, IRNSS-1A, was launched in July 2013.

---

244 The word 'caste' has been derived from which language?

[SSC CGL 27 Oct 2026, Shift-III]

(a) Portuguese
(b) Spanish
(c) English
(d) Chinese

ANSWER (a) Portuguese

The word 'caste' is derived from the Portuguese word 'casta', meaning breed, race or lineage. Portuguese traders applied it to the social groups of India.

- The Indian term for the caste groups is 'jati', while 'varna' denotes the fourfold classification.
- The Portuguese reached India under Vasco da Gama at Calicut in 1498.
- Article 15 of the Constitution prohibits discrimination on the ground of caste.


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TOPPERS' WISDOM

10
CHAPTER

Government Schemes & Current Affairs

Questions with Explanations *229 questions · 53 shifts*

PART A Government Schemes

01 What is the main objective of the BHASHINI Mission under the National Language Translation Mission (NLTM)?

[SSC CGL 30 Sep 2026, Shift-III]

(a) Teaching Sanskrit in all schools
(b) Real-time AI language translation
(c) Translating ancient manuscripts
(d) Regulating social media content

ANSWER (b) Real-time AI language translation

The main objective of BHASHINI is real-time AI-based language translation, so (B) is correct. It uses artificial intelligence and natural language processing to provide translation and speech services in Indian languages, so that language is not a barrier to digital services.

- BHASHINI is implemented under the National Language Translation Mission by MeitY, through the Digital India BHASHINI Division.
- It was launched in 2022 as part of the Digital India initiative.
- The Eighth Schedule of the Constitution recognises 22 languages.

02 Which technology is primarily emphasized in the URDPFI (Urban and Regional Development Plans Formulation and Implementation) Guidelines for improving the speed and efficiency of urban planning and spatial analysis?

[SSC CGL 30 Sep 2026, Shift-III]

(a) Remote Sensing and GIS (Geographic Information System)
(b) Blockchain
(c) Robotics
(d) IoT (Internet of Things)

ANSWER (a) Remote Sensing and GIS (Geographic Information System)

The URDPFI Guidelines emphasise Remote Sensing and GIS (Geographic Information System) for faster and more efficient urban planning and spatial analysis, so (A) is correct. These tools help in preparing base maps, studying land use and monitoring urban growth.

- The URDPFI Guidelines were prepared by the Town and Country Planning Organisation (TCPO) of the Ministry of Housing and Urban Affairs.
- They replaced the earlier UDPFI Guidelines of 1996.
- They guide States on preparing master plans and regional plans.

03 The "National Digital Health Mission (NDHM)" aims to create an integrated digital health infrastructure for India. Which of the following is a core feature envisioned under this mission?

[SSC CGL 01 Oct 2026, Shift-II]

(a) Providing free generic medicines to all citizens through online platforms.
(b) Creating a unique health ID for every citizen to maintain their health records digitally.
(c) Establishing a network of telemedicine centers in all villages.
(d) Mandating the use of electronic health records by all private hospitals.

ANSWER (b) Creating a unique health ID for every citizen to maintain ...

A core feature of the National Digital Health Mission is creating a unique health ID for every citizen so that health records can be maintained digitally, so (B) is

correct. The mission was announced on 15 August 2020 and was launched nationwide in September 2021.

- It was later renamed the Ayushman Bharat Digital Mission (ABDM), and the health ID is now called ABHA (Ayushman Bharat Health Account) number.
- ABHA is a 14-digit number.
- The mission is implemented by the National Health Authority.

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04 The "National Policy on Education (NPE)" has been revised several times since independence. The latest iteration is the NEP 2020. Which of the following principles is a significant guiding principle of the NEP 2020?

[SSC CGL 01 Oct 2026, Shift-II]

(a) Strict standardization of curriculum and assessment across all states.
(b) Emphasis on rote learning and memorization of facts.
(c) Promoting critical thinking, creativity, and conceptual understanding.
(d) Early specialization in specific academic disciplines from the secondary level.

ANSWER (c) Promoting critical thinking, creativity, and conceptual ...

Promoting critical thinking, creativity and conceptual understanding is a guiding principle of NEP 2020, so (C) is correct. The policy moves away from rote learning and rigid separation of streams towards flexibility and multidisciplinary learning.

- NEP 2020 was approved by the Union Cabinet on 29 July 2020 and replaced the National Policy on Education, 1986 (modified in 1992).
- It was drafted by a committee headed by K. Kasturirangan.
- It introduces the 5+3+3+4 structure in place of the 10+2 system.

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05 Under PMMY, a business planning to start a tailoring shop should approach which financial body for credit?

[SSC CGL 05 Oct 2026, Shift-III]

(a) RBI
(b) MUDRA Bank
(c) NABARD
(d) SEBI

ANSWER (b) MUDRA Bank

Under the Pradhan Mantri MUDRA Yojana (PMMY), a person starting a small business such as a tailoring shop approaches MUDRA, so (B) is correct as per the key. In practice, the loan is sanctioned through banks, NBFCs and microfinance institutions, which MUDRA refinances.

- PMMY was launched on 8 April 2015; MUDRA stands for Micro Units Development and Refinance Agency.
- Loans are of three kinds: Shishu (up to 50,000 rupees), Kishor (50,001 to 5 lakh rupees) and Tarun (5 lakh to 10 lakh rupees).
- Loans under PMMY are collateral-free.

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06 The "JAM Trinity" is often cited as a key strategy for direct benefit transfer in India. Which of the following correctly identifies the three pillars of this trinity?

[SSC CGL 06 Oct 2026, Shift-I]

(a) Jan Dhan accounts, Aadhaar cards, Mobile numbers
(b) Jan Dhan accounts, Aadhaar cards, MGNREGA job cards
(c) Jan Dhan accounts, Ayushman Bharat cards, Mobile numbers
(d) Jan Dhan accounts, Aadhaar cards, PAN cards

ANSWER (a) Jan Dhan accounts, Aadhaar cards, Mobile numbers

The three pillars of the JAM Trinity are Jan Dhan accounts, Aadhaar and Mobile numbers, so (A) is correct. Linking these three allows subsidies and benefits to be transferred directly to beneficiaries' bank accounts through Direct Benefit Transfer (DBT).

- The term JAM was popularised by the Economic Survey 2014-15.
- The Pradhan Mantri Jan Dhan Yojana (PMJDY) was launched on 28 August 2014 for financial inclusion.
- Direct Benefit Transfer was introduced on 1 January 2013.

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07 Which government scheme aims to provide social security and pension benefits to workers in the unorganized sector?

[SSC CGL 06 Oct 2026, Shift-I]

(a) Atal Pension Yojana (APY)
(b) Pradhan Mantri Shram Yogi Maandhan (PMSYM)
(c) National Pension System (NPS)
(d) Employees' Provident Fund Organisation (EPFO) schemes

ANSWER (b) Pradhan Mantri Shram Yogi Maandhan (PMSYM)

Pradhan Mantri Shram Yogi Maandhan (PM-SYM) is the pension scheme designed specifically for unorganised sector workers, so (B) is correct as per the key. It assures a monthly pension of 3,000 rupees after the age of 60.

- PM-SYM was launched in 2019 for workers aged 18 to 40 years whose monthly income is up to 15,000 rupees.
- Atal Pension Yojana (2015) is open to all citizens, mainly in the unorganised sector, while NPS is a general retirement scheme.
- EPFO schemes cover organised sector employees.

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08 The PM SHRI (Prime Minister's Schools for Rising India) scheme is primarily designed to achieve which of the following objectives?

[SSC CGL 06 Oct 2026, Shift-III]

(a) To provide free laptops to all school students in rural areas
(b) To develop and upgrade selected schools as model institutions showcasing NEP 2020
(c) To privatize government schools through public-private partnerships
(d) To focus only on higher education and university reforms

ANSWER (b) To develop and upgrade selected schools as model ...

PM SHRI aims to develop and upgrade selected schools as model institutions that showcase the National Education Policy 2020, so (B) is correct. These schools are meant to act as exemplars and guide neighbouring schools.

- The scheme was launched on 5 September 2022 (Teachers' Day) and covers more than 14,500 schools run by the Centre, States and UTs and local bodies.
- It is a centrally sponsored scheme of the Ministry of Education running up to 2026-27.
- Schools are selected through a challenge mode.

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09 What is the main goal of the PM-PRANAM (PM Programme for Restoration, Awareness Generation, Nourishment and Amelioration of Mother Earth) scheme launched by the Government of India?

[SSC CGL 07 Oct 2026, Shift-I]

(a) Promoting rural arts and music
(b) Promoting sustainable fertilizer use
(c) Providing free legal aid to tribal women
(d) Renovating ancient religious monuments

ANSWER (b) Promoting sustainable fertilizer use

The main goal of PM-PRANAM is to promote the sustainable and balanced use of fertilisers, so (B) is correct. It encourages States and Union Territories to reduce the consumption of chemical fertilisers and promote alternative fertilisers such as natural and organic farming inputs.

- The scheme was approved by the Union Cabinet in June 2023.
- It has no separate budget; it is funded from the savings of existing fertiliser subsidy.
- It is run by the Department of Fertilizers, Ministry of Chemicals and Fertilizers.

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10 What is the total annual financial assistance provided to eligible farmers under the PM-KISAN (Pradhan Mantri Kisan Samman Nidhi) scheme in India?

[SSC CGL 07 Oct 2026, Shift-I]

(a) ₹4,000 per year
(b) ₹6,000 per year
(c) ₹8,000 per year
(d) ₹10,000 per year

ANSWER (b) ₹6,000 per year

Under PM-KISAN, eligible farmer families receive 6,000 rupees per year, so (B) is correct. The amount is paid in three equal instalments of 2,000 rupees every four months, directly into the beneficiary's bank account through DBT.

- The scheme was launched on 24 February 2019 from Gorakhpur, Uttar Pradesh.
- It is a Central Sector scheme, fully funded by the Government of India.

- It was initially limited to small and marginal farmers and was extended to all farmer families in 2019.

11 In India, under the PM-PRANAM (PM Programme for Restoration, Awareness Generation, Nourishment, and Amelioration of Mother Earth) scheme, States/UTs that reduce their chemical fertilizer consumption are rewarded with what percentage of the fertilizer subsidy saved by the Centre as a grant?

[SSC CGL 07 Oct 2026, Shift-III]

(a) 50% of the fertilizer subsidy saved by the Centre as a grant
(b) 25% of the fertilizer subsidy saved by the Centre as a grant
(c) 75% of the fertilizer subsidy saved by the Centre as a grant
(d) 100% of the fertilizer subsidy saved by the Centre as a grant

ANSWER (a) 50% of the fertilizer subsidy saved by the Centre as a grant

Under PM-PRANAM, States and UTs that reduce their chemical fertiliser use are given 50 per cent of the fertiliser subsidy saved by the Centre as a grant, so (A) is correct. This encourages States to adopt alternative fertilisers and balanced nutrient use.

- The scheme was approved by the Union Cabinet in June 2023.
- It needs no separate budget, as it is financed from the savings of the existing fertiliser subsidy.
- It is administered by the Department of Fertilizers.

12 Which flagship scheme was launched to double farmers' income and improve agricultural infrastructure?

[SSC CGL 08 Oct 2026, Shift-III]

(a) Krishi Sinchai Yojana
(b) PM-KISAN
(c) Pradhan Mantri Kisan MaanDhan Yojana (PM-KMY)
(d) PM Fasal Bima Yojana

ANSWER (b) PM-KISAN

SSC Key (b) · Disputed question

As per the official key, the answer is PM-KISAN, launched in 2019 to give income support of ₹6,000 a year to farmer families in three instalments through Direct Benefit Transfer. The question is loosely framed: PM-KISAN is linked to the goal of doubling farmers' income, but it does not build agricultural infrastructure, which is the work of the Agriculture Infrastructure Fund.

- PM Fasal Bima Yojana (2016) provides crop insurance.
- PM Kisan MaanDhan Yojana (2019) gives a pension to small and marginal farmers after the age of 60.
- Pradhan Mantri Krishi Sinchayee Yojana (2015) focuses on irrigation.

13 Which government scheme aims to provide affordable and quality healthcare services to the rural population?

[SSC CGL 09 Oct 2026, Shift-I]

(a) Ayushman Bharat - Pradhan Mantri Jan Arogya Yojana (AB-PMJAY)
(b) National Health Mission (NHM)
(c) Janani Suraksha Yojana (JSY)
(d) Rashtriya Arogya Nidhi (RAN)

ANSWER (b) National Health Mission (NHM)

The National Health Mission (NHM) aims to provide affordable and quality healthcare to the population, particularly in rural areas, so (B) is correct as per the key. It began as the National Rural Health Mission (NRHM), launched on 12 April 2005, and the National Urban Health Mission was added in 2013 to form the NHM.

- Janani Suraksha Yojana (JSY) is a safe-motherhood intervention under the NHM.
- AB-PMJAY, launched in 2018, is a health insurance scheme providing secondary and tertiary care cover.
- NHM is a centrally sponsored scheme of the Ministry of Health and Family Welfare.

14 The National Education Policy (NEP) 2020 proposes significant changes to the structure of school education. Which of the following represents the new pedagogical and curricular structure envisioned by the NEP 2020?

[SSC CGL 09 Oct 2026, Shift-I]

(a) 10+2 system
(b) 5+3+3+4 system
(c) 4+4+3+3 system
(d) 3+5+4+3 system

ANSWER (b) 5+3+3+4 system

NEP 2020 replaces the 10+2 system with a 5+3+3+4 curricular structure, so (B) is correct. The four stages are Foundational (5 years: ages 3 to 8), Preparatory (3 years: ages 8 to 11), Middle (3 years: ages 11 to 14) and Secondary (4 years: ages 14 to 18).

- The Foundational stage includes three years of pre-school and Classes 1 and 2.
- NEP 2020 emphasises the mother tongue or regional language as the medium of instruction at least till Class 5.
- It was approved by the Union Cabinet on 29 July 2020.

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15 What is the primary objective of the "Saa₹thi 2.0" mobile application launched by SEBI (Securities and Exchange Board of India)?

[SSC CGL 09 Oct 2026, Shift-III]

(a) Listing of new startups on the stock exchange
(b) Empowering investors with knowledge about the securities market
(c) Tracking real-time global commodity prices
(d) Registering complaints against fraudulent insurance agents

ANSWER (b) Empowering investors with knowledge about the securities ...

The primary objective of SEBI's Saa₹thi 2.0 mobile app is to empower investors with knowledge about the securities market, so (B) is correct. It is an investor-education app and carries content on topics such as investing, savings and financial planning.

- SEBI was established in 1988 and given statutory powers by the SEBI Act, 1992.
- SEBI regulates the securities market in India; insurance is regulated by IRDAI.
- SEBI's headquarters is in Mumbai.

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16 The "Skill India Mission" aims to empower the youth with relevant skills. Which of the following is a key initiative or program under this mission?

[SSC CGL 10 Oct 2026, Shift-I]

(a) National Rural Employment Guarantee Scheme (NREGS)
(b) Startup India Initiative
(c) Pradhan Mantri Kaushal Vikas Yojana (PMKVY)
(d) Atal Innovation Mission (AIM)

ANSWER (c) Pradhan Mantri Kaushal Vikas Yojana (PMKVY)

Pradhan Mantri Kaushal Vikas Yojana (PMKVY) is the flagship skill-training scheme under the Skill India Mission, so (C) is correct. It offers short-term skill training and certification to youth.

- The Skill India Mission was launched on 15 July 2015, World Youth Skills Day.
- PMKVY is run by the Ministry of Skill Development and Entrepreneurship (MSDE) through the National Skill Development Corporation (NSDC).
- Startup India (2016) is run by DPIIT, and the Atal Innovation Mission by NITI Aayog.

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17 The "National Food Security Act (NFSA), 2013" has a primary objective related to food and nutrition. Which of the following best describes this objective?

[SSC CGL 10 Oct 2026, Shift-I]

(a) To promote organic farming practices across the country.
(b) To ensure foodgrain procurement at Minimum Support Price (MSP) for all crops.
(c) To provide subsidized foodgrains to a significant proportion of the population.
(d) To encourage the export of surplus foodgrains to boost the agricultural economy.

ANSWER (c) To provide subsidized foodgrains to a significant ...

The primary objective of the National Food Security Act, 2013 is to provide subsidised foodgrains to a significant proportion of the population, so (C) is correct. It gives a legal entitlement to food, covering the eligible households of both rural and urban areas.

- Eligible persons get 5 kg of foodgrains per person per month at highly subsidised prices, while Antyodaya Anna Yojana households get 35 kg per household per month.
- The Act also provides nutritional support to pregnant women, lactating mothers and children, and recognises the eldest woman of the household (18 years or above) as the head for issuing ration cards.
- Foodgrains are distributed through the Targeted Public Distribution System (TPDS).

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18 Which government initiative aims to make India a digitally empowered society and knowledge economy?

[SSC CGL 10 Oct 2026, Shift-II]

(a) Make in India
(b) Skill India Mission
(c) Digital India
(d) Smart Cities Mission

ANSWER (c) Digital India

Digital India aims to transform India into a digitally empowered society and knowledge economy, so (C) is correct. It was launched by the Prime Minister on 1 July 2015.

- Its three vision areas are digital infrastructure as a core utility for every citizen, governance and services on demand, and digital empowerment of citizens.
- It is implemented by the Ministry of Electronics and Information Technology (MeitY).
- Make in India was launched in September 2014, and the Smart Cities Mission in June 2015.

19 The "Stand-Up India Scheme" has a specific focus on promoting entrepreneurship among which of the following groups?

[SSC CGL 10 Oct 2026, Shift-II]

(a) Senior citizens and ex-servicemen.
(b) Women entrepreneurs and entrepreneurs from Scheduled Castes (SC) and Scheduled Tribes (ST) communities.
(c) Students pursuing higher education in technical fields.
(d) Small and marginal farmers.

ANSWER (b) Women entrepreneurs and entrepreneurs from Scheduled ...

The Stand-Up India Scheme focuses on promoting entrepreneurship among women and among Scheduled Caste (SC) and Scheduled Tribe (ST) entrepreneurs, so (B) is correct. It facilitates bank loans of 10 lakh to 1 crore rupees to at least one SC or ST borrower and one woman borrower per bank branch.

- The loans are for setting up greenfield enterprises in manufacturing, services or the trading sector.
- The scheme was launched on 5 April 2016.
- The Small Industries Development Bank of India (SIDBI) is the main implementing agency, along with banks.

20 What is the main purpose of the BHASKAR portal launched by the Department for Promotion of Industry and Internal Trade within India's startup ecosystem?

[SSC CGL 10 Oct 2026, Shift-III]

(a) Centralized scholarship application for science students
(b) Networking and collaboration for all stakeholders in the startup ecosystem
(c) Monitoring of solar energy production in Himalayan states
(d) Digital verification of handloom products for export

ANSWER (b) Networking and collaboration for all stakeholders in the ...

The BHASKAR (Bharat Startup Knowledge Access Registry) portal provides networking and collaboration among all stakeholders of the startup ecosystem, so (B) is correct. It brings startups, investors, mentors, incubators and service providers onto a single platform.

- It was launched by the Department for Promotion of Industry and Internal Trade (DPIIT), Ministry of Commerce and Industry.
- The Startup India initiative was launched on 16 January 2016, and 16 January is celebrated as National Startup Day.
- Startups recognised by DPIIT are eligible for benefits such as tax exemptions.

21 Which technology is primarily used for mapping rural inhabited lands under the SVAMITVA scheme? is designed to enhance the capacity and skills of which group in India?

[SSC CGL 12 Oct 2026, Shift-III]

(a) School students in rural areas
(b) Civil Servants in India
(c) Unorganized sector workers
(d) Small and Medium Entrepreneurs

ANSWER (b) Civil Servants in India

SSC Key (b) · Disputed question

The options fit Mission Karmayogi (National Programme for Civil Services Capacity Building), launched in 2020 to build the capacity and skills of civil servants through the iGOT Karmayogi platform, so civil servants are the intended answer. The question is

flawed because the printed stem merges two questions: SVAMITVA, which uses drone technology for mapping rural inhabited land, and a capacity-building scheme.

- SVAMITVA (Survey of Villages and Mapping with Improvised Technology in Village Areas) is a Ministry of Panchayati Raj scheme launched in 2020.
- It uses drone surveys to prepare property cards for rural households.
- Mission Karmayogi aims at a 'future-ready' civil service.

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22 The "PM Gati Shakti National Master Plan" aims to bring together various infrastructure projects. Which of the following is a primary objective of this initiative?

[SSC CGL 13 Oct 2026, Shift-I]

(a) To promote renewable energy adoption across the country.
(b) To create a unified and integrated infrastructure development framework.
(c) To enhance digital connectivity in rural areas.
(d) To boost agricultural productivity through better irrigation facilities.

ANSWER (b) To create a unified and integrated infrastructure ...

The primary objective of the PM Gati Shakti National Master Plan is to create a unified and integrated infrastructure development framework, so (B) is correct. It brings different Ministries and Departments onto a common GIS-based digital platform for coordinated planning and faster execution.

- It was launched by the Prime Minister on 13 October 2021, after being announced on 15 August 2021.
- It is built around seven engines: railways, roads, ports, waterways, airports, mass transport and logistics infrastructure.
- The Logistics Division of DPIIT is the nodal body.

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23 The "concept of 'One Nation, One Ration Card'" is aimed at ensuring food security for migrant workers and their families. Which of the following technologies or systems is primarily used to facilitate the seamless implementation of this initiative across the country?

[SSC CGL 13 Oct 2026, Shift-I]

(a) Blockchain technology for tracking foodgrain distribution.
(b) Biometric authentication through Aadhaar for beneficiary identification.
(c) Satellite imagery for monitoring the movement of ration trucks.
(d) Mobile applications for online registration of beneficiaries.

ANSWER (b) Biometric authentication through Aadhaar for beneficiary ...

One Nation One Ration Card is mainly facilitated by Aadhaar-based biometric authentication of beneficiaries at fair price shops, so (B) is correct. The beneficiary is identified through an electronic Point of Sale (ePoS) device, which allows the person to draw foodgrains from any fair price shop in the country.

- The system is supported by the Integrated Management of Public Distribution System (IM-PDS) portal, which links State PDS systems.
- The scheme is run by the Department of Food and Public Distribution.
- Ration cards under the NFSA are seeded with Aadhaar for this purpose.

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24 Which government initiative primarily focuses on improving the nutritional outcomes for children, pregnant women, and lactating mothers?

[SSC CGL 13 Oct 2026, Shift-II]

(a) National Health Mission (NHM)
(b) Integrated Child Development Services (ICDS) Scheme
(c) Poshan Abhiyaan (National Nutrition Mission)
(d) Pradhan Mantri Matru Vandana Yojana (PMMVY)

ANSWER (c) Poshan Abhiyaan (National Nutrition Mission)

Poshan Abhiyaan (National Nutrition Mission) focuses primarily on improving the nutritional outcomes of children, pregnant women and lactating mothers, so (C) is correct. It aims to reduce stunting, undernutrition, anaemia and low birth weight.

- It was launched on 8 March 2018 at Jhunjhunu, Rajasthan, and is run by the Ministry of Women and Child Development.
- It has been subsumed under Saksham Anganwadi and Poshan 2.0 since 2021-22.

- September is observed as Poshan Maah (Nutrition Month).

25 The "Pradhan Mantri Matsya Sampada Yojana (PMMSY)" focuses on a specific sector of the Indian economy. Which sector does this scheme primarily aim to develop?

[SSC CGL 13 Oct 2026, Shift-II]

(a) Dairy and animal husbandry
(b) Textile and garment industry
(c) Fisheries and aquaculture
(d) Renewable energy generation

ANSWER (c) Fisheries and aquaculture

The Pradhan Mantri Matsya Sampada Yojana (PMMSY) aims to develop the fisheries and aquaculture sector, so (C) is correct. It seeks to increase fish production and productivity, improve post-harvest infrastructure and raise the incomes of fishers and fish farmers.

- It was launched in September 2020 under the Atmanirbhar Bharat package, with an investment of about 20,050 crore rupees.
- It is run by the Department of Fisheries, Ministry of Fisheries, Animal Husbandry and Dairying.
- It is aimed at the Blue Revolution of sustainable fisheries.

26 Which of the following Government of India missions primarily aims to improve water-supply, sewerage, and septage-management infrastructure in urban areas?

[SSC CGL 13 Oct 2026, Shift-II]

(a) Pradhan Mantri Gram Sadak Yojana (PMGSY)
(b) National Solar Mission (NSM)
(c) Deendayal Antyodaya Yojana-National Urban Livelihoods Mission (DAY-NULM)
(d) Atal Mission for Rejuvenation and Urban Transformation (AMRUT)

ANSWER (d) Atal Mission for Rejuvenation and Urban Transformation ...

