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FREE · EXAM READY

EXAM READY QUIZ

August 2026

100 must-know MCQs · picked from 377 · by topic, with answers

For NABARD Grade A · RBI Grade B · SEBI Grade A · IRDAI · SIDBI

Big themes · Schemes 24 · Banking 19 · Reports 14



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**6 OF THE
TOP 10**

Six of the ten highest scorers in NABARD Grade A 2026 came from this classroom — 32 final selections in one batch. The same mentors write these quizzes every day.

Contents

The 100 must-know MCQs of August 2026, picked from 377 questions and grouped by topic — answers and explanations after each topic. Every line is linked; so is every bookmark in your PDF reader. Online: c4scourses.in/ca-quiz/2026-08

How to use this book — the method, the month by topic, and your score tracker	3
Schemes & Government — 24 MCQs · Q1–24	5
Banking & Finance — 19 MCQs · Q25–43	15
Reports & Indices — 14 MCQs · Q44–57	23
Economy — 10 MCQs · Q58–67	29
Agriculture & Rural — 9 MCQs · Q68–76	33
Science & Environment — 7 MCQs · Q77–83	37
Appointments & Awards — 6 MCQs · Q84–89	40
International — 5 MCQs · Q90–94	43
Misc GA — 5 MCQs · Q95–99	46
Sports & Days — 1 MCQs · Q100–100	49

PRACTISE THE WAY TOPPERS DO

How to use this book

The **Exam Ready** set is the month cut down to the questions that carry hard facts — names, numbers, schemes, reports, banking and agriculture — grouped by topic. Take a topic like a sectional test, then check the answers right after it.

100

Exam Ready MCQs

377
questions they were
picked from
10

topics covered

15 min

per topic, timed

1
Time a topic

About nine seconds a question. Pen and paper, no peeking.

2
Check it

Answers and explanations follow each topic. Mark every miss.

3
Log the score

Write it in the tracker below, topic by topic.

4
Retake misses

Only the ones you got wrong, on day 3 and 7.

The month by topic

Where the Exam Ready questions came from. The long bars are what examiners had the most to ask about.

Schemes & Government	24	
Banking & Finance	19	
Reports & Indices	14	
Economy	10	
Agriculture & Rural	9	
Science & Environment	7	
Appointments & Awards	6	
International	5	
Misc GA	5	
Sports & Days	1	

"The day you do not feel like studying is the day it counts most."

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TRACK EVERY ATTEMPT

Your score tracker

A score that rises on the retake is a fact that has moved into exam-day memory.

TOPIC	SCORE	RETAKE +3	RETAKE +7	DONE	MISSED Q NOS.
Schemes & Government	___ / 24	---	---	☐	
Banking & Finance	___ / 19	---	---	☐	
Reports & Indices	___ / 14	---	---	☐	
Economy	___ / 10	---	---	☐	
Agriculture & Rural	___ / 9	---	---	☐	
Science & Environment	___ / 7	---	---	☐	
Appointments & Awards	___ / 6	---	---	☐	
International	___ / 5	---	---	☐	
Misc GA	___ / 5	---	---	☐	
Sports & Days	___ / 1	---	---	☐	

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EXAM READY · TOPIC 1 OF 10

Schemes & Government

24 must-know MCQs · Q1–24 · about 4 minutes

Q1 · 1 & 2 August 2026

The Union Cabinet approved "Samudra Manthan" — the National Offshore Exploration Scheme — on 31 July 2026 with what approved outlay up to FY 2030–31?

- A. ₹43,200 crore
- B. ₹60,000 crore
- C. ₹84,084 crore
- D. ₹1,00,000 crore
- E. ₹75,021 crore

Q2 · 5 & 6 August 2026

On the Cotton Corporation of India's 56th Foundation Day, Giriraj Singh launched the "Kapas Darshan" bulletin. The event also highlighted which Cotton Productivity Mission?

- A. Kapas Vikas — ₹4,200 crore
- B. Kapas Kanti — ₹5,659 crore
- C. Kasturi Cotton — ₹3,000 crore
- D. Cotton Plus — ₹6,500 crore
- E. Su-Kapas — ₹5,000 crore

Q3 · 5 & 6 August 2026

The Union Cabinet approved the GOBARdhan – National Circular Bioenergy Scheme with what outlay, expected to create ~1.5 lakh jobs?

- A. ₹15,000 crore
- B. ₹18,500 crore
- C. ₹23,731 crore
- D. ₹28,400 crore
- E. ₹32,000 crore

Q4 · 7 & 8 August 2026

GOBARdhan (Galvanising Organic Bio-Agro Resources Dhan) — recast as the National Circular Bioenergy Scheme (₹23,731 crore, FY27–FY36) — is now administered by which ministry?

- A. Jal Shakti
- B. New and Renewable Energy
- C. Petroleum and Natural Gas
- D. Agriculture
- E. Rural Development

Q5 · 7 & 8 August 2026

The proposed central law on women farmers' rights would follow the model of which state's Women Farmers Empowerment Act, 2026?

- A. Kerala
- B. Maharashtra
- C. Tamil Nadu
- D. Telangana
- E. Odisha

Q6 · 11 & 12 August 2026

Under the revised PM E-DRIVE Scheme (total outlay ₹11,900 crore), the incentive for electric two-wheelers is now limited to ₹2,500 per kWh, capped at what amount per vehicle?

- A. ₹2,500
- B. ₹5,000
- C. ₹7,500
- D. ₹10,000
- E. ₹15,000

Q7 · 13 August 2026

"Srijan: Voices from the Loom" — celebrating women weavers with 100+ participants from six handloom clusters — is organised by which ministry?

- A. Ministry of Culture
- B. Ministry of Textiles
- C. Ministry of MSME
- D. Ministry of Rural Development
- E. Ministry of Women and Child Development

Q8 · 13 August 2026

Under the proposed calibrated MDR framework post the Taxation Bill 2026, a nominal MDR (~0.05% to 0.3–0.6%) would apply ONLY to:

- A. All UPI transactions
- B. P2P transfers above ₹500
- C. P2M transactions exceeding ₹2,000 at LARGE commercial enterprises
- D. Kirana store payments
- E. All merchant payments regardless of size

Q9 · 13 August 2026

"Shruti" is the SECOND of four NGOPVs being built by GRSE Kolkata under a programme worth:

- A. ₹6,500 crore
- B. ₹8,200 crore
- C. ₹9,781 crore
- D. ₹11,300 crore
- E. ₹12,650 crore

Q10 · 14 August 2026

Under the Nuclear Energy Mission, the Government plans to develop and operationalise at least how many indigenous Small Modular Reactors by 2033?

- A. Three
- B. Five
- C. Seven
- D. Ten
- E. Twelve

Q11 · 15 August 2026

PM Surya Ghar: Muft Bijli Yojana (February 2024, MNRE) targets 1 crore households by March 2027 and offers households up to how many units of free electricity per month?

- A. 100 units
- B. 200 units
- C. 300 units
- D. 400 units
- E. 500 units

Q12 · 15 August 2026

PMJDY completed 12 years, crossing 58 crore accounts with deposits of about ₹3 lakh crore. On what date was PMJDY formally LAUNCHED (after the 15 August 2014 Red Fort announcement)?

- A. 15 August 2014
- B. 28 August 2014
- C. 2 October 2014
- D. 1 September 2014
- E. 26 January 2015

Q13 · 16 & 17 August 2026

Karnataka's "Sandhya Kiran Scheme" — a contributory cashless healthcare scheme under Ayushman Bharat-Arogya Karnataka — covers state pensioners below 70 years with what annual family health cover?

- A. ₹2 lakh
- B. ₹3 lakh
- C. ₹5 lakh
- D. ₹10 lakh
- E. ₹7.5 lakh

Q14 · 18 August 2026

The Jal Jeevan Mission, which completed seven years on 15 August 2026, aims to supply how much water per person per day through a Functional Household Tap Connection?

- A. 40 litres
- B. 45 litres
- C. 55 litres
- D. 70 litres
- E. 100 litres

Q15 · 18 August 2026

West Bengal formally launched Ayushman Bharat PM-JAY on 16 August 2026. What is the annual health cover provided per family under the scheme?

- A. Rs 1 lakh
- B. Rs 2 lakh
- C. Rs 3 lakh
- D. Rs 5 lakh
- E. Rs 10 lakh

Q16 · 21 August 2026

The Centre has approved a scheme of what size to support the makhana sector alongside the setting up of the National Makhana Board?

