



DAILY CURRENT AFFAIRS

Teaching-Friendly Edition
for UPSC • SSC • Banking Aspirants

22

APRIL

2026

- 6 Major News Stories • 3 Banking Updates
 - 45 MCQs with Answers • 10 Visual Infographics
 - 16 One-Liners for Quick Revision
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QUICK REVISION

10. One-Liner Current Affairs (16 items)

How to Use This PDF Effectively

Click any entry above to jump to the article (internal hyperlinks enabled).

Context boxes give the one-line relevance — read first for 'Why in News'.

Background Concept = the teaching module — understand *why*, not just *what*.

MCQs have answers highlighted in green with brief explanations.

Infographics & charts help visual learners retain facts for 3x longer.

1 India's Forests May Double Carbon Storage by 2100

Source: The Hindu

Tags: Environment • Climate Change • Ecology Exam: UPSC GS-III, Prelims

» Why in News (Context)

A recent study in *Environmental Research: Climate* offers a forward-looking view of India's environmental landscape — suggesting that while global emissions are a threat, they may also trigger a biological growth response in Indian forests, doubling carbon storage by 2100.

+97%

Max carbon gain by 2100

+35%

Min gain (low-emission)

>60%

Semi-arid region gain

India's Forest Carbon Storage Projection by 2100

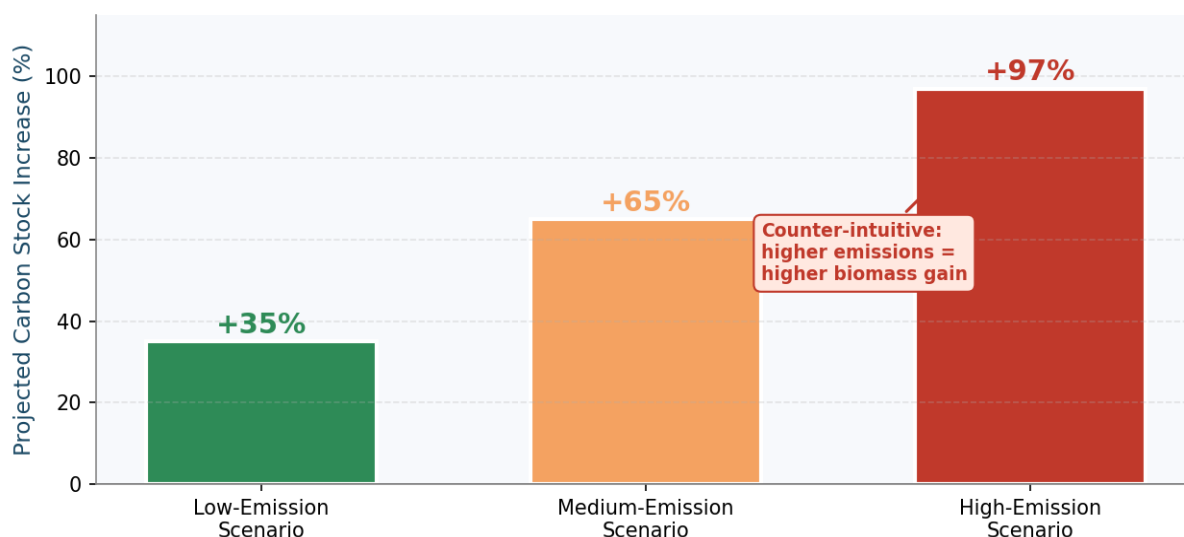


Figure 1: Paradoxically, the highest carbon gains occur under high-emission scenarios.

Key Takeaways

- **The Projection:** India's forest vegetation carbon stock could rise 35%–97% by 2100.
- **The Paradox:** Counter-intuitively, the highest gains come under **high-emission** scenarios because of intensified environmental drivers.
- **Key Drivers:** (i) **CO₂ Fertilization** — higher atmospheric CO₂ accelerates photosynthesis; (ii) increased rainfall projections.
- **Geographic Winners:** Dry, semi-arid regions (Rajasthan, Gujarat) see highest relative gain (>60%).
- **The Warning:** More biomass ≠ safer climate. Stored carbon can be released rapidly via wildfires or pests — called a '**Carbon Bomb**'.

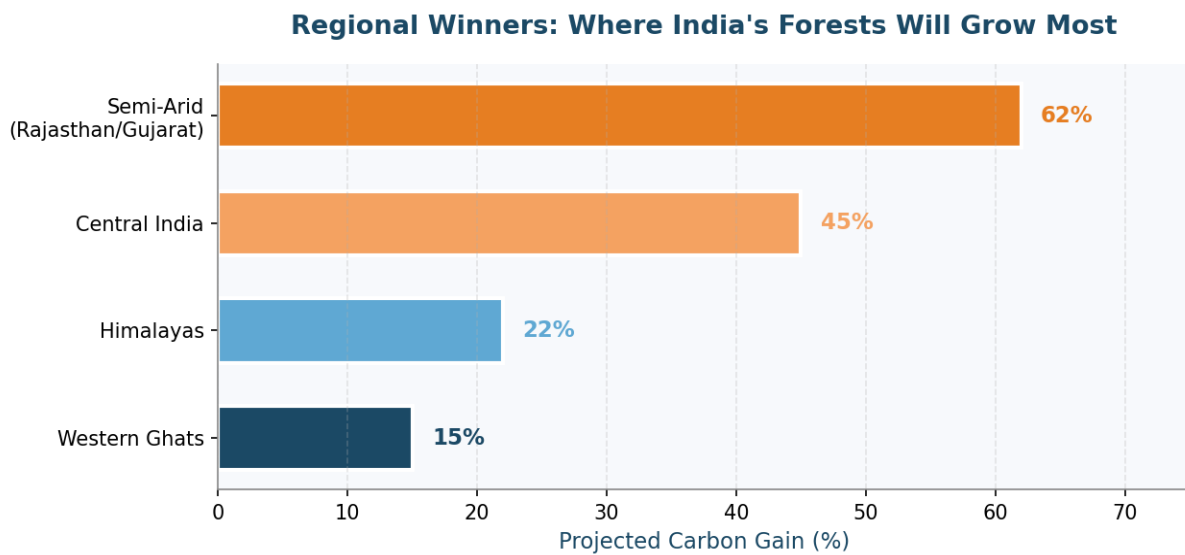


Figure 2: Regional carbon gain projections — semi-arid regions emerge as biggest winners.

Background Concept — The Science Behind It

1. What is Vegetation Carbon Stock?

Carbon stock = the total carbon stored in **biomass** (trunks, branches, leaves, roots). Through photosynthesis, trees 'inhale' CO₂ and 'lock' carbon into their structure — effectively acting as a **climate sponge**.

2. The CO₂ Fertilization Effect

When atmospheric CO₂ rises: (a) photosynthesis **speeds up** — trees grow faster and larger; (b) **water-use efficiency** improves — plants keep stomata partially closed, losing less water while still absorbing enough carbon. This is why dry regions benefit disproportionately.

3. Why Western Ghats Don't Gain as Much

Western Ghats are already **climax forests** — densely packed, with little room for additional biomass. This state is called **Ecological Saturation**. Open semi-arid landscapes have far more 'growth headroom'.