The Atal Mission for Rejuvenation and Urban Transformation (AMRUT) aims to improve water supply, sewerage and septage-management infrastructure in urban areas, so (D) is correct. AMRUT was launched on 25 June 2015 by the Ministry of Housing and Urban Affairs, and AMRUT 2.0 was launched on 1 October 2021.

- PMGSY (2000) is for rural road connectivity.
- The National Solar Mission was launched in 2010 under the National Action Plan on Climate Change.
- DAY-NULM focuses on urban poverty alleviation and livelihoods.

27 The government has a target to create 6 crore Lakhpati Didis. To fast-track this goal, which Ministry launched the National Campaign on Entrepreneurship in January 2026 in India?

[SSC CGL 13 Oct 2026, Shift-III]

(a) Ministry of Finance
(b) Ministry of Agriculture and Farmers Welfare
(c) Ministry of Rural Development
(d) Ministry of Women and Child Development

ANSWER (c) Ministry of Rural Development

As per the official answer key, the Ministry of Rural Development launched the National Campaign on Entrepreneurship, so (C) is correct. The Lakhpati Didi initiative is implemented through the Deendayal Antyodaya Yojana-National Rural Livelihoods Mission (DAY-NRLM) of the Ministry of Rural Development.

- A Lakhpati Didi is a Self-Help Group (SHG) member whose household earns at least 1 lakh rupees a year through sustainable livelihood activities.
- DAY-NRLM was launched in June 2011 as Aajeevika and was renamed DAY-NRLM in 2015.
- The Lakhpati Didi target was announced by the Prime Minister on 15 August 2023.

28 Which planning approach is essential for ensuring sustainable development of heritage and tourism towns according to the Urban and Regional Development Plans Formulation and Implementation (URDPFI) Guidelines?

[SSC CGL 13 Oct 2026, Shift-III]

(a) Military zoning
(b) Carrying capacity evaluation
(c) Defence mapping
(d) Export regulation

ANSWER (b) Carrying capacity evaluation

As per the official answer key, carrying capacity evaluation is the planning approach essential for the sustainable development of heritage and tourism

towns, so (B) is correct. It assesses how much tourist and urban load a town can bear without damaging its heritage, environment and infrastructure.

- The URDPFI Guidelines were formulated by the Town and Country Planning Organisation (TCPO) of the Ministry of Housing and Urban Affairs.
- The HRIDAY scheme (Heritage City Development and Augmentation Yojana) was launched in January 2015 for 12 heritage cities.
- Military zoning, defence mapping and export regulation have no role in heritage-town planning.

29 Under Atal Mission for Rejuvenation and Urban Transformation (AMRUT) 2.0, 100% water supply coverage is targeted for households in which areas in India?

[SSC CGL 14 Oct 2026, Shift-I]

(a) All rural households
(b) All households in all statutory towns
(c) Only households in Aspirational Districts
(d) Households in State Capitals only

ANSWER (b) All households in all statutory towns

Under AMRUT 2.0, universal (100 per cent) water-supply coverage is targeted for all households in all statutory towns of the country, so (B) is correct. Statutory towns are those with a municipality, corporation, cantonment board or notified town area committee.

- AMRUT 2.0 was launched on 1 October 2021 by the Ministry of Housing and Urban Affairs and runs till 2025-26.
- It also targets 100 per cent sewerage and septage coverage in the 500 AMRUT cities.
- Rural households are covered by the Jal Jeevan Mission (2019).

30 Under SISFS (Startup India Seed Fund Scheme) what is the maximum grant a startup can receive for proof of concept or prototype development?

[SSC CGL 14 Oct 2026, Shift-I]

(a) ₹30 Lakh
(b) ₹20 Lakh
(c) ₹40 Lakh
(d) ₹1 Crore

ANSWER (b) ₹20 Lakh

Under the Startup India Seed Fund Scheme (SISFS), a startup can receive a grant of up to 20 lakh rupees for proof of concept, prototype development or product trials, so (B) is correct. The grant is released through eligible incubators selected under the scheme.

- For market entry, product commercialisation or scaling up, startups can get investment of up to 50 lakh rupees through convertible debentures or debt-linked instruments.
- The scheme is run by the Department for Promotion of Industry and Internal Trade (DPIIT), with a corpus of 945 crore rupees.
- It was launched in 2021.

31 Which specific metric is used to track progress and ensure accountability for the 100 districts covered under the PM Dhan-Dhaanya Krishi Yojana (PMDDKY) in India?

[SSC CGL 14 Oct 2026, Shift-I]

(a) Consumer Price Index (CPI)
(b) Fiscal Deficit ratio
(c) District-level Key Performance Indicators (KPI)
(d) Gross Domestic Product (GDP) deflator

ANSWER (c) District-level Key Performance Indicators (KPI)

Progress of the districts under the PM Dhan-Dhaanya Krishi Yojana is tracked through district-level Key Performance Indicators (KPIs), supported by a digital dashboard and monthly review. CPI, fiscal deficit and GDP deflator are macroeconomic measures of the whole economy and are not used for monitoring individual districts.

- The scheme covers 100 agriculturally lagging districts and runs for six years from 2025-26.
- It brings together 36 existing schemes of 11 ministries; the Ministry of Agriculture & Farmers Welfare is the nodal ministry.
- Each district prepares a district agriculture plan through a District Dhan-Dhaanya Samiti headed by the District Collector.
- 117 KPIs are used to rank and monitor district performance.

32 According to the Urban and Regional Development Plans Formulation and Implementation (URDPFI) Guidelines, 2014, which of the following concepts is associated with climate change mitigation?

[SSC CGL 14 Oct 2026, Shift-I]

(a) Compact Housing (b) Green Building
(c) Vertical Zoning (d) Transit Housing

ANSWER (b) Green Building

The URDPFI Guidelines, 2014 discuss climate change mitigation and adaptation together in a dedicated section, and Green Building is the concept placed under it. Green buildings reduce energy use and greenhouse gas emissions, which is the essence of mitigation.

- URDPFI Guidelines were formulated by the then Ministry of Urban Development (now Housing and Urban Affairs) in 2014 and replaced the earlier UDPFI Guidelines, 1996.
- Mitigation means reducing the causes of climate change (emissions); adaptation means coping with its effects.
- Transit Oriented Development (TOD) is another urban planning tool discussed in the Guidelines.

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33 Under the National Quantum Mission (NQM), (2023-2031), India aims to develop intermediate-scale quantum computers with how many physical qubits?

[SSC CGL 14 Oct 2026, Shift-III]

(a) 10-20 Physical Qubits (b) 50-1000 Physical Qubits
(c) 1000-5000 Physical Qubits (d) 1 Million Physical Qubits

ANSWER (b) 50-1000 Physical Qubits

Under the National Quantum Mission, India aims to develop intermediate-scale quantum computers with 50 to 1000 physical qubits over the mission period. The mission was approved by the Union Cabinet in April 2023 for 2023-24 to 2030-31.

- Outlay of the mission is about ₹6,003 crore; it is implemented by the Department of Science and Technology.
- Four Thematic Hubs (T-Hubs) are being set up: quantum computing, quantum communication, quantum sensing & metrology, and quantum materials & devices.
- A qubit (quantum bit) can exist in a superposition of 0 and 1, unlike a classical bit.

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34 Pradhan Mantri Awas Yojana (Urban) 2.0, approved in India in 2024, seeks to provide housing assistance to which group of beneficiaries?

[SSC CGL 15 Oct 2026, Shift-II]

(a) Only the rural homeless
(b) 1 Crore urban poor and middle-class families
(c) Only government employees in Metro cities
(d) Residents of unauthorized colonies only

ANSWER (b) 1 Crore urban poor and middle-class families

PMAY-Urban 2.0, approved by the Union Cabinet in August 2024, aims to provide housing assistance to 1 crore urban poor and middle-class families. It supports the construction, purchase or rental of houses in urban areas.

- It has four verticals: Beneficiary-Led Construction (BLC), Affordable Housing in Partnership (AHP), Affordable Rental Housing (ARH) and Interest Subsidy Scheme (ISS).
- The original PMAY (Urban) was launched on 25 June 2015 under the 'Housing for All' goal.
- The Ministry of Housing and Urban Affairs implements the scheme.

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35 In India, under the NAMASTE (National Action for Mechanized Sanitation Ecosystem) scheme, which card is issued to sanitation workers to provide health insurance coverage under Ayushman Bharat–Pradhan Mantri Jan Arogya Yojana (AB-PMJAY)?

[SSC CGL 15 Oct 2026, Shift-II]

(a) Ayushman Bharat Golden Card (b) Ayushman Mitra Card
(c) Ayushman Health Card (d) Ayushman Suraksha Card

ANSWER (c) Ayushman Health Card

SSC Key (c) · Disputed question

As per the official key, the answer is the Ayushman Health Card. Under NAMASTE, sewer and septic tank workers are enrolled under AB-PMJAY, which provides health cover of up to ₹5 lakh per family per year. The option names are loose, since officially it is simply the 'Ayushman Card' (earlier called the Golden Card).

- NAMASTE is a scheme of the Ministry of Social Justice and Empowerment with the Ministry of Housing and Urban Affairs.

- Its aim is zero fatalities in sanitation work in India.
- Manual scavenging is prohibited under the Prohibition of Employment as Manual Scavengers and their Rehabilitation Act, 2013.

36 Under India's PM Vidyalaxmi Scheme, eligible students from families with an annual income between ₹4.5 lakh and ₹8 lakh are entitled to what rate of interest subvention during the moratorium period?

[SSC CGL 15 Oct 2026, Shift-II]

(a) 1% for loans up to ₹5 Lakh
(b) 3% for loans up to ₹10 Lakh
(c) 5% for loans up to ₹15 Lakh
(d) Full interest subvention for all loans

ANSWER (b) 3% for loans up to ₹10 Lakh

Under the PM Vidyalaxmi Scheme, students from families with annual income between ₹4.5 lakh and ₹8 lakh get a 3% interest subvention during the moratorium period on education loans of up to ₹10 lakh. The remaining options quote rates and loan limits that the scheme does not provide.

- The scheme was approved by the Union Cabinet in November 2024 to help meritorious students secure collateral-free and guarantor-free education loans.
- It covers students admitted to quality higher education institutions identified through the NIRF ranking.
- Loans are applied for through a single PM-Vidyalaxmi portal.

37 Under India's Smart Cities Mission, which of the following urban management systems is commonly described as the "brain" of a smart city?

[SSC CGL 15 Oct 2026, Shift-II]

(a) Integrated Command and Control Center (ICCC)
(b) Urban Mobility Management System (UMMS)
(c) Atal Mission for Rejuvenation and Urban Transformation (AMRUT)
(d) Geographic Information System (GIS) portal

ANSWER (a) Integrated Command and Control Center (ICCC)

The Integrated Command and Control Centre (ICCC) is called the 'brain' of a smart city because it collects real-time data from sensors, cameras and city services and helps authorities monitor and manage them from one place. AMRUT is a separate mission for water supply, sewerage and urban infrastructure, not a management system.

- The Smart Cities Mission and AMRUT were both launched on 25 June 2015 by the Ministry of Housing and Urban Affairs.
- The Smart Cities Mission selected 100 cities through a Smart City Challenge competition.
- ICCCs are used for traffic, water, waste, public safety and emergency response.

38 According to the National Green Hydrogen Mission, what is India's annual green hydrogen production target for the year 2030?

[SSC CGL 15 Oct 2026, Shift-III]

(a) 1 Million Metric Tonne (MMT)
(b) 5 Million Metric Tonne (MMT)
(c) 10 Million Metric Tonne (MMT)
(d) 25 Million Metric Tonne (MMT)

ANSWER (b) 5 Million Metric Tonne (MMT)

The National Green Hydrogen Mission targets an annual green hydrogen production capacity of 5 Million Metric Tonnes (MMT) by 2030. It was approved by the Union Cabinet in January 2023 to make India a global hub for green hydrogen production, use and export.

- The mission has an initial outlay of about ₹19,744 crore and is led by the Ministry of New and Renewable Energy (MNRE).
- Its main financial component is the SIGHT programme (Strategic Interventions for Green Hydrogen Transition).
- Green hydrogen is produced by electrolysis of water using renewable electricity.

39 Under India's Prime Minister's Overarching Scheme for Holistic Nourishment 2.0 (Poshan) in India initiative, the Supplementary Nutrition Programme has been aligned with which set of programmes as part of the Integrated Nutrition Support Programme?

[SSC CGL 16 Oct 2026, Shift-I]

(a) National Health Mission (NHM), Ayushman Bharat, Swachh Bharat Mission
(b) Anganwadi Services Scheme, Scheme for Adolescent Girls, POSHAN Abhiyaan
(c) Mission Indradhanush, Janani Suraksha Yojana, PM Matru Vandana Yojana
(d) Mid-Day Meal Scheme, Skill India Mission, Digital India Programme

ANSWER (b) Anganwadi Services Scheme, Scheme for Adolescent Girls, ...

Under Saksham Anganwadi and POSHAN 2.0, the Supplementary Nutrition Programme is aligned with the Anganwadi Services Scheme, the Scheme for Adolescent Girls and POSHAN Abhiyaan, which were merged into one integrated nutrition support programme. The other options mix in health, immunisation, sanitation and skilling schemes that are not part of this grouping.

- Poshan 2.0 was announced in the Union Budget 2021-22 and is implemented by the Ministry of Women and Child Development.
- POSHAN Abhiyaan (National Nutrition Mission) was launched on 8 March 2018 at Jhunjhunu, Rajasthan.
- Anganwadi centres are the delivery points under the Integrated Child Development Services (ICDS).

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40 Under the MISHTI (Mangrove Initiative for Shoreline Habitats & Tangible Incomes) initiative, which resource is prioritized for conservation and plantation along India's shoreline?

[SSC CGL 16 Oct 2026, Shift-II]

(a) Medicinal herbs in the Himalayas
(b) Mangroves along India's coastline
(c) Sandalwood trees in Southern India
(d) Bamboo clusters in the North East

ANSWER (b) Mangroves along India's coastline

MISHTI prioritises the conservation and plantation of mangroves along India's coastline and on salt-pan lands. Mangroves protect the coast from cyclones and erosion and support fisheries and local livelihoods.

- MISHTI was announced in the Union Budget 2023-24 and is implemented by the Ministry of Environment, Forest and Climate Change.
- It is carried out through convergence with MGNREGS and the CAMPA funds.
- The Sundarbans in West Bengal is the largest mangrove forest in the world.

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41 What is the daily stipend provided during the training period under the PM Vishwakarma Scheme in India?

[SSC CGL 16 Oct 2026, Shift-II]

(a) ₹200 per day
(b) ₹500 per day
(c) ₹750 per day
(d) ₹1,000 per day

ANSWER (b) ₹500 per day

Under the PM Vishwakarma Scheme, artisans and craftspeople receive a stipend of ₹500 per day during the training period. The scheme was launched on 17 September 2023.

- Beneficiaries also get a toolkit incentive of ₹15,000 and a PM Vishwakarma certificate and ID card.
- Collateral-free credit support is provided in two tranches, ₹1 lakh and then ₹2 lakh, at a concessional interest rate of 5%.
- The scheme covers 18 traditional trades and is run by the Ministry of Micro, Small and Medium Enterprises.

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42 Which scheme aims to improve groundwater management through community participation?

[SSC CGL 16 Oct 2026, Shift-III]

(a) National Aquifer Mapping Programme
(b) Jal Jeevan Mission
(c) Atal Bhujal Yojana
(d) Jal Kranti Abhiyan

ANSWER (c) Atal Bhujal Yojana

Atal Bhujal Yojana aims to improve groundwater management through community participation and demand-side management. Jal Jeevan Mission supplies tap water to rural households, while the National Aquifer Mapping Programme only maps aquifers.

- Atal Bhujal Yojana was launched on 25 December 2019 by the Ministry of Jal Shakti, with World Bank support.
- It covers water-stressed areas of seven states: Gujarat, Haryana, Karnataka, Madhya Pradesh, Maharashtra, Rajasthan and Uttar Pradesh.
- Jal Jeevan Mission aims at 'Har Ghar Jal', functional tap water connection to every rural household.

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43 What is the main focus of the Amrit Bharat Station Scheme introduced by the Ministry of Railways, Government of India?

[SSC CGL 22 Oct 2026, Shift-I]

(a) Building new high-speed rail corridors
(b) Continuous development of railway stations with a long-term vision
(c) Privatization of all premium trains
(d) Providing free Wi-Fi in 100% of rural stations

ANSWER (b) Continuous development of railway stations with a ...

The Amrit Bharat Station Scheme focuses on the continuous, long-term development of railway stations through master plans, with improvements in facilities such as circulating areas, waiting halls, toilets, signage and accessibility. It is about upgrading existing stations, not building high-speed corridors or privatising trains.

- The scheme was launched by the Ministry of Railways in February 2023, covering more than 1,300 stations across the country.
- Station upgrades follow a phased plan, with new facilities added as needs arise.
- Passenger comfort, 'One Station One Product' stalls and local-culture-based design are part of the vision.

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44 What is the present name of the Mid-Day Meal Scheme in India (2026)?

[SSC CGL 22 Oct 2026, Shift-I]

(a) National School Nutrition Programme (NSNP)
(b) PM POSHAN (Pradhan Mantri Poshan Shakti Nirman)
(c) Pradhan Mantri Annapurna Yojana (PMAY)
(d) Pradhan Mantri Shakti Aahar Yojana (PM-Shakti Aahar Yojana)

ANSWER (b) PM POSHAN (Pradhan Mantri Poshan Shakti Nirman)

The Mid-Day Meal Scheme is now called PM POSHAN (Pradhan Mantri Poshan Shakti Nirman). It was renamed in September 2021 when the Union Cabinet approved its continuation, and the Ministry of Education administers it.

- The Mid-Day Meal programme began on 15 August 1995 as the National Programme of Nutritional Support to Primary Education.
- It was renamed Mid-Day Meal Scheme in 2004 and became a legal entitlement under the National Food Security Act, 2013.
- Tamil Nadu was the earliest state to introduce a school noon-meal programme at scale.

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45 The Prime Minister's Development Initiative for North East Region (PM-DevINE) in India is fully funded by which organization?

[SSC CGL 22 Oct 2026, Shift-II]

(a) Reserve Bank of India
(b) Government of India
(c) National Development Council (NDC), India
(d) NITI Aayog, India

ANSWER (b) Government of India

PM-DevINE is a Central Sector Scheme that is fully funded by the Government of India. It funds infrastructure and social development projects in the North Eastern Region, filling gaps left by other schemes.

- It was announced in the Union Budget 2022-23 and approved by the Union Cabinet in October 2022.
- The Ministry of Development of North Eastern Region (DoNER) is the nodal ministry.
- The scheme supports livelihood activities for youth and women, in addition to infrastructure.

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46 Mission Vatsalya, launched by India's Ministry of Women and Child Development, is primarily focused on which of the following areas?

[SSC CGL 22 Oct 2026, Shift-III]

(a) Higher education for girl children
(b) Child protection and welfare services
(c) Maternal and child healthcare services
(d) Women's education and skill development

ANSWER (b) Child protection and welfare services

Mission Vatsalya is primarily focused on child protection and welfare services. It is the umbrella scheme that follows the earlier Integrated Child Protection Scheme and supports children in need of care and protection.

- It aims to ensure a safe, nurturing environment for every child and to uphold the Juvenile Justice (Care and Protection of Children) Act.

- The scheme supports child care institutions, foster care, sponsorship and adoption.
- The Ministry of Women and Child Development implements it.

47 Which ministry is the nodal ministry for administering the PM Dhan-Dhaanya Krishi Yojana in India?

[SSC CGL 22 Oct 2026, Shift-III]

(a) Ministry of Rural Development
(b) Ministry of Agriculture & Farmers Welfare
(c) Ministry of Consumer Affairs, Food and Public Distribution
(d) Ministry of Chemicals and Fertilizers

ANSWER (b) Ministry of Agriculture & Farmers Welfare

The Ministry of Agriculture & Farmers Welfare is the nodal ministry for the PM Dhan-Dhaanya Krishi Yojana. The scheme was approved by the Union Cabinet in July 2025 after being announced in the Union Budget 2025-26.

- It targets 100 districts with low agricultural productivity, low cropping intensity and below-average credit.
- It converges 36 existing schemes of 11 ministries and runs for six years from 2025-26.
- The scheme is inspired by the Aspirational Districts Programme.

48 Which government initiative primarily focuses on enhancing skill development and vocational training opportunities for the youth in India?

[SSC CGL 23 Oct 2026, Shift-I]

(a) Startup India
(b) Make in India
(c) Skill India Mission
(d) National Education Policy (NEP) 2020

ANSWER (c) Skill India Mission

Skill India Mission is the flagship initiative aimed at enhancing skill development and vocational training for the youth. Startup India supports new enterprises, Make in India promotes manufacturing, and NEP 2020 is a broad education policy.

- Skill India was launched on 15 July 2015, observed as World Youth Skills Day.
- Its major component schemes include Pradhan Mantri Kaushal Vikas Yojana (PMKVY).
- Make in India was launched on 25 September 2014 and Startup India on 16 January 2016.

49 The "Swachh Bharat Mission" has two main components: Swachh Bharat Mission (Gramin) and Swachh Bharat Mission (Urban). What is the primary objective of the Swachh Bharat Mission (Gramin)?

[SSC CGL 23 Oct 2026, Shift-I]

(a) To improve the air quality in rural areas through pollution control measures.
(b) To achieve Open Defecation Free (ODF) status and improve solid and liquid waste management in rural India.
(c) To provide access to clean drinking water to all rural households.
(d) To promote digital literacy and access to online services in rural communities.

ANSWER (b) To achieve Open Defecation Free (ODF) status and improve ...

The primary objective of Swachh Bharat Mission (Gramin) is to make rural India Open Defecation Free (ODF) and to improve solid and liquid waste management in villages. Providing drinking water is the task of Jal Jeevan Mission, not SBM-G.

- Swachh Bharat Mission was launched on 2 October 2014; rural India was declared ODF on 2 October 2019.
- SBM-G Phase II (from 2020-21) focuses on ODF Plus, which means sustaining ODF status and managing solid and liquid waste.
- SBM (Gramin) is implemented by the Ministry of Jal Shakti; SBM (Urban) by the Ministry of Housing and Urban Affairs.

50 What is the primary objective of smart mobility initiatives in smart cities?

[SSC CGL 23 Oct 2026, Shift-I]

(a) Increase road congestion and travel delays
(b) Improve the efficiency and safety of urban transport
(c) Reduce public transport usage and accessibility
(d) Promote private vehicles and discourage shared mobility

ANSWER (b) Improve the efficiency and safety of urban transport

The primary objective of smart mobility initiatives is to improve the efficiency and safety of urban transport. They use technology such as intelligent traffic signals, real-time public transport information and integrated ticketing to cut congestion and travel time.

- Common smart mobility tools include Intelligent Transport Systems (ITS), smart cards and bike-sharing.
- Smart mobility promotes public and shared transport and non-motorised options such as walking and cycling.
- It supports lower pollution and better access for all sections of society.

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51 Which module of the Sanchar Saathi portal enables citizens to block their lost or stolen mobile phones across India?

[SSC CGL 23 Oct 2026, Shift-II]

(a) TAFCOP (Telecom Analytics for Fraud Management and Consumer Protection)
(b) CEIR (Central Equipment Identity Register)
(c) RICWIN (Report Incoming International Call With Indian Number)
(d) KYM (Know Your Mobile)

ANSWER (b) CEIR (Central Equipment Identity Register)

The CEIR (Central Equipment Identity Register) module of the Sanchar Saathi portal lets citizens block lost or stolen mobile phones across India using the phone's IMEI number, and also unblock it if recovered. TAFCOP checks the mobile connections taken in one's name, and KYM verifies a handset's genuineness.

- Sanchar Saathi is an initiative of the Department of Telecommunications (DoT), launched in May 2023.
- IMEI stands for International Mobile Equipment Identity.
- RICWIN is for reporting suspicious incoming international calls that appear with Indian numbers.

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52 In India, under which health scheme are healthcare benefits provided to gig and platform workers as announced in the Union Budget 2025–26?

[SSC CGL 23 Oct 2026, Shift-II]

(a) NUHM (National Urban Health Mission)
(b) AB-PMJAY (Ayushman Bharat Pradhan Mantri Jan Arogya Yojana)
(c) PM-KUSUM (Pradhan Mantri Kisan Urja Suraksha evam Utthan Mahabhiyan)
(d) Mission Indradhanush

ANSWER (b) AB-PMJAY (Ayushman Bharat Pradhan Mantri Jan Arogya Yojana)

The Union Budget 2025-26 announced that gig and platform workers would get identity cards, registration on the e-Shram portal and health coverage under AB-PMJAY (Ayushman Bharat Pradhan Mantri Jan Arogya Yojana). PM-KUSUM is a solar energy scheme and Mission Indradhanush is an immunisation programme.