- A. Rs 235.50 crore
- B. Rs 476.03 crore
- C. Rs 612.80 crore
- D. Rs 1,100 crore
- E. Rs 1,250 crore

Q17 · 21 August 2026

The Zonal Councils, one of which met for its 31st Southern Zonal Council session at Mahabalipuram, were created under which law?

- A. Government of India Act, 1935
- B. States Reorganisation Act, 1956
- C. Inter-State Council Order, 1990
- D. North-Eastern Council Act, 1971
- E. Administrative Reforms Act, 1962

Q18 · 22 August 2026

The Central Adoption Resource Authority (CARA) was given statutory status under which provision?

- A. Section 68 of the Juvenile Justice Act, 2015
- B. Section 12 of the Commissions for Protection of Child Rights Act, 2005
- C. Section 41 of the Juvenile Justice Act, 2000
- D. Section 9 of the Hindu Adoption and Maintenance Act, 1956
- E. Article 39 of the Constitution

Q19 · 25 August 2026

What is the outlay approved for the Pradhan Mantri Surya Sarovar Yojana?

- A. Rs 2,480 crore
- B. Rs 3,750 crore
- C. Rs 5,070 crore
- D. Rs 7,200 crore
- E. Rs 9,340 crore

Q20 · 25 August 2026

According to the ILO–NCAER policy brief, India's platform workers grew from 7.7 million in 2020 to what figure in 2024–25?

- A. 9.4 million
- B. 10.5 million
- C. 12 million
- D. 15.8 million
- E. 18.2 million

Q21 · 26 August 2026

Under Odisha's Bidesh Sikhyabruti scheme, selected SC/ST students can receive assistance of up to how much per year?

- A. Rs 10 lakh
- B. Rs 15 lakh
- C. Rs 20 lakh
- D. Rs 25 lakh
- E. Rs 40 lakh

Q22 · 27 August 2026

The e-Shram Portal, which completed five years on 26 August 2026, assigns each registered worker what identifier?

- A. An 8-digit Shram Suvidha number
- B. A 10-digit Labour Identification Number
- C. A portable 12-digit Universal Account Number
- D. A 14-digit Social Security Code
- E. A 16-digit Worker Registration Number

Q23 · 27 August 2026

The Pradhan Mantri Jan Dhan Yojana, which completed 12 years, was launched on which date?

- A. 15 August 2014
- B. 28 August 2014
- C. 2 October 2014
- D. 9 May 2015
- E. 1 January 2015

Q24 · 28 & 29 August 2026

PM SVANidhi completed one year of its restructured phase on 27 August 2026. Up to which date has the scheme been extended?

- A. 31 March 2027
- B. 31 March 2028
- C. 31 December 2029
- D. 31 March 2030
- E. 31 March 2032

ANSWERS — SCHEMES & GOVERNMENT

Q1 C	Q2 B	Q3 C	Q4 C	Q5 B
Q6 B	Q7 B	Q8 C	Q9 C	Q10 B
Q11 C	Q12 B	Q13 C	Q14 C	Q15 D

"Sleep is study too. A rested mind remembers."

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Q16 B	Q17 B	Q18 A	Q19 C	Q20 C
Q21 D	Q22 C	Q23 B	Q24 D	

Q1. The Union Cabinet approved "Samudra Manthan" — the National Offshore Exploration Scheme — on 31 July 2026 with what approved outlay up to FY 2030–31?

Answer C. ₹84,084 crore

Samudra Manthan — a Central Sector Scheme of the Ministry of Petroleum & Natural Gas (₹84,084 crore, up to FY 2030–31) — translates the PM's Independence Day 2025 "modern-day Samudra Manthan" vision. It covers the entire offshore exploration value chain: seismic data acquisition, deepwater/ultra-deepwater drilling, scientific drilling in frontier basins, common offshore infrastructure and an Oil & Gas Manufacturing and Services Zone.

Q2. On the Cotton Corporation of India's 56th Foundation Day, Giriraj Singh launched the "Kapas Darshan" bulletin. The event also highlighted which Cotton Productivity Mission?

Answer B. Kapas Kanti — ₹5,659 crore

The CCI's 56th Foundation Day saw the Kapas Darshan Bulletin launch, the ₹5,659-crore Cotton Productivity Mission–Kapas Kanti highlighted, and four MoUs signed for cotton quality, traceability and market access.

Q3. The Union Cabinet approved the GOBARdhan – National Circular Bioenergy Scheme with what outlay, expected to create ~1.5 lakh jobs?

Answer C. ₹23,731 crore

The GOBARdhan – National Circular Bioenergy Scheme (₹23,731 crore) promotes clean energy and rural economy via conversion of organic waste into bioenergy, creating ~1.5 lakh jobs.

Q4. GOBARdhan (Galvanising Organic Bio–Agro Resources Dhan) — recast as the National Circular Bioenergy Scheme (₹23,731 crore, FY27–FY36) — is now administered by which ministry?

Answer C. Petroleum and Natural Gas

GOBARdhan — originally launched under Swachh Bharat Mission (Grameen) in 2018 — is now a national clean-energy programme under the Petroleum Ministry, targeting a ~10x rise in Compressed Biogas (CBG) production from cattle dung, agri residue, press mud and municipal organic waste; CBG blends into CNG (transport) and PNG (domestic). Six growth engines: assured CGD offtake, administered pricing, capital assistance, pipeline infrastructure, credit guarantee, and a CBG Ecosystem Challenge Fund. ~1.5 lakh jobs expected.

Q5. The proposed central law on women farmers' rights would follow the model of which state's Women Farmers Empowerment Act, 2026?

Answer B. Maharashtra

EAC-PM Chairman S. Mahendra Dev (at MSSRF Chennai) said the Centre is considering legislation on the lines of the Maharashtra Women Farmers Empowerment Act, 2026 — India's first state law for women farmers (passed unanimously; introduced by Dattatraya Bharane). Core problem: "farmer" = landowner in records, and land is mostly male-registered — women (only ~15.5% of Maharashtra's operational farmland) stay legally invisible for credit, insurance and schemes. Core instrument: the Woman Farmer Certificate — recognition irrespective of land ownership — plus a Women Farmers Database, State Fund, Empowerment Cell/Council and Gram Panchayat-led identification; agriculture defined broadly (livestock, fisheries, sericulture, apiculture, agro-forestry etc.).

Q6. Under the revised PM E-DRIVE Scheme (total outlay ₹11,900 crore), the incentive for electric two-wheelers is now limited to ₹2,500 per kWh, capped at what amount per vehicle?

Answer B. ₹5,000

The Ministry of Heavy Industries capped e-2W incentives at ₹2,500/kWh, maximum ₹5,000 per vehicle, for April 2025–March 2028. PM E-DRIVE (₹11,900 crore) supports EV adoption, charging infrastructure and domestic EV manufacturing.

Q7. "Srijan: Voices from the Loom" — celebrating women weavers with 100+ participants from six handloom clusters — is organised by which ministry?

Answer B. Ministry of Textiles

Srijan (New Delhi) brings 100+ women weavers from six clusters for first-person narratives, with an anthology release. Why women: handloom is India's largest cottage industry and second-largest rural employer after agriculture, with ~35 lakh workers of whom ~70% are WOMEN — the highest female participation of any Indian industry. Key framework: National Handloom Day 7 August (Swadeshi 1905), NHDP, Raw Material Supply Scheme, Weavers' Comprehensive Welfare Scheme, India Handloom Brand/Handloom Mark, Handloom Reservation Act 1985, Shilp Didi and Samarth.

Q8. Under the proposed calibrated MDR framework post the Taxation Bill 2026, a nominal MDR (~0.05% to 0.3–0.6%) would apply ONLY to:

Answer C. P2M transactions exceeding ₹2,000 at LARGE commercial enterprises

The threshold-based design: consumers and P2P transfers stay 100% free; small merchants (turnover below ~₹1–1.5 crore, incl. kiranas) keep zero fees; only large enterprises face a nominal MDR on P2M transactions above ₹2,000. The Bill's amendment to PSS Act Section 10A removed the statutory prohibition, enabling — not imposing — such charges.

Q9. "Shruti" is the SECOND of four NGOPVs being built by GRSE Kolkata under a programme worth:

Answer C. ₹9,781 crore

Shruti is the second of four Next-Generation Offshore Patrol Vessels under the ₹9,781-crore NGOPV programme at GRSE — strengthening indigenous warship-building and maritime security.

Q10. Under the Nuclear Energy Mission, the Government plans to develop and operationalise at least how many indigenous Small Modular Reactors by 2033?