Regional Growth Projections by 2100

Region	Expected Carbon Gain	Primary Reason
Semi-Arid (West India)	>60% Increase	Rainfall ↑ & better water-use efficiency
Central India	High/Moderate	Expanded growing seasons — warmer & wetter
Himalayas / W. Ghats	Limited Increase	Ecological saturation; temperature stress

Practice MCQs — Test Your Understanding

Q1. Under which scenario would India's forests see the highest relative carbon increase (up to 97%)?

- ☐ (A) Low-emission scenario
- ☐ (B) Medium-emission scenario
- ☐ (C) High-emission scenario
- ☐ (D) Zero-emission scenario

• **Answer: C** — CO₂ fertilization & rainfall rise are strongest under high-emission pathways.

Q2. Which biological process drives the 'CO₂ Fertilization Effect'?

- ☐ (A) Respiration
- ☐ (B) Transpiration
- ☐ (C) Photosynthesis
- ☐ (D) Decomposition

• **Answer: C** — More atmospheric CO₂ fuels faster photosynthesis.

Q3. Why do biodiversity hotspots like the Western Ghats show smaller carbon gains?

- ☐ (A) It does not rain there
- ☐ (B) Ecological saturation — already near max capacity
- ☐ (C) They have no CO₂ in the atmosphere
- ☐ (D) Trees there don't perform photosynthesis

• **Answer: B** — Climax forests have limited biomass headroom.

Q4. Projected carbon biomass rise by 2100 under Low-Emission scenario?

- ☐ (A) 10%
- ☐ (B) 35%
- ☐ (C) 62%
- ☐ (D) 97%

• Answer: B — 35% is the lower bound in the study.

Q5. What does a forest becoming a 'Carbon Source' mean?

- ☐ (A) Growing more trees than ever before
- ☐ (B) Releasing more CO₂ (via fire/decay) than it absorbs
- ☐ (C) Running out of carbon
- ☐ (D) Being used to make coal

• Answer: B — A carbon source is a net emitter, opposite of a carbon sink.

2 Samriddh Gram — Rural Digital Transformation

Source: News on Air

Tags: Governance • Digital India • S&T

Exam: UPSC GS-II/III, Banking GA

» Why in News

India's **Samriddh Gram** model — a 'phygital' (physical + digital) rural service delivery platform — has been nominated for the **WSIS Prizes 2026**, marking global recognition of a transformative tool for rural digital inclusion.

Samriddh Gram — "Phygital" Service Delivery Hub

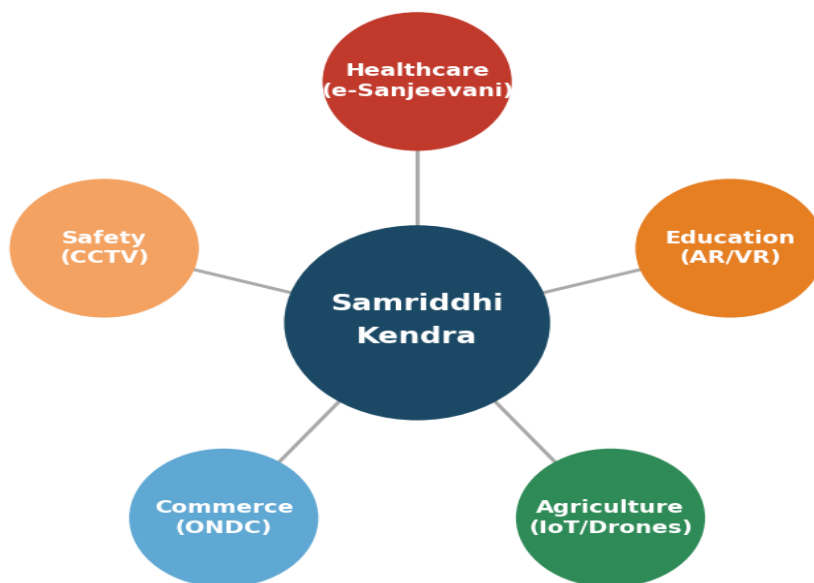


Figure 3: The Samriddhi Kendra as a multi-sectoral rural service hub.

Key Takeaways

- **The Concept:** A 'phygital' service delivery model using **BharatNet broadband** to turn villages into socio-economic hubs.
- **The Hub:** **Samriddhi Kendras (SK)** act as one-stop centres for healthcare, education, agriculture, and governance.
- **Global Recognition:** Nominated for WSIS Prizes 2026 by ITU under '**Enabling Environment**' (AL C6) category.
- **Milestone:** First official Samriddhi Kendra inaugurated in **Umri Village, Madhya Pradesh**.
- **Tech Stack:** AR/VR classrooms, IoT farming, drones, ONDC for rural e-commerce.

Background Concept — Built on DPI Layers

1. The BharatNet Backbone

BharatNet is the world's largest rural broadband project. Samriddh Gram is the '**last-mile**' **application layer** of this infrastructure. BharatNet provides the **pipe** (fibre optics); Samriddh Gram provides the **content** — doctors, teachers, markets.

2. The Samriddhi Kendra (SK) Model

These 800–1000 sq. ft. centres are the '**Digital Secretariat**' of a village:

- **Telemedicine** via e-Sanjeevani (consult a city-hospital specialist by video).
- **Precision Farming** via IoT sensors (e.g., soil moisture triggers smart pumps).
- **E-commerce via ONDC** — artisans access national markets directly.

3. WSIS Prizes & SDG Linkage

WSIS (World Summit on the Information Society) is a UN-backed initiative. A prize here signifies a '**Global Best Practice**' for SDGs: SDG 3 (Health), SDG 4 (Education), SDG 9 (Industry & Infra).

Samriddh Gram — Sector-wise Tech Integration

Sector	Technology Used	Impact
Education	AR/VR & Smart Labs	Vocational training to remote students
Agriculture	Drones & IoT	Real-time soil data, pesticide spraying
Commerce	ONDC Integration	Artisans -> national markets
Safety	CCTV & Drones	Village-level security & disaster monitoring
Healthcare	e-Sanjeevani Telemedicine	Specialist access via video link

Practice MCQs

Q1. Samriddh Gram is designed by which department of the Government of India?

- ☐ (A) Department of Agriculture
- ☐ (B) Department of Telecommunications (DoT)
- ☐ (C) Department of Science and Technology
- ☐ (D) Ministry of Rural Development

• **Answer: B** — *DoT leverages its BharatNet infrastructure for this initiative.*

Q2. Under which category is Samriddh Gram nominated for WSIS Prizes 2026?

- ☐ (A) E-Health
- ☐ (B) Enabling Environment (AL C6)
- ☐ (C) Cultural Diversity
- ☐ (D) E-Science

• **Answer: B** — *'Enabling Environment' pillar of WSIS Action Lines.*

Q3. Which national project provides the broadband backbone for Samriddh Gram?

- ☐ (A) Sagarmala
- ☐ (B) Bharatmala
- ☐ (C) BharatNet
- ☐ (D) PM Gati Shakti

• Answer: C — *BharatNet = world's largest rural broadband project.*

Q4. Where was the first official Samriddhi Kendra inaugurated?