- AB-PMJAY was launched on 23 September 2018 and offers health cover of ₹5 lakh per family per year.
- The e-Shram portal, launched in August 2021, is the national database of unorganised workers.
- The Code on Social Security, 2020 formally recognises gig and platform workers.

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53 Which scheme is aimed at promoting entrepreneurship among SC/ST and women entrepreneurs?

[SSC CGL 23 Oct 2026, Shift-III]

(a) Pradhan Mantri Kaushal Vikas Yojana
(b) Start-Up India
(c) Stand-Up India Scheme
(d) Skill India Mission

ANSWER (c) Stand-Up India Scheme

The Stand-Up India Scheme promotes entrepreneurship among SC/ST and women entrepreneurs by facilitating bank loans for setting up a new (greenfield) enterprise. Start-Up India is a general scheme for startups and does not target these groups specifically.

- Stand-Up India was launched on 5 April 2016.
- It provides bank loans between ₹10 lakh and ₹1 crore to at least one SC/ST borrower and one woman borrower per bank branch.
- The enterprise may be in manufacturing, services, trading or agri-allied activities.

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54 **Consider the following statements about the One Sun, One World, One Grid (OSOWOG) initiative:**
1) It promotes cross-border solar energy sharing among nations.
2) It replaces energy storage with coal-based backup systems.
Which of the above **is/are correct?**

[SSC CGL 23 Oct 2026, Shift-III]

(a) Only 1
(b) Only 2
(c) 1 and 2 Both
(d) Neither 1 nor 2

ANSWER (a) Only 1

Statement 1 is correct: OSOWOG promotes cross-border sharing of solar energy through interconnected power grids. Statement 2 is wrong, because the initiative is built on clean renewable energy and does not replace storage with coal-based backup. Hence only statement 1 is correct.

- The idea was put forward by India's Prime Minister at the first Assembly of the International Solar Alliance (ISA) in October 2018.
- The theme is that 'the Sun never sets' somewhere in the world, so solar power can be shared across time zones.
- It is supported by the Ministry of New and Renewable Energy and works with the ISA.

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55 What is the primary focus of **Component-C** under India's PM-KUSUM (Pradhan Mantri Kisan Urja Suraksha evam Utthaan Mahabhiyaan) scheme?

[SSC CGL 24 Oct 2026, Shift-I]

(a) Installation of 20 lakh standalone solar-powered pumps.
(b) Addition of 10,000 MW (Megawatt) capacity through small solar plants.
(c) Solarization of existing grid-connected agricultural pumps.
(d) Distribution of solar lanterns to rural landless households.

ANSWER (c) Solarization of existing grid-connected agricultural pumps.

Component-C of PM-KUSUM aims at solarisation of existing grid-connected agricultural pumps, so that farmers use solar power and can also sell surplus electricity to the grid. Adding 10,000 MW through small plants is Component-A and 20 lakh standalone solar pumps is Component-B.

- PM-KUSUM was launched in 2019 by the Ministry of New and Renewable Energy (MNRE).
- Component-A: 10,000 MW decentralised grid-connected solar plants; Component-B: standalone solar pumps.
- Component-C targets solarisation of 15 lakh grid-connected agricultural pumps.

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56 What is the purpose of the Platform Aggregator Module launched on the e-Shram portal?

[SSC CGL 24 Oct 2026, Shift-III]

(a) A tool to aggregate crop prices
(b) A module for registering platform aggregators
(c) A system to aggregate voter lists
(d) A tool for bank loans

ANSWER (b) A module for registering platform aggregators

The Platform Aggregator Module on the e-Shram portal is meant for registering platform aggregators (digital platform companies) so that the gig and platform workers linked to them can be identified and brought under social security benefits. It has nothing to do with crop prices, voter lists or bank loans.

- e-Shram, launched in August 2021, is the national database of unorganised workers run by the Ministry of Labour and Employment.
- Registered workers get a Universal Account Number (UAN) and an e-Shram card.
- The Code on Social Security, 2020 defines 'gig worker', 'platform worker' and 'aggregator'.

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57 The Namo Drone Didi scheme provides drones to women Self-Help Groups primarily to help them offer which service?

[SSC CGL 27 Oct 2026, Shift-II]

(a) Conducting aerial mapping of forest areas
(b) Delivering emergency medical supplies in villages
(c) Providing drone rental services to farmers for agricultural operations
(d) Monitoring urban traffic and infrastructure

ANSWER (c) Providing drone rental services to farmers for ...

Under the Namo Drone Didi scheme, women Self-Help Groups are given drones mainly to provide drone rental services to farmers for agricultural operations such as spraying fertiliser and pesticides. This gives the SHGs a sustainable income and makes farming more efficient.

- The scheme was approved by the Union Cabinet in November 2023 for 15,000 women SHGs.
- It is run by the Department of Agriculture and Farmers Welfare, with fertiliser companies also taking part.
- Selected women are trained in drone piloting and in drone maintenance.

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58 The 'Mission Karmayogi' launched by the Government of India is aimed at:

[SSC CGL 27 Oct 2026, Shift-III]

(a) Skill development for youth
(b) Reforming the recruitment of IAS officers
(c) Capacity building of civil servants
(d) Digital literacy for rural India

ANSWER (c) Capacity building of civil servants

Mission Karmayogi is aimed at capacity building of civil servants. Its official name is the National Programme for Civil Services Capacity Building (NPCSCB), launched in September 2020 to make civil servants more creative, constructive and technology-enabled.

- Training is delivered mainly through the iGOT-Karmayogi online platform.
- A Capacity Building Commission was set up under the programme to oversee training standards.
- The programme is not limited to IAS officers; it covers civil servants at all levels.

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59 What policy initiative helps improve local manufacturing capacity through specialization at the district level?

[SSC CGL 27 Oct 2026, Shift-III]

(a) Make in India
(b) BharatNet
(c) One District One Product (ODOP)
(d) Skill India

ANSWER (c) One District One Product (ODOP)

One District One Product (ODOP) helps improve local manufacturing capacity by identifying and promoting a specialised product of each district. It supports value addition, marketing and branding of local products.

- ODOP is implemented by the Department for Promotion of Industry and Internal Trade (DPIIT), Ministry of Commerce and Industry.
- BharatNet aims to provide broadband connectivity to Gram Panchayats.
- ODOP is also linked with schemes such as PM Formalisation of Micro Food Processing Enterprises (PMFME).

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60 Which of the following initiatives focuses on the capacity building of civil servants?

[SSC CGL 27 Oct 2026, Shift-III]

(a) Mission Antyodaya
(b) Mission Indradhanush
(c) Mission Karmayogi
(d) Mission Shakti

ANSWER (c) Mission Karmayogi

Mission Karmayogi (National Programme for Civil Services Capacity Building) focuses on the capacity building of civil servants. The other missions deal with rural poverty, immunisation and women's empowerment respectively.

- Mission Karmayogi was launched in September 2020 and uses the iGOT-Karmayogi platform.
- Mission Indradhanush is an immunisation programme launched in December 2014.
- Mission Shakti is the Ministry of Women and Child Development's umbrella scheme for women's safety and empowerment.

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61 Under the Agnipath Scheme in India, what is the initial tenure of service for an Agniveer?

[SSC CGL 28 Oct 2026, Shift-I]

(a) 2 years
(b) 4 years
(c) 5 years
(d) 10 years

ANSWER (b) 4 years

Under the Agnipath Scheme, an Agniveer is initially recruited for a tenure of 4 years in the armed forces. The scheme was announced in June 2022 for

recruitment of personnel below officer rank in the Army, Navy and Air Force.

- After the 4-year tenure, up to 25% of each batch is to be retained in regular service for a further 15 years.
- Those leaving at the end of the tenure receive the Seva Nidhi package.
- Recruitment is open to candidates in the age group of 17.5 to 21 years.

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62 Under the PMDDKY (Pradhan Mantri Dhan-Dhaanya Krishi Yojana) in India, which institution partners with each district to provide technical knowledge and support?

[SSC CGL 28 Oct 2026, Shift-III]

(a) Indian Space Research Organisation (ISRO)
(b) Central or State Agricultural University
(c) National Bank for Agriculture and Rural Development (NABARD)
(d) Food Corporation of India (FCI)

ANSWER (b) Central or State Agricultural University

As per the official answer key, a Central or State Agricultural University partners with each district under PMDDKY to provide technical knowledge and support. This fits the scheme's focus on district agriculture plans backed by agricultural science institutions such as universities and Krishi Vigyan Kendras.

- The scheme covers 100 districts and is led by the Ministry of Agriculture & Farmers Welfare.
- District Dhan-Dhaanya Samitis headed by the District Collector prepare the district agriculture plans.
- ISRO, NABARD and FCI are not the district knowledge partners under the scheme.

PART B Current Affairs

63 Which high-level global metric predominantly derives its evaluation of subjective well-being from data collected through the Gallup World Poll?

[SSC CGL 30 Sep 2026, Shift-II]

(a) World Happiness Index
(b) Global Competitiveness Index
(c) Environmental Performance Index
(d) Human Development Index

ANSWER (a) World Happiness Index

The World Happiness Report (often called the World Happiness Index) ranks countries mainly on the basis of life evaluations from the Gallup World Poll, in which people rate their lives on a ladder scale from 0 to 10. It is published around 20 March, the International Day of Happiness, by the Wellbeing Research Centre at the University of Oxford with Gallup and the UN Sustainable Development Solutions Network.

- The 2025 edition covered 147 countries, with Finland ranked first.
- Six factors explain differences: GDP per capita, social support, healthy life expectancy, freedom, generosity and perceptions of corruption.
- The Human Development Index is published by UNDP, and the Environmental Performance Index by Yale and Columbia universities.

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64 Which of the following satellites is launched by ISRO for disaster management and natural resource monitoring?

[SSC CGL 30 Sep 2026, Shift-II]

(a) Astrosat
(b) GSAT
(c) RISAT
(d) Cartosat

ANSWER (c) RISAT

RISAT (Radar Imaging Satellite) is the ISRO series used for disaster management and natural resource monitoring. Its synthetic aperture radar works in the microwave band, so it can image the Earth day and night and through clouds, which makes it useful for flood monitoring, agriculture and forestry.

- RISAT-1 was launched in 2012 and RISAT-2B in 2019.
- Astrosat (2015) is India's first dedicated multi-wavelength space observatory.
- GSAT satellites are communication satellites, and Cartosat satellites are used for cartography and urban planning.

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65 Which technology is ISRO testing through the RLV-TD project?

[SSC CGL 30 Sep 2026, Shift-II]

(a) Robotic lunar excavation
(b) Underwater satellite deployment
(c) Deep space communication
(d) Reusable space launch vehicles

ANSWER (d) Reusable space launch vehicles

RLV-TD (Reusable Launch Vehicle – Technology Demonstrator) is the ISRO programme to test technologies for reusable space launch vehicles, which can return to Earth and be used again to cut the cost of access to space. The winged vehicle has been tested in hypersonic flight and in autonomous landing experiments.

- The Landing Experiment (LEX) tests were carried out at the Aeronautical Test Range, Chitradurga, Karnataka (2023–2024), with the vehicle named 'Pushpak'.
- Reusability is the key feature of such launchers because conventional rockets are expendable.
- The other options do not relate to the RLV-TD programme.

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66 What is a key aspect of the Quad's (Quadrilateral Security Dialogue) approach to regional security?

[SSC CGL 30 Sep 2026, Shift-II]

(a) Forming a formal military alliance
(b) Promoting multilateral cooperation
(c) Isolating regional powers
(d) Creating exclusive trade blocs

ANSWER (b) Promoting multilateral cooperation

The Quad (Quadrilateral Security Dialogue) is a strategic grouping of India, the USA, Japan and Australia that promotes multilateral cooperation for a free, open and inclusive Indo-Pacific. It is not a formal military alliance; its work covers maritime security, supply chains, health, climate, technology and infrastructure.

- The idea was first mooted in 2007 and revived in 2017; leaders' level summits began in 2021.
- The Malabar naval exercise involves the Quad countries.
- Unlike NATO, the Quad has no mutual defence treaty or permanent secretariat.

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67 The emphasis on "South-South Cooperation" within BRICS (Brazil, Russia, India, China, and South Africa) primarily implies cooperation among:

[SSC CGL 30 Sep 2026, Shift-III]

(a) Developed industrial economies
(b) Socialist states only
(c) Developing and emerging economies
(d) Northern Hemisphere countries

ANSWER (c) Developing and emerging economies

'South-South Cooperation' means cooperation among developing and emerging economies of the Global South (Asia, Africa and Latin America) in trade, technology, finance and development. BRICS promotes it by pooling the influence of major emerging economies and has set up the New Development Bank (NDB) for this purpose.

- 'North-South' cooperation refers to cooperation between developed (North) and developing (South) countries.
- The NDB, headquartered in Shanghai, was established in 2015 following the 2014 Fortaleza summit.
- The term 'BRIC' was coined by economist Jim O'Neill in 2001.

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68 BRICS (Brazil, Russia, India, China, and South Africa) summits are generally characterized by:

[SSC CGL 30 Sep 2026, Shift-III]

(a) Enforcement sanctions on member states
(b) Judicial dispute settlement mechanisms
(c) Consensus-based political declarations
(d) Legally binding treaty negotiations

ANSWER (c) Consensus-based political declarations

BRICS summits are known for consensus-based political declarations. BRICS is an informal grouping without a charter, a permanent secretariat or binding treaties, so decisions are taken by consensus among members and declarations are statements of intent, not enforceable law.

- The first summit was held in Yekaterinburg, Russia, in 2009.
- South Africa joined in 2010, making BRIC into BRICS.
- The grouping expanded in 2024 to include Egypt, Ethiopia, Iran and the UAE.

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69 Who has been appointed as the 27th Chief of the Naval Staff (CNS) of the Indian Navy in May 2026?

[SSC CGL 30 Sep 2026, Shift-III]

(a) Admiral Dinesh Kumar Tripathi
(b) Admiral Krishna Swaminathan
(c) Admiral Radhakrishnan Hari Kumar
(d) Vice Admiral Sanjay Vatsayan

ANSWER (b) Admiral Krishna Swaminathan

Admiral Krishna Swaminathan took over as the 27th Chief of the Naval Staff of the Indian Navy on 31 May 2026. He was earlier Flag Officer Commanding-in-Chief of the Western Naval Command.

- His predecessor, Admiral Dinesh Kumar Tripathi, was the 26th Chief of the Naval Staff (from 30 April 2024).
- Admiral R. Hari Kumar was the 25th Chief of the Naval Staff (2021–2024).
- The Chief of the Naval Staff is the professional head of the Indian Navy; the President of India is its Supreme Commander.

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70 In June 2026, which of the following protected areas in Assam recorded its first-ever sighting of the Yellow-throated Marten?

[SSC CGL 30 Sep 2026, Shift-III]

(a) Manas National Park
(b) Nameri National Park
(c) Kaziranga National Park
(d) Dibru-Saikhowa National Park

ANSWER (c) Kaziranga National Park

Kaziranga National Park in Assam recorded its first-ever sighting of the Yellow-throated Marten (Martes flavigula) in June 2026. The yellow-throated marten, also called the kharza, is a member of the weasel family, found across forests of South and East Asia, and is listed as 'Least Concern' by the IUCN.

- Kaziranga is a UNESCO World Heritage Site (1985) and is famous for the one-horned rhinoceros.
- It was declared a Tiger Reserve in 2006.
- The park lies along the Brahmaputra river in Assam.

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71 Which ISRO launch vehicle is being upgraded with the Semicryogenic Engine (SE2000)?

[SSC CGL 30 Sep 2026, Shift-III]

(a) Polar Satellite Launch Vehicle (PSLV)
(b) Geosynchronous Satellite Launch Vehicle (GSLV Mk II)
(c) Launch Vehicle Mark-3 (LVM3)
(d) Small Satellite Launch Vehicle (SSLV)

ANSWER (c) Launch Vehicle Mark-3 (LVM3)

The semicryogenic engine SE2000 is being developed to upgrade the Launch Vehicle Mark-3 (LVM3), where it is meant to replace the liquid-fuelled L110 core stage by a more powerful semicryogenic stage that uses liquid oxygen and refined kerosene. The engine, with a thrust of 2000 kN, is being developed by the ISRO Liquid Propulsion Systems Centre (LPSC).

- A semicryogenic engine uses kerosene as fuel and liquid oxygen as oxidiser, which are easier to store than liquid hydrogen.
- The upgrade is expected to raise the payload capacity of LVM3 substantially.
- LVM3 launched Chandrayaan-3 in July 2023.

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72 What does IMEC stand for?

[SSC CGL 01 Oct 2026, Shift-I]

(a) Indian Maritime Economic Council
(b) India-Middle East-Europe Economic Corridor
(c) International Monetary Economic Committee
(d) Indo-Mediterranean Export Corporation

ANSWER (b) India-Middle East-Europe Economic Corridor

IMEC stands for India-Middle East-Europe Economic Corridor, a connectivity project announced on the sidelines of the G20 Summit in New Delhi in September 2023. It aims to link India with the Gulf region and Europe through shipping lanes and railway networks, along with energy pipelines and digital cables.

- It consists of an eastern corridor linking India to the Arabian Gulf and a northern corridor linking the Gulf to Europe.
- The project is seen as an alternative to China's Belt and Road Initiative.
- The other expansions in the options do not exist as established bodies.

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73 What is the main form of transportation that will be used within the IMEC (India-Middle East-Europe Economic Corridor) corridor?

[SSC CGL 01 Oct 2026, Shift-I]

(a) Air travel
(b) Maritime and Rail
(c) Solely road transport
(d) Solely space travel

ANSWER (b) Maritime and Rail

The IMEC corridor is designed to rely mainly on maritime and rail transport: ships will carry goods from India to the Gulf ports, a railway network across the Gulf region will move them onward, and ships will again connect the Mediterranean ports to Europe. Besides transport, it plans electricity and hydrogen pipelines and high-speed data cables.

- The corridor was announced at the G20 New Delhi Summit (September 2023).
- It aims to cut transit time and cost compared with existing routes.
- Air, road-only and space travel are not the corridor's main modes.

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74 In the 2025 World Happiness Report, how many countries were included in the survey?

[SSC CGL 01 Oct 2026, Shift-II]

(a) 140
(b) 150
(c) 146
(d) 147

ANSWER (d) 147

The World Happiness Report 2025 ranked 147 countries on the basis of average life evaluations over the previous three years, taken from the Gallup World Poll. Finland was ranked first in the 2025 report.

- The report is released every year around 20 March, the International Day of Happiness.
- It is produced by the Wellbeing Research Centre (University of Oxford), Gallup and the UN Sustainable Development Solutions Network.
- The ranking is based on a three-year average of life evaluation scores.

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75 Who is the ninth chairperson of the National Commission for Women (NCW)?

[SSC CGL 01 Oct 2026, Shift-II]

(a) Rekha Sharma
(b) Lalitha Kumaramangalam
(c) Vijaya Rahatkar
(d) Smriti Irani

ANSWER (c) Vijaya Rahatkar

Vijaya Rahatkar is the ninth Chairperson of the National Commission for Women (NCW), appointed in August 2024; she succeeded Rekha Sharma. A BJP leader from Maharashtra, she earlier headed the Maharashtra State Commission for Women.

- NCW is a statutory body established in January 1992 under the National Commission for Women Act, 1990.
- Its first chairperson was Jayanti Patnaik.
- Lalitha Kumaramangalam was a former NCW chairperson (2014–2017); Smriti Irani has been a Union Minister but was never NCW chairperson.

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76 Which one of the following Chief Ministers of West Bengal was sworn in May 2011?

[SSC CGL 01 Oct 2026, Shift-II]

(a) Mamata Banerjee
(b) Suvendu Adhikari
(c) Partha Chatterjee
(d) Abhishek Banerjee

ANSWER (a) Mamata Banerjee

Mamata Banerjee was sworn in as the Chief Minister of West Bengal on 20 May 2011, after the Trinamool Congress-led alliance won the 2011 Assembly elections and ended 34 years of Left Front rule. She became the first woman Chief Minister of West Bengal.

- The Left Front government had been led earlier by Jyoti Basu and then Buddhadeb Bhattacharjee.
- Mamata Banerjee founded the All India Trinamool Congress in 1998.
- The other names in the options never held the office in May 2011.

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77 The state of Uttarakhand has recently taken steps towards implementing a Uniform Civil Code. What is a key feature of the proposed Uniform Civil Code(UCC) in Uttarakhand?

[SSC CGL 01 Oct 2026, Shift-II]

(a) Mandatory religious conversions.
(b) Uniform laws for marriage, divorce, and inheritance, excluding tribal communities.
(c) Abolition of all existing personal laws immediately.
(d) Introduction of Sharia law for all citizens.

ANSWER (b) Uniform laws for marriage, divorce, and inheritance, ...

The Uttarakhand Uniform Civil Code provides uniform laws on marriage, divorce, succession (inheritance) and live-in relationships for residents, but it excludes the Scheduled Tribes (tribal communities).

Uttarakhand became the first state in independent India to enact a UCC; the Act was passed in February 2024 and brought into force on 27 January 2025.

- Article 44 of the Directive Principles of State Policy asks the State to secure a uniform civil code for citizens.
- Goa has had a common civil code since the Portuguese era, but it was not enacted by an independent Indian state.
- The law does not abolish religion or impose any religious law.

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78 The inclusion of Myanmar transformed BIST-EC (Bangladesh, India, Sri Lanka, Thailand Economic Cooperation) into:

[SSC CGL 01 Oct 2026, Shift-III]

(a) BBIN (Bangladesh, Bhutan, India, Nepal)
(b) BIMST-EC (Bangladesh, India, Myanmar, Sri Lanka, Thailand Economic Cooperation)
(c) ASEAN-EC (Association of Southeast Asian Nations Economic Cooperation)
(d) BIMSTEC Plus (Bay of Bengal Initiative for Multi-Sectoral Technical and Economic Cooperation Plus)

ANSWER (b) BIMST-EC (Bangladesh, India, Myanmar, Sri Lanka, Thailand ...

BIST-EC was formed in June 1997 through the Bangkok Declaration with four members: Bangladesh, India, Sri Lanka and Thailand. When Myanmar joined in December 1997, it became BIMST-EC (Bangladesh, India, Myanmar, Sri Lanka, Thailand Economic Cooperation).

- Nepal and Bhutan joined in 2004, after which the grouping was renamed BIMSTEC (Bay of Bengal Initiative for Multi-Sectoral Technical and Economic Cooperation).
- BIMSTEC now has seven members, and its Secretariat is in Dhaka, Bangladesh.
- It links South Asia and Southeast Asia and is important for India's 'Neighbourhood First' and 'Act East' policies.

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79 Who was appointed as Executive Director of the Reserve Bank of India with effect from March 3, 2026?

[SSC CGL 01 Oct 2026, Shift-III]

(a) Ajay Seth
(b) Sanjay Kumar Hansda
(c) Rajeshwar Rao
(d) T. Rabi Sankar

ANSWER (b) Sanjay Kumar Hansda

Sanjay Kumar Hansda was appointed Executive Director of the Reserve Bank of India with effect from 3 March 2026, as per the official answer key. He was earlier an adviser at the International Monetary Fund (IMF), and the RBI announced the appointment through a press release.

- Executive Directors in the RBI are appointed by the Central Government and assist the Governor and Deputy Governors in the working of various departments.
- T. Rabi Sankar is a Deputy Governor of the RBI, and Rajeshwar Rao was a former Deputy Governor.
- Ajay Seth is the Union Economic Affairs Secretary.

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80 How much did the payload performance of the Small Satellite Launch Vehicle increase due to the first carbon-epoxy solid motor case used in its Solid Stage-3 motor during ISRO's 2025 Technology Demonstration tests?

[SSC CGL 01 Oct 2026, Shift-III]

(a) 40 kg
(b) 60 kg
(c) 90 kg
(d) 120 kg

ANSWER (c) 90 kg

The use of the first carbon-epoxy solid motor case in the SSLV's third stage (SS3) improved the payload performance of the vehicle by 90 kg, as reported after ISRO's ground test at Sriharikota in December 2025. The lighter composite case reduces the stage's inert mass, so more of the vehicle's capacity is available for payload.

- SSLV is ISRO's small satellite launch vehicle meant for launching small satellites to low Earth orbit on demand.
- Composite materials such as carbon-epoxy are lighter and stronger than metal casings.
- The test was conducted at the Satish Dhawan Space Centre, Sriharikota.

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81 Which BRICS nation uses the Ruble as its official currency?

[SSC CGL 05 Oct 2026, Shift-I]

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

ANSWER (c) Russia

Russia uses the Ruble (rouble) as its official currency; its central bank is the Bank of Russia. The currencies of the other founding BRICS members are different.

- China uses the Renminbi (yuan), India the Rupee, South Africa the Rand and Brazil the Real.
- BRICS's New Development Bank is headquartered in Shanghai.
- Russia was the host of the first BRICS summit (2009) and of the 2024 Kazan summit.