Answer B. Five

At least five indigenous SMRs by 2033, supporting 100 GWe nuclear capacity by 2047. SMRs (IAEA definition: up to 300 MWe per unit) are factory-fabricated modular reactors using controlled U-235 fission for baseload electricity and industrial heat — lower capital cost, faster construction, less land than gigawatt-scale plants. Nodal developer: BARC (Department of Atomic Energy). Legal enabler: the SHANTI Act, 2025 (Sustainable Harnessing and Advancement of Nuclear energy for Transforming India) — which permits PRIVATE sector participation in nuclear manufacturing and deployment.

Q11. PM Surya Ghar: Muft Bijli Yojana (February 2024, MNRE) targets 1 crore households by March 2027 and offers households up to how many units of free electricity per month?

Answer C. 300 units

The rooftop solar scheme (Central Sector; National Programme Implementation Agency at national level, State Implementation Agencies at state level) provides up to 300 free units/month via rooftop generation. States like UP, Andhra Pradesh and Bihar are now topping up aid for households that can't afford installation — to cut their own power-subsidy revenue losses.

Q12. PMJDY completed 12 years, crossing 58 crore accounts with deposits of about ₹3 lakh crore. On what date was PMJDY formally LAUNCHED (after the 15 August 2014 Red Fort announcement)?

Answer B. 28 August 2014

PMJDY — a National Mission for Financial Inclusion (Finance Ministry nodal; DFS implementing) — was announced from the Red Fort on 15 August 2014 and launched on 28 August 2014. Features: BSBDA zero-balance accounts, free RuPay card with accident cover, overdraft up to ₹10,000, DBT, insurance and mobile banking. It is the first layer of the JAM trinity and India's digital public infrastructure.

Q13. Karnataka's "Sandhya Kiran Scheme" — a contributory cashless healthcare scheme under Ayushman Bharat-Arogya Karnataka — covers state pensioners below 70 years with what annual family health cover?

Answer C. ₹5 lakh

Sandhya Kiran (Karnataka Cabinet-approved) covers ~4.93 lakh beneficiaries — pensioners below 70 and their families — with ₹5 lakh annual family cover for secondary, tertiary and emergency treatment at empanelled hospitals, under AB-Ark.

Q14. The Jal Jeevan Mission, which completed seven years on 15 August 2026, aims to supply how much water per person per day through a Functional Household Tap Connection?

Answer C. 55 litres

The Jal Jeevan Mission provides a Functional Household Tap Connection at the norm of 55 litres per person per day. Launched on 15 August 2019 by Prime Minister Narendra Modi, it is implemented by the Department of Drinking Water and Sanitation under the Ministry of Jal Shakti. Rural tap-water coverage has crossed 15.91 crore households and more than 2 lakh villages are certified Har Ghar Jal.

Q15. West Bengal formally launched Ayushman Bharat PM-JAY on 16 August 2026. What is the annual health cover provided per family under the scheme?

Answer D. Rs 5 lakh

AB-PMJAY provides health coverage of up to Rs 5 lakh per family per year. Around 2,000 government and private hospitals in West Bengal will be empanelled, and all citizens above 70 years are covered, including roughly 35 lakh elderly beneficiaries. The state also launched the Mukhyamantri Swasthya Bima Yojana for families not covered under AB-PMJAY.

Q16. The Centre has approved a scheme of what size to support the makhana sector alongside the setting up of the National Makhana Board?

Answer B. Rs 476.03 crore

India's makhana market is projected to reach Rs 11,000 to Rs 12,000 crore by 2029–30 on the back of rising global demand and modern cultivation methods. The Board is intended to organise a value chain that has historically been informal, covering cultivation, processing and marketing. For NABARD aspirants this is a textbook case of a niche high-value crop being formalised through a dedicated commodity board.

Q17. The Zonal Councils, one of which met for its 31st Southern Zonal Council session at Mahabalipuram, were created under which law?

Answer B. States Reorganisation Act, 1956

Part III of the 1956 Act created five Councils, Northern, Central, Eastern, Western and Southern, making them statutory rather than constitutional bodies. The North-Eastern Council is separate, set up under the North-Eastern Council Act, 1971, and is therefore not one of the five. The Union Home Minister chairs all five, with a member state Chief Minister as Vice-Chairman by annual rotation and a NITI Aayog nominee among the advisers.

Q18. The Central Adoption Resource Authority (CARA) was given statutory status under which provision?

Answer A. Section 68 of the Juvenile Justice Act, 2015

CARA was first set up in 1990 as an autonomous body and works under the Ministry of Women and Child Development, with the 2015 Act as amended in 2021 giving it statutory footing. It is also India's designated Central Authority for inter-country adoption under the 1993 Hague Convention, which India ratified in 2003. It is currently reviewing the Adoption Regulations, 2022 to ease procedural bottlenecks in the adoption of special needs children.

Q19. What is the outlay approved for the Pradhan Mantri Surya Sarovar Yojana?

Answer C. Rs 5,070 crore

The Union Cabinet approved PM-SSY on 31 July 2026 under the Ministry of New and Renewable Energy, with the spending spread from FY 2026–27 to FY 2030–31. The scheme targets 5,000 MW of floating solar photovoltaic capacity integrated with 10,000 MWh of battery energy storage. Pairing storage with generation matters because solar output peaks at midday while demand peaks in the evening.

Q20. According to the ILO–NCAER policy brief, India's platform workers grew from 7.7 million in 2020 to what figure in 2024–25?

Answer C. 12 million

The brief projects the platform workforce could reach 23.5 million by 2029–30, making it one of the fastest expanding segments of Indian employment. Women remain badly underrepresented, forming less than 1 per cent of two-wheeler delivery drivers in urban India. Fifty-two per cent of women, against 40 per cent of men, report lacking the capital needed to enter platform work at all.

Q21. Under Odisha's Bidesh Sikhyabruti scheme, selected SC/ST students can receive assistance of up to how much per year?

Answer D. Rs 25 lakh

Fifty students are selected annually, and eligibility is restricted to universities ranked among the top 200 in the QS World University Rankings. The ranking filter keeps the outlay focused on institutions where a foreign degree carries a clear labour-market premium. The scheme operates under the Mukhyamantri Medhabi Chhatra Protsahan Yojana.

Q22. The e-Shram Portal, which completed five years on 26 August 2026, assigns each registered worker what identifier?

Answer C. A portable 12-digit Universal Account Number

Launched on 26 August 2021 under the Ministry of Labour and Employment, e-Shram is India's first Aadhaar-authenticated National Database of Unorganised Workers. Portability is the design goal, since an informal worker who migrates between States would otherwise lose accumulated entitlements at the border. The platform now converges fifteen schemes, including Bhashini-powered language access in 22 scheduled Indian languages.

Q23. The Pradhan Mantri Jan Dhan Yojana, which completed 12 years, was launched on which date?

Answer B. 28 August 2014

PMJDY was conceived as a financial inclusion mission covering access to bank accounts, credit, insurance, pension and remittance facilities in a single framework. Its lasting contribution was creating the account layer on which direct benefit transfer and later digital payments could be built, since a subsidy cannot be transferred to a household without a bank account. Twelve years on, the milestone is read alongside UPI's growth as the two halves of India's financial inclusion story.

Q24. PM SVANidhi completed one year of its restructured phase on 27 August 2026. Up to which date has the scheme been extended?

Answer D. 31 March 2030

PM SVANidhi has been extended up to 31 March 2030. The revamped scheme moves beyond pure credit to cover digital payments, social security linkage, financial inclusion and entrepreneurship support for street vendors. It continues to provide collateral-free working-capital loans with a 7 per cent interest subsidy on timely repayment, which builds a credit history for vendors who were earlier outside the formal financial system.

EXAM READY · TOPIC 2 OF 10

Banking & Finance

19 must-know MCQs · Q25–43 · about 3 minutes

Q25 · 1 & 2 August 2026

IRDAI's 137th Authority Meeting (28 July 2026) introduced "perpetual registration" for intermediaries, subject to a non-refundable annual fee of:

- A. Flat ₹10,000
- B. Higher of ₹10,000 or 0.04% of commission and other receipts
- C. Lower of ₹10,000 or 0.04% of commission
- D. 1% of premium collected
- E. Higher of ₹25,000 or 0.1% of commission

Q26 · 1 & 2 August 2026

IRDAI's salesperson tagging mandate — requiring the name and identity of the salesperson on proposal forms and policy documents — takes effect from:

- A. 1 October 2026
- B. 1 January 2027
- C. 1 April 2027
- D. 1 July 2026
- E. Immediately

Q27 · 1 & 2 August 2026

Under the SBSR Act, 2025 (which these IRDAI reforms implement), FDI in Indian insurance companies was raised from 74% to:

- A. 80%
- B. 85%
- C. 90%
- D. 100%
- E. It remains 74%

Q28 · 3 & 4 August 2026

The Taxation and Other Laws (Amendment) Bill, 2026 exempts FIIs and which international institution from tax on interest income and capital gains from Government securities?