- ☐ (A) Umri, Madhya Pradesh
- ☐ (B) Nagpur, Maharashtra
- ☐ (C) Ranchi, Jharkhand
- ☐ (D) Jodhpur, Rajasthan

• Answer: A — *Umri village in MP became the launchpad.*

Q5. What does 'Phygital' mean in this context?

- ☐ (A) Purely physical with no internet
- ☐ (B) Exists only in the metaverse
- ☐ (C) Combines physical Kendras with digital service delivery
- ☐ (D) A type of high-speed satellite

• Answer: C — *Physical + digital = phygital.*

3 3D Glass Chip Packaging — Semiconductor Leap

Source: Indian Express

Tags: S&T • Deep Tech • Semiconductors

Exam: UPSC GS-III, Prelims S&T

» Why in News

India's first **3D Glass Chip Packaging facility** is being set up in Bhubaneswar, Odisha — a leap from traditional manufacturing to **Deep Tech semiconductor leadership**. The facility masters a novel technology critical for AI, 5G, and defence.

70,000

Glass panels/year

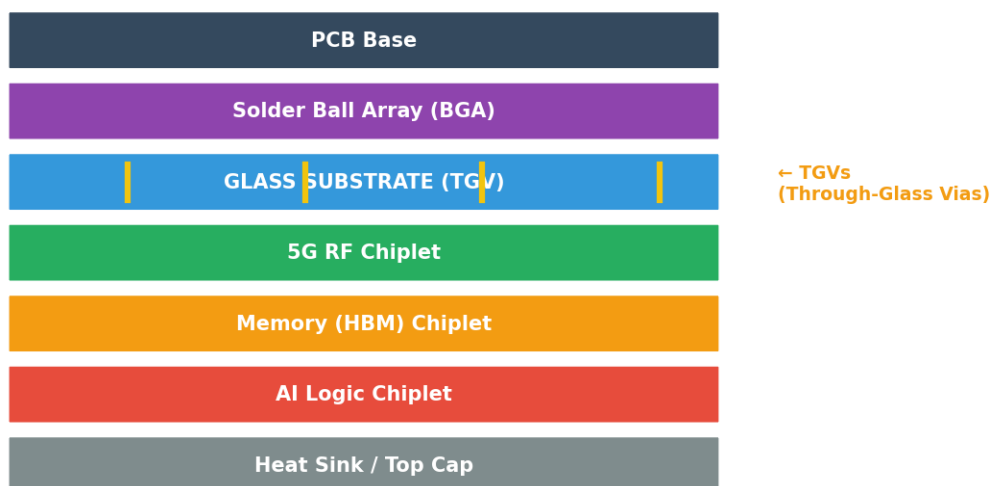
50M

Units assembled/year

Rs. 1,943 Cr

Investment

3D Heterogeneous Integration — "Lego Chip"



Bypasses Moore's Law by stacking vertically

Figure 4: Layered structure of a 3D-stacked glass chip module.

Key Takeaways

- **The Technology:** Uses **glass substrates** (instead of silicon/organic materials) to stack chip components vertically in a 3D module.
- **Key Player:** Developed by US-based **3D Glass Solutions (3DGS)** in Odisha.
- **Purpose:** To bypass Moore's Law limits by **vertical stacking** (Heterogeneous Integration) rather than shrinking transistors.
- **Strategic Value:** Unlike most plants that focus on established processes, this masters a **novel technology** critical for AI, 5G, defence.

Background Concept — Why Glass, Why 3D?

1. The Limit of 2D Silicon

For decades, **Moore's Law** doubled transistors on 2D chips every ~2 years. We've reached physical limits — transistors too small to function reliably. **Solution:** If we can't make the 'floor' bigger, we build 'skyscrapers' — this is **3D Heterogeneous Integration (3DHI)**.

2. Why Glass Over Silicon?

- **Rigidity:** Glass doesn't warp under heat — critical for stacked layers.
- **Through-Glass Vias (TGV):** Tiny vertical holes for electrical signals — denser & cleaner than silicon vias.
- **Signal Integrity:** Glass is an excellent insulator — less noise, less energy waste during high-speed data transfer.

3. Heterogeneous Integration = 'Lego for Chips'

Instead of one giant complex chip, you take specialised **chipselets** (memory, logic, 5G RF) and stack them on a glass substrate — functioning as a single ultra-fast unit.

Key Advantages of 3D Glass Packaging

Feature	Advantage of Glass	Impact on Device
Thermal Stability	Handles higher temps	AI chips run at full speed (no throttle)
Data Speed	Ultra-dense vertical links	5G/6G low-latency comms
Form Factor	Thinner stacking	Slimmer phones, compact sensors
Power Efficiency	Low signal loss	Longer battery life for mobiles/IoT

Practice MCQs

Q1. What is the primary material replacing silicon/organic substrates in India's new Odisha facility?

- ☐ (A) Copper
- ☐ (B) Glass
- ☐ (C) Aluminum
- ☐ (D) Graphene

• **Answer: B** — Glass offers superior rigidity, thermal stability & signal integrity.

Q2. Purpose of 'Through-Glass Vias' (TGVs)?

- ☐ (A) Act as cooling fans
- ☐ (B) Provide vertical electrical connections between stacked layers
- ☐ (C) Store extra memory
- ☐ (D) Protect from sunlight

• **Answer: B** — TGVs are the 'elevators' for electrical signals between chip layers.

Q3. 3D Glass Packaging bypasses limitations of which famous law?

- ☐ (A) Newton's Law
- ☐ (B) Moore's Law
- ☐ (C) Faraday's Law
- ☐ (D) Murphy's Law

• Answer: B — *Moore's Law on transistor density is hitting physical limits.*

Q4. What does 'Heterogeneous Integration' mean?

- ☐ (A) Making all chips out of the same material
- ☐ (B) Combining different chiplets (logic, memory, sensors) into a single 3D module
- ☐ (C) Chips that only work with solar power
- ☐ (D) Reducing layers to one

• Answer: B — *Think 'Lego' — mix-and-match specialised chiplets.*

Q5. Which US firm is the lead partner for the Bhubaneswar facility?

- ☐ (A) Intel
- ☐ (B) Samsung
- ☐ (C) 3D Glass Solutions (3DGS)
- ☐ (D) TSMC

• Answer: C — *3DGS is the technology provider based in New Mexico, USA.*

4 India Climbs to Global #2 in Wind Energy

Source: Business Standard

Tags: Environment • Energy • Economy

Exam: UPSC GS-III, Banking GA

» Why in News

Per the **Global Wind Energy Council (GWEC) / BNEF 2025 report**, India's rise to the **second spot globally** in wind energy installations marks a key milestone toward its **500 GW non-fossil-fuel capacity** target by 2030.