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82 In September 2021, who was appointed Tamil Nadu's Governor by then President of India Ram Nath Kovind?

[SSC CGL 05 Oct 2026, Shift-I]

(a) R.N. Ravi (b) Arif Mohammed Khan
(c) Banwarilal Purohit (d) C.V. Ananda Bose

ANSWER (a) R.N. Ravi

R.N. Ravi was appointed the Governor of Tamil Nadu in September 2021 by President Ram Nath Kovind. He succeeded Banwarilal Purohit and had earlier served as the Governor of Nagaland.

- The Governor of a state is appointed by the President under Article 155 and holds office during the President's pleasure.
- Arif Mohammed Khan was Governor of Kerala and later Bihar; C.V. Ananda Bose is the Governor of West Bengal.
- Banwarilal Purohit later served as the Governor of Punjab.

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83 Consider the following statements:
1. Five products from Tamil Nadu were awarded the Geographical Indication (GI) tag in December 2025.
2. Thooyamalli, a traditional rice variety, was among the products that received the GI tag in December 2025.
Which of the statements given above is/are correct?

[SSC CGL 05 Oct 2026, Shift-I]

(a) 1 only (b) 2 only
(c) Both 1 and 2 (d) Neither 1 nor 2

ANSWER (c) Both 1 and 2

Both statements are correct: five products from Tamil Nadu received the Geographical Indication (GI) tag in December 2025, and Thooyamalli, a traditional rice variety of the state, was among them. A GI tag identifies goods that originate from a specific region and have qualities or reputation due to that origin.

- GI tags in India are granted under the Geographical Indications of Goods (Registration and Protection) Act, 1999, which came into force in 2003.
- The GI Registry is located in Chennai.
- Darjeeling Tea was the first Indian product to receive a GI tag (2004–05).

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84 What is the name of the system that provides location-specific air quality and weather forecasting?

[SSC CGL 05 Oct 2026, Shift-II]

(a) NAMASTE (b) SAFAR
(c) VARSHA (d) MAUSAM

ANSWER (b) SAFAR

SAFAR (System of Air Quality and Weather Forecasting And Research) provides location-specific air quality and weather information for Indian cities. It was launched in 2015 by the Ministry of Earth Sciences and developed by the Indian Institute of Tropical Meteorology (IITM), Pune.

- SAFAR was first introduced in Delhi, ahead of the 2010 Commonwealth Games, and later in other cities such as Mumbai, Pune and Ahmedabad.
- It reports air quality in terms of the Air Quality Index (AQI) and also gives a UV index.
- MAUSAM is an IMD-related name, but SAFAR is the system for air quality and weather forecasting.

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85 _____ known as the "Rocket Woman of India", played a key role as the Deputy Operations Director of Mangalyaan.

[SSC CGL 05 Oct 2026, Shift-II]

(a) Ritu Karidhal (b) K. Sivan
(c) Kalpana Chawla (d) Tessy Thomas

ANSWER (a) Ritu Karidhal

Ritu Karidhal Srivastava, known as the 'Rocket Woman of India', was the Deputy Operations Director of the Mars Orbiter Mission (Mangalyaan), launched in November 2013, which put India's spacecraft into Mars orbit in September 2014. She was also the Mission Director of Chandrayaan-2 (2019).

- India became the first country to reach Mars orbit in its maiden attempt, and the fourth to reach Mars.
- K. Sivan was ISRO Chairman (2018–2022); Kalpana Chawla was the first Indian-born woman in space (Columbia, 1997).
- Tessy Thomas, known as the 'Missile Woman of India', worked on the Agni missile programme.

86 Which of the following reflects a social impact of ISRO's satellite technology in India?

[SSC CGL 05 Oct 2026, Shift-II]

(a) Study of black holes
(b) Deep space exploration
(c) Improved remote education in rural areas
(d) Discovery of exoplanets

ANSWER (c) Improved remote education in rural areas

Improved remote education in rural areas is a direct social benefit of ISRO's satellite technology. Communication satellites such as EDUSAT (GSAT-3, launched in 2004), India's first satellite built exclusively for educational services, helped deliver classes to remote and rural areas.

- Satellites also support telemedicine, disaster warning, weather forecasting, navigation (NavIC) and farming advisories.
- Study of black holes, deep space exploration and discovery of exoplanets are scientific or exploratory goals, not direct everyday social benefits.
- Astrosat is India's space observatory used for astronomy studies.

87 Who was the Director General of Air operations during Operation Sindoor?

[SSC CGL 05 Oct 2026, Shift-III]

(a) AN Pramod
(b) A.K Bharti
(c) S.S. Sharda
(d) Bipin rawat

ANSWER (b) A.K Bharti

Air Marshal A.K. Bharti was the Director General of Air Operations (DGAO) of the Indian Air Force during Operation Sindoor and briefed the media on the operation along with the other service representatives. Operation Sindoor was India's military action launched on 7 May 2025 against terror infrastructure, after the terror attack in Pahalgam on 22 April 2025.

- The DGAO is the Indian Air Force's senior officer for operational planning and air operations.
- Vice Admiral A.N. Pramod is a Navy officer (DGNO).
- Bipin Rawat was India's first Chief of Defence Staff (2019–2021).

88 The Global Innovation Index (GII) is published by:

[SSC CGL 05 Oct 2026, Shift-III]

(a) United Nations Development Programme (UNDP)
(b) World Trade Organization (WTO)
(c) World Intellectual Property Organization (WIPO)
(d) International Monetary Fund (IMF)

ANSWER (c) World Intellectual Property Organization (WIPO)

The Global Innovation Index (GII) is published annually by the World Intellectual Property Organization (WIPO), a specialised agency of the United Nations headquartered in Geneva. It ranks the innovation performance of economies around the world.

- WIPO administers international treaties on intellectual property, such as the Patent Cooperation Treaty (PCT).
- The Human Development Index is published by UNDP.
- WTO (Geneva) deals with global trade rules, and the IMF (Washington, D.C.) with global monetary cooperation.

89 Which of the following is a major advantage of India's PSLV (Polar Satellite Launch Vehicle)?

[SSC CGL 05 Oct 2026, Shift-III]

(a) Designed exclusively for crewed space missions
(b) Specialized in launching satellites only into geostationary orbit
(c) Able to deploy several satellites into distinct orbits within one launch.
(d) Requires nuclear propulsion for upper stage separation

ANSWER (c) Able to deploy several satellites into distinct orbits ...

A major advantage of the PSLV is its ability to deploy several satellites into distinct orbits in a single launch. This multi-orbit, multi-payload capability, along with its reliability, has made PSLV ISRO's 'workhorse'.

- PSLV is a four-stage vehicle using alternating solid and liquid propulsion (solid–liquid–solid–liquid).
- In February 2017 (PSLV-C37), it launched a record 104 satellites in one mission.
- PSLV is not a crewed-mission vehicle and uses no nuclear propulsion; GSLV is used mainly for geosynchronous transfer orbits.

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90 What does BIMSTEC stand for?

[SSC CGL 05 Oct 2026, Shift-III]

(a) Bay of Islands Multi-Sectoral Technical and Economic Cooperation
(b) Bay of Bengal Initiative for Multi-Sectoral Technical and Economic Cooperation
(c) Bangladesh, India, Myanmar, Sri Lanka, Thailand, Egypt, and China
(d) Bay of Bengal International Maritime Security and Trade Council

ANSWER (b) Bay of Bengal Initiative for Multi-Sectoral Technical and ...

BIMSTEC stands for Bay of Bengal Initiative for Multi-Sectoral Technical and Economic Cooperation. It was set up in 1997 (as BIST-EC) and took its present name in 2004; it has seven members: Bangladesh, India, Myanmar, Sri Lanka, Thailand, Nepal and Bhutan.

- Its Secretariat is in Dhaka, Bangladesh.
- It connects South Asia with Southeast Asia and covers sectors such as trade, energy, transport, fisheries and counter-terrorism.
- The 6th BIMSTEC Summit was held in Bangkok in April 2025.

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91 Who has been appointed as the Chairman of the 16th Finance Commission of India (2023–2028)?

[SSC CGL 05 Oct 2026, Shift-III]

(a) N. K. Singh
(b) Suman Bery
(c) Arvind Panagariya
(d) Raghuram Rajan

ANSWER (c) Arvind Panagariya

Dr. Arvind Panagariya has been appointed the Chairman of the 16th Finance Commission of India. The Commission, constituted in December 2023 under Article 280 of the Constitution, makes recommendations on the distribution of central taxes between the Union and the states for the five-year period starting 1 April 2026.

- Panagariya was the first Vice-Chairman of NITI Aayog (2015–2017).
- N.K. Singh chaired the 15th Finance Commission.
- Suman Bery is the Vice-Chairman of NITI Aayog, and Raghuram Rajan is a former RBI Governor.

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92 Which Indian initiative emphasizes maritime cooperation and security in the Indian Ocean Region?

[SSC CGL 06 Oct 2026, Shift-I]

(a) Operation Flood (OF)
(b) Act Far East (AFE)
(c) Look West Policy (LWP)
(d) Security and Growth for All in the Region (SAGAR)

ANSWER (d) Security and Growth for All in the Region (SAGAR)

SAGAR (Security and Growth for All in the Region) is India's initiative for maritime cooperation and security in the Indian Ocean Region. It was announced by Prime Minister Narendra Modi in Mauritius in March 2015, and it aims at peace, stability and shared prosperity in the region.

- In 2025, the vision was extended as MAHASAGAR (Mutual and Holistic Advancement for Security and Growth Across Regions).
- Operation Flood was India's dairy development programme (White Revolution).
- 'Act East' policy (2014) upgraded the earlier 'Look East' policy to engage with the Asia-Pacific.

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93 Where was the 1st BRICS summit held?

[SSC CGL 06 Oct 2026, Shift-II]

(a) USA (b) China
(c) France (d) Russia

ANSWER (d) Russia

The first BRIC summit was held in Yekaterinburg, Russia, in June 2009. South Africa joined in December 2010, and the group became BRICS, with South Africa attending its first summit in Sanya, China, in 2011.

- The acronym 'BRIC' was coined in 2001 by economist Jim O'Neill of Goldman Sachs.
- India hosted BRICS summits in 2012 (New Delhi), 2016 (Goa) and 2021 (virtually).
- The group expanded from 2024 to include Egypt, Ethiopia, Iran and the UAE.

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94 The IMEC (India-Middle East-Europe Economic Corridor) project is designed to increase _____ between the participating nations.

[SSC CGL 06 Oct 2026, Shift-II]

(a) economic integration (b) military alliances
(c) population exchanges (d) cultural uniformity

ANSWER (a) economic integration

The IMEC project is designed to increase economic integration between the participating nations, by improving trade connectivity through shipping, railways, energy pipelines and digital links. It was announced at the G20 Summit in New Delhi in September 2023.

- The participants include India, the USA, Saudi Arabia, the UAE, the European Union, France, Germany and Italy.
- The corridor aims to make trade faster and cheaper between Asia, the Gulf and Europe.
- It is an economic and connectivity initiative, not a military alliance.

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95 Which factor most differentiates BRICS (Brazil, Russia, India, China, and South Africa) from the Non-Aligned Movement (NAM)?

[SSC CGL 06 Oct 2026, Shift-III]

(a) Representation of developing countries
(b) Focus on economic cooperation among major emerging economies
(c) Opposition to colonialism
(d) Demand for sovereignty

ANSWER (b) Focus on economic cooperation among major emerging economies

BRICS differs from the Non-Aligned Movement (NAM) mainly in its focus on economic cooperation among major emerging economies, such as finance, trade and development banking. NAM, formed in 1961 at Belgrade, was a political movement of states that chose not to align with either bloc in the Cold War.

- Both represent developing countries, oppose colonialism and stress sovereignty, so these are not the differentiating factors.
- NAM's founders include Nehru (India), Nasser (Egypt), Tito (Yugoslavia), Sukarno (Indonesia) and Nkrumah (Ghana).
- BRICS created the New Development Bank and the Contingent Reserve Arrangement.

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96 The Chabahar project strengthens India's ability to access Afghanistan primarily through:

[SSC CGL 06 Oct 2026, Shift-III]

(a) Arabian Sea–Iran–Afghanistan route
(b) Indian Ocean–Oman–Afghanistan route
(c) Caspian Sea–Iran–Afghanistan route
(d) Persian Gulf–Iran–Afghanistan route

ANSWER (a) Arabian Sea–Iran–Afghanistan route

Chabahar Port is on the Gulf of Oman, an arm of the Arabian Sea, in the Sistan-Baluchestan province of Iran. It gives India access to Afghanistan and Central Asia by the Arabian Sea–Iran–Afghanistan route, bypassing Pakistan.

- India Ports Global Limited signed a long-term (10-year) contract to operate the Shahid Beheshti terminal of the port in May 2024.
- Chabahar is linked with the International North-South Transport Corridor (INSTC).
- India built the Zaranj–Delaram highway in Afghanistan, which connects with this route.

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97 Who has been appointed as the new Managing Director (MD) of Indraprastha Gas Limited (IGL) in June 2026?

[SSC CGL 06 Oct 2026, Shift-III]

(a) Sanjay Kumar (b) Kumar Shanker
(c) Neelkanth Mishra (d) Ajay Rajan

ANSWER (b) Kumar Shanker

Kumar Shanker has been appointed the Managing Director of Indraprastha Gas Limited (IGL) in June 2026, succeeding Kamal Kishore Chatiwal. IGL is a city gas distribution company that supplies CNG and piped natural gas (PNG) in Delhi and the National Capital Region.

- IGL is promoted by GAIL (India) Ltd, Bharat Petroleum Corporation Ltd (BPCL) and the Government of NCT of Delhi.
- CNG and PNG are cleaner fuels used to cut urban air pollution.
- Neelkanth Mishra is an economist and not related to this appointment.

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98 Which Ramsar site in Uttar Pradesh was highlighted during World Wetlands Day 2026 for ecological and cultural significance?

[SSC CGL 06 Oct 2026, Shift-III]

(a) Nawabganj Bird Sanctuary
(b) Parvati Arga Bird Sanctuary
(c) Samaspur Bird Sanctuary
(d) Sandi Bird Sanctuary

ANSWER (b) Parvati Arga Bird Sanctuary

As per the official answer key, Parvati Arga Bird Sanctuary was the Ramsar site of Uttar Pradesh highlighted on World Wetlands Day 2026. It lies in the Gonda district of Uttar Pradesh, and is a freshwater wetland that supports many resident and migratory birds.

- World Wetlands Day is observed every year on 2 February, marking the adoption of the Ramsar Convention in 1971 at Ramsar, Iran.
- Nawabganj (Unnao), Samaspur (Raebareli) and Sandi (Hardoi) are also bird sanctuaries/wetlands of Uttar Pradesh.
- India had 98 Ramsar sites around World Wetlands Day 2026.

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99 Which biological experiment was successfully demonstrated aboard the PSLV Orbital Experimental Module-04 (POEM-4)?

[SSC CGL 06 Oct 2026, Shift-III]

(a) Animal tissue regeneration
(b) Seed germination in microgravity
(c) Human cell culture growth
(d) Plant pollination in orbit

ANSWER (b) Seed germination in microgravity

Seed germination in microgravity was successfully demonstrated on POEM-4, the orbital platform of the PSLV-C60 mission (SpaDeX mission, launched 30 December 2024). Cowpea seeds in the CROPS (Compact Research Module for Orbital Plant Studies) experiment of VSSC sprouted in about four days in space.

- POEM uses the spent fourth stage (PS4) of the PSLV as a stable orbital platform for experiments.
- The PSLV-C60 mission also demonstrated space docking technology (SpaDeX).
- Microgravity experiments help study how plants can be grown during long space missions.

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100 Admiral Dinesh Kumar Tripathi is the ___ Chief of Naval Staff of India in 2024.

[SSC CGL 07 Oct 2026, Shift-I]

(a) 24th
(b) 25th
(c) 26th
(d) 27th

ANSWER (c) 26th

Admiral Dinesh Kumar Tripathi became the 26th Chief of the Naval Staff of India on 30 April 2024, succeeding Admiral R. Hari Kumar, who was the 25th. He was later succeeded in 2026 by Admiral Krishna Swaminathan, the 27th Chief.

- The Chief of the Naval Staff is the professional head of the Indian Navy.
- Before this appointment, Tripathi was the Vice Chief of the Naval Staff.
- The President of India is the Supreme Commander of the Armed Forces.

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101 Which of the following top-level bureaucratic positions does T. V. Somanathan hold in the Indian government as of 2026?

[SSC CGL 07 Oct 2026, Shift-I]

(a) Foreign Secretary of India
(b) Home Secretary of India
(c) Cabinet Secretary of India
(d) Finance Secretary of India

ANSWER (c) Cabinet Secretary of India

T.V. Somanathan is the Cabinet Secretary of India, the top-ranking civil servant, in office since August 2024 when he succeeded Rajiv Gauba. A 1987-batch IAS officer of the Tamil Nadu cadre, he was earlier Finance Secretary and Expenditure Secretary.

- The Cabinet Secretary heads the Civil Services Board and the Cabinet Secretariat, and is the ex-officio head of the civil services.
- The Cabinet Secretary is appointed by the Government, in practice by the Prime Minister's decision.
- Foreign, Home and Finance Secretaries head their respective ministries but rank below the Cabinet Secretary.

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102 Who became the first woman to be appointed as the Chairperson and Chief Executive Officer (CEO) of the Railway Board in September 2023?

[SSC CGL 07 Oct 2026, Shift-I]

(a) Soma Mondal
(b) Jaya Varma Sinha
(c) Madhabi Puri Buch
(d) Alka Mittal

ANSWER (b) Jaya Varma Sinha

Jaya Verma Sinha became the first woman to be appointed Chairperson and CEO of the Railway Board, with effect from 1 September 2023. She is an officer of the Indian Railway Traffic Service (IRTS) and succeeded Anil Kumar Lahoti.

- The Railway Board is the apex body of Indian Railways, under the Ministry of Railways.
- Madhabi Puri Buch was the first woman Chairperson of SEBI (2022).
- Soma Mondal was the Chairperson of SAIL, and Alka Mittal held top posts in ONGC.

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103 Who was continued as Principal Secretary to the Prime Minister of India in June 2024?

[SSC CGL 07 Oct 2026, Shift-I]

(a) Nripendra Misra
(b) P.K. Mishra
(c) Pramod Kumar Sharma
(d) Tarun Bajaj

ANSWER (b) P.K. Mishra

P.K. Mishra was continued as the Principal Secretary to the Prime Minister in June 2024, when Narendra Modi began his third term as Prime Minister. A retired 1972-batch IAS officer of the Gujarat cadre, he had been appointed to the post in 2019, succeeding Nripendra Misra.

- Nripendra Misra was the Principal Secretary to the PM from 2014 to 2019.
- The Principal Secretary heads the Prime Minister's Office (PMO).
- Tarun Bajaj is a former Revenue Secretary (IAS).

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104 Who among the following is the 22nd Lieutenant Governor of Delhi?

[SSC CGL 07 Oct 2026, Shift-II]

(a) Najeeb Jung
(b) Manoj Sinha
(c) Vinai Kumar Saxena
(d) Anil Baijal

ANSWER (c) Vinai Kumar Saxena

Vinai Kumar Saxena is the 22nd Lieutenant Governor of Delhi; he took office in May 2022, succeeding Anil Baijal, the 21st Lieutenant Governor. The Lieutenant Governor is appointed by the President of India under Article 239AA/239 as the administrator of the National Capital Territory of Delhi.

- Najeeb Jung was the Lieutenant Governor of Delhi from 2013 to 2016 before Baijal.
- Manoj Sinha is the Lieutenant Governor of Jammu and Kashmir.
- Before this appointment, Saxena was the Chairman of the Khadi and Village Industries Commission (KVIC).

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105 As of April 2026, what is the total number of notified Biosphere Reserves in India, and how many among them are part of UNESCO's World Network of Biosphere Reserves (WNBR)?

[SSC CGL 07 Oct 2026, Shift-II]

(a) 18 Biosphere Reserves and 10 WNBR
(b) 18 Biosphere Reserves and 13 WNBR
(c) 20 Biosphere Reserves and 13 WNBR
(d) 20 Biosphere Reserves and 11 WNBR

ANSWER (b) 18 Biosphere Reserves and 13 WNBR

India has 18 notified Biosphere Reserves, of which 13 are included in UNESCO's World Network of Biosphere Reserves (WNBR). The Cold Desert Biosphere Reserve

(Himachal Pradesh) became the 13th Indian site in the network in September 2025.

- The Nilgiri Biosphere Reserve (1986) was India's first notified biosphere reserve and entered the WNBR in 2000.
- Other WNBR sites include the Sundarbans, Gulf of Mannar, Nanda Devi, Panna, Khangchendzonga and Great Nicobar.
- UNESCO's Man and the Biosphere (MAB) Programme began in 1971; in India the scheme is run by the Ministry of Environment, Forest and Climate Change.

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106 Bay of Bengal Initiative for Multi-Sectoral Technical and Economic Cooperation (BIMSTEC) is considered significant for advancing which of India's foreign policy initiatives?

[SSC CGL 07 Oct 2026, Shift-III]

(a) Neighborhood First abandonment
(b) Look West Policy
(c) Arctic Strategy
(d) Act East Policy

ANSWER (d) Act East Policy

BIMSTEC links South Asia with South-East Asia through the Bay of Bengal, and is therefore significant for India's Act East Policy (alongside Neighbourhood First). Option A is meaningless, since BIMSTEC strengthens rather than abandons the Neighbourhood First approach.

- BIMSTEC was formed in 1997 through the Bangkok Declaration; its secretariat is in Dhaka.
- Its seven members are Bangladesh, Bhutan, India, Myanmar, Nepal, Sri Lanka and Thailand.
- The Act East Policy (2014) upgraded the earlier Look East Policy of 1991.

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107 Which ISRO (Indian Space Research Organisation) scientist served as the Project Director of India's first solar observation mission, Aditya-L1?

[SSC CGL 07 Oct 2026, Shift-III]

(a) Ritu Karidhal
(b) Nigar Shaji
(c) Tessy Thomas
(d) Muthayya Vanitha

ANSWER (b) Nigar Shaji

Nigar Shaji was the Project Director of Aditya-L1, India's first dedicated solar observation mission. The spacecraft was launched by PSLV-C57 on 2 September 2023 and placed in a halo orbit around the Sun-Earth Lagrange point L1 in January 2024.

- Ritu Karidhal was Mission Director of Chandrayaan-2.
- Muthayya Vanitha was Project Director of Chandrayaan-2.
- Tessy Thomas, known as the 'Missile Woman of India', led the Agni-IV project.

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108 At what time of the day can the NASA–ISRO Synthetic Aperture Radar (NISAR) satellite observes the Earth's surface?

[SSC CGL 07 Oct 2026, Shift-III]

(a) During daytime of the winter season only
(b) During both day and night of summers only
(c) During both day and night of all seasons
(d) During the nighttime of summer season only

ANSWER (c) During both day and night of all seasons

NISAR carries radar instruments that send out their own microwave signals, so it can image the Earth's surface during both day and night and in all seasons and weather, including through clouds. Optical satellites, in contrast, depend on sunlight and clear skies.

- NISAR has a dual-frequency payload: L-band SAR (NASA) and S-band SAR (ISRO).
- It was launched on 30 July 2025 by GSLV-F16 from Sriharikota into a sun-synchronous orbit.
- It is designed to map almost the entire land and ice surface of the Earth at regular intervals, helping study ecosystems, ice sheets, and natural hazards.

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109 Who was the first woman chairperson of India's markets regulator, Securities and Exchange Board of India (SEBI)?

[SSC CGL 08 Oct 2026, Shift-I]

(a) Arundhati Bhattacharya
(b) Madhabi Puri Buch
(c) Naina Lal Kidwai
(d) Chitra Ramkrishna

ANSWER (b) Madhabi Puri Buch

Madhabi Puri Buch was the first woman Chairperson of SEBI. She took charge in March 2022 and held the

post until February 2025, when Tuhin Kanta Pandey succeeded her.

- SEBI was set up in 1988 and given statutory status by the SEBI Act, 1992; its headquarters is in Mumbai.
- Arundhati Bhattacharya was the first woman Chairperson of the State Bank of India (2013).
- Chitra Ramkrishna was formerly MD and CEO of the National Stock Exchange.

110 Who is the 26th Governor of the Reserve Bank of India since December 2024?

[SSC CGL 08 Oct 2026, Shift-I]

(a) Urjit Patel
(b) Sanjay Malhotra
(c) D. Subbarao
(d) Raghuram Rajan

ANSWER (b) Sanjay Malhotra

Sanjay Malhotra is the 26th Governor of the Reserve Bank of India; he took charge on 11 December 2024, succeeding Shaktikanta Das. He is a former Revenue Secretary and an IAS officer of the 1990 batch (Rajasthan cadre).