- A. International Monetary Fund
- B. Bank for International Settlements (BIS)
- C. World Bank
- D. Asian Development Bank
- E. New Development Bank

Q29 · 5 & 6 August 2026

The RBI MPC on 5 August 2026 unanimously (6–0) kept the policy repo rate unchanged at:

- A. 5.00%
- B. 5.25%
- C. 5.50%
- D. 5.75%
- E. 6.00%

Q30 · 7 & 8 August 2026

The Bankers' Books Evidence Bill, 2026 replaces the colonial-era Act of which year?

- A. 1872
- B. 1881
- C. 1891
- D. 1908
- E. 1934

Q31 · 9 & 10 August 2026

RBI's NBFC Upper-Layer list rose from 15 (January 2025) to 17 for FY27. Which FOUR entities were newly added?

- A. Bajaj Finance, Shriram, Muthoot, Tata Capital
- B. REC, PFC, IRFC and HUDCO
- C. LIC HF, PNB HF, Can Fin, Aadhar
- D. Mahindra Finance, Chola, Sundaram, TVS Credit
- E. Piramal, IIFL, Poonawalla, Aditya Birla Finance

Q32 · 13 August 2026

UPI completed 10 years. It was launched as a pilot in April 2016 and is built on which underlying protocol?

- A. NEFT
- B. RTGS
- C. Immediate Payment Service (IMPS)
- D. AEPS
- E. SWIFT

Q33 · 14 August 2026

Bank of America and Jio Financial Services agreed a JV under which BofA may acquire up to 49.9% in Jio Credit for around ₹18,268 crore. What INITIAL stake will BofA take via preferential allotment?

- A. 10%
- B. 20%
- C. 24.9%
- D. 26.5%
- E. 33%

Q34 · 15 August 2026

RBI closed its FCNR(B) swap window one month early after banks mobilised how much under the scheme (launched 8 June 2026)?

- A. \$32.5 billion
- B. \$42.8 billion
- C. \$52.3 billion
- D. \$62.1 billion
- E. \$25.6 billion

Q35 · 18 August 2026

The RBI imposed a monetary penalty of Rs 59.20 lakh on which bank for non-compliance with directions on Interest Rate on Deposits and Securitisation of Standard Assets?

- A. RBL Bank
- B. Bandhan Bank
- C. IndusInd Bank
- D. Yes Bank
- E. IDFC First Bank

Q36 · 20 August 2026

Tamil Nadu raised the annual cover under the Chief Minister's Comprehensive Health Insurance Scheme to what amount?

- A. Rs 10 lakh
- B. Rs 15 lakh
- C. Rs 20 lakh
- D. Rs 25 lakh
- E. Rs 30 lakh

Q37 · 21 August 2026

The RBI has approved LIC to raise its stake in HDFC Bank up to what level of paid-up share capital or voting rights?

- A. 4.11 per cent
- B. 5.00 per cent
- C. 7.50 per cent
- D. 9.99 per cent
- E. 14.99 per cent

Q38 · 21 August 2026

Paul Merchants Finance became the first NBFC in India to set up exclusive silver loan branches, following which RBI framework?

- A. Gold Monetisation Directions, 2015
- B. Lending Against Gold and Silver Collateral Directions, 2025
- C. Scale Based Regulation Framework for NBFCs, 2021
- D. Fair Practices Code for NBFCs, 2012
- E. Master Directions on Secured Lending, 2023

Q39 · 22 August 2026

IDFC FIRST Bank completed its maiden USD 500 million bond issuance through its IFSC Banking Unit located at:

- A. GIFT City, Gujarat
- B. Bandra Kurla Complex, Mumbai
- C. Hyderabad Financial District
- D. Navi Mumbai SEZ
- E. Chennai MEPZ

Q40 · 23 & 24 August 2026

India and the Asian Development Bank signed a loan agreement of what value for the Chennai Climate-Resilient Water Security and Sewerage Project?

- A. 150 million dollars
- B. 180 million dollars
- C. 230 million dollars
- D. 300 million dollars
- E. 425 million dollars

Q41 · 25 August 2026

The same brief notes that women held what share of outstanding individual bank credit as of March 2023?

- A. 14.6 per cent
- B. 18.2 per cent
- C. 22.9 per cent
- D. 27.4 per cent
- E. 31.5 per cent

Q42 · 26 August 2026

UPI, which completed ten years on 25 August 2026, accounted for roughly what share of India's digital payments in FY26?

- A. 62 per cent
- B. 71 per cent
- C. 78 per cent
- D. 84 per cent
- E. 92 per cent

Q43 · 27 August 2026

India's mushroom production grew from 51,000 tonnes in 2015 to nearly what level in 2024?

- A. 1.24 lakh tonnes
- B. 2.06 lakh tonnes
- C. 3.48 lakh tonnes
- D. 4.90 lakh tonnes
- E. 6.15 lakh tonnes

ANSWERS — BANKING & FINANCE

Q25 B	Q26 B	Q27 D	Q28 B	Q29 B
Q30 C	Q31 B	Q32 C	Q33 D	Q34 C
Q35 C	Q36 D	Q37 D	Q38 B	Q39 A
Q40 C	Q41 C	Q42 D	Q43 C	

Q25. IRDAI's 137th Authority Meeting (28 July 2026) introduced "perpetual registration" for intermediaries, subject to a non-refundable annual fee of:

Answer B. Higher of ₹10,000 or 0.04% of commission and other receipts

Perpetual registration (for corporate agents, brokers, IMFs, web aggregators, CPSC-SPVs) stays valid indefinitely until suspended/cancelled/surrendered — annual fee = higher of ₹10,000 or 0.04% of commission and other receipts from insurers in the preceding FY. IMF principal officers and salespersons must complete at least 25 hours of training every three years. Enhanced disclosures apply to majority foreign-owned entities (aligning with the 100% FDI framework).

Q26. IRDAI's salesperson tagging mandate — requiring the name and identity of the salesperson on proposal forms and policy documents — takes effect from:

Answer B. 1 January 2027

From 1 January 2027, the name and functional identity of the salesperson (broker-qualified person, PoSP, designated person, authorised verifier etc.) plus branch contact details must appear on proposal forms, policy documents and certificates of insurance; for direct digital sales without a salesperson, the principal officer's contact details apply. Purpose: a clear audit trail against mis-selling.

Q27. Under the SBSR Act, 2025 (which these IRDAI reforms implement), FDI in Indian insurance companies was raised from 74% to:

Answer D. 100%

The SBSR (Sabka Bima Sabki Raksha) Act, 2025 — passed LS 16 Dec/RS 17 Dec 2025, assent 20 Dec 2025, commenced 5 Feb 2026 — raised insurance company FDI to 100% (intermediaries already 100% automatic; LIC 20%); cut foreign reinsurers' net-owned fund from ₹5,000 crore to ₹1,000 crore; removed the ₹100 crore minimum for insurance co-operative societies; introduced one-time licensing and suspension (not outright cancellation); empowered IRDAI to disgorge wrongful gains; and created the PEPF under Section 16A. IRDAI (est. IRDA Act 1999, HQ Hyderabad, Malhotra Committee 1993) has designated LIC, GIC Re and New India Assurance as D-SIIs.

Q28. The Taxation and Other Laws (Amendment) Bill, 2026 exempts FIIs and which international institution from tax on interest income and capital gains from Government securities?

Answer B. Bank for International Settlements (BIS)

The Bill (introduced by FM Sitharaman on 4 August, LS-passed 6 August 2026; replaces the 5 June 2026 Ordinance; amends the Income-tax Act 2025, Finance Act 2026 and PSS Act 2007) exempts FIIs and the BIS from tax on G-sec interest and capital gains for income arising on/after 1 April 2026. Other provisions: rough-diamond trade exemption until 31 March 2041 in notified special zones (mining companies, sightholders, brokers, aggregators, tender/auction entities); customs-bonded-warehouse exemption for electronics components; eased safe harbour for offshore funds; REIT/InvIT unit-holder dividend exemption restored where SPV opted for the new regime.

Q29. The RBI MPC on 5 August 2026 unanimously (6-0) kept the policy repo rate unchanged at:

Answer B. 5.25%

Repo unchanged at 5.25% (unanimous), SDF 5.00%, MSF and Bank Rate 5.50%; stance NEUTRAL continued. CPI inflation FY27 lowered 10 bps to 5.0% (Q1 5.3%, Q2 4.7%, Q3 5.9%, Q4 5.5%); real GDP growth FY27 raised to 6.7% from 6.6%. Last rate revision: December 2025; next meeting 5-7 October 2026.