6.3 GW

Added in 2025

+85%

YoY jump

#2

Global rank

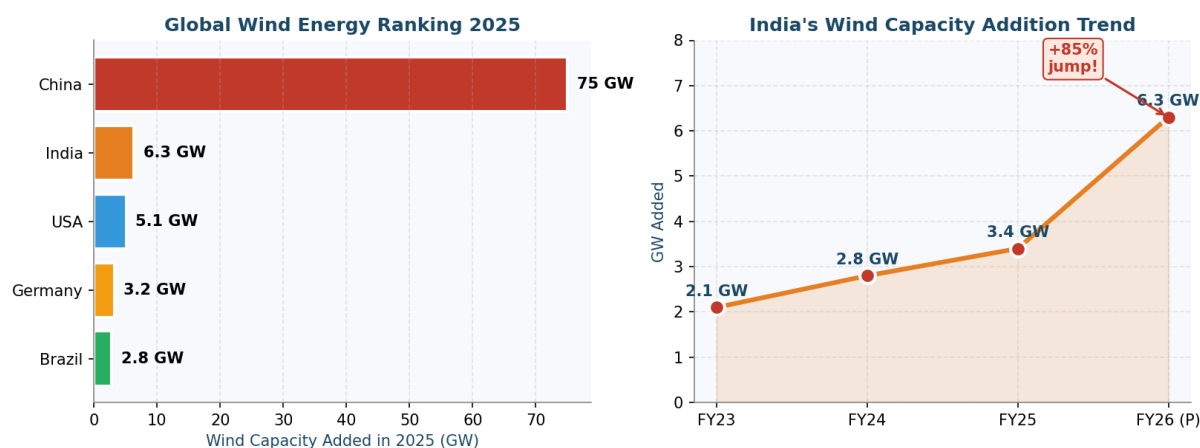


Figure 5: India is now the largest wind market outside China, with an 85% YoY surge.

Key Takeaways

- **Achievement:** India commissioned **6.3 GW** of wind energy in 2025 — an **85% jump** YoY.
- **Global Ranking:** India is now the **world's largest wind market outside China**, overtaking USA and Germany.
- **The Epicentre:** The **30 GW Khavda Park** in Gujarat is the primary driver — a massive solar-wind hybrid hub.
- **Industrial Rise:** Indian manufacturing scaling globally — **Adani Wind** broke into the top-15 turbine makers worldwide.

Background Concept — The Hybrid Advantage

1. Onshore vs Offshore Wind

Most of India's current capacity is **onshore** (turbines on land). Offshore wind (turbines in sea) has higher potential but is costlier and slower to deploy. Onshore wins on cost-effectiveness and speed.

2. The Hybrid Logic

Khavda uses a **solar-wind hybrid model**: solar peaks during day, wind peaks at night/monsoon. Combining both raises the **Plant Load Factor (PLF)**, giving the grid a more **stable, round-the-clock supply**.

3. Turbine Technology Scaling

Modern turbines are taller with **larger blades** — capturing low-velocity winds crucial for states outside the high-wind corridors of Tamil Nadu & Gujarat.

Key Exam Terms (Must-Know)

Onshore Wind: Energy from land-based turbines.

BNEF: Bloomberg New Energy Finance — tracks global energy transition.

Khavda Renewable Energy Park: Kutch, Gujarat — world's largest RE park (30 GW).

Hybrid Power Generation: Integrating 2+ renewable sources for grid stability.

Gigawatt (GW): 1 billion watts — unit for large power plant capacity.

Grid Stability: Maintaining constant voltage & frequency despite fluctuations.

Practice MCQs

Q1. Per BNEF 2025, which country is the largest wind market ahead of India?

- ☐ (A) USA
- ☐ (B) Germany
- ☐ (C) China
- ☐ (D) Brazil

• **Answer: C** — *China leads global wind capacity additions by a wide margin.*

Q2. Record-breaking wind capacity commissioned by India in 2025?

- ☐ (A) 1.0 GW
- ☐ (B) 3.5 GW
- ☐ (C) 6.3 GW
- ☐ (D) 30.0 GW

• **Answer: C** — *6.3 GW = 85% jump over previous year.*

Q3. The 30 GW Renewable Energy Park is located in which state?

- ☐ (A) Rajasthan
- ☐ (B) Tamil Nadu
- ☐ (C) Gujarat
- ☐ (D) Maharashtra

• **Answer: C** — *Khavda Park is in the Kutch district of Gujarat.*

Q4. Primary benefit of a Solar-Wind Hybrid facility like Khavda?

- ☐ (A) Makes turbines spin faster
- ☐ (B) Balances day-time solar and night-time wind for stable generation
- ☐ (C) Reduces tower height
- ☐ (D) Eliminates grid connection

• Answer: B — *Higher Plant Load Factor means steadier supply.*

Q5. Which Indian entity was ranked 15th among global turbine makers in 2025?

- ☐ (A) Suzlon Energy
- ☐ (B) Adani Wind
- ☐ (C) Tata Power
- ☐ (D) ReNew Power

• Answer: B — *Adani Wind broke into global top-15 for the first time.*

5 Genetically Modified (GM) Mosquitoes

Source: The Hindu

Tags: S&T • Biotech • Health

Exam: UPSC GS-III, SSC GS

» Why in News

A successful field study in **Tanzania** marks a biotech breakthrough against tropical diseases — proving that 'biological firewalls' can be built *inside insects* to protect human health from **malaria**.

Why Gene Drives Are Revolutionary — CRISPR-Cas9 Breaks 50/50 Rule

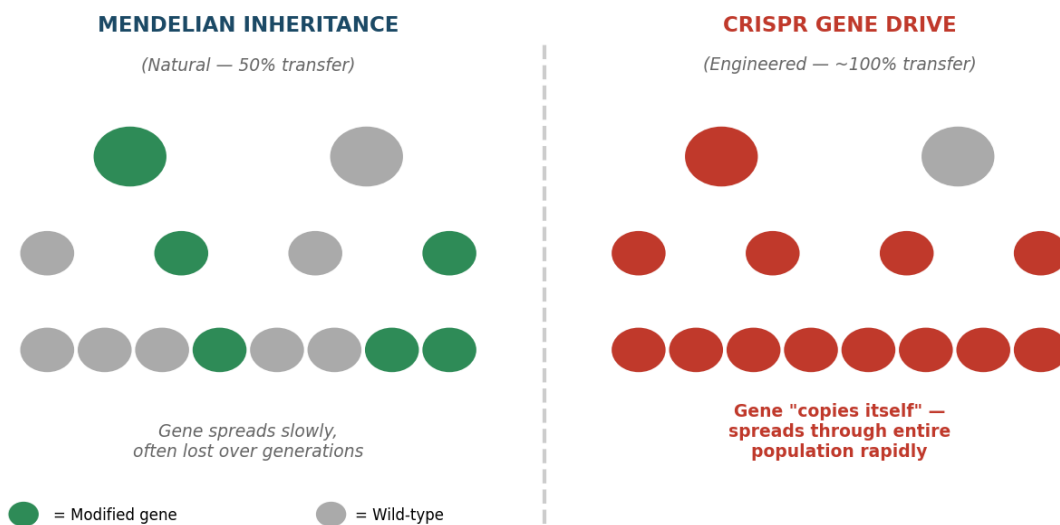


Figure 6: CRISPR gene drives break Mendelian inheritance, spreading modified genes rapidly.

Key Takeaways

- **Technology:** Mosquito DNA altered via **CRISPR-Cas9** — rendering them incapable of transmitting malaria.
- **Mechanism:** Uses a **Gene Drive** so the trait is passed to **~100% of offspring**, spreading rapidly through wild populations.
- **Two Strategies:** (i) **Population Modification** — mosquito survives but can't transmit; (ii) **Population Suppression** — female sterility collapses the population.
- **Precision:** Modern models activate **antimicrobial peptides** only when the mosquito takes a blood meal — killing the Plasmodium parasite in the **midgut**.