- The RBI was established on 1 April 1935 under the RBI Act, 1934, and nationalised on 1 January 1949.
- Sir Osborne Smith was the first Governor; C. D. Deshmukh was the first Indian Governor.
- Urjit Patel, D. Subbarao and Raghuram Rajan are former Governors.

111 Who is the father of the space program of India?

[SSC CGL 08 Oct 2026, Shift-II]

(a) Satish Dhawan
(b) Vikram Sarabhai
(c) Homi J. Bhabha
(d) Dr. A.P.J. Abdul Kalam

ANSWER (b) Vikram Sarabhai

Dr Vikram Sarabhai is regarded as the father of the Indian space programme. He set up the Indian National Committee for Space Research (INCOSPAR) in 1962, which was reorganised as ISRO in 1969.

- India's first rocket launch took place from Thumba, near Thiruvananthapuram, on 21 November 1963.
- Homi J. Bhabha is the father of India's nuclear programme.
- Satish Dhawan succeeded Sarabhai as ISRO Chairman in 1972; A. P. J. Abdul Kalam is known as the 'Missile Man of India'.

112 Which space agency collaborated with ISRO for the NISAR mission?

[SSC CGL 08 Oct 2026, Shift-II]

(a) NASA
(b) JAXA
(c) Roscosmos
(d) ESA

ANSWER (a) NASA

NASA (the US National Aeronautics and Space Administration) collaborated with ISRO on NISAR, the NASA-ISRO Synthetic Aperture Radar mission. NASA provided the L-band SAR, a high-rate telecom system, GPS receivers and a solid-state recorder, while ISRO provided the S-band SAR, the spacecraft bus, the launch vehicle and launch services.

- NISAR is the first satellite to carry two radar frequencies (L and S band) for civilian Earth observation at this scale.
- JAXA is Japan's space agency, Roscosmos is Russia's, and ESA is the European Space Agency.

113 Which of the following about India's South Asia Satellite (GSAT-9) is/are correct?
1) It has 12 Ku-band transponders, including one allocated to Pakistan.
2) It was fully funded by India to aid six South Asian nations in communication and disaster response.

[SSC CGL 08 Oct 2026, Shift-II]

(a) Only 1 is correct
(b) Only 2 is correct
(c) 1 and 2 Both are correct
(d) Neither 1 nor 2 is correct

ANSWER (b) Only 2 is correct

Statement 2 is correct and statement 1 is wrong. GSAT-9 (South Asia Satellite) has 12 Ku-band transponders, but Pakistan opted out of the project, so no transponder was allotted to it. The satellite was funded entirely by India and serves six neighbours: Afghanistan, Bangladesh, Bhutan, Maldives, Nepal and Sri Lanka.

- GSAT-9 was launched on 5 May 2017 by GSLV-F09 from Sriharikota.
- It was announced by PM Narendra Modi as India's gift to the SAARC region.

- Its services include telecommunication, telemedicine, disaster management and broadcasting support.

114 How will VSAR's 20–30 m mapping capability most significantly impact future studies of Venus?

[SSC CGL 08 Oct 2026, Shift-III]

(a) It will enable real-time weather forecasting on Venus.
(b) It will map impact craters with detailed ejecta and melt features.
(c) It will eliminate the need for optical imagers on the spacecraft.
(d) It will map the planet's magnetic field with greater accuracy.

ANSWER (b) It will map impact craters with detailed ejecta and melt ...

VSAR is the synthetic aperture radar planned for India's Venus Orbiter Mission. Venus is wrapped in thick clouds that block optical cameras, so radar is the main way to see its surface; a resolution of 20-30 m can map impact craters along with their ejecta blankets and melt features. As per the official answer key, option B is correct.

- Radar imaging works through clouds because microwaves penetrate the dense Venusian atmosphere.
- Radar maps surface structure; it does not forecast weather, replace all optical instruments, or measure the magnetic field (that needs a magnetometer).
- The Union Cabinet approved the Venus Orbiter Mission in September 2024.

115 Who is the current Secretary of the Department of Economic Affairs, Ministry of Finance (as of 2025)?

[SSC CGL 08 Oct 2026, Shift-III]

(a) Shri Arunish Chawla
(b) Shri Ajay Seth
(c) Shri Arvind Shrivastava
(d) Shri V. Vualnam

ANSWER (b) Shri Ajay Seth

Ajay Seth, a 1987-batch IAS officer of the Karnataka cadre, has been Secretary of the Department of Economic Affairs (DEA), Ministry of Finance, since 2021 (as per the question's reference date of 2025).

- The DEA is the nodal agency for the Union Budget, which is prepared by its Budget Division.
- The Ministry of Finance has five departments: Economic Affairs, Expenditure, Revenue, Financial Services, and Investment and Public Asset Management (DIPAM).
- Arunish Chawla and Arvind Shrivastava are officials of the Ministry of Finance who do not head the DEA.

116 Approximately how many Indians live in regions less than 1 meter above sea level, as per The Lancet?

[SSC CGL 08 Oct 2026, Shift-III]

(a) 4 million
(b) 8 million
(c) 12 million
(d) 18 million

ANSWER (d) 18 million

As per the official answer key, about 18 million (1.8 crore) Indians live in regions less than 1 metre above sea level, which makes them vulnerable to sea-level rise and coastal flooding. The figure is cited from The Lancet's climate-and-health assessment.

- India's coastline is about 7,500 km long, including the island territories.
- Low-lying coastal areas such as the Sundarbans, Mumbai and Chennai face risks from rising seas and storm surges.
- The Lancet Countdown on Health and Climate Change is the annual global report tracking health impacts of climate change.

117 Which of the following correctly matches a Quad 2025 initiative with its sector?

[SSC CGL 08 Oct 2026, Shift-III]

(a) Cancer Moonshot – Maritime security
(b) MAITRI – Port construction
(c) QUIN – Foreign policy doctrine
(d) Digital Public Infrastructure – Fintech interoperability

ANSWER (d) Digital Public Infrastructure – Fintech interoperability

Option D is the correct match as per the official key: Digital Public Infrastructure (DPI) is linked with fintech interoperability. The other pairs are wrongly matched:

the Quad Cancer Moonshot is a health initiative (against cervical cancer), MAITRI (Maritime Initiative for Training in the Indo-Pacific) is about maritime training and domain awareness rather than port construction, and QUIN is the Quad Investors Network, an investment initiative, not a foreign policy doctrine.

- The Quad comprises India, the USA, Japan and Australia.
- The first in-person Quad Leaders' Summit was held in Washington in September 2021.
- India's UPI is a leading example of a digital public infrastructure that supports fintech interoperability.

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118 In India, which senior Indian Police Service (IPS) officer was assigned the additional charge of Director General, Border Security Force (BSF) effective November 30, 2025?

[SSC CGL 09 Oct 2026, Shift-I]

(a) Daljit Singh Chaudhary
(b) Praveer Ranjan
(c) Praveen Kumar
(d) Rahul Rasgotra

ANSWER (c) Praveen Kumar

Praveen Kumar, Director General of the Indo-Tibetan Border Police (ITBP), was given additional charge as Director General of the BSF with effect from 30 November 2025, after the retirement of Daljit Singh Chaudhary.

- The BSF was raised on 1 December 1965 and functions under the Ministry of Home Affairs; its motto is 'Jeevan Paryant Kartavya'.
- It guards the Indo-Pakistan and Indo-Bangladesh borders, while the ITBP (raised in 1962) guards the India-China border.
- Central Armed Police Forces (CAPFs) are headed by Director Generals who are IPS officers.

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119 Shekha Jheel Bird Sanctuary, added to the Ramsar list in April 2026, is located in which Indian state?

[SSC CGL 09 Oct 2026, Shift-I]

(a) Rajasthan
(b) Uttar Pradesh
(c) Madhya Pradesh
(d) Gujrat

ANSWER (b) Uttar Pradesh

Shekha Jheel Bird Sanctuary is located in Aligarh district of Uttar Pradesh. It was declared a Ramsar site in April 2026 and became India's 99th Ramsar site.

- Ramsar sites are wetlands of international importance listed under the Ramsar Convention, signed at Ramsar, Iran, in 1971.
- India's Ramsar tally stood at 98 after Patna Bird Sanctuary (Uttar Pradesh) and Chhari-Dhand (Gujarat) were added in January 2026.
- World Wetlands Day is observed on 2 February.

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120 Which city retained its title as the cleanest city in India for the 7thconsecutive year in Swachh Survekshan 2024?

[SSC CGL 09 Oct 2026, Shift-II]

(a) Mysuru
(b) Surat
(c) Indore
(d) Bhopal

ANSWER (c) Indore

Indore (Madhya Pradesh) retained the title of India's cleanest city in Swachh Survekshan; it has topped the rankings every year since the survey began in 2017. The 'seventh consecutive' title referred to in the question corresponds to the edition announced in January 2024.

- Swachh Survekshan is conducted by the Ministry of Housing and Urban Affairs under the Swachh Bharat Mission (Urban).
- Surat shared the top rank with Indore in the 2023 edition.
- Swachh Bharat Mission was launched on 2 October 2014.

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121 **Consider the following statements regarding India's participation in the 9th BRICS Industry Ministers' Meeting held in 2025:**
1) India launched the BRICS Startup Knowledge Hub in May 2025 to boost rural digital connectivity.
2) India highlighted that MSMEs contributed over 45% to exports and employed 25+ crore people in 2023–24.
Which of the above statements is/are correct?

[SSC CGL 09 Oct 2026, Shift-II]

(a) Only 1 is correct
(b) Only 2 is correct
(c) Both 1 and 2 are correct
(d) Neither 1 nor 2 is correct

ANSWER (b) Only 2 is correct

Statement 2 is correct as per the official key, while statement 1 is wrong: the BRICS Startup Knowledge Hub is a platform for startup-ecosystem cooperation among member countries, not an initiative for rural digital connectivity.

- Brazil held the BRICS chair in 2025, and the 17th BRICS Summit was held in Rio de Janeiro in July 2025.
- BRICS began as BRIC in 2009; South Africa joined in 2010. It expanded in 2024 and Indonesia joined in January 2025.
- The BRICS New Development Bank is headquartered in Shanghai.

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122 Bay of Bengal Initiative for Multi-Sectoral Technical and Economic Cooperation (BIMSTEC) is often viewed as an alternative platform for regional cooperation because of the limited effectiveness of which organization?

[SSC CGL 09 Oct 2026, Shift-III]

(a) GCC (Gulf Cooperation Council)
(b) SAARC (South Asian Association for Regional Cooperation)
(c) ASEAN (Association of Southeast Asian Nations)
(d) SCO (Shanghai Cooperation Organisation)

ANSWER (b) SAARC (South Asian Association for Regional Cooperation)

BIMSTEC is often seen as an alternative to SAARC, whose effectiveness has been limited by India-Pakistan tensions; the last SAARC summit was held in Kathmandu in 2014, and the 2016 Islamabad summit was never held.

- SAARC was founded in Dhaka in 1985 and has eight members, including Afghanistan (joined 2007).
- BIMSTEC was formed in 1997 through the Bangkok Declaration and has seven members: Bangladesh, Bhutan, India, Myanmar, Nepal, Sri Lanka and Thailand; its secretariat is in Dhaka.
- The 6th BIMSTEC Summit was held in Bangkok in April 2025.

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123 Which spacecraft platform serves as the base structure for the NISAR satellite?

[SSC CGL 09 Oct 2026, Shift-III]

(a) I-1K spacecraft bus
(b) I-2K spacecraft bus
(c) I-3K spacecraft bus
(d) I-6K spacecraft bus

ANSWER (c) I-3K spacecraft bus

NISAR is built on ISRO's I-3K (Integrated 3000 kg class) spacecraft bus, which houses the satellite's power, propulsion and control systems and carries the dual L-band and S-band radar payload.

- A satellite 'bus' is the main body of the spacecraft that supports its payload.
- NISAR was launched on 30 July 2025 aboard GSLV-F16.
- The L-band SAR is from NASA and the S-band SAR is from ISRO.

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124 Under India's National Air Quality Index framework, data for at least how many pollutants are required to calculate the Air Quality Index?

[SSC CGL 09 Oct 2026, Shift-III]

(a) Two pollutants
(b) Three pollutants
(c) Five pollutants
(d) Seven pollutants

ANSWER (b) Three pollutants

Under India's National Air Quality Index (NAQI), data on at least three pollutants are needed to compute the AQI, and one of them must be PM2.5 or PM10. The index covers eight pollutants: PM10, PM2.5, NO2, SO2, CO, O3, NH3 and lead (Pb).

- NAQI was launched on 17 September 2014 and is run by the CPCB (Central Pollution Control Board).
- AQI has six categories: Good (0-50), Satisfactory (51-100), Moderate (101-200), Poor (201-300), Very Poor (301-400) and Severe (401-500).
- The overall AQI is decided by the worst-performing (highest sub-index) pollutant.

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125 As of May 2025, the Vice Chairperson of NITI Aayog and Chairman of the Economic Advisory Council to the Prime Minister (EAC-PM) is _____.

[SSC CGL 10 Oct 2026, Shift-I]

(a) Suman Bery
(b) Bibek Debroy
(c) Rajiv Kumar
(d) Arvind Panagariya

ANSWER (a) Suman Bery

Suman Bery is the Vice Chairperson of NITI Aayog; he took charge in May 2022, succeeding Rajiv Kumar. The Economic Advisory Council to the Prime Minister (EAC-

PM) is a separate body, chaired since December 2024 by S. Mahendra Dev after the death of Bibek Debroy.

- NITI Aayog was formed on 1 January 2015, replacing the Planning Commission; the Prime Minister is its Chairperson.
- Arvind Panagariya was the first Vice Chairman of NITI Aayog (2015-2017) and now chairs the 16th Finance Commission.
- Rajiv Kumar was Vice Chairman from 2017 to 2022.

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126 Which premier agency does S. Somanath continue to lead, focusing on the 2026 uncrewed Gaganyaan flight tests?

[SSC CGL 10 Oct 2026, Shift-I]

(a) DRDO (Defence Research and Development Organisation)
(b) ISRO (Indian Space Research Organisation)
(c) BARC (Bhabha Atomic Research Centre)
(d) CSIR (Council of Scientific and Industrial Research)

ANSWER (b) ISRO (Indian Space Research Organisation)

SSC Key (b) · Disputed question

The Gaganyaan programme, India's human spaceflight mission, is run by ISRO, so ISRO is the intended answer. The question's premise is outdated: S. Somanath's term as ISRO Chairman ended in January 2025, when V. Narayanan took over.

- Gaganyaan aims to send Indian astronauts to low Earth orbit and bring them back safely.
- Uncrewed test flights, which carry the humanoid 'Vyommitra', precede the crewed mission.
- ISRO is headquartered in Bengaluru.

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127 IMEC (India-Middle East-Europe Economic Corridor) aims to significantly reduce:

[SSC CGL 10 Oct 2026, Shift-II]

(a) Cultural exchanges
(b) Transit times for goods between Asia and Europe
(c) International tourism
(d) Military spending

ANSWER (b) Transit times for goods between Asia and Europe

IMEC aims to cut the transit time (and cost) of goods moving between Asia and Europe by linking ports and railways across the Gulf and the Mediterranean. It was announced at the G20 Summit in New Delhi in September 2023.

- It has two parts: an eastern corridor connecting India to the Gulf, and a northern corridor connecting the Gulf to Europe.
- The MoU was signed by India, the USA, Saudi Arabia, the UAE, the EU, France, Germany and Italy.
- Beyond rail and shipping links, it plans an electricity cable, a hydrogen pipeline and a data cable.

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128 Which economist, who previously served as Director of the Institute of Economic Growth, is a full-time member of the 16th Finance Commission of India?

[SSC CGL 10 Oct 2026, Shift-II]

(a) Ajay Narayan Jha
(b) Manoj Panda
(c) Soumya Kanti Ghosh
(d) Annie George Mathew

ANSWER (b) Manoj Panda

Manoj Panda, a former Director of the Institute of Economic Growth (IEG), Delhi, is a full-time member of the 16th Finance Commission, which is chaired by Arvind Panagariya.

- The 16th Finance Commission was constituted in December 2023 and makes recommendations for the period 2026-27 to 2030-31.
- Ajay Narayan Jha and Annie George Mathew are also full-time members; Soumya Kanti Ghosh is a part-time member.
- The Finance Commission is a constitutional body under Article 280, constituted every five years.

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129 In February 2026, how many cheetahs arrived from Botswana to be reintroduced at Kuno National Park?

[SSC CGL 10 Oct 2026, Shift-II]

(a) 6
(b) 9
(c) 7
(d) 3

ANSWER (b) 9

Nine cheetahs (six females and three males) arrived at Kuno National Park, Madhya Pradesh, from Botswana on 28 February 2026, bringing India's cheetah population to 48.

- Project Cheetah began on 17 September 2022 with eight cheetahs from Namibia; twelve more came from South Africa in February 2023.
- Kuno National Park is in Sheopur district of Madhya Pradesh.
- The cheetah was declared extinct in India in 1952.

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130 Under the Chabahar International Transport and Transit Corridor Agreement, who determines the routes of the international transport and transit corridors?

[SSC CGL 10 Oct 2026, Shift-III]

(a) United Nations Economic Commission for Asia
(b) International Court of Justice
(c) Permanent Secretariat
(d) Contracting Parties

ANSWER (d) Contracting Parties

Under the Chabahar agreement, the Contracting Parties (the signatory states) determine the routes of the international transport and transit corridors, in line with their national laws. This is the position taken in the official answer key.

- The trilateral agreement among India, Iran and Afghanistan was signed in Tehran on 23 May 2016, during PM Modi's visit.
- Chabahar Port lies in Sistan-Baluchestan province of Iran on the Gulf of Oman.
- In May 2024 India Ports Global Limited signed a 10-year contract to operate the Shahid Beheshti terminal at Chabahar.

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131 Under the Chabahar International Transport and Transit Corridor Agreement, what shall the Contracting Parties provide to drivers and passengers during transport?

[SSC CGL 10 Oct 2026, Shift-III]

(a) Residence permits and citizenship rights
(b) Necessary visas and transit facilities
(c) Diplomatic immunity and consular protection
(d) Tax exemptions and income benefits

ANSWER (b) Necessary visas and transit facilities

As per the official key, the Contracting Parties are to provide drivers and passengers with the necessary visas and transit facilities during transport along the corridor. The agreement is meant to ease the movement of goods and people between the three countries, not to grant residence, citizenship, immunity or tax benefits.

- The agreement was signed on 23 May 2016 by India, Iran and Afghanistan.
- It links Chabahar with Afghanistan and onward Central Asia, avoiding the land route through Pakistan.
- Chabahar is also a key node of the International North-South Transport Corridor (INSTC).

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132 Who has been appointed as the Secretary of the Central Board of Secondary Education (CBSE) in June 2026?

[SSC CGL 10 Oct 2026, Shift-III]

(a) Varun Bhardwaj
(b) Rahul Srivastava
(c) Himanshu Gupta
(d) Lokhande Prashant Sitaram

ANSWER (a) Varun Bhardwaj

Varun Bhardwaj was appointed Secretary of the Central Board of Secondary Education (CBSE) in June 2026. On the same occasion, Lokhande Prashant Sitaram was appointed the Chairperson of the Board, amid the controversy over on-screen marking (OSM) of answer books.

- Himanshu Gupta was the outgoing Secretary.
- CBSE headquarters is in Delhi, and it functions under the Ministry of Education.
- The Board traces its origins to 1929 and took its present form as CBSE in 1962.

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133 Which of the following **correctly** identifies the launch vehicle and launch site used for the successful launch of ISRO's Space Docking Experiment (SpaDeX) mission?

[SSC CGL 10 Oct 2026, Shift-III]

(a) Geosynchronous Satellite Launch Vehicle-F15; Thiruvananthapuram
(b) Polar Satellite Launch Vehicle -C60; Sriharikota
(c) Launch Vehicle Mark-3-M5; Bengaluru
(d) Small Satellite Launch Vehicle-D3; Mahendragiri

ANSWER (b) Polar Satellite Launch Vehicle -C60; Sriharikota

ISRO's SpaDeX mission was launched on PSLV-C60 from the Satish Dhawan Space Centre, Sriharikota, on 30 December 2024. It carried two small satellites, SDX01 (Chaser) and SDX02 (Target).

- The satellites completed docking on 16 January 2025, making India the fourth country, after the USA, Russia and China, to master space docking.
- Docking technology is essential for the Bharatiya Antariksh Station and future crewed and sample-return missions.
- PSLV-C60 also carried the POEM-4 platform with several experiments.

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134 When was the QUAD (Quadrilateral Security Dialogue) revitalized?

[SSC CGL 12 Oct 2026, Shift-I]

(a) 2007
(b) 2012
(c) 2017
(d) 2020

ANSWER (c) 2017

The Quadrilateral Security Dialogue (Quad) was revived in 2017, when officials of India, the USA, Japan and Australia met on the sidelines of the ASEAN summit in Manila in November 2017.

- The Quad was first conceived in 2007 on the initiative of Japanese PM Shinzo Abe but lapsed in 2008 after Australia withdrew.
- It was elevated to the leaders' level virtually in March 2021, and the first in-person Leaders' Summit was held in Washington in September 2021.
- Its members are India, the USA, Japan and Australia.

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135 Which Home Affairs Minister has also been the 1st Minister of Co-operation since July 2021?

[SSC CGL 12 Oct 2026, Shift-I]

(a) Amit Shah
(b) J.P. Nadda
(c) Nitin Gadkari
(d) Rajnath Singh

ANSWER (a) Amit Shah

Amit Shah, the Union Home Minister (since 30 May 2019), has also been the first Minister of Co-operation since the Ministry of Co-operation was created on 6 July 2021.

- The ministry was formed to strengthen the cooperative movement and provide a separate administrative and legal framework for it.
- Cooperative societies are a State subject, but 'cooperative societies' are protected as a fundamental right under Article 19(1)(c) (added by the 97th Amendment, 2011).
- International Day of Cooperatives is observed on the first Saturday of July.

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136 Consider the following statements about Shekha Jheel Bird Sanctuary:
1. It is located in the Aligarh district of Uttar Pradesh.
2. It was designated as Uttar Pradesh's 12th Ramsar site and India's 99th Ramsar site in April 2026.
Which of the statements given above is/are **correct**?

[SSC CGL 12 Oct 2026, Shift-I]

(a) Only 1
(b) Only 2
(c) Both 1 and 2
(d) Neither 1 nor 2

ANSWER (c) Both 1 and 2

Both statements are correct. Shekha Jheel Bird Sanctuary lies in Aligarh district, Uttar Pradesh, and was designated a Ramsar site in April 2026 as India's 99th Ramsar site (Uttar Pradesh's 12th, as per the question).

- Ramsar sites are wetlands of international importance under the Ramsar Convention of 1971.
- India's Ramsar tally rose from 98 in January 2026 to 99 with this addition.
- The Ramsar Convention is intergovernmental; the Montreux Record lists sites facing ecological damage.

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137 In the context of the Happiness Index, how is 'generosity' typically measured?

[SSC CGL 12 Oct 2026, Shift-II]

(a) Number of charitable organizations per capita
(b) Tax relief for donations
(c) Willingness to donate to charity
(d) Volunteer hours logged per country

ANSWER (c) Willingness to donate to charity

In the World Happiness Report, generosity is measured through people's willingness to donate to charity: it is based on survey responses to whether the person donated money to a charity in the past month, adjusted for GDP per capita.

- The six factors used to explain national happiness are GDP per capita, social support, healthy life expectancy, freedom to make life choices, generosity and perceptions of corruption.
- The report is based on the Gallup World Poll and uses the Cantril ladder (0-10) life evaluation.
- It is published by the Wellbeing Research Centre at Oxford with Gallup and the UN Sustainable Development Solutions Network (SDSN).

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138 Which of the following best describes the impact of ISRO's collaboration with private firms in recent years?

[SSC CGL 12 Oct 2026, Shift-II]

(a) Decrease in employment opportunities
(b) Increased innovation and market expansion
(c) Reduced satellite coverage
(d) Lower satellite success rates

ANSWER (b) Increased innovation and market expansion

ISRO's partnership with private firms has led to greater innovation and market expansion in India's space sector. The sector was opened to private players in 2020 and IN-SPACe was created to authorise and promote their activities.

- Skyroot Aerospace's Vikram-S, launched in November 2022, was India's first privately developed rocket to reach space.
- NewSpace India Limited (NSIL) is ISRO's commercial arm.
- The Indian Space Policy 2023 clarified the roles of ISRO, IN-SPACe and private industry.

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139 Who has been India's 30th Minister of External Affairs since May 2019?