Q30. The Bankers' Books Evidence Bill, 2026 replaces the colonial-era Act of which year?**Answer** C. 1891

The Bill replaces the 135-year-old Bankers' Books Evidence Act, 1891. Features: "bankers' books" expanded to electronic, digital, virtual and cloud-based records; certified extracts admissible without original ledgers or routine witness summons; electronic records need integrity conditions (true representation, no unauthorised changes, no tampering) plus a technical certificate signed by designated branch/office heads; bank officers protected from compulsory attendance where the bank isn't a party (except judge-ordered special cause); Centre can extend coverage to other financial institutions by notification.

Q31. RBI's NBFC Upper-Layer list rose from 15 (January 2025) to 17 for FY27. Which FOUR entities were newly added?**Answer** B. REC, PFC, IRFC and HUDCO

The FY27 NBFC-UL list has 17 NBFCs — up from 15 in January 2025 — with the four state-owned infrastructure financiers REC, PFC, IRFC and HUDCO added; Tata Sons continues on the list.

Q32. UPI completed 10 years. It was launched as a pilot in April 2016 and is built on which underlying protocol?**Answer** C. Immediate Payment Service (IMPS)

UPI (RBI-NPCI; pilot April 2016, fully operational August 2016) is India's real-time interoperable system built on IMPS, using VPAs and QR codes for instant bank-to-bank transfers. Growth drivers: RBI's 2012-13 payment vision, demonetisation (2016) and the pandemic (2020) pushing QR adoption, VC inflows into Paytm/PhonePe (2019-21), and the 2020 zero-MDR mandate following the Nandan Nilekani Committee.

Q33. Bank of America and Jio Financial Services agreed a JV under which BofA may acquire up to 49.9% in Jio Credit for around ₹18,268 crore. What INITIAL stake will BofA take via preferential allotment?**Answer** D. 26.5%

BofA initially acquires 26.5% in Jio Credit through preferential allotment, with headroom up to 49.9% (~₹18,268 crore) — bringing capital plus global expertise in financial services and risk management.

Q34. RBI closed its FCNR(B) swap window one month early after banks mobilised how much under the scheme (launched 8 June 2026)?**Answer** C. \$52.3 billion

Banks raised \$52.3 billion by 13 August, prompting early closure (31 August) — barely a week after Governor Malhotra said there was no withdrawal proposal. FCNR(B) = Foreign Currency Non-Resident (Bank) term deposits held in foreign currency by NRIs, with principal AND interest paid in the same currency (no rupee conversion risk). The swap: bank sells NRI dollars to RBI for rupees, reversing at maturity at the SAME rate — RBI bears the full hedging cost, letting banks offer attractive NRI rates without currency risk.

Q35. The RBI imposed a monetary penalty of Rs 59.20 lakh on which bank for non-compliance with directions on Interest Rate on Deposits and Securitisation of Standard Assets?

Answer C. IndusInd Bank

The bank was found to have paid interest on certain current account deposits in violation of RBI directions and to have undertaken synthetic securitisation of standard assets against RBI guidelines. The violations were identified during the RBI's inspection based on the bank's financial position as of 31 March 2025.

Q36. Tamil Nadu raised the annual cover under the Chief Minister's Comprehensive Health Insurance Scheme to what amount?

Answer D. Rs 25 lakh

The increase is five-fold, from the earlier cover of Rs 5 lakh. The stated purpose is to shield families from catastrophic treatment costs in cases of serious illness. State health insurance schemes of this kind typically run alongside the Centre's assurance cover, and questions usually test the before-and-after figures together.

Q37. The RBI has approved LIC to raise its stake in HDFC Bank up to what level of paid-up share capital or voting rights?

Answer D. 9.99 per cent

LIC currently holds roughly 4.11 per cent, and the approval is an enabling permission rather than an instruction to buy. Any further acquisition must still comply with RBI norms as well as SEBI regulations, FEMA and the Banking Regulation Act. Approvals of this kind matter because ownership and voting-rights caps in private banks are a regularly examined area.

Q38. Paul Merchants Finance became the first NBFC in India to set up exclusive silver loan branches, following which RBI framework?

Answer B. Lending Against Gold and Silver Collateral Directions, 2025

The company began with silver loan services in Chandigarh, offering loans from Rs 2,000 to Rs 15 lakh against eligible silver jewellery, ornaments and approved silver coins. Extending the collateral framework beyond gold brings silver-backed lending, long a feature of informal credit, into the regulated system. That formalisation angle is what makes it relevant to financial inclusion questions.

Q39. IDFC FIRST Bank completed its maiden USD 500 million bond issuance through its IFSC Banking Unit located at:

Answer A. GIFT City, Gujarat

The bonds carry a three-year maturity due in 2029 with a fixed coupon of 5.625 per cent, and were rated BBB- with a Stable Outlook by S&P Global Ratings. They were issued under the Regulation S format, which restricts offering to investors outside the United States. The transaction marks the bank's entry into the global debt capital market through India's only operational International Financial Services Centre.

Q40. India and the Asian Development Bank signed a loan agreement of what value for the Chennai Climate-Resilient Water Security and Sewerage Project?

Answer C. 230 million dollars

The project funds a comprehensive ring-main water supply system for Chennai along with wastewater upgrades, aligned with AMRUT 2.0 and the Urban Challenge Fund. The ADB was established on 19 December 1966 and is headquartered in Manila, with Masato Kanda as President and 69 members, of which 49 are regional. Unlike the New Development Bank, where founders hold equal voting rights, ADB uses weighted voting tied to capital subscription.

Q41. The same brief notes that women held what share of outstanding individual bank credit as of March 2023?

Answer C. 22.9 per cent

The account-ownership gap has effectively closed, with women at 89 per cent against men at 88 per cent in 2024, compared with 43 and 62 per cent in 2014. But ownership is not usage: only 25.2 per cent of women can conduct online banking transactions against 47.1 per cent of men, and the figure falls to 17.1 per cent for rural women. Access to an account is therefore a first step, not financial inclusion in itself.

Q42. UPI, which completed ten years on 25 August 2026, accounted for roughly what share of India's digital payments in FY26?

Answer D. 84 per cent

Annual transaction volume rose from 1.78 crore in FY17 to more than 24,162 crore in FY26, with value climbing from Rs 0.07 lakh crore to around Rs 314 lakh crore. The scale of the jump reflects UPI's interoperable design, where any app can reach any bank account through a common addressing layer. That volume growth, largely in small-value payments, is also why the pricing question for UPI remains unresolved.

Q43. India's mushroom production grew from 51,000 tonnes in 2015 to nearly what level in 2024?

Answer C. 3.48 lakh tonnes

That works out to a compound annual growth rate of 23.76 per cent, making India the world's third-largest producer, yet its global share remains only about 0.7 per cent. The gap between rank and share shows how concentrated world production is in a handful of very large producers. Bihar is emerging as a hub, though short shelf life, weak market linkages and production instability still cap the sector's potential.

EXAM READY · TOPIC 3 OF 10

Reports & Indices

14 must-know MCQs · Q44–57 · about 3 minutes

Q44 · 7 & 8 August 2026

NITI Aayog released the report "Reimagining Care: Strategies for Empowering Caregivers in Viksit Bharat@2047". As per the report, India's elderly (60+) population is projected to rise from 149 million (2022) to how much by 2050?

- A. 250 million (15%)
- B. 300 million (18%)
- C. 347 million (20.8%)
- D. 400 million (24%)
- E. 320 million (19.5%)

Q45 · 9 & 10 August 2026

Kroll's 11th Celebrity Brand Valuation 2025 report ranked whom as India's most valuable celebrity brand (USD 177.9 million)?

- A. Virat Kohli
- B. Shah Rukh Khan
- C. Ranveer Singh
- D. Deepika Padukone
- E. Alia Bhatt

Q46 · 11 & 12 August 2026

RBI's 101st Survey of Professional Forecasters projected India's real GDP growth for FY27 at:

- A. 6.4%
- B. 6.5%
- C. 6.6%
- D. 6.8%
- E. 7.0%

Q47 · 14 August 2026

As per the NITI report, India's textile sector contributes ~2% of GDP, 11% of manufacturing GVA and 9% of merchandise exports, employing over ____ people.