Background Concept — Breaking Genetic Rules

1. Mendelian vs Gene-Drive Inheritance

Standard Mendelian: each offspring has a **50%** chance of inheriting a gene from a parent.

Gene Drive: the modified gene '**copies and pastes**' itself into the other chromosome — nearly **100% inheritance**. A few hundred lab-released mosquitoes can rewrite the genetics of an entire wild population in a few generations.

2. CRISPR-Cas9 — The Molecular Scissors

CRISPR 'cuts' mosquito DNA at a precise site. Scientists then insert sequences that produce **antibodies killing the malaria parasite** — while ensuring the CRISPR machinery itself is inherited.

3. The Midgut Barrier Strategy

When an infected human is bitten, the **Plasmodium parasite** enters the mosquito's midgut. Modern GM mosquitoes release **antimicrobial peptides** in the midgut immediately after detecting blood — neutralising the parasite before it can migrate to the salivary glands.

Key Exam Terms

CRISPR-Cas9: Gene-editing 'scissors' — cut & edit DNA with precision.

Gene Drive: Technology ensuring ~100% inheritance, spreading genes fast.

Plasmodium: Single-celled protozoan parasite causing malaria.

Anopheles gambiae: Primary malaria vector in sub-Saharan Africa.

Doublesex Gene: Governs sexual development — targeting sterilises females.

Midgut Activation: 'Smart' trigger — anti-parasite molecules only on blood meal.

Practice MCQs

Q1. Which molecular tool is primarily used for precision DNA editing in GM mosquitoes?

- ☐ (A) PCR
- ☐ (B) CRISPR-Cas9
- ☐ (C) MRI Scanning
- ☐ (D) Infrared Spectroscopy

• **Answer: B** — *CRISPR-Cas9 = the 'molecular scissors'.*

Q2. Primary purpose of a 'Gene Drive'?

- ☐ (A) Make mosquitoes fly faster
- ☐ (B) Ensure a modified gene passes to nearly all offspring, bypassing 50% Mendelian rule
- ☐ (C) Survival in colder climates
- ☐ (D) Make mosquitoes glow

• **Answer: B** — *Gene drive 'copies' itself — spreads through populations.*

Q3. In Population Suppression, what is typically targeted?

- ☐ (A) Ability to see at night
- ☐ (B) Fertility of female offspring (e.g., doublesex gene)
- ☐ (C) Preference for fruit
- ☐ (D) Wing colour

• **Answer: B** — *Doublesex gene disruption -> infertile females -> population collapse.*

Q4. Where in the mosquito's body do GM molecules typically activate to destroy malaria?

- ☐ (A) Wings
- ☐ (B) Brain
- ☐ (C) Midgut
- ☐ (D) Legs

• **Answer: C** — *Midgut is where Plasmodium first lodges after blood meal.*

Q5. Plasmodium is a type of:

- ☐ (A) Virus
- ☐ (B) Bacteria
- ☐ (C) Parasite
- ☐ (D) Fungus

• **Answer: C** — *Plasmodium is a single-celled protozoan parasite.*

6 India — the Cradle of Jamun Evolution

Source: PIB

Tags: S&T • Botany • History

Exam: UPSC Prelims, SSC GS

» Why in News

New research reveals that **India — not Australia** — was the evolutionary cradle of the Jamun (*Syzygium*) genus. Fossils from Himachal Pradesh rewrite the botanical history of the subcontinent, with the genus tracing back **80 million years** to ancient East Gondwana.

Jamun (*Syzygium*) — 80 Million Year Journey on Indian Plate

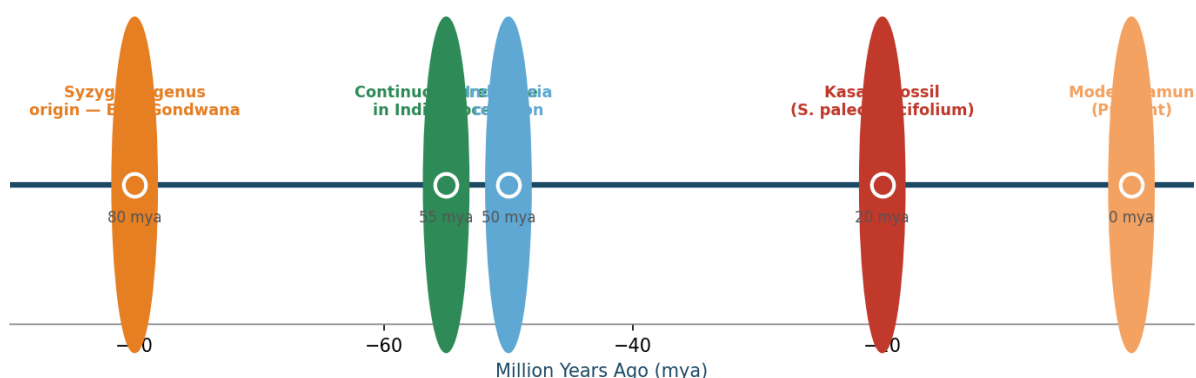


Figure 7: 80-million-year timeline of the Jamun (*Syzygium*) genus on the Indian plate.

Key Takeaways

- **Ancient Roots:** Jamun (*Syzygium*) originated **~80 million years ago** during the Late Cretaceous in East Gondwana.
- **India as Cradle:** Fossil evidence confirms India — not Australia — was the central hub for early diversification.
- **The Kasauli Fossil:** *Syzygium paleosalicifolium* — **20-million-year-old** leaf fossils found in the Kasauli Formation, Himachal Pradesh.
- **Resilience:** Continuous presence in India for **55+ million years** — surviving massive Paleogene-Neogene climate shifts.
- **Method:** Scientists used **Venation Architecture** (leaf vein patterns) — the 'fingerprint' of a plant species.

Background Concept — India's Biological Cargo

1. East Gondwana & the Indian Plate

~180 million years ago, the supercontinent **Gondwana** broke apart. India, Madagascar, Australia, Antarctica formed **East Gondwana**. As India drifted northward toward Asia, it carried a '**biological cargo**' of ancient plants — including Jamun's ancestors.

2. The 'Out-of-India' Hypothesis

This study supports the **Out-of-India theory**: many tropical plant groups evolved on the Indian plate while it was an isolated island continent. After India collided with Asia (~50 mya), these plants spread across the world.

3. Venation Architecture as a 'Fingerprint'

Plants are usually identified by flowers — but **flowers rarely fossilise**. Instead, scientists use **Venation Architecture** — the arrangement of leaf veins. Syzygium leaves have unique secondary & marginal veins, enabling match with 20-myo fossils.

Key Features of the Discovery

Feature	Details
Fossil Name	Syzygium paleosalicifolium
Location	Kasauli Formation, Himachal Pradesh
Age of Fossil	~20 Million Years (Early Miocene)
Historical Range	Continuous presence in India since Early Eocene (~55 mya)
Key Traits	Intricate venation, high adaptability to climate shifts

Practice MCQs

Q1. Approximately how many million years ago did the Jamun (Syzygium) genus originate?