[SSC CGL 12 Oct 2026, Shift-II]

(a) Subrahmanyam Jaishankar
(b) Smriti Irani
(c) Hardeep Singh Puri
(d) Nirmala Sitharaman

ANSWER (a) Subrahmanyam Jaishankar

Subrahmanyam Jaishankar has been India's 30th Minister of External Affairs since 30 May 2019 and was re-appointed in June 2024. A career diplomat, he served as Foreign Secretary from 2015 to 2018 and is a Rajya Sabha member from Gujarat.

- His predecessor as External Affairs Minister was Sushma Swaraj.
- He was awarded the Padma Shri in 2019.
- The Ministry of External Affairs is headed by the Minister, while the Foreign Secretary is the senior-most civil servant of the ministry.

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140 Which concept is most closely associated with the strategic vision of the Quadrilateral Security Dialogue (QUAD)?

[SSC CGL 12 Oct 2026, Shift-III]

(a) Free and Open Indo-Pacific
(b) Continental Security and Land Bloc
(c) Atlantic Partnership and North Atlantic Treaty Organization (NATO) Framework
(d) Eurasian Integration and Continental Order

ANSWER (a) Free and Open Indo-Pacific

The Quad's strategic vision is a 'Free and Open Indo-Pacific' (FOIP): a region with freedom of navigation, respect for sovereignty and a rules-based order. The idea draws on Japanese PM Shinzo Abe's 2007 'Confluence of the Two Seas' speech in the Indian Parliament.

- The Quad has India, the USA, Japan and Australia as members.
- It is not a military alliance like NATO.
- Its cooperation areas include maritime security, critical technologies, health security, climate and infrastructure.

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141 Which of the following **correctly** describes the radar payload carried by the NISAR satellite?

[SSC CGL 12 Oct 2026, Shift-III]

(a) L-band Radar by the National Aeronautics and Space Administration and S-band Radar by the Indian Space Research Organisation
(b) L-band Radar by the Indian Space Research Organisation and S-band Radar by the National Aeronautics and Space Administration
(c) L-band Radar by the National Aeronautics and Space Administration and S-band Radar by the Japan Aerospace Exploration Agency
(d) L-band Radar by the Japan Aerospace Exploration Agency and S-band Radar by the Indian Space Research Organisation

ANSWER (a) L-band Radar by the National Aeronautics and Space ...

NISAR carries a dual-frequency radar: the L-band SAR was built by NASA (JPL) and the S-band SAR by ISRO. Together they let the satellite see both large-scale features such as forests and ice, and finer surface changes.

- L-band has a longer wavelength and penetrates vegetation, whereas S-band is more sensitive to finer surface features.
- ISRO also supplied the I-3K spacecraft bus and the GSLV-F16 launcher.
- JAXA has no role in NISAR.

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142 Who was elected as the President of the Inter-Parliamentary Union (IPU) in 2023?

[SSC CGL 13 Oct 2026, Shift-I]

(a) Duarte Pacheco
(b) Shirin Chaudhry
(c) Tulia Ackson
(d) Om Birla

ANSWER (c) Tulia Ackson

Tulia Ackson, Speaker of the National Assembly of Tanzania, was elected President of the Inter-Parliamentary Union (IPU) in October 2023 at the 147th IPU Assembly in Luanda, Angola.

- Duarte Pacheco of Portugal was her predecessor as IPU President.
- The IPU was founded in 1889 and is headquartered in Geneva; it is the global organisation of national parliaments.
- Om Birla is the Speaker of India's Lok Sabha.

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143 What was the main goal of the Mangrove Co-Management Committee formed in Navghar under the climate resilience project?

[SSC CGL 13 Oct 2026, Shift-II]

(a) To promote seasonal fishing and crab collection
(b) To protect mangroves and revive local livelihoods
(c) To increase tourism in coastal Maharashtra
(d) To replace mangroves with modern aquaculture farms

ANSWER (b) To protect mangroves and revive local livelihoods

The Mangrove Co-Management Committee at Navghar (Maharashtra) was formed under a climate-resilience project so that the local community could protect mangroves and revive local livelihoods. Community-led management links conservation with income, which makes protection lasting. As per the official key, option B is correct.

- Mangroves protect coasts from storm surges, cyclones and erosion, and act as nurseries for fish.
- Mangrove Initiative for Shoreline Habitats & Tangible Incomes (MISHTI) was launched in 2023 to promote mangrove plantation along India's coast.
- 26 July is observed as the International Day for the Conservation of the Mangrove Ecosystem.

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144 Who is serving as the Chairperson of the Competition Commission of India (CCI) in 2026, responsible for regulating digital markets and preventing anti-competitive practices?

[SSC CGL 13 Oct 2026, Shift-II]

(a) Ravneet Kaur
(b) Sangeeta Verma
(c) Ashok Kumar Gupta
(d) Navneet Munot

ANSWER (a) Ravneet Kaur

Ravneet Kaur, a retired IAS officer, is the Chairperson of the Competition Commission of India (CCI); she took charge in May 2023.

- CCI was established under the Competition Act, 2002 and became fully functional in 2009 to prevent anti-competitive practices and promote competition.
- Ashok Kumar Gupta was the CCI Chairperson before her.
- Its headquarters is in New Delhi, and appeals against its orders lie before the National Company Law Appellate Tribunal (NCLAT).

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145 As per the Animal Discoveries 2025 report released by the Zoological Survey of India (ZSI) in June 2026, what is the total number of new faunal records added to India's biodiversity database?

[SSC CGL 13 Oct 2026, Shift-II]

(a) 226
(b) 353
(c) 483
(d) 709

ANSWER (d) 709

The Zoological Survey of India's 'Animal Discoveries 2025' report records 709 new faunal records (new species and new records for India) added to India's biodiversity database in 2025, a record number. Kerala and West Bengal led the discoveries.

- ZSI was founded on 1 July 1916 and is headquartered in Kolkata; it works under the Ministry of Environment, Forest and Climate Change.
- The report is released around ZSI's Foundation Day (1 July).
- The Botanical Survey of India (BSI) separately documents plant discoveries.

146 Under the Chabahar International Transport and Transit Corridor Agreement, how are decisions of the Coordination Council made?

[SSC CGL 13 Oct 2026, Shift-III]

(a) By a simple majority vote
(b) By a two-thirds majority vote
(c) By consensus among all Contracting Parties
(d) By the decision of the Chairperson alone

ANSWER (c) By consensus among all Contracting Parties

As per the official answer key, decisions of the Coordination Council under the Chabahar agreement are taken by consensus among all Contracting Parties, so no decision is made over the objection of any signatory state.

- The Chabahar agreement among India, Iran and Afghanistan was signed in Tehran on 23 May 2016.
- Consensus decision-making is common in international bodies such as ASEAN, where each member state's agreement is needed.
- Chabahar port, in Iran's Sistan-Baluchestan province, is India's gateway to Afghanistan and Central Asia.

147 Who has been appointed as the new Chairperson of the Central Board of Secondary Education (CBSE) in June 2026?

[SSC CGL 13 Oct 2026, Shift-III]

(a) Lokhande Prashant Sitaram
(b) Himanshu Kumar Mishra
(c) Manoj Kumar Srivastava
(d) Varun Bhardwaj

ANSWER (a) Lokhande Prashant Sitaram

Lokhande Prashant Sitaram, a senior IAS officer, was appointed the new Chairperson of CBSE in June 2026, replacing Rahul Singh, amid the controversy over on-screen marking (OSM) of answer books. Varun Bhardwaj was named Secretary of the Board at the same time.

- The CBSE Chairperson is the head of the Board; the Secretary is a separate post.
- CBSE is headquartered in Delhi and functions under the Ministry of Education.
- It conducts the All India Secondary (Class 10) and Senior School Certificate (Class 12) examinations.

148 Which of the following is the first fully "Make-in-India" 32-bit microprocessor qualified for use in the harsh environmental conditions of launch vehicles, developed jointly by ISRO and the Semiconductor Laboratory in 2025?

[SSC CGL 13 Oct 2026, Shift-III]

(a) Vikram3201
(b) NavIC2000
(c) Aryabhata32
(d) Rohini128

ANSWER (a) Vikram3201

Vikram3201 is the first fully 'Make-in-India' 32-bit microprocessor qualified for the harsh conditions of launch vehicles. It was designed by ISRO's Vikram Sarabhai Space Centre (VSSC) and fabricated at the Semi-Conductor Laboratory (SCL), Chandigarh, and was unveiled in 2025.

- It is meant to replace imported processors in the navigation and control systems of launch vehicles.
- SCL Chandigarh is India's government-owned semiconductor fab, under the Department of Space.
- NavIC (Navigation with Indian Constellation) is India's regional navigation satellite system, not a processor.

149 As of October 2024, Vijaya Kishore Rahatkar heads which statutory body in India?

[SSC CGL 14 Oct 2026, Shift-I]

(a) National Commission for Protection of Child Rights
(b) National Commission for Women
(c) National Commission for Minorities
(d) Central Social Welfare Board

ANSWER (b) National Commission for Women

Vijaya Kishore Rahatkar heads the National Commission for Women (NCW); she became its Chairperson on 20 October 2024, succeeding Rekha Sharma.

- NCW is a statutory body constituted in January 1992 under the National Commission for Women Act, 1990; its first Chairperson was Jayanti Patnaik.
- NCPCR (National Commission for Protection of Child Rights) was set up in 2007 under the CPCR Act, 2005.
- The National Commission for Minorities was set up under the NCM Act, 1992.

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150 As of 2026, who is serving as India's National Security Advisor (NSA), the principal advisor to the Prime Minister on national security and strategic affairs?

[SSC CGL 14 Oct 2026, Shift-I]

(a) Ajit Doval
(b) Pankaj Saran
(c) Vikram Misri
(d) Rajinder Khanna

ANSWER (a) Ajit Doval

Ajit Doval is India's National Security Advisor (NSA); he has held the post since 30 May 2014 and was reappointed for a third term in June 2024 with Cabinet rank.

- The NSA is the principal adviser to the Prime Minister on national security; the post was created in 1998, with Brajesh Mishra as the first NSA.
- Vikram Misri is the Foreign Secretary of India.
- Pankaj Saran is a former Deputy NSA and Rajinder Khanna is a former RAW chief who has also served as Deputy NSA.

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151 Which country hosts Chabahar Port, which has been developed with Indian assistance?

[SSC CGL 14 Oct 2026, Shift-I]

(a) Saudi Arabia
(b) Oman
(c) United Arab Emirates
(d) Iran

ANSWER (d) Iran

Chabahar Port is located in Iran, in Sistan-Baluchestan province on the Gulf of Oman. India is developing its Shahid Beheshti terminal, and India Ports Global Limited signed a 10-year operating contract in May 2024.

- The port gives India access to Afghanistan and Central Asia bypassing Pakistan.
- It is a key node of the International North-South Transport Corridor (INSTC).
- The India-Iran-Afghanistan Chabahar agreement was signed in Tehran in 2016.

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152 Who has been appointed as a part-time member of the 16th Finance Commission (XVI FC) of India?

[SSC CGL 14 Oct 2026, Shift-I]

(a) Arvind Panagariya
(b) Ajay Narayan Jha
(c) T. Rabi Sankar
(d) Rajiv Kumar

ANSWER (c) T. Rabi Sankar

T. Rabi Sankar, Deputy Governor of the Reserve Bank of India, was appointed a part-time member of the 16th Finance Commission in June 2025. The Commission is chaired by Arvind Panagariya.

- The Finance Commission is a constitutional body set up under Article 280, normally every five years.
- Ajay Narayan Jha is a full-time member of the 16th Finance Commission.
- The 16th Finance Commission's recommendations cover the period beginning 2026–27.

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153 What is a key element of the IMEC (India-Middle East-Europe Economic Corridor) infrastructure?

[SSC CGL 14 Oct 2026, Shift-II]

(a) Space elevators
(b) Pipelines
(c) Zeppelin routes
(d) Underground hyperloops

ANSWER (b) Pipelines

Pipelines (for hydrogen, along with an electricity cable and a data cable) are a key element of IMEC's infrastructure, besides railways and shipping links connecting ports in India, the Gulf and Europe.

- IMEC was announced at the G20 Summit in New Delhi in September 2023.
- It has an eastern corridor (India to the Gulf) and a northern corridor (Gulf to Europe).
- Space elevators, zeppelins and hyperloops are not part of the plan.

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154 Consider the following statements about Chhari-Dhand wetland:
1. It is located in the Kutch district of Gujarat and was designated as a Ramsar site in January 2026.
2. The wetland is home to endangered species such as the Dalmatian Pelican, Oriental Darter, and Indian Skimmer
Which of the statements given above is/are **correct**?

[SSC CGL 14 Oct 2026, Shift-II]

(a) Only 1
(b) Only 2
(c) Both 1 and 2
(d) Neither 1 nor 2

ANSWER (c) Both 1 and 2

As per the official answer key, both statements are correct. Chhari-Dhand (Chhari-Dhandh), a seasonal wetland in Kutch district, Gujarat, became a Ramsar site in January 2026 as Gujarat's fifth and Kutch's first Ramsar site. It supports globally threatened or near-threatened birds such as the Dalmatian Pelican, Oriental Darter and Indian Skimmer.

- Patna Bird Sanctuary (Uttar Pradesh) was added to the Ramsar list at the same time, taking India's tally to 98.
- Other Ramsar sites in Gujarat include Nalsarovar and Khijadiya.
- Ramsar sites are designated under the Ramsar Convention of 1971.

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155 Who became the first woman in India to be appointed as the Director General (DG) of the Central Industrial Security Force (CISF) in December 2023?

[SSC CGL 14 Oct 2026, Shift-III]

(a) Rashmi Shukla
(b) Nina Singh
(c) Aruna Bahuguna
(d) Meera Borwankar

ANSWER (b) Nina Singh

Nina Singh, a senior IPS officer, became the first woman Director General of the Central Industrial Security Force (CISF) in December 2023.

- CISF was raised in 1969 and functions under the Ministry of Home Affairs; it protects airports, the Delhi Metro, nuclear and space installations and other critical infrastructure.
- Its headquarters is in New Delhi.
- Rashmi Shukla became the first woman Director General of Police of Maharashtra (2024).

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156 Which of the following propellant combinations is used by ISRO's Semicryogenic Engine (SE2000)?

[SSC CGL 14 Oct 2026, Shift-III]

(a) Liquid Hydrogen and Liquid Oxygen
(b) Hydrazine and Nitrogen Tetroxide
(c) Liquid Oxygen and Kerosene
(d) Methane and Liquid Oxygen

ANSWER (c) Liquid Oxygen and Kerosene

ISRO's Semicryogenic Engine (SE2000) uses liquid oxygen (LOX) as oxidiser and refined kerosene (RP-1 grade) as fuel. It is called 'semi-cryogenic' because only the oxidiser is cryogenic, while kerosene is stored at ordinary temperature. The engine has a thrust of about 2000 kN and is developed by the Liquid Propulsion Systems Centre (LPSC).

- Liquid hydrogen with liquid oxygen is used in fully cryogenic engines such as CE-20 of LVM3.
- Hydrazine-based fuel with nitrogen tetroxide is a storable propellant used, for example, in the Vikas engine (UH25 and N2O4).
- Semicryogenic engines give higher thrust, are cheaper and easier to handle than fully cryogenic ones.

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157 The name of the lander used in Chandrayaan-3 mission is:

[SSC CGL 15 Oct 2026, Shift-I]

(a) Aryabhata
(b) Mangal
(c) Pragyan
(d) Vikram

ANSWER (d) Vikram

The lander of the Chandrayaan-3 mission was named Vikram (after Dr Vikram Sarabhai), and the rover was named Pragyan. Vikram soft-landed near the lunar south pole on 23 August 2023.

- India became the fourth country to soft-land on the Moon, after the USSR, the USA and China, and the first to land near the south polar region.
- Chandrayaan-3 was launched on 14 July 2023 by LVM3-M4 from Sriharikota.
- The landing site was named 'Shiv Shakti Point'.

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158 Which ISRO mission is focused on Earth observation to monitor climate and environmental changes?

[SSC CGL 15 Oct 2026, Shift-I]

(a) RISAT series
(b) Mangalyaan
(c) Gaganyaan
(d) Chandrayaan-1

ANSWER (a) RISAT series

The RISAT (Radar Imaging Satellite) series is ISRO's Earth observation series. Its synthetic aperture radar can image the surface day and night and in all weather, helping monitor floods, agriculture, forests and environmental change.

- Mangalyaan (Mars Orbiter Mission) was launched in November 2013 and entered Mars orbit on 24 September 2014.
- Gaganyaan is India's human spaceflight programme.
- Chandrayaan-1 (2008) was India's first lunar mission, which helped confirm the presence of water molecules on the Moon.

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159 In September 2022, who was named to serve as the Director General of the Indian Council of Medical Research (ICMR)?

[SSC CGL 15 Oct 2026, Shift-I]

(a) Dr. Soumya Swaminathan
(b) Dr. Priya Abraham
(c) Dr. Rajiv Bahl
(d) Dr. Nivedita Gupta

ANSWER (c) Dr. Rajiv Bahl

Dr Rajiv Bahl was appointed Director General of the Indian Council of Medical Research (ICMR) and Secretary of the Department of Health Research in 2022, succeeding Dr Balram Bhargava.

- ICMR is the apex body in India for the formulation, coordination and promotion of biomedical research; its headquarters is in New Delhi.
- It was founded in 1911 as the Indian Research Fund Association and renamed ICMR in 1949.
- Dr Soumya Swaminathan was DG of ICMR earlier (2015-2017) before joining the WHO.

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160 **Consider the following statements regarding India-Nepal cooperation on transboundary rivers:**
1) India and Nepal have jointly established the Pancheshwar Development Authority (PDA) to execute the Mahakali Treaty provisions on the Sarda River.
2) The Flood Forecasting & Early Warning System between India and Nepal is updated quarterly during monsoon seasons.
Which of the above is/are **correct**?

[SSC CGL 15 Oct 2026, Shift-I]

(a) Only 1
(b) Only 2
(c) 1 and 2 both are correct
(d) Neither 1 nor 2 is correct

ANSWER (a) Only 1

Statement 1 is correct: under the Mahakali Treaty (1996), India and Nepal set up the Pancheshwar Development Authority (PDA) to execute the Pancheshwar Multipurpose Project on the Mahakali (Sharda) river. Statement 2 is wrong: flood data on Nepal's rivers is shared during the monsoon flood season in near-real time, not updated only 'quarterly'.

- The Mahakali Treaty covers the Sarada Barrage, the Tanakpur Barrage and the Pancheshwar Project.
- The Mahakali river forms part of the India-Nepal border along Uttarakhand.
- The Indo-Nepal Joint Committee on Inundation and Flood Management (JCIFM) deals with flood issues.

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161 Which statement best reflects the methodology and global scope of the 2024 Corruption Perceptions Index (CPI)?

[SSC CGL 15 Oct 2026, Shift-I]

(a) The CPI ranks countries based on actual criminal convictions
(b) The index includes only developed countries
(c) The CPI scores are based on perceived public sector corruption and range from 0 (highly corrupt) to 100 (very clean)
(d) It ranks nations based on private sector ethical practices

ANSWER (c) The CPI scores are based on perceived public sector ...

The Corruption Perceptions Index (CPI), published by Transparency International, scores countries on the perceived level of public sector corruption on a scale from 0 (highly corrupt) to 100 (very clean). It is based on expert and business surveys, not on convictions, and covers developed and developing countries alike.

- In CPI 2024, Denmark ranked first, while India ranked 96th with a score of 38.
- Transparency International is headquartered in Berlin.
- CPI measures perceptions and not actual corruption levels.

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162 Group Captain Shubhanshu Shukla was selected in 2025 for which space mission?

[SSC CGL 15 Oct 2026, Shift-II]

(a) Gaganyaan-1 (Orbital Mission)
(b) Axiom-4 mission to the International Space Station
(c) Chandrayaan-4 Sample Return
(d) Aditya-L1 maintenance mission

ANSWER (b) Axiom-4 mission to the International Space Station

Group Captain Shubhanshu Shukla was the pilot of the Axiom-4 (Ax-4) mission to the International Space Station (ISS). The mission was launched on 25 June 2025 on a SpaceX Falcon 9 with the Crew Dragon capsule and returned to Earth on 15 July 2025.

- He became the first Indian to visit the ISS and the second Indian in space after Rakesh Sharma (1984).
- He is also one of the four astronaut-designates selected for ISRO's Gaganyaan mission.
- Ax-4 was commanded by former NASA astronaut Peggy Whitson.

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163 As of 2026, who is serving as the Secretary of the 16th Finance Commission of India?

[SSC CGL 15 Oct 2026, Shift-II]

(a) Ritvik Ranjanam Pandey
(b) Arvind Virmani
(c) T.V. Somanathan
(d) V. Anantha Nageswaran

ANSWER (a) Ritvik Ranjanam Pandey

Ritvik Ranjanam Pandey is the Secretary of the 16th Finance Commission of India, which is chaired by Arvind Panagariya.

- The 16th Finance Commission was constituted in December 2023 and covers the period 2026-27 to 2030-31.
- T. V. Somanathan is the Cabinet Secretary and V. Anantha Nageswaran is the Chief Economic Adviser.
- The Finance Commission is a constitutional body under Article 280.

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164 Which of the following is NOT included among the astronaut-designates selected for the Indian Space Research Organisation (ISRO) Gaganyaan mission?

[SSC CGL 15 Oct 2026, Shift-II]

(a) Prasanth Balakrishnan Nair
(b) Ajit Krishnan
(c) Shubhanshu Shukla
(d) Rakesh Sharma

ANSWER (d) Rakesh Sharma

Rakesh Sharma is not among the Gaganyaan astronaut-designates. The four designates announced in February 2024 are Group Captains Prasanth Balakrishnan Nair, Ajit Krishnan, Angad Prathap and Shubhanshu Shukla.

- Rakesh Sharma flew to the Salyut-7 space station on the Soviet Soyuz T-11 on 3 April 1984, becoming the first Indian in space.
- All four designates are Indian Air Force test pilots.
- Gaganyaan is ISRO's human spaceflight programme, planning a crewed orbital flight in low Earth orbit.

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165 The India–Middle East-Europe Economic Corridor (IMEC) initiative reflects India's broader foreign-policy approach of:

[SSC CGL 15 Oct 2026, Shift-III]

(a) Military expansionism and defence dominance
(b) Multi-alignment and connectivity diplomacy
(c) Continental withdrawal and regional disengagement
(d) Strategic isolationism and diplomatic non-engagement

ANSWER (b) Multi-alignment and connectivity diplomacy

IMEC reflects India's foreign-policy approach of multi-alignment and connectivity diplomacy: partnering with several countries (the USA, Gulf states, the EU) at once and building trade and infrastructure links across regions, rather than joining a single bloc.

- IMEC was announced at the G20 Summit, New Delhi, in September 2023.
- It is often seen as an alternative route to connectivity projects such as China's Belt and Road Initiative.
- India has similar connectivity projects: INSTC and the Chabahar Port.

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166 One key strategic objective of the India–Middle East-Europe Economic Corridor (IMEC) is to strengthen:

[SSC CGL 15 Oct 2026, Shift-III]

(a) Supply chain resilience
(b) Nuclear deterrence
(c) Currency union in Asia
(d) Arctic navigation

ANSWER (a) Supply chain resilience

A key strategic objective of IMEC is to strengthen supply-chain resilience by creating an additional, reliable trade route between India, the Gulf and Europe, so that trade depends less on a few vulnerable sea lanes and chokepoints.

- IMEC was announced at the G20 Summit in New Delhi in September 2023 as a joint initiative of India, the USA, Saudi Arabia, the UAE and the EU, with France, Germany and Italy.
- Its components include railways, ports, an electricity cable, a hydrogen pipeline and a data cable.
- It has no connection with nuclear deterrence, a currency union, or Arctic navigation.

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167 Which Indian Air Force officer has been appointed to take charge as the new Vice-Chief of the Air Staff (VCAS) in July 2026?

[SSC CGL 15 Oct 2026, Shift-III]

(a) Air Marshal R.K. Singh
(b) Air Marshal Ashutosh Dixit
(c) Air Marshal Amar Preet Singh
(d) Air Marshal Manavendra Singh

ANSWER (b) Air Marshal Ashutosh Dixit

Air Marshal Ashutosh Dixit took charge as the Vice Chief of the Air Staff (VCAS) of the Indian Air Force on 1 July 2026.

- The VCAS is the second-in-command of the IAF after the Chief of the Air Staff.
- The IAF was established on 8 October 1932; Air Day is observed on 8 October every year.
- Air Marshal Amar Preet Singh was earlier the VCAS and later became Chief of the Air Staff in September 2024.

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168 According to the Urban and Regional Development Plans Formulation and Implementation (URDPFI) Guidelines, which planning category is most appropriate for environmentally sensitive areas that require special development controls?

[SSC CGL 15 Oct 2026, Shift-III]

(a) Central Business District
(b) Industrial Development Area
(c) Special Area
(d) Residential Expansion Area

ANSWER (c) Special Area

As per the official answer key, 'Special Area' is the planning category suited to environmentally sensitive and similar areas needing special development controls under the URDPFI Guidelines.