- A. 25 million
- B. 35 million
- C. 45 million
- D. 55 million
- E. 65 million

Q48 · 15 August 2026

Per the WIPO report, India ranks FIFTH globally in Generative AI patent filings. Which country tops the list with over 70% of global GenAI patents (2024–25)?

- A. United States
- B. China
- C. Japan
- D. South Korea
- E. Germany

Q49 · 18 August 2026

According to NITI Aayog's 3rd Services Thematic report, professional services contribute approximately what share of India's total services exports?

- A. 10 per cent
- B. 15 per cent
- C. 25 per cent
- D. 40 per cent
- E. 55 per cent

Q50 · 20 August 2026

According to the report "Her Harvest 2026: The Hidden Cost of Women's Invisible Work in Indian Agriculture", what share of India's farmed area is operated by women?

- A. 8.45 per cent
- B. 11.72 per cent
- C. 15.30 per cent
- D. 21.60 per cent
- E. 24.00 per cent

Q51 · 20 August 2026

As per the Her Harvest 2026 report, how much do women agricultural workers earn for every Rs 100 earned by men?

- A. Rs 68
- B. Rs 74
- C. Rs 82
- D. Rs 88
- E. Rs 91

Q52 · 20 August 2026

As per the 16th monthly PLFS bulletin, the all-India unemployment rate (Current Weekly Status, age 15 and above) in July 2026 stood at:

- A. 4.5 per cent
- B. 5.1 per cent
- C. 5.5 per cent
- D. 6.7 per cent
- E. 7.2 per cent

Q53 · 23 & 24 August 2026

In the NielsenIQ and World Data Lab report, affluent consumers are defined as people spending more than how much per day?

- A. 30 dollars
- B. 50 dollars
- C. 70 dollars
- D. 90 dollars
- E. 120 dollars

Q54 · 26 August 2026

NITI Aayog's report 'Reimagining Skilling for Viksit Bharat@2047' identified how many youth aged 15 to 29 as not in education, employment or training?

- A. 4.2 crore
- B. 6.1 crore
- C. 8.7 crore
- D. 10.3 crore
- E. 12.5 crore

Q55 · 27 August 2026

In SEBI's IT Resilience Index for market infrastructure institutions, which two parameters carry the highest weight of 20 per cent each?

- A. Scalability and governance
- B. Availability and cybersecurity
- C. Business continuity and reliability
- D. Integrity and monitoring
- E. Modularity and flexibility

Q56 · 28 & 29 August 2026

The world's first Drought Resilience Index (DRI) and Drought Resilience Investment Facility (DRIF) were launched at which international forum?

- A. UNFCCC COP30
- B. UNCCD COP17
- C. CBD COP17
- D. Ramsar COP15
- E. UN Water Conference 2026

Q57 · 30 & 31 August 2026

According to the NITI Aayog report on Ease of Doing R&D in India, nearly 80 per cent of ANRF funding is concentrated in which set of institutions?

- A. Central Universities
- B. IITs
- C. CSIR laboratories
- D. State agricultural universities
- E. Private research foundations

ANSWERS — REPORTS & INDICES

Q44 C	Q45 B	Q46 C	Q47 C	Q48 B
Q49 C	Q50 B	Q51 C	Q52 B	Q53 D

Q54 C	Q55 B	Q56 B	Q57 B	
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Q44. NITI Aayog released the report "Reimagining Care: Strategies for Empowering Caregivers in Viksit Bharat@2047". As per the report, India's elderly (60+) population is projected to rise from 149 million (2022) to how much by 2050?

Answer C. 347 million (20.8%)

The elderly share doubles from ~10.5% (149M, 2022) to 20.8% (347M) by 2050 — India will face a large long-term care burden BEFORE becoming rich (unlike Japan/China). Other figures: 26.8M+ persons with disabilities (21 benchmark categories, RPwD Act 2016); Time Use Survey — women 299 min/day unpaid care vs men 97; care market \$29.62bn (2023) → \$72.31bn (2030), CAGR 13.76%. Caregiver types: formal (paid, trained) vs informal (unpaid family/community — e.g. Kudumbashree's K4 Care, Kerala's Neighbourhood Network in Palliative Care).

Q45. Kroll's 11th Celebrity Brand Valuation 2025 report ranked whom as India's most valuable celebrity brand (USD 177.9 million)?

Answer B. Shah Rukh Khan

Kroll's Celebrity Brand Valuation 2025: 1st Shah Rukh Khan (\$177.9M), 2nd Ranveer Singh (\$162.9M), 3rd Virat Kohli (\$158.4M); top-25 combined ~\$2 billion.

Q46. RBI's 101st Survey of Professional Forecasters projected India's real GDP growth for FY27 at:

Answer C. 6.6%

The 101st SPF pegs FY27 real GDP growth at 6.6% (up from 6.5% in the previous survey), FY28 at 7.0%, and Q1 FY27 at 6.8%.

Q47. As per the NITI report, India's textile sector contributes ~2% of GDP, 11% of manufacturing GVA and 9% of merchandise exports, employing over _____ people.

Answer C. 45 million

Textiles employ 45+ million (second-largest employer after agriculture), exporting ~\$37.7 billion annually; India is the SIXTH-largest textile exporter (4.1% global share). Focus areas: man-made fibre (MMF), technical and sustainable textiles — reducing cotton dependence. Solar PV: capacity 106 GW (March 2025) vs 280 GW target by 2030; strong on modules but imports cells/wafers — needs the full polysilicon → wafers → cells → modules chain.

Q48. Per the WIPO report, India ranks FIFTH globally in Generative AI patent filings. Which country tops the list with over 70% of global GenAI patents (2024-25)?

Answer B. China

Rankings (2024-25 share): China 70%+, US 10% (92% CAGR), Japan 6.5% (230% CAGR), South Korea 3.7%, India 5th at 2% (64% CAGR). India published 929 GenAI patents in 2024-25 — nearly 70% of the 1,350 it published over the whole 2014-23 decade. Germany (6th), UK (8th), Canada and Switzerland are closing in, so India's fifth place is not secure. WIPO is a UN specialised agency.

Q49. According to NITI Aayog's 3rd Services Thematic report, professional services contribute approximately what share of India's total services exports?

Answer C. 25 per cent

The report, titled India's Services Sector: Insights on Regulatory Regime in Professional Services, notes that professional services account for nearly 25 per cent of India's total services exports. It recommends a four-pronged strategy: harness emerging trends, strengthen professional services in the wider value chain, adopt global best practices and promote continuous professional development. Key regulatory barriers identified include nationality and residency requirements, licensing rules, qualification requirements and recognition of foreign qualifications.

Q50. According to the report "Her Harvest 2026: The Hidden Cost of Women's Invisible Work in Indian Agriculture", what share of India's farmed area is operated by women?

Answer B. 11.72 per cent

The report was published by the grain commerce platform Arya.ag and argues that unequal access to land, finance and technology leaves a large part of India's farm potential untapped. The low operated-area share sits against the fact that 64.4 per cent of working women are in agriculture, rising to 76.9 per cent among rural working women. The gap between who works the land and who is on record as operating it is the report's central theme.

Q51. As per the Her Harvest 2026 report, how much do women agricultural workers earn for every Rs 100 earned by men?

Answer C. Rs 82

The report records wages 20 to 30 per cent lower for comparable work, and notes that 50.5 per cent of women agricultural workers are unpaid helpers against 21.7 per cent of men. It estimates an annual output loss of Rs 1.2 to 2 lakh crore, equal to 2.5 to 4 per cent of a farm economy worth Rs 48.7 lakh crore. Its framework of resources, recognition and returns is the part most likely to be tested.

Q52. As per the 16th monthly PLFS bulletin, the all-India unemployment rate (Current Weekly Status, age 15 and above) in July 2026 stood at:

Answer B. 5.1 per cent

The Periodic Labour Force Survey bulletin is released by the National Statistics Office, and the rate fell from 5.5 per cent in June. Rural unemployment was 4.5 per cent against urban 6.7 per cent, both of which appear here as distractors. The Labour Force Participation Rate rose to 55.4 per cent from 54.4 per cent and the Worker Population Ratio to 52.5 per cent from 51.4 per cent.

Q53. In the NielsenIQ and World Data Lab report, affluent consumers are defined as people spending more than how much per day?

Answer D. 90 dollars

The report classifies core consumers as those spending between 13 and 90 dollars a day, with affluence beginning above that band. India is projected to reach 10.8 crore affluent consumers by 2036, marginally ahead of China's 10.3 crore, on an increase of 8.2 crore from 2.6 crore in 2026. India's addition is the largest among the countries covered, even though the United States is expected to hold a much larger affluent base of 23.1 crore.