- ☐ (A) 20 million
- ☐ (B) 55 million
- ☐ (C) 80 million
- ☐ (D) 180 million

• Answer: C — Late Cretaceous — ~80 mya.

Q2. The Kasauli fossil discovery was made in which state?

- ☐ (A) Kerala
- ☐ (B) Himachal Pradesh
- ☐ (C) Assam
- ☐ (D) Gujarat

• Answer: B — Kasauli Formation lies in Himachal Pradesh.

Q3. Previously, Jamun was theorised to have originated in which continent?

- ☐ (A) Africa
- ☐ (B) South America
- ☐ (C) Australia
- ☐ (D) Antarctica

• **Answer: C** — *Earlier models placed origin in Australia — now revised.*

Q4. 'Venation Architecture' is primarily used for:

- ☐ (A) Measuring tree height
- ☐ (B) Analysing leaf vein arrangement to identify plant species
- ☐ (C) Determining sugar content
- ☐ (D) Calculating continental drift speed

• **Answer: B** — *Leaf venation = botanical fingerprint for paleobotanists.*

Q5. In which ancient landmass did Jamun first appear?

- ☐ (A) Laurasia
- ☐ (B) East Gondwana
- ☐ (C) Tethys Ocean
- ☐ (D) Pangea

• **Answer: B** — *East Gondwana — India's pre-drift neighbourhood.*



BANKING & FINANCE

Critical updates for Banking, RBI, SBI PO/Clerk aspirants

7 UNESCAP Report — India's Economic Outlook

Source: The Hindu

Tags: Economy • International Orgs

Exam: UPSC GS-III, Banking GA

» Why in News

UNESCAP's latest report is a **realistic assessment** of India's resilience — the nation remains a regional leader but is **not immune** to 'energy shocks' from geopolitical instability in West Asia.

6.4%

FY27 GDP growth

6.6%

FY28 recovery

4.4%

FY27 inflation

UNESCAP — India's GDP Growth vs Inflation Trajectory

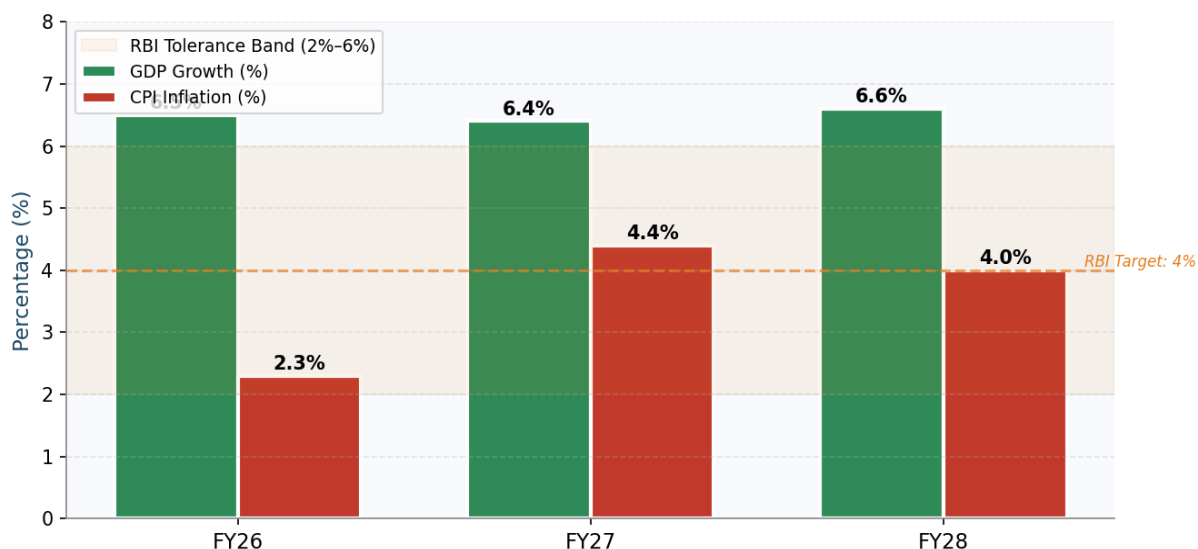


Figure 8: Dip-and-recovery growth cycle; inflation stays within RBI tolerance band.

Key Takeaways

- **The Pattern: Dip-and-Recovery** — growth slows to 6.4% (FY27), recovers to 6.6% (FY28).
- **Inflation:** CPI projected to rise from 2.3% (FY26) -> **4.4% (FY27)** due to global supply disruptions.
- **Buffer:** Robust **domestic demand** + **services sector** protect India from a deeper manufacturing slump.
- **Comparative:** UNESCAP is the most **conservative** (6.4%), vs RBI & ADB (6.9%).

Background Concept — Transmission Channels

1. The Energy Shock Channel

India imports ~85% of crude oil. West Asia conflict -> **Risk Premium** on oil ↑ -> **Cost-Push Inflation** (higher transport/production costs passed to consumers) + **Fiscal Pressure** (wider Current Account Deficit, weaker Rupee).

2. RBI's 2%–6% Tolerance Band

Under the **Inflation Targeting Framework**, RBI must keep CPI at $4\% \pm 2\%$. Even 4.4% in FY27 stays in the 'Comfort Zone' — meaning RBI may **not need aggressive rate hikes**, supporting the FY28 recovery.

3. Services Sector as Shock Absorber

Unlike manufacturing (reliant on physical raw materials & global shipping — both hit by war), services (IT, finance, consulting) are more **intangible and resilient** to supply chain shocks.

Key Exam Terms

UNESCAP: UN Economic and Social Commission for Asia and the Pacific.

GDP: Total monetary value of all finished goods & services produced within a country.

CPI: Consumer Price Index — primary inflation measure in India.

Tolerance Band: RBI's 2%–6% range under inflation targeting framework.

Headwinds: Economic conditions that slow growth (e.g., high oil, war).

Practice MCQs

Q1. UNESCAP's projected GDP growth for India in FY27?

- ☐ (A) 7.4%
- ☐ (B) 6.4%
- ☐ (C) 6.9%
- ☐ (D) 6.6%

• Answer: B — *UNESCAP is the most conservative at 6.4%.*

Q2. Primary 'headwind' cited for India's projected slowdown?

- ☐ (A) Low agricultural output
- ☐ (B) West Asia conflict and energy supply disruptions
- ☐ (C) Drop in services exports
- ☐ (D) High domestic interest rates

• Answer: B — *Oil-import dependence makes India vulnerable to ME conflict.*

Q3. UNESCAP's inflation projection for FY27?

- ☐ (A) 2.3%
- ☐ (B) 4.3%
- ☐ (C) 4.4%
- ☐ (D) 6.0%

• Answer: C — *Nearly doubles from FY26's 2.3% to 4.4%.*

Q4. RBI's official inflation tolerance band is:

- ☐ (A) 1%–3%
- ☐ (B) 2%–6%
- ☐ (C) 4%–8%
- ☐ (D) 5%–10%

• Answer: B — $4\% \pm 2\%$ — under inflation targeting framework.

Q5. Which institution has the most conservative FY27 growth forecast?