- The URDPFI Guidelines (2014) were formulated by the Town and Country Planning Organisation (TCPO) of the Ministry of Housing and Urban Affairs.
- They guide States in preparing master plans, regional plans and development plans.
- Commercial, industrial and residential categories deal with ordinary land uses and are not meant for environmentally sensitive zones.

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169 Which ISRO in-orbit experimental platform demonstrated a robotic arm technology in microgravity during the PSLV-C60/SpaDeX mission?

[SSC CGL 15 Oct 2026, Shift-III]

(a) POEM-04
(b) NVS-02
(c) Aditya-L1
(d) NISAR

ANSWER (a) POEM-04

POEM-4 (PSLV Orbital Experimental Module-4), the re-used fourth stage of PSLV-C60, carried experiments including a robotic arm demonstrator that worked in microgravity during the SpaDeX mission.

- POEM turns the spent PSLV fourth stage into an orbital platform for experiments.
- NVS-02 is a NavIC navigation satellite launched by GSLV-F15 in January 2025.
- Aditya-L1 is the solar mission, and NISAR is the Earth-observation radar mission.

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170 In March 2026, Arundhati Reddy was recognized for which achievement?

[SSC CGL 16 Oct 2026, Shift-I]

(a) Arjuna Award
(b) International Cricket Council (ICC) Women's Player of the Month
(c) Twenty20 (T20) series win as captain
(d) One Day International (ODI) world record

ANSWER (b) International Cricket Council (ICC) Women's Player of the ...

Indian fast bowler Arundhati Reddy was named the ICC Women's Player of the Month for February 2026, announced in March 2026, after her performances in India's series win over Australia. It was her first ICC Player of the Month award.

- The ICC Player of the Month awards were introduced in 2021 for men and women.
- Pakistan's Sahibzada Farhan won the men's award for the same month.
- Winners are chosen by a voting panel and by public votes.

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171 Praveen Kumar Srivastava holds which statutory anti-corruption position in India as of 2026?

[SSC CGL 16 Oct 2026, Shift-I]

(a) Chief Information Commissioner (CIC) of India
(b) Central Vigilance Commissioner (CVC) of India
(c) Director of Central Bureau of Investigation (CBI)
(d) Director of Enforcement in India

ANSWER (b) Central Vigilance Commissioner (CVC) of India

Praveen Kumar Srivastava is the Central Vigilance Commissioner (CVC) of India, heading the Central Vigilance Commission; he was sworn in by the President in May 2023.

- The CVC was set up in 1964 on the recommendation of the Santhanam Committee and was given statutory status by the CVC Act, 2003.
- The CVC is appointed by the President on the recommendation of a committee of the Prime Minister, the Union Home Minister and the Leader of Opposition in the Lok Sabha.
- Its term is four years or until the age of 65, whichever is earlier.

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172 What is the designation of Parvathaneni Harish in 2026, who made headlines in 2025 for advocating India's stance on United Nations Security Council (UNSC) reforms at the United Nations General Assembly (UNGA)?

[SSC CGL 16 Oct 2026, Shift-II]

(a) Foreign Secretary of India
(b) Ambassador of India to the United States
(c) Permanent Representative of India to the United Nations
(d) High Commissioner of India to the United Kingdom

ANSWER (c) Permanent Representative of India to the United Nations

Parvathaneni Harish is the Permanent Representative of India to the United Nations in New York; he took up the post in August 2024, succeeding Ruchira Kamboj. He has been a vocal advocate of reform of the UN Security Council.

- India has long sought a permanent seat on a reformed UNSC.
- The UNSC has five permanent members (USA, UK, France, Russia, China) and ten non-permanent members elected for two years.

• The Foreign Secretary of India is Vikram Misri.

173 According to the World Happiness Report 2026, how many countries recorded statistically significant gains in life evaluation between the 2006–2010 base period and 2023–2025?

[SSC CGL 16 Oct 2026, Shift-II]

(a) 136 (b) 21
(c) 41 (d) 79

ANSWER (d) 79

As per the official answer key, 79 countries recorded statistically significant gains in life evaluation between the 2006-2010 base period and 2023-2025, according to the World Happiness Report 2026.

- The World Happiness Report is published every year around 20 March, the International Day of Happiness.
- It is produced by the Wellbeing Research Centre (University of Oxford) with Gallup and the UN SDSN, and ranks countries on the basis of the Cantril ladder (0-10).
- Finland has topped the ranking for several years in a row.

174 According to the World Happiness Report 2026, which factor was associated with a greater improvement in life satisfaction than reducing social media use among girls in the United Kingdom and Ireland?

[SSC CGL 16 Oct 2026, Shift-II]

(a) Increased physical exercise (b) Greater school belonging
(c) Higher household income (d) Urban residence

ANSWER (b) Greater school belonging

As per the official answer key, greater school belonging (a stronger sense of connection to school) was linked with a bigger improvement in life satisfaction among girls in the UK and Ireland than cutting down on social media use. The report examines how social media use relates to youth well-being.

- The World Happiness Report 2026 devoted a special focus to the effect of social media on young people's happiness.
- The report is based on the Gallup World Poll and Cantril ladder life evaluation.
- It is released every year around the International Day of Happiness (20 March).

175 Give the name of the Indian Origin deceased NASA Astronaut on whose name On October 2, 2020, NASA had launched a commercial spacecraft.

[SSC CGL 16 Oct 2026, Shift-III]

(a) Raja John Voorputur Chari (b) Sunita Chawla
(c) Sunita Williams (d) Kalpana Chawla

ANSWER (d) Kalpana Chawla

Kalpana Chawla, the Indian-born NASA astronaut who died in the Space Shuttle Columbia disaster (STS-107) on 1 February 2003, was honoured when the Northrop Grumman Cygnus cargo spacecraft NG-14 was named S.S. Kalpana Chawla and launched to the International Space Station on 2 October 2020.

- She was born in Karnal, Haryana, in 1962, and was the first woman of Indian origin in space (STS-87, 1997).
- Raja Chari and Sunita Williams are living NASA astronauts of Indian origin.
- 'Sunita Chawla' is not a real NASA astronaut; the option merges the names of Sunita Williams and Kalpana Chawla.

176 The World Happiness Report combines well-being data from how many countries?

[SSC CGL 16 Oct 2026, Shift-III]

(a) Over 70 (b) Over 100
(c) Over 140 (d) Over 200

ANSWER (c) Over 140

The World Happiness Report combines well-being data from over 140 countries, gathered largely through the Gallup World Poll, and ranks them by average life evaluation.

- It is published around 20 March each year, the International Day of Happiness (declared by the UN in 2012).
- Life evaluation is measured by the Cantril ladder, on which people rate their life from 0 to 10.
- The first report was published in 2012.

177 Who was appointed as the Chief Election Commissioner of India in May 2022?

[SSC CGL 16 Oct 2026, Shift-III]

(a) Rajiv Kumar
(b) Sushil Chandra
(c) Nasim Zaidi
(d) Achal Kumar Jyoti

ANSWER (a) Rajiv Kumar

Rajiv Kumar was appointed the 25th Chief Election Commissioner of India in May 2022 (taking charge on 15 May 2022), succeeding Sushil Chandra. He retired on 18 February 2025 and was succeeded by Gyanesh Kumar.

- The Election Commission of India was established on 25 January 1950 under Article 324 of the Constitution; National Voters' Day is observed on 25 January.
- The first Chief Election Commissioner was Sukumar Sen.
- Nasim Zaidi and Achal Kumar Jyoti are former CECs.

178 What innovative technologies will the TDS01 mission test?

[SSC CGL 16 Oct 2026, Shift-III]

(a) Quantum communication and electric propulsion
(b) Artificial intelligence in space navigation
(c) Advanced space telescopes
(d) Robotic space mining techniques

ANSWER (a) Quantum communication and electric propulsion

ISRO's TDS-01 (Technology Demonstration Satellite-01) is a technology-demonstration mission that will test new technologies, notably a high-thrust electric (plasma) propulsion system and a quantum communication payload, along with others such as atomic clocks.

- Electric propulsion uses electrical energy to accelerate propellant ions, giving high fuel efficiency for orbit raising and station-keeping.
- Quantum communication (such as quantum key distribution) promises highly secure data transmission.
- The satellite is planned to be launched by a PSLV from Sriharikota.

179 What was the estimated number of people displaced due to the 2024 monsoon floods in India?

[SSC CGL 16 Oct 2026, Shift-III]

(a) 2.1 million
(b) 3.7 million
(c) 5.4 million
(d) 7.8 million

ANSWER (c) 5.4 million

As per the official answer key, the estimated number of people displaced by the 2024 monsoon floods in India was about 5.4 million (54 lakh).

- The south-west monsoon brings most of India's annual rainfall between June and September, and floods and landslides are its main hazards.
- The National Disaster Management Authority (NDMA) was established under the Disaster Management Act, 2005, with the Prime Minister as its chairperson.
- Displacement due to disasters is tracked internationally by the Internal Displacement Monitoring Centre (IDMC).

180 The "Strengthening the Quad Act" passed by the U.S. House in 2024 primarily aimed at:

[SSC CGL 16 Oct 2026, Shift-III]

(a) Establishing a NATO-like military pact
(b) Banning trade with non-Quad nations
(c) Formalizing coordination in innovation and security
(d) Dissolving AUKUS in favor of Quad

ANSWER (c) Formalizing coordination in innovation and security

The 'Strengthening the Quad Act', passed by the US House of Representatives in 2024, primarily aimed at formalising coordination among the Quad countries in innovation and security. It supports regular Quad cooperation but does not create a NATO-like military pact.

- The Quad consists of India, the USA, Japan and Australia and is not a formal treaty alliance.
- AUKUS is a separate security partnership of Australia, the UK and the USA, formed in 2021.
- Quad cooperation covers maritime security, critical technologies, health and climate.

181 Who assumed office as the 26th Chief Election Commissioner of India on 19 February 2025?

[SSC CGL 22 Oct 2026, Shift-I]

(a) Rajiv Kumar
(b) Gyanesh Kumar
(c) Sukhbir Singh Sandhu
(d) Anup Chandra Pandey

ANSWER (b) Gyanesh Kumar

Gyanesh Kumar assumed office as the 26th Chief Election Commissioner of India on 19 February 2025, succeeding Rajiv Kumar. A retired IAS officer of the 1988 batch (Kerala cadre), he was earlier the Union Secretary of the Ministry of Cooperation.

- He and Sukhbir Singh Sandhu were appointed Election Commissioners in March 2024.
- The Election Commission of India is a constitutional body (Article 324), established on 25 January 1950.
- The first CEC was Sukumar Sen (1950-1958).

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182 The proposal for conducting trade in national currencies among BRICS (Brazil, Russia, India, China, and South Africa) countries primarily seeks to reduce dependence on the:

[SSC CGL 22 Oct 2026, Shift-I]

(a) Europe Euro
(b) Japanese Yen
(c) United States Dollar
(d) British Pound Sterling

ANSWER (c) United States Dollar

Trade in national currencies among BRICS countries is mainly meant to reduce dependence on the United States dollar, the dominant currency of global trade and reserves. Settling trade in local currencies also lowers exchange-rate risk and exposure to sanctions.

- BRICS began as BRIC in 2009; South Africa joined in 2010, and the group expanded in 2024.
- The New Development Bank (NDB) of BRICS is headquartered in Shanghai and was established in 2014.
- India has already begun rupee-based trade settlement with several countries.

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183 Kuno National Park, which was visited by the President of India, Droupadi Murmu, in June 2026, is located in which state?

[SSC CGL 22 Oct 2026, Shift-I]

(a) Rajasthan
(b) Madhya Pradesh
(c) Andhra Pradesh
(d) Maharashtra

ANSWER (b) Madhya Pradesh

Kuno National Park is located in the Sheopur district of Madhya Pradesh, so the correct answer is (B). It is the home of Project Cheetah, under which cheetahs were reintroduced to India, and President Droupadi Murmu visited it in June 2026.

- Cheetahs from Namibia were released at Kuno on 17 September 2022; a second batch came from South Africa in February 2023.
- The cheetah was declared extinct in India in 1952.
- Gandhi Sagar Wildlife Sanctuary, also in Madhya Pradesh, is being developed as another habitat for cheetahs.

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184 According to the World Happiness Report 2026, most countries whose life-evaluation scores increased by at least one point between the 2006–2010 base period and 2023–2025 were located in which region?

[SSC CGL 22 Oct 2026, Shift-I]

(a) Central and Eastern Europe
(b) Sub-Saharan Africa
(c) Western and Northern Europe
(d) South and Central America

ANSWER (a) Central and Eastern Europe

As per the official answer key, most countries with a rise of at least one point in life-evaluation scores were in Central and Eastern Europe, so (A) is correct. The World Happiness Report ranks countries on the basis of self-reported life evaluation.

- Finland was ranked the happiest country in the World Happiness Report 2026, for the ninth year in a row.
- India was ranked 116th in the 2026 report.
- The report is released around 20 March, the International Day of Happiness.

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185 The country rankings in the World Happiness Report are based on respondents' answers to which type of measure?

[SSC CGL 22 Oct 2026, Shift-I]

(a) Average life evaluation scores
(b) Human Development Index scores
(c) Happiness Quotient scores
(d) Gross domestic product growth rates

ANSWER (a) Average life evaluation scores

The rankings are based on average life-evaluation scores, so (A) is correct. Respondents rate their own lives on the Cantril ladder from 0 to 10, in the Gallup World Poll, and the report averages these scores over three years.

- The report explains differences using six factors: GDP per capita, social support, healthy life expectancy, freedom to make life choices, generosity and perceptions of corruption.
- These six factors explain the differences between countries but are not themselves the ranking score.
- The Human Development Index is a separate index published by UNDP.

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186 In July 2025, Parag Jain assumed charge as the head of which external intelligence agency of India?

[SSC CGL 22 Oct 2026, Shift-II]

(a) Intelligence Bureau (IB)
(b) Research and Analysis Wing (R&AW)
(c) Defense Intelligence Agency (DIA)
(d) National Technical Research Organisation (NTRO)

ANSWER (b) Research and Analysis Wing (R&AW)

Parag Jain, a 1989-batch IPS officer of the Punjab cadre, took charge as Secretary (R&AW) in July 2025, succeeding Ravi Sinha; hence (B) is correct. R&AW is India's external intelligence agency and works under the Cabinet Secretariat.

- R&AW was formed in 1968, with R. N. Kao as its first head.
- The Intelligence Bureau (IB) handles internal intelligence and functions under the Ministry of Home Affairs.
- NTRO is a technical intelligence agency, set up in 2004.

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187 Dr. V. Narayanan, former Director of ISRO's (Indian Space Research Organisation) Liquid Propulsion Systems Centre, played a key role in which major space technology achievement?

[SSC CGL 22 Oct 2026, Shift-II]

(a) Launching Mangalyaan-2
(b) Developing the CE-20 cryogenic engine for heavy rockets
(c) Designing the LUPEX (LUnar Polar EXploration) rover
(d) Headlining the Gaganyaan parachute tests

ANSWER (b) Developing the CE-20 cryogenic engine for heavy rockets

Dr. V. Narayanan, formerly Director of the Liquid Propulsion Systems Centre (LPSC), played a key role in developing the CE-20 cryogenic engine, so (B) is correct. The CE-20 powers the cryogenic upper stage of the LVM3 launch vehicle, which launched Chandrayaan-3 in July 2023.

- Narayanan became Chairman of ISRO and Secretary, Department of Space, in January 2025, succeeding S. Somanath.
- LUPEX is a joint lunar polar exploration mission of ISRO and JAXA (Japan).
- Cryogenic engines use liquid hydrogen as fuel and liquid oxygen as oxidiser.

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188 As of 2026, R. Venkataramani holds which top legal office in India?

[SSC CGL 22 Oct 2026, Shift-III]

(a) Solicitor General of India
(b) Attorney General of India
(c) Chief Justice of India
(d) Advocate General of India

ANSWER (b) Attorney General of India

R. Venkataramani is the Attorney General of India, so (B) is correct. He took office on 1 October 2022, succeeding K. K. Venugopal.

- The Attorney General is the first law officer of the Government of India and is appointed by the President under Article 76.
- Only a person qualified to be a Supreme Court judge can be appointed Attorney General.
- The Solicitor General is the second law officer and assists the Attorney General; the Advocate General is the law officer of a State (Article 165).

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189 Who was the President of India during whose tenure the “One Nation, One Election” legislative roadmap was presented to Parliament in March 2026?

[SSC CGL 22 Oct 2026, Shift-III]

(a) Droupadi Murmu
(b) Jagdeep Dhankhar
(c) Om Birla
(d) Narendra Modi

ANSWER (a) Droupadi Murmu

Droupadi Murmu has been the President of India since 25 July 2022, so among the options she is the only one who holds that office; (A) is correct. Jagdeep Dhankhar was the Vice-President, Om Birla is the Lok Sabha Speaker and Narendra Modi is the Prime Minister.

- The High-Level Committee under former President Ram Nath Kovind submitted its report on simultaneous elections in March 2024.
- The Constitution (129th Amendment) Bill, 2024 on simultaneous elections was referred to a Joint Parliamentary Committee.
- Droupadi Murmu is the first tribal person and the second woman to hold the office of President.

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190 Which BRICS (Brazil, Russia, India, China, and South Africa) country has the strongest demographic advantage because of its large youthful population?

[SSC CGL 22 Oct 2026, Shift-III]

(a) China
(b) Russia
(c) Brazil
(d) India

ANSWER (d) India

India has the strongest demographic advantage among the BRICS countries because of its very large youthful population, so (D) is correct. China and Russia have ageing populations, whereas India has the largest share of young people in the working-age group.

- India is the most populous country in the world, having overtaken China in 2023 according to UN estimates.
- A demographic dividend arises when the working-age population is large compared with dependants.
- BRICS was formed as BRIC in 2009, and South Africa joined in 2010.

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191 Who assumed office as the Chief of the Naval Staff of India in April 2024?

[SSC CGL 22 Oct 2026, Shift-III]

(a) Admiral R. Hari Kumar
(b) Admiral Karambir Singh
(c) Admiral Dinesh K Tripathi
(d) Admiral Sunil Lanba

ANSWER (c) Admiral Dinesh K Tripathi

Admiral Dinesh Kumar Tripathi took over as the 26th Chief of the Naval Staff on 30 April 2024, succeeding Admiral R. Hari Kumar; so (C) is correct.

- Admiral R. Hari Kumar held the post from November 2021 to April 2024.
- Admiral Karambir Singh was Navy chief from 2019 to 2021, and Admiral Sunil Lanba from 2016 to 2019.
- The President of India is the Supreme Commander of the Armed Forces.

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192 Which of the following wildlife sanctuaries in Kerala was officially renamed as Kerala's first Butterfly Sanctuary in 2026?

[SSC CGL 22 Oct 2026, Shift-III]

(a) Aralam Wildlife Sanctuary
(b) Silent Valley Wildlife Sanctuary
(c) Wayanad Wildlife Sanctuary
(d) Parambikulam Wildlife Sanctuary

ANSWER (a) Aralam Wildlife Sanctuary

Aralam Wildlife Sanctuary in Kannur district was renamed Aralam Butterfly Sanctuary in January 2026, making it Kerala's first butterfly sanctuary; so (A) is correct. It lies in the Western Ghats and is known for its rich butterfly diversity.

- Silent Valley is a national park in Palakkad district, and Parambikulam is a tiger reserve, also in Palakkad.
- The Southern Birdwing (Troides minos) was declared the state butterfly of Kerala.
- Kerala is among the States of the Western Ghats, a UNESCO World Heritage Site since 2012.

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193 According to the World Happiness Report 2026, what was the approximate ratio of countries recording statistically significant gains in life evaluation to those recording significant losses between the 2006–2010 base period and 2023–2025?

[SSC CGL 22 Oct 2026, Shift-III]

(a) 1:1 (b) 2:1
(c) 3:1 (d) 4:1

ANSWER (b) 2:1

As per the official answer key, the approximate ratio of countries with statistically significant gains to those with significant losses was 2:1, so (B) is correct. More countries improved than declined in life evaluation over this period.

- The World Happiness Report was first published in 2012 and is now released each year around 20 March.
- The International Day of Happiness is observed on 20 March, as proclaimed by the UN General Assembly in 2012.
- Finland topped the 2026 report, for the ninth consecutive year.

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194 Which of the following organizations is an official publishing partner of the World Happiness Report?

[SSC CGL 22 Oct 2026, Shift-III]

(a) Organization for Economic Cooperation and Development (OECD)
(b) United Nations Sustainable Development Solutions Network (UN SDSN)
(c) World Trade Organization (WTO)
(d) United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization (UNESCO)

ANSWER (b) United Nations Sustainable Development Solutions Network ...

The World Happiness Report is published by the UN Sustainable Development Solutions Network (UN SDSN) in partnership with the Gallup World Poll and the Wellbeing Research Centre at the University of Oxford; so (B) is correct.

- The UN SDSN was launched in 2012 under the UN Secretary-General, and Jeffrey Sachs is its President.
- The rankings use Gallup World Poll data.
- The OECD, WTO and UNESCO are not publishing partners of the report.

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195 The **National Mission on Biodiversity and Human Well-Being**, mentioned in the 2025 vision document, is primarily anchored by which of the following?

[SSC CGL 23 Oct 2026, Shift-I]

(a) NITI Aayog and Ministry of Finance
(b) Ministry of Environment, Forest and Climate Change and PM-STIAC
(c) Ministry of Agriculture and ICAR
(d) Ministry of Science & Technology and ISRO

ANSWER (b) Ministry of Environment, Forest and Climate Change and ...

As per the official answer key, the mission is anchored by the Ministry of Environment, Forest and Climate Change (MoEFCC) together with PM-STIAC, so (B) is correct. MoEFCC is the nodal ministry for biodiversity in India.

- PM-STIAC is the Prime Minister's Science, Technology and Innovation Advisory Council, which works under the Principal Scientific Adviser.
- The Biological Diversity Act, 2002 governs biodiversity conservation in India, and the National Biodiversity Authority is based in Chennai.
- NITI Aayog and the Ministry of Finance are not the anchoring bodies for this mission.

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196 In India, which position is held by Dr. V. Anantha Nageswaran, who authored and released the Economic Survey 2025–26 in early 2026?

[SSC CGL 23 Oct 2026, Shift-I]

(a) Finance Secretary
(b) Chief Economic Adviser (CEA)
(c) Governor of the Reserve Bank of India (RBI)
(d) Chief Executive Officer of the National Institution for Transforming India (NITI Aayog)

ANSWER (b) Chief Economic Adviser (CEA)

Dr. V. Anantha Nageswaran is the Chief Economic Adviser (CEA) to the Government of India, so (B) is correct. The Economic Survey is prepared by the Economic Division of the Department of Economic Affairs, Ministry of Finance, under the guidance of the CEA.

- The Economic Survey is tabled in Parliament a day before the Union Budget.
- The first Economic Survey was presented in 1950–51.

- The RBI Governor is Sanjay Malhotra, and the CEO of NITI Aayog is a different official.

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197 The Chhari-Dhand Wetland, announced as a new addition to India's Ramsar network in 2026, is situated in which of the following states?

[SSC CGL 23 Oct 2026, Shift-I]

(a) Bihar
(b) Uttar Pradesh
(c) Gujrat
(d) Rajasthan

ANSWER (c) Gujrat

Chhari-Dhand is a seasonal wetland in the Kutch district of Gujarat, so (C) is correct. It lies in the arid Banni grassland region of the Rann of Kutch.

- The Ramsar Convention on wetlands was signed in 1971 at Ramsar, Iran; India joined it in 1982.
- Gujarat's earlier Ramsar sites include Nal Sarovar, Thol Lake, Wadhvana and Khijadiya.
- Chilika Lake (Odisha) and Keoladeo National Park (Rajasthan) were the first Indian wetlands listed as Ramsar sites.

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198 Justice V. Ramasubramanian, who assumed office in late 2024, heads which statutory body responsible for safeguarding civil liberties in 2026?

[SSC CGL 23 Oct 2026, Shift-II]

(a) National Commission for Scheduled Castes
(b) National Human Rights Commission
(c) National Commission for Minorities
(d) Law Commission of India

ANSWER (b) National Human Rights Commission

Justice V. Ramasubramanian is the Chairperson of the National Human Rights Commission (NHRC), so (B) is correct. He took charge in December 2024, succeeding Justice Arun Mishra.

- The NHRC is a statutory body set up under the Protection of Human Rights Act, 1993, and was established in 1993.
- The Chairperson of the NHRC is a former Chief Justice of India or a former judge of the Supreme Court.
- Its headquarters is in New Delhi.

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199 General Anil Chauhan, whose tenure was extended in late 2025, serves as the principal military advisor to the Government of India in which role?