Q54. NITI Aayog's report 'Reimagining Skilling for Viksit Bharat@2047' identified how many youth aged 15 to 29 as not in education, employment or training?

Answer C. 8.7 crore

The report also finds only 8.25 per cent of graduates employed in roles matching their qualifications, pointing to a mismatch problem rather than a pure shortage of jobs. Fewer than one in twelve secondary schools offer vocational subjects, which leaves the school system feeding almost everyone into a general academic track. A large NEET population is the clearest sign that the demographic dividend can turn into a liability without absorption pathways.

Q55. In SEBI's IT Resilience Index for market infrastructure institutions, which two parameters carry the highest weight of 20 per cent each?

Answer B. Availability and cybersecurity

Business continuity and reliability carry 10 per cent each and scalability 5 per cent, with integrity, governance, monitoring, modularity and flexibility making up the rest of the nine parameters. The useful analogy is that ITRI does for digital resilience in capital markets what capital adequacy ratios do for financial health in banking. It tests whether the trading, clearing, settlement and depository backbones can absorb cyberattacks, software glitches and extreme volume surges without destabilising the system.

Q56. The world's first Drought Resilience Index (DRI) and Drought Resilience Investment Facility (DRIF) were launched at which international forum?

Answer B. UNCCD COP17

A new global drought resilience architecture was launched at UNCCD COP17 to shift the world from reactive crisis response to proactive preparedness. The DRI is the first comprehensive technical metric of a country's systemic capacity to withstand drought, using AI-powered analytics and vulnerability mapping to guide policy and investment. The DRIF is the first global catalytic financing platform dedicated to drought resilience, using public capital to de-risk investment and unlock larger institutional and private finance flows.

Q57. According to the NITI Aayog report on Ease of Doing R&D in India, nearly 80 per cent of ANRF funding is concentrated in which set of institutions?

Answer B. IITs

The report notes that nearly 80 per cent of Anusandhan National Research Foundation funding is concentrated in the IITs, pointing to a narrow research base. It also flags that India lacks a standardised system to track who receives R&D funds, from which agency and for what purpose. It proposes a Unified Project Management System requiring Persistent Digital Identifiers and metadata infrastructure, which would reduce duplication of publicly funded research, including in agriculture.

EXAM READY · TOPIC 4 OF 10

Economy

10 must-know MCQs · Q58–67 · about 2 minutes

Q58 · 3 & 4 August 2026

PM-SSY (₹5,070 crore floating solar scheme) is expected to attract about ₹28,500 crore investment and cut CO₂ emissions by roughly how much annually?

- A. 5 million tonnes
- B. 10 million tonnes
- C. 15 million tonnes
- D. 20 million tonnes
- E. 28.8 million tonnes

Q59 · 7 & 8 August 2026

The U.S. Senate passed which Act that could impose tariffs of up to 100% on countries continuing to import Russian oil — with potential exposure for India?

- A. CAATSA 2.0
- B. Lindsey O. Graham Sanctioning Russia and Iran Act, 2026
- C. Russia Oil Embargo Act
- D. Global Energy Security Act
- E. NOPEC Act

Q60 · 13 August 2026

India's retail inflation (CPI) rose to what level in July 2026 — a 19-month high?

- A. 4.15%
- B. 4.45%
- C. 4.75%
- D. 5.05%
- E. 5.45%

Q61 · 15 August 2026

PM Vishwakarma 2.0 is likely to launch on 17 September — Vishwakarma Jayanti. The original scheme (2023, Central Sector, MSME Ministry) covers how many identified traditional trades?

- A. 12
- B. 15
- C. 18
- D. 21
- E. 25

Q62 · 16 & 17 August 2026

Under FAST-DS (Foreign Assets Disclosure Scheme for Small Taxpayers), Category A declarants (undisclosed foreign asset/income never offered to tax, up to ₹1 crore) must pay:

- A. Flat fee of ₹1 lakh
- B. 30% tax only
- C. 30% tax + an equal additional amount = effective 60%
- D. 45% tax
- E. 75% tax + penalty

"A fact revised three times is a mark in the bank."

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Q63 · 16 & 17 August 2026

The MMDR Amendment Bill, 2026 responds to which 2024 nine-judge Constitution Bench ruling that recognised states' power to tax mineral rights while holding "royalty is not a tax"?

- A. State of Jharkhand v. Union of India
- B. Mineral Area Development Authority (MADA) v. SAIL
- C. India Cement v. State of Tamil Nadu
- D. Kesoram Industries case
- E. Orissa Mining Corporation v. MoEF

Q64 · 20 August 2026

MeitY approved 31 additional projects worth Rs 7,877 crore under which scheme?

- A. Production Linked Incentive Scheme for Large Scale Electronics
- B. Electronics Components Manufacturing Scheme
- C. Semiconductor Mission Design Linked Incentive
- D. Modified Electronics Manufacturing Clusters Scheme
- E. SPECS – Scheme for Promotion of Electronics Components and Semiconductors

Q65 · 21 August 2026

India's core sector growth in July 2026 slowed to what level, from 6 per cent in June 2026?

- A. 4.8 per cent
- B. 5.1 per cent
- C. 5.4 per cent
- D. 5.9 per cent
- E. 6.2 per cent

Q66 · 22 August 2026

What is the outlay of the Mobile Phone Manufacturing Scheme (MPMS) notified by MeitY?

- A. Rs 22,919 crore
- B. Rs 38,600 crore
- C. Rs 62,500 crore
- D. Rs 76,000 crore
- E. Rs 1,02,000 crore

Q67 · 30 & 31 August 2026

India's current account deficit (CAD) in 2025–26 stood at approximately what level?

- A. 0.6 per cent of GDP
- B. 1.4 per cent of GDP
- C. 2.1 per cent of GDP
- D. 2.8 per cent of GDP
- E. 3.5 per cent of GDP

ANSWERS — ECONOMY

Q58 B	Q59 B	Q60 B	Q61 C	Q62 C
Q63 B	Q64 B	Q65 C	Q66 C	Q67 A

Q58. PM-SSY (₹5,070 crore floating solar scheme) is expected to attract about ₹28,500 crore investment and cut CO₂ emissions by roughly how much annually?

Answer B. 10 million tonnes

PM-SSY (MNRE nodal, SECI implementing; 5,000 MW FSPV + 10,000 MWh storage, FY27-FY31; floating solar ~700 MW → 5,700 MW) is expected to draw ~₹28,500 crore investment, cut ~10 million tonnes CO₂ annually, and create 16,000-17,000 full-time equivalent jobs. CFA ₹1 crore/MW post-commissioning bridges the ~25% higher capex; de-risking grants up to ₹50 lakh/project cover bathymetry, hydrography, solar yield and aquatic ecological studies.

Q59. The U.S. Senate passed which Act that could impose tariffs of up to 100% on countries continuing to import Russian oil — with potential exposure for India?

Answer B. Lindsey O. Graham Sanctioning Russia and Iran Act, 2026

The Act allows tariffs up to 100% on countries importing Russian oil under specified conditions — India, a major Russian crude importer, faces potential exposure. Separately, PM Modi urged promotion of Indian handloom ahead of National Handloom Day (7 August), recalling the 1905 Swadeshi Movement.

Q60. India's retail inflation (CPI) rose to what level in July 2026 — a 19-month high?

Answer B. 4.45%

July 2026 CPI hit 4.45% — a 19-month high driven mainly by food and fuel prices, signalling renewed inflationary pressure on household consumption.

Q61. PM Vishwakarma 2.0 is likely to launch on 17 September — Vishwakarma Jayanti. The original scheme (2023, Central Sector, MSME Ministry) covers how many identified traditional trades?

Answer C. 18

PM Vishwakarma (launched 2023; Central Sector; MSME nodal) covers 18 traditional trades for artisans above 18 years — offering collateral-free credit, skill training, modern tools, digital-transaction incentives and market linkage. Phase 2.0 sharpens credit access and market linkages, launching 17 September (Vishwakarma Jayanti, also the PM's birthday).

Q62. Under FAST-DS (Foreign Assets Disclosure Scheme for Small Taxpayers), Category A declarants (undisclosed foreign asset/income never offered to tax, up to ₹1 crore) must pay:

Answer C. 30% tax + an equal additional amount = effective 60%

FAST-DS (announced Budget 2026-27; Chapter IV Finance Act 2026; CBDT-notified; in force 16 August-31 December 2026; valuation date 31 March 2026; electronic Form 1) gives immunity from further tax, penalty and prosecution under the Black Money Act. Category A: never-taxed foreign asset/income up to ₹1 crore → effective 60%. Category B: asset already taxed or acquired as non-resident but not declared in the ITR schedule, up to ₹5 crore → flat ₹1 lakh fee. Target group: students, young professionals, tech employees and returned NRIs with inadvertent non-disclosure or residential-status changes; also covers income that escaped assessment under Section 147.