- ☐ (A) World Bank
- ☐ (B) RBI
- ☐ (C) ADB
- ☐ (D) UNESCAP

• Answer: D — UNESCAP (6.4%) is lowest among major forecasters.

8 Urban Co-operative Bank (UCB) Licence

Source: Economic Times

Tags: Banking • RBI • Regulation

Exam: Banking GA, UPSC GS-III

» Why in News

Ongoing talks between **RBI and industry bodies** highlight the balance between grassroots financial stability and expanding formal banking in urban areas. The key debate is around **entry-point norms and lending caps**.

UCB Tier-Wise Classification (by Deposits)



Industry seeks relaxed nominal-member loan cap (₹5L) for Tier-3 & Tier-4 UCBs

Figure 9: RBI's four-tier UCB classification by deposit size.

Key Takeaways

- **The Conflict:** RBI proposes **Rs. 300 Cr** entry capital; industry wants it reduced to **Rs. 200 Cr**.
- **Lending Flexibility:** Industry seeks raising unsecured-advance cap from **20% -> 25%**, plus longer nominal-member loan tenures.
- **RBI Stance:** Cautious — insists on a **10-year track record** to ensure only stable societies enter banking.
- **Goal:** Integrate grassroots credit societies into RBI's formal framework while preserving cooperative character.

Background Concept — UCBs in the Financial System

1. Dual Regulation

UCBs face a **dual regulatory environment**:

- **Banking functions** -> regulated by **RBI** (Banking Regulation Act, 1949).
- **Incorporation & Management** -> **Registrar of Cooperative Societies** (state-level) or **Central Registrar** (for multi-state banks).

2. Tiered Classification (by Deposits)

Tier	Deposit Range	Category
Tier 1	≤ Rs. 100 Cr	Small UCBs
Tier 2	Rs. 100 Cr – Rs. 1,000 Cr	Mid-size UCBs
Tier 3	Rs. 1,000 Cr – Rs. 10,000 Cr	Large UCBs
Tier 4	> Rs. 10,000 Cr	Very Large UCBs

Industry seeks specific relaxations for Tier-3 & Tier-4 UCBs.

3. The Nominal Member Strategy

Unlike commercial banks (any customer), UCBs are '**member-only**' institutions. **Nominal Members** let the bank lend for consumer goods (bike, washing machine) without giving them voting rights — expanding business without diluting cooperative governance.

Key Exam Terms

Entry Point Norms: Minimum capital & regulatory thresholds for a banking licence.

Unsecured Advances: Loans without collateral backing.

Nominal Member: Admitted for a specific purpose (e.g., small loan); no voting rights.

Track Record: History of bank's performance — stability, profitability, governance (5-10 years).

Discussion Paper: Document issued by regulator inviting stakeholder feedback before finalising policy.

Practice MCQs

Q1. Minimum capital (Entry Point Norm) proposed by RBI for converting credit societies into UCBs?

- ☐ (A) Rs. 100 crore
- ☐ (B) Rs. 200 crore
- ☐ (C) Rs. 300 crore
- ☐ (D) Rs. 500 crore

• **Answer: C** — *RBI proposes Rs. 300 Cr; industry seeks Rs. 200 Cr.*

Q2. Which tier of UCBs is industry targeting for Rs. 5 lakh nominal-member loan cap?

- ☐ (A) Tier-1 and Tier-2
- ☐ (B) Tier-3 and Tier-4
- ☐ (C) Only Multi-state UCBs
- ☐ (D) Only Rural Cooperative Banks

• **Answer: B** — *Larger UCBs (Tier 3 & 4) seek specific relaxations.*

Q3. Track-record requirement proposed by RBI for banking licence eligibility?

- ☐ (A) 2 years
- ☐ (B) 5 years
- ☐ (C) 10 years
- ☐ (D) 15 years

• Answer: C — *RBI wants 10-year active record for stability.*

Q4. Why does RBI cap 'Unsecured Advances' at 20%?

- ☐ (A) To increase profit
- ☐ (B) To mitigate default risk (no collateral backing)
- ☐ (C) To prevent consumer-durable purchases
- ☐ (D) To encourage voting-member admissions

• Answer: B — *Higher default risk in unsecured lending — prudential cap.*

Q5. UCB banking functions are primarily regulated by:

- ☐ (A) NABARD
- ☐ (B) SEBI
- ☐ (C) Reserve Bank of India (RBI)
- ☐ (D) Ministry of Agriculture

• Answer: C — *RBI under the Banking Regulation Act, 1949.*

9 RBI Tightens E-Mandate Rules

Source: Economic Times

Tags: Banking • Digital Payments • RBI

Exam: Banking GA, UPSC GS-III

» Why in News

RBI's expansion of the **e-mandate framework** now covers **cross-border transactions** — giving Indian consumers uniform protection whether paying for a domestic gym membership or a global cloud subscription.

Rs. 15K

Standard OTP-free limit

Rs. 1L

Insurance/SIP/CC limit

24 hrs

Pre-debit alert window

RBI E-Mandate Recurring Payment Flow

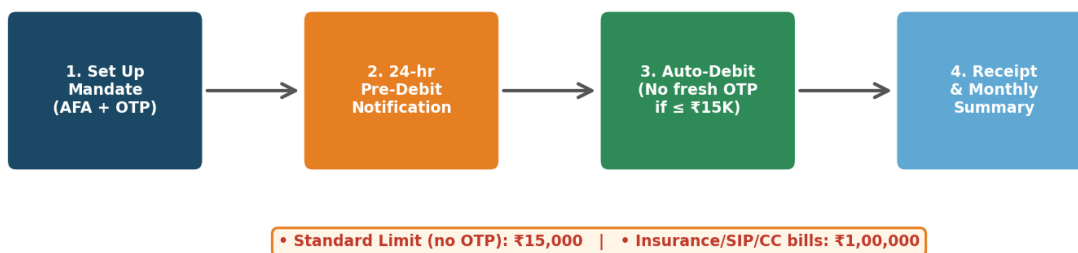


Figure 10: The 4-step RBI e-mandate recurring payment flow.

Key Takeaways

- **The Goal:** Reduce 'subscription fatigue' and digital fraud via mandatory **AFA** control over setting up, modifying, or cancelling mandates.
- **Cross-Border Inclusion:** Framework now covers international recurring payments via cards, UPI, and wallets.
- **Safety Net:** Mandatory **24-hour pre-debit notification** — users can cancel before the debit.
- **Thresholds:** No fresh OTP required if ≤ **Rs. 15,000** (standard) or ≤ **Rs. 1 lakh** (insurance/SIP/credit-card bills).

Background Concept — Digital Standing Instructions

1. The Setup (AFA Requirement)

When first subscribing, user does **Additional Factor Authentication (AFA)** — a security layer beyond card details (e.g., OTP). This '**Master Approval**' is then remembered by the bank for future recurring debits.

2. The 24-Hour Pre-Debit Alert

To prevent surprise deductions, RBI mandates notification **at least 24 hours before** each debit — a 'cooling-off period' to review and opt-out if needed.