[SSC CGL 23 Oct 2026, Shift-II]

(a) Chief of the Army Staff
(b) Chief of Defence Staff
(c) National Security Advisor
(d) Secretary, Ministry of Defence

ANSWER (b) Chief of Defence Staff

General Anil Chauhan is the Chief of Defence Staff (CDS), so (B) is correct. He assumed the office on 30 September 2022 and is the second CDS of India after General Bipin Rawat.

- The CDS is the head of the Department of Military Affairs and the permanent Chairman of the Chiefs of Staff Committee.
- The post of CDS was announced by the Prime Minister on 15 August 2019, and General Bipin Rawat became the first CDS on 1 January 2020.
- The National Security Advisor is a civilian post; the Defence Secretary heads the Department of Defence.

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200 Which of the following concepts is most closely associated with the geopolitical aspirations of BRICS (Brazil, Russia, India, China, and South Africa)?

[SSC CGL 23 Oct 2026, Shift-II]

(a) Liberal interventionism
(b) Mercantilist isolationism
(c) Strategic autonomy
(d) Democratic centralism

ANSWER (c) Strategic autonomy

Strategic autonomy is the concept most closely linked with the geopolitical aspirations of BRICS, so (C) is correct. It means that member countries want independence in decision-making and a more multipolar world order, rather than depending on any one power bloc.

- India's foreign policy also follows the principle of strategic autonomy.
- BRICS set up the New Development Bank (2014 agreement) and the Contingent Reserve Arrangement.
- Democratic centralism is an organisational principle of communist parties and is unrelated to BRICS.

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201 Who was appointed as the Chief of the Air Staff (CAS) of the Indian Air Force in September 2024?

[SSC CGL 23 Oct 2026, Shift-II]

(a) Air Chief Marshal V.R. Chaudhari
(b) Air Chief Marshal R.K.S. Bhadauria
(c) Air Chief Marshal Amar Preet Singh
(d) Air Chief Marshal B.S. Dhanoa

ANSWER (c) Air Chief Marshal Amar Preet Singh

Air Chief Marshal Amar Preet Singh took over as the Chief of the Air Staff on 30 September 2024, succeeding Air Chief Marshal V. R. Chaudhari; so (C) is correct.

- V. R. Chaudhari was Air Chief from September 2021 to September 2024.
- R. K. S. Bhadauria held the post from 2019 to 2021, and B. S. Dhanoa from 2016 to 2019.
- The Indian Air Force was established on 8 October 1932, and Air Force Day is observed on 8 October.

202 In June 2026, the discovery of a new genus and species of tiger moth named 'Antaram idukki' highlighted the rich but largely unexplored biodiversity of which mountain range?

[SSC CGL 23 Oct 2026, Shift-II]

(a) Eastern Ghats
(b) Aravalli Range
(c) Western Ghats
(d) Vindhya Range

ANSWER (c) Western Ghats

The new tiger moth genus and species Antaram idukki was reported from Idukki in Kerala, in the Western Ghats, so (C) is correct. The discovery was made by scientists of the Zoological Survey of India (ZSI).

- The Western Ghats is a UNESCO World Heritage Site (2012) and one of the world's biodiversity hotspots.
- Idukki district lies in Kerala and includes parts of the high ranges of the Western Ghats.
- The Zoological Survey of India, headquartered in Kolkata, was founded in 1916.

203 According to the World Happiness Report 2026, which of the following internet activities was associated with higher life satisfaction among 15-year-old students?

[SSC CGL 23 Oct 2026, Shift-II]

(a) Content creation
(b) Social media
(c) Browsing for fun
(d) Gaming

ANSWER (a) Content creation

As per the official answer key, content creation was the internet activity associated with higher life satisfaction among 15-year-old students, so (A) is correct. The 2026 report focused on social media and the wellbeing of young people.

- The report found that how young people use social media matters, and that social connections and a sense of belonging influence life satisfaction far more than screen use.
- Finland topped the 2026 rankings, and India stood at 116th.
- The report is published by the UN SDSN with Gallup and the Wellbeing Research Centre, Oxford.

204 Who is the Comptroller and Auditor General (CAG) of India in 2025?

[SSC CGL 23 Oct 2026, Shift-III]

(a) Rajiv Mehrishi
(b) Shashi Kant Sharma
(c) K. Sanjay Murthy
(d) Girish Chandra Murmu

ANSWER (c) K. Sanjay Murthy

K. Sanjay Murthy took oath as the Comptroller and Auditor General (CAG) of India on 21 November 2024, succeeding Girish Chandra Murmu; so (C) is correct.

- The CAG is appointed by the President under Article 148 and can be removed only in the manner and on the grounds on which a Supreme Court judge is removed.
- The CAG holds office for six years or until the age of 65, whichever is earlier.
- Rajiv Mehrishi (2017–2020) and Shashi Kant Sharma (2013–2017) were earlier CAGs.

205 Which Indian state's Eravikulam National Park closed for the Nilgiri Tahr calving season in February 2025?

[SSC CGL 23 Oct 2026, Shift-III]

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

ANSWER (b) Kerala

Eravikulam National Park is in the Idukki district of Kerala, so (B) is correct. The park is closed to visitors every year for the calving season of the Nilgiri Tahr.

- The Nilgiri Tahr (Nilgiritragus hylocrius) is the state animal of Tamil Nadu and is listed as Endangered by the IUCN.
- Anamudi, the highest peak in peninsular India, lies inside the park.
- Neelakurinji flowers here once in about 12 years.

206 What is the focus of ISRO's Ladakh Human Analogue Mission?

[SSC CGL 23 Oct 2026, Shift-III]

(a) Testing AI-based rovers on glaciers
(b) Simulating lunar/Martian habitats for astronaut training
(c) Launching nanosatellites for LEO
(d) Measuring Himalayan tectonic movements

ANSWER (b) Simulating lunar/Martian habitats for astronaut training

The Ladakh Human Analogue Mission of ISRO simulates lunar and Martian habitat conditions to train astronauts, so (B) is correct. Ladakh's cold, dry, high-altitude terrain resembles conditions on the Moon and Mars.

- Analogue missions test habitat design, life-support systems and the psychological and physical responses of crews.
- Such training supports India's human spaceflight programme, Gaganyaan, which is led by ISRO's Human Space Flight Centre.
- Ladakh is a Union Territory with Leh as its largest town.

207 Which seasoned legal professional continues to serve as the Solicitor General of India in 2026, representing the Union in high-profile constitutional cases?

[SSC CGL 24 Oct 2026, Shift-I]

(a) Tushar Mehta
(b) Harish Salve
(c) Mukul Rohatgi
(d) Vikramjit Banerjee

ANSWER (a) Tushar Mehta

Tushar Mehta is the Solicitor General of India, so (A) is correct. He has held the post since October 2018 and represents the Union Government in important constitutional cases.

- The Solicitor General is the second law officer of the Government of India and assists the Attorney General.
- The office of Solicitor General is not mentioned in the Constitution; Article 76 provides only for the Attorney General.
- Harish Salve was Solicitor General from 1999 to 2002, and Mukul Rohatgi served as Attorney General.

208 Who took charge as India's Ambassador to the United States on 12 August 2024?

[SSC CGL 24 Oct 2026, Shift-I]

(a) Vinay Mohan Kwatra
(b) Vikram Misri
(c) Santosh Jha
(d) Jawed Ashraf

ANSWER (a) Vinay Mohan Kwatra

Vinay Mohan Kwatra, a 1988-batch IFS officer and former Foreign Secretary, took charge as India's Ambassador to the United States in 2024, succeeding Taranjit Singh Sandhu; so (A) is correct.

- Vikram Misri succeeded Kwatra as Foreign Secretary in July 2024.
- Santosh Jha is India's High Commissioner to Sri Lanka.
- The Indian Embassy in the US is located in Washington, D.C.

209 Which port is often compared geopolitically with Chabahar Port?

[SSC CGL 24 Oct 2026, Shift-I]

(a) Jebel Ali
(b) Duqm
(c) Hambantota
(d) Gwadar

ANSWER (d) Gwadar

Gwadar Port in Balochistan, Pakistan, is often compared geopolitically with Chabahar Port in Iran, so (D) is correct. Both lie on the Gulf of Oman side of the Arabian Sea, close to each other, and Gwadar is developed under the China-Pakistan Economic Corridor (CPEC).

- Chabahar's Shahid Beheshti terminal is operated by India Ports Global Limited under a 10-year contract signed in May 2024.

- Chabahar gives India a route to Afghanistan and Central Asia, and is linked with the International North-South Transport Corridor.
- Hambantota (Sri Lanka) was leased to a Chinese firm for 99 years in 2017.

210 Who became India's first fully blind woman Indian Administrative Service (IAS) officer by securing All India Rank 124 in the Union Public Service Commission Civil Services Examination (UPSC CSE) after losing her eyesight at the age of six?

[SSC CGL 24 Oct 2026, Shift-I]

(a) Beno Zephine
(b) Ira Singhal
(c) Pranjal Patil
(d) Kiran Bedi

ANSWER (c) Pranjal Patil

Pranjal Patil became India's first fully blind woman IAS officer by securing All India Rank 124 in the UPSC Civil Services Examination in 2017; so (C) is correct. She lost her eyesight at the age of six.

- She joined as Sub-Collector of Thiruvananthapuram, Kerala, in 2019.
- Beno Zephine is a visually impaired officer of the Indian Foreign Service.
- Ira Singhal topped the UPSC examination in 2014 and is the first physically disabled candidate to do so; Kiran Bedi was India's first woman IPS officer (1972).

211 Which State or Union Territory recorded the highest number of snow leopards according to the first nationwide Snow Leopard Population Assessment in India (SPAI), released on 30 January 2024?

[SSC CGL 24 Oct 2026, Shift-I]

(a) Himachal Pradesh
(b) Sikkim
(c) Jammu & Kashmir
(d) Ladakh

ANSWER (d) Ladakh

Ladakh recorded the highest number of snow leopards, about 477 out of India's estimated 718, in the first nationwide Snow Leopard Population Assessment (SPAI); so (D) is correct.

- Uttarakhand, Himachal Pradesh and Arunachal Pradesh followed Ladakh in the count.
- The snow leopard (Panthera uncia) is listed as Vulnerable by the IUCN and is the state animal of Ladakh and Himachal Pradesh.
- Project Snow Leopard was launched in 2009 for conservation in the Himalayan highlands.

212 In the World Happiness Report, what does the indicator "social support" measure?

[SSC CGL 24 Oct 2026, Shift-I]

(a) Whether a person has relatives or friends to count on in times of trouble
(b) The average size of a person's family
(c) The amount spent by the government on welfare programmes
(d) The availability of assistance from non-governmental organizations

ANSWER (a) Whether a person has relatives or friends to count on in ...

In the World Happiness Report, social support measures whether a person has relatives or friends to count on in times of trouble, so (A) is correct. The Gallup World Poll asks respondents whether they have someone to rely on whenever they need help, and the national average of the yes/no answers is used.

- Social support is one of the six factors used to explain differences in national happiness scores.
- The other five are GDP per capita, healthy life expectancy, freedom to make life choices, generosity and perceptions of corruption.
- The ranking itself is based on life-evaluation scores, not on these factors.

213 Which of the following is NOT a focus area for QUAD (Quadrilateral Security Dialogue)?

[SSC CGL 24 Oct 2026, Shift-II]

(a) Maritime security
(b) Space cooperation
(c) Cybersecurity
(d) Nuclear disarmament

ANSWER (d) Nuclear disarmament

Nuclear disarmament is not a stated focus area of the Quad, so (D) is correct. The Quad works on practical cooperation such as maritime security, cyber security, space, critical and emerging technologies, health

security and humanitarian assistance and disaster relief (HADR).

- The Quad consists of India, the United States, Japan and Australia.
- The first Quad Leaders' Summit was held virtually in March 2021.
- The Quad is an informal strategic grouping and not a formal military alliance.

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214 Who was appointed as the Secretary of the 16th Finance Commission of India?

[SSC CGL 24 Oct 2026, Shift-III]

(a) T.V. Somanathan
(b) Ritvik Ranjanam Pandey
(c) Ajay Seth
(d) Sanjay Malhotra

ANSWER (b) Ritvik Ranjanam Pandey

Ritvik Ranjanam Pandey was appointed Secretary of the 16th Finance Commission, so (B) is correct. The Commission is chaired by Arvind Panagariya.

- The 16th Finance Commission was constituted in December 2023 under Article 280 of the Constitution.
- Its recommendations cover the five-year period beginning 1 April 2026.
- The Finance Commission is a constitutional body appointed by the President every five years.

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215 What is the proposed technology for the UAE–India power link under IMEC (India–Middle East–Europe Economic Corridor)?

[SSC CGL 27 Oct 2026, Shift-I]

(a) Medium-voltage AC
(b) High-voltage bipolar DC
(c) Subsea superconducting line
(d) Standard DC overhead line

ANSWER (b) High-voltage bipolar DC

As per the official answer key, the proposed technology for the UAE-India power link under IMEC is high-voltage bipolar DC, so (B) is correct. High-voltage DC (HVDC) links are preferred for long-distance and subsea transmission because they lose less power than AC over such distances.

- IMEC was announced at the G20 Summit in New Delhi in September 2023.
- The corridor plans shipping and rail links along with an electricity cable, a hydrogen pipeline and a high-speed data cable.
- The MoU on IMEC was signed by India, the USA, the UAE, Saudi Arabia, the EU, France, Germany and Italy.

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216 As of 2026, M. Jagadesh Kumar completed his tenure as the head of which statutory education body in India?

[SSC CGL 27 Oct 2026, Shift-II]

(a) Jawaharlal Nehru University (JNU)
(b) University Grants Commission (UGC)
(c) National Council of Educational Research and Training (NCERT)
(d) Indira Gandhi National Open University (IGNOU)

ANSWER (b) University Grants Commission (UGC)

M. Jagadesh Kumar completed his tenure as Chairman of the University Grants Commission (UGC), so (B) is correct. He had earlier served as Vice-Chancellor of Jawaharlal Nehru University (JNU).

- The UGC is a statutory body established under the UGC Act, 1956 for coordination, determination and maintenance of standards in university education.
- It is headquartered in New Delhi and functions under the Ministry of Education.
- JNU is a central university, and IGNOU is a central open university; neither is a statutory regulator.

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217 In 2024, former Union Health Secretary of India Preeti Sudan was appointed to which position?

[SSC CGL 27 Oct 2026, Shift-II]

(a) Member of NITI (National Institution for Transforming India) Aayog
(b) Chairperson of Union Public Service Commission (UPSC)
(c) Secretary to the President of India
(d) Chairperson of Food Safety and Standards Authority of India (FSSAI)

ANSWER (b) Chairperson of Union Public Service Commission (UPSC)

Preeti Sudan, a former Union Health Secretary, was appointed Chairperson of the Union Public Service

Commission (UPSC) in 2024, succeeding Manoj Soni; so (B) is correct.

- The UPSC is a constitutional body under Article 315, and its Chairperson is appointed by the President.
- The Chairperson and members hold office for six years or until the age of 65, whichever is earlier.
- Preeti Sudan is a 1983-batch IAS officer of the Andhra Pradesh cadre.

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218 Who was appointed as the 26th Governor of the Reserve Bank of India (RBI) in December 2024, succeeding Shaktikanta Das?

[SSC CGL 27 Oct 2026, Shift-II]

(a) Urjit Patel
(b) Sanjay Malhotra
(c) T.V. Somanathan
(d) Raghuram Rajan

ANSWER (b) Sanjay Malhotra

Sanjay Malhotra was appointed the 26th Governor of the Reserve Bank of India in December 2024, succeeding Shaktikanta Das; so (B) is correct. He had earlier served as Revenue Secretary.

- Shaktikanta Das was the 25th Governor, Urjit Patel the 24th and Raghuram Rajan the 23rd.
- The RBI was established on 1 April 1935 under the RBI Act, 1934, and was nationalised in 1949.
- The Governor is appointed by the Central Government.

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219 **Statement I:** BRICS established a Contingent Reserve Arrangement (CRA) to tackle short-term balance of payments pressures.
Statement II: The 11th BRICS Parliamentary Forum was held in Brasilia, Brazil on 4–5 June 2025.
Which statements is/are **correct**?

[SSC CGL 27 Oct 2026, Shift-III]

(a) Both I and II are correct
(b) Only I is correct
(c) Only II is correct
(d) Both I and II are incorrect

ANSWER (a) Both I and II are correct

Both statements are correct, so (A) is the answer. The BRICS Contingent Reserve Arrangement (CRA) is a framework for providing support to members facing short-term balance-of-payments pressures, and the 11th BRICS Parliamentary Forum was held in Brasilia on 4-5 June 2025.

- The CRA was agreed at the 2014 Fortaleza (Brazil) summit, with an initial size of 100 billion US dollars, and came into effect in 2015.
- India's Lok Sabha Speaker Om Birla attended the 2025 Parliamentary Forum.
- Brazil held the BRICS chair in 2025 and hosted the Rio de Janeiro summit in July 2025.

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220 Which Indian state hosted the Global Investors Summit 2025 in February?

[SSC CGL 27 Oct 2026, Shift-III]

(a) Gujarat
(b) Madhya Pradesh
(c) Uttar Pradesh
(d) Maharashtra

ANSWER (b) Madhya Pradesh

Madhya Pradesh hosted the Global Investors Summit 2025 in Bhopal in February 2025, so (B) is correct.

- The summit was held on 24-25 February 2025.
- Uttar Pradesh held its Global Investors Summit in Lucknow in February 2023.
- Gujarat's investment summit is known as Vibrant Gujarat, which began in 2003.

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221 Ravi Agrawal is the head of which tax administration body in 2026?

[SSC CGL 28 Oct 2026, Shift-I]

(a) Central Board of Indirect Taxes and Customs
(b) Central Board of Direct Taxes
(c) Goods and Services Tax (GST) Network
(d) Income Tax Appellate Tribunal

ANSWER (b) Central Board of Direct Taxes

Ravi Agrawal is the Chairman of the Central Board of Direct Taxes (CBDT), so (B) is correct. The government has extended his tenure in stages, the latest extension being up to December 2026.

- The CBDT is a statutory authority under the Central Board of Revenue Act, 1963, and works under the Department of Revenue, Ministry of Finance.
- It administers direct taxes such as income tax, while the CBIC handles indirect taxes like GST, customs and central excise.

- GSTN is a non-profit company that provides the IT backbone for GST.

222 In India, Justice Dinesh Maheshwari was appointed in April 2025 to head which high-level advisory body responsible for recommending legal reforms?

[SSC CGL 28 Oct 2026, Shift-I]

(a) Law Commission of India
(b) Finance Commission of India
(c) National Judicial Commission
(d) Central Vigilance Commission

ANSWER (a) Law Commission of India

Justice Dinesh Maheshwari, a former judge of the Supreme Court, was appointed to head the Law Commission of India, so (A) is correct. The Law Commission recommends legal reforms to the Government.

- The Law Commission of India is a non-statutory body constituted by the Government of India for a fixed term.
- The first Law Commission of independent India was set up in 1955 under M. C. Setalvad.
- The Finance Commission is a constitutional body (Article 280), and the Central Vigilance Commission is a statutory body.

223 Who was appointed as the Acting Chairperson of the National Human Rights Commission (NHRC) of India with effect from June 2024?

[SSC CGL 28 Oct 2026, Shift-I]

(a) Justice Arun Mishra
(b) Vijaya Bharathi Sayani
(c) Justice H.L. Dattu
(d) Rajiv Jain

ANSWER (b) Vijaya Bharathi Sayani

Vijaya Bharathi Sayani, a Member of the NHRC, became the Acting Chairperson from June 2024, after the term of Justice Arun Mishra ended; so (B) is correct. The Protection of Human Rights Act, 1993 allows the President to appoint a Member as Acting Chairperson when the office falls vacant.

- Justice V. Ramasubramanian was appointed the regular Chairperson in December 2024.
- Justice H. L. Dattu was NHRC Chairperson from 2016 to 2021, and Justice Arun Mishra from 2021 to 2024.
- Rajiv Jain, a former Director of the Intelligence Bureau, is also a Member of the NHRC.

224 The New Development Bank (NDB), established by BRICS, has its headquarters in which city?

[SSC CGL 28 Oct 2026, Shift-II]

(a) New Delhi, India
(b) Moscow, Russia
(c) Shanghai, China
(d) Cape Town, South Africa

ANSWER (c) Shanghai, China

The New Development Bank (NDB) has its headquarters in Shanghai, China, so (C) is correct. It was established by the BRICS countries to mobilise resources for infrastructure and sustainable development projects in emerging economies.

- The agreement to set up the NDB was reached at the 2014 Fortaleza summit and the bank began operations in 2016.
- K. V. Kamath of India was its first President, and Dilma Rousseff of Brazil has headed it since 2023.
- The NDB has a regional office in Johannesburg, South Africa.

225 What is the name of the port in Pakistan that is seen as a competitor to Chabahar port?

[SSC CGL 28 Oct 2026, Shift-II]

(a) Gwadar port
(b) Karachi port
(c) Qasim port
(d) Ormara port

ANSWER (a) Gwadar port

Gwadar Port in Balochistan is regarded as the competitor of Iran's Chabahar Port, so (A) is correct. Gwadar is developed with Chinese support under the China-Pakistan Economic Corridor (CPEC), while Chabahar is being developed with Indian participation.

- Chabahar lies in the Sistan and Baluchestan province of Iran, on the Gulf of Oman.
- Chabahar is India's gateway to Afghanistan and Central Asia, bypassing Pakistan.
- Karachi and Port Qasim are Pakistan's major commercial ports in Sindh.

226 Which Indian diplomat is serving as the High Commissioner to Sri Lanka as of 2026, and is associated with India's "Neighbourhood First" policy?

[SSC CGL 28 Oct 2026, Shift-III]

(a) Santosh Jha
(b) Gopal Baglay
(c) Jawed Ashraf
(d) Naveen Srivastava

ANSWER (a) Santosh Jha

As per the official answer key, Santosh Jha is India's High Commissioner to Sri Lanka, so (A) is correct. He was appointed to the post in 2023, succeeding Gopal Baglay, who was moved as High Commissioner to Australia.

- India's Neighbourhood First policy gives priority to relations with immediate neighbours such as Sri Lanka, Nepal, Bhutan, Bangladesh and the Maldives.
- India's missions in Commonwealth countries are headed by High Commissioners, while those in other countries are headed by Ambassadors.
- Colombo is the commercial capital of Sri Lanka; Sri Jayawardenepura Kotte is its legislative capital.

227 Who was appointed as a Vigilance Commissioner in the Central Vigilance Commission (CVC) by the President of India in February 2024 under the Central Vigilance Commission Act, 2003?

[SSC CGL 28 Oct 2026, Shift-III]

(a) A. S. Rajeev
(b) Rajesh Verma
(c) Suresh N Patel
(d) Sanjay Kothari

ANSWER (a) A. S. Rajeev

A. S. Rajeev, former MD and CEO of Bank of Maharashtra, was appointed Vigilance Commissioner in the Central Vigilance Commission in February 2024, so (A) is correct.

- The CVC consists of a Central Vigilance Commissioner (Chairperson) and not more than two Vigilance Commissioners.
- They are appointed by the President on the recommendation of a committee of the Prime Minister, the Union Home Minister and the Leader of Opposition in the Lok Sabha.
- The CVC was set up in 1964 on the Santhanam Committee's recommendation and got statutory status through the CVC Act, 2003.

228 Which Indian public sector enterprise is officially designated to operate and manage the development of the Chabahar Port in Iran?

[SSC CGL 28 Oct 2026, Shift-III]

(a) India Ports Global Limited
(b) Shipping Corporation of India
(c) Adani Ports Limited
(d) Mumbai Port Authority Board

ANSWER (a) India Ports Global Limited

India Ports Global Limited (IPGL), a public sector company under the Ministry of Ports, Shipping and Waterways, operates the Shahid Beheshti terminal at Chabahar Port, so (A) is correct. In May 2024 IPGL signed a 10-year contract with Iran's Ports and Maritime Organization for its operation.

- Chabahar is on the Gulf of Oman, in Iran's Sistan and Baluchestan province.
- It gives India access to Afghanistan and Central Asia without passing through Pakistan.
- Chabahar is part of the International North-South Transport Corridor (INSTC).

229 Exercise MITRA SHAKTI 2025 is a bilateral military exercise between which of the following countries?

[SSC CGL 28 Oct 2026, Shift-III]

(a) India and Sri Lanka
(b) India and Nepal
(c) India and Singapore
(d) India and Seychelles

ANSWER (a) India and Sri Lanka

Mitra Shakti is a bilateral military exercise between India and Sri Lanka, so (A) is correct. It is a joint army exercise focused on counter-terrorism and interoperability.

- The India-Nepal army exercise is Surya Kiran.
- The India-Singapore army exercise is Bold Kurukshetra, while SIMBEX is their naval exercise.
- The India-Seychelles army exercise is Lamitiye.


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