3. Exemption Limits — The 'Trust' Threshold

RBI knows OTP-every-time for small payments (e.g., Rs. 200 phone bill) is annoying. Hence:

- **Standard:** Auto-debit allowed if amount $\leq$ **Rs. 15,000**.
- **High-value (Low-risk):** $\leq$ **Rs. 1 lakh** for insurance, mutual fund SIPs, credit card bills.

E-Mandate Rule Summary

Feature	Rule
Pre-debit notification	24 hours before any recurring debit
Standard OTP-free limit	$\leq$ Rs. 15,000
Special category limit (Insurance, SIP, CC)	$\leq$ Rs. 1,00,000
Exempt from 24-hr rule	FASTag, NCMC (auto-replenishment)
Coverage	Domestic + Cross-border (new expansion)

Key Exam Terms

AFA: Additional Factor Authentication — 2+ evidence of identity (e.g., password + OTP).

E-Mandate: Digital standing instruction authorising automatic recurring debits.

PPI: Prepaid Payment Instruments (wallets, smart cards).

Subscription Trap: Being charged for a service you no longer use because cancellation is hard.

FASTag / NCMC: Excluded from 24-hr rule — transit/toll needs instant replenishment.

Practice MCQs

Q1. Standard transaction limit below which recurring e-mandate needs no fresh OTP?

- ☐ (A) Rs. 2,000
- ☐ (B) Rs. 5,000
- ☐ (C) Rs. 15,000
- ☐ (D) Rs. 1,00,000

• **Answer: C — Rs. 15,000 is the general exemption ceiling.**

Q2. How many hours before a debit must the bank notify the customer?

- ☐ (A) 2 hours
- ☐ (B) 12 hours
- ☐ (C) 24 hours
- ☐ (D) 48 hours

• Answer: C — *24-hour pre-debit notification is mandatory.*

Q3. AFA-exempt limit of Rs. 1 lakh applies to which category?

- ☐ (A) International shopping
- ☐ (B) OTT subscriptions (Netflix/Prime)
- ☐ (C) Insurance premiums and Mutual Fund SIPs
- ☐ (D) Food delivery subscriptions

• Answer: C — *Low-risk recurring payments — insurance, SIPs, credit-card bills.*

Q4. Which is EXEMPT from the 24-hour pre-debit notification rule?

- ☐ (A) Monthly gym membership
- ☐ (B) Auto-replenishing FASTag balances
- ☐ (C) International cloud storage fees
- ☐ (D) Annual magazine subscriptions

• Answer: B — *FASTag/NCMC need instant top-up — convenience-first.*

Q5. In e-mandates, 'AFA' stands for:

- ☐ (A) Automated Fund Allocation
- ☐ (B) Additional Factor Authentication
- ☐ (C) Account Fund Access
- ☐ (D) Authorized Financial Advisor

• Answer: B — *Two or more pieces of identity evidence.*

10 One-Liner Current Affairs — Quick Revision

Rapid-fire facts for last-minute revision — perfect for Banking GA, SSC, and UPSC Prelims.

#	Topic / Event	Key Highlight
1	SBI Growth Target	Aims balance sheet at 25% of India's GDP by 2030; current size Rs. 71.62 lakh crore.
2	Cabinet Approvals	PM Modi-led Cabinet approved 2% DA hike (->60%), Rs. 24,815 Cr railway projects, RELIEF s
3	DRDO 'Prajna' System	AI-based satellite imaging system — enhances real-time surveillance & internal security.
4	Petroglyph Conservation Park	India's first — to be developed in Leh with ASI to preserve ancient rock art.
5	Odisha Semiconductor Unit	India's first 3D glass chip packaging unit in Bhubaneswar — Rs. 1,943 Cr investment.
6	C-DOT MoU	Partnered with Jumps Automation LLP for AI-based cybersecurity awareness platform.
7	Min. of Minority Affairs + IIT Patna	Under PM VIKAS — train 600 minority youth in AI and analytics skills.
8	UN ESCAP Report	India's GDP growth: 6.4% (2026), 6.6% (2027); inflation stable ~4.4%.
9	National Health Authority	Concluded Chintan Shivir 2026 — reviewed AB PM-JAY & ABDM; awarded best-performing st
10	Joginapally Santosh Kumar	Honoured as 'Global Green Icon' in London for Green India Challenge initiative.
11	Apple Leadership Change	John Ternus to become CEO in Sept 2026, succeeding Tim Cook.
12	Indian Navy Vessel	Fourth Diving Support Craft DSC A23 launched by Titagarh — boosts deep-sea rescue.
13	Aranyak Ghosh	Became India's 95th Chess Grandmaster at Bangkok Chess Club Open 2026.
14	World Liver Day	Theme 2026: 'Solid Habits, Strong Liver' — promotes preventive healthcare.
15	UN Chinese Language Day	Promotes multilingualism; linked to traditional 'Guyu' festival.
16	National Civil Services Day	Theme 2026: 'Viksit Bharat: Citizen-Centric Governance'; honours civil servants.

One-Liner MCQ Sampler

Q1. Who will succeed Tim Cook as Apple CEO in September 2026?

- ☐ (A) Jeff Williams
- ☐ (B) John Ternus
- ☐ (C) Craig Federighi
- ☐ (D) Eddy Cue

• Answer: B

Q2. Theme for World Liver Day 2026?

- ☐ (A) Your Liver, Your Life
- ☐ (B) Solid Habits, Strong Liver
- ☐ (C) Liver Matters
- ☐ (D) Act Now for Liver Health

• Answer: B

Q3. India's first Petroglyph Conservation Park is to be developed in which region?

- ☐ (A) Hampi
- ☐ (B) Leh
- ☐ (C) Bhimbetka
- ☐ (D) Konark

• Answer: B

Q4. Aronyak Ghosh became India's ____th Chess Grandmaster at the Bangkok Chess Club Open 2026.

- ☐ (A) 90th
- ☐ (B) 93rd
- ☐ (C) 95th
- ☐ (D) 98th

• Answer: C

Q5. Theme for National Civil Services Day 2026?

- ☐ (A) Good Governance for All
- ☐ (B) Seva Bhav
- ☐ (C) Viksit Bharat: Citizen-Centric Governance
- ☐ (D) Empowering Citizens

• Answer: C

Consolidated Answer Key

Section	Q1	Q2	Q3	Q4	Q5
§1 Forest Carbon	C	C	B	B	B
§2 Samriddh Gram	B	B	C	A	C
§3 3D Glass Chip	B	B	B	B	C
§4 Wind Energy	C	C	C	B	B
§5 GM Mosquitoes	B	B	B	C	C
§6 Jamun Evolution	C	B	C	B	B
§7 UNESCAP Report	B	B	C	B	D
§8 UCB Licence	C	B	C	B	C
§9 E-Mandate Rules	C	C	C	B	B
§10 One-Liners	B	B	B	C	C

Score Yourself — Self-Assessment Guide

45+ correct -> Excellent! You're exam-ready. Continue to mock tests.

35–44 correct -> Strong. Revise the *Background Concept* sections where you slipped.

25–34 correct -> Good base. Re-read the charts + 'Key Takeaways' once.

< 25 correct -> Refresher needed. Go section-by-section, make short notes.

"Success is the sum of small efforts, repeated day in and day out."
— Robert Collier

Keep studying. Keep winning. See you tomorrow.