Q63. The MMDR Amendment Bill, 2026 responds to which 2024 nine-judge Constitution Bench ruling that recognised states' power to tax mineral rights while holding "royalty is not a tax"?

Answer B. Mineral Area Development Authority (MADA) v. SAIL

The Bill amends the MMDR Act 1957 to create a uniform, Centre-directed mining fiscal framework after MADA v. SAIL (2024, 9-judge bench). Key clauses: Section 2 amendment extends central control over "mineral-bearing lands"; NEW Section 9D bars states from any tax/cess/levy on mineral rights or mineral-bearing lands EXCEPT per Centre-prescribed conditions (power made conditional, not abolished); retrospective invalidation of unpaid pre-amendment state dues; NO refunds of taxes already collected; Section 13 delegates the actual ceilings/parameters to executive rules — so the real extent of restriction emerges later through rules.

Q64. MeitY approved 31 additional projects worth Rs 7,877 crore under which scheme?

Answer B. Electronics Components Manufacturing Scheme

The approvals take the total sanctioned projects under the scheme to 106, covering 30 products across 15 states. The new tranche covers 20 target segment products, made up of 3 sub-assemblies, 10 bare components, 6 supply chain products and 1 capital goods item, spread across 10 states. Union Minister Ashwini Vaishnaw and Minister of State Jitin Prasada handed over the approvals in New Delhi.

Q65. India's core sector growth in July 2026 slowed to what level, from 6 per cent in June 2026?

Answer C. 5.4 per cent

The slowdown came mainly from weaker fertilizer, iron ore and steel output, while natural gas and crude oil continued to contract. Fertilizer production fell 8 per cent, iron ore growth eased to 29.5 per cent and steel to 2.9 per cent, even as coal grew 7.6 per cent, an eleven-month high. The Index of Core Industries covers eight sectors: coal, crude oil, natural gas, refinery products, fertilizers, steel, cement and electricity.

Q66. What is the outlay of the Mobile Phone Manufacturing Scheme (MPMS) notified by MeitY?

Answer C. Rs 62,500 crore

The five-year scheme was approved by the Union Cabinet on 15 July and runs through 2030–31, succeeding the PLI Scheme for Large Scale Electronics Manufacturing that operated from 2020 to FY26. India is currently the second largest mobile phone manufacturer in the world, and the scheme targets deeper domestic value addition rather than assembly alone. It also offers special support, including design and R and D incentives, to Indian-owned handset brands.

Q67. India's current account deficit (CAD) in 2025–26 stood at approximately what level?

Answer A. 0.6 per cent of GDP

India's CAD was around 0.6 per cent of GDP in 2025–26. The current account records trade in goods and services, primary income and transfers such as remittances. A narrow deficit signals that external financing needs are modest relative to the size of the economy, which supports balance-of-payments stability, eases pressure on the rupee and gives the RBI greater flexibility in exchange-rate management.

EXAM READY · TOPIC 5 OF 10

Agriculture & Rural

9 must-know MCQs · Q68–76 · about 2 minutes

Q68 · 1 & 2 August 2026**The Cabinet extended PM-KISAN from 2026–27 to 2030–31 with a total outlay of:**

- A. ₹2,15,000 crore
- B. ₹2,75,000 crore
- C. ₹3,15,614 crore
- D. ₹3,60,000 crore
- E. ₹4,00,000 crore

Q69 · 5 & 6 August 2026**Under the draft UCB licensing criteria for credit cooperative societies seeking conversion, the indicative minimum deposit base and net worth are:**

- A. ₹5,000 crore; ₹100 crore
- B. ₹10,000 crore; ₹300 crore
- C. ₹15,000 crore; ₹500 crore
- D. ₹2,500 crore; ₹150 crore
- E. ₹20,000 crore; ₹1,000 crore

Q70 · 7 & 8 August 2026**UCB licensing is granted by RBI under Section 22 read with which section of the Banking Regulation Act, 1949 — the provision applying the Act to cooperative societies?**

- A. Section 35A
- B. Section 45
- C. Section 56
- D. Section 10B
- E. Section 24

Q71 · 9 & 10 August 2026**A BS editorial on reorienting PM-KISAN (extended FY27–FY31) suggests using the scheme's JAM-DBT architecture to reform which subsidy, and extending coverage to which excluded group?**

- A. Power subsidy; urban farmers
- B. Fertiliser subsidy; tenant and landless farmers
- C. Seed subsidy; FPOs
- D. Credit subsidy; agri-startups
- E. Diesel subsidy; sharecroppers only

Q72 · 11 & 12 August 2026**Per the Quarterly PLFS Bulletin (April–June 2026), the unemployment rate for persons aged 15+ rose to:**

- A. 4.9%
- B. 5.1%
- C. 5.4%
- D. 5.8%
- E. 6.1%

Q73 · 19 August 2026

The Pradhan Mantri Matsya Sampada Yojana (PMMSY), the flagship scheme for fisheries and aquaculture development, was launched in which month and year?

- A. September 2020
- B. March 2019
- C. June 2021
- D. December 2018
- E. August 2022

Q74 · 23 & 24 August 2026

According to PLFS 2025, the rural Female Labour Force Participation Rate rose from 33 per cent to what level?

- A. 38.4 per cent
- B. 41.2 per cent
- C. 45.9 per cent
- D. 49.5 per cent
- E. 52.6 per cent

Q75 · 25 August 2026

By 19 August 2026, what share of the FY27 fertiliser subsidy budget had already been spent?

- A. 41.20 per cent
- B. 49.65 per cent
- C. 58.04 per cent
- D. 63.80 per cent
- E. 71.35 per cent

Q76 · 28 & 29 August 2026

NABARD signed an MoU for rural infrastructure and PPP financing with NaBFID. Which statement about NaBFID is correct?

- A. It was set up in 2016 under the RBI Act, 1934, with headquarters in New Delhi
- B. It was set up in 2021 under the NaBFID Act, 2021, with headquarters in Mumbai
- C. It was set up in 2019 under the Companies Act, 2013, with headquarters in Chennai
- D. It was set up in 2021 as a subsidiary of SIDBI, with headquarters in Lucknow
- E. It was set up in 2023 under the Banking Regulation Act, 1949, with headquarters in Ahmedabad

ANSWERS — AGRICULTURE & RURAL

Q68 C	Q69 B	Q70 C	Q71 B	Q72 C
Q73 A	Q74 C	Q75 C	Q76 B	

Q68. The Cabinet extended PM-KISAN from 2026–27 to 2030–31 with a total outlay of:

Answer C. ₹3,15,614 crore

The five-year extension (FY27–FY31; ~₹3.15 lakh crore) was announced by I&B Minister Ashwini Vaishnaw. PM-KISAN — launched February 2019 (effective retrospectively from 1 December 2018); a 100% centrally funded Central Sector Scheme of the Ministry of Agriculture — gives ₹6,000/year per landholding farmer family in three ₹2,000 DBT instalments into Aadhaar-seeded accounts. Initially for small/marginal farmers (≤ 2 ha), extended to ALL landholding farmer families from 1 June 2019.

Q69. Under the draft UCB licensing criteria for credit cooperative societies seeking conversion, the indicative minimum deposit base and net worth are:

Answer B. ₹10,000 crore; ₹300 crore

Indicative criteria: deposit base ₹10,000 crore+, net worth ₹300 crore+, 10+ years' existence, CRAR $\geq 12\%$, Net NPA $\leq 3\%$, registered under the Multi-State Co-operative Societies Act 2002 (multi-state first). No member may hold $>5\%$ share capital; directors can't hold executive posts. Applications via RBI's PRAVAAH portal; in-principle approval valid 18 months. Cooperative banks face dual regulation (RBI for banking under BR Act 1949; Registrar for incorporation), strengthened by the BR (Amendment) Act 2020 post-PMC crisis; DICGC insures ₹5 lakh per depositor; NABARD supervises StCBs and DCCBs.

Q70. UCB licensing is granted by RBI under Section 22 read with which section of the Banking Regulation Act, 1949 — the provision applying the Act to cooperative societies?

Answer C. Section 56

Section 22 (licensing) read with Section 56 (applies the BR Act to cooperative societies with modifications). Timeline: UCBs under RBI ambit 1966; liberalised era May 1993–June 2001 — 820+ new licences; suspension 2004 (nearly 31% of 1990s-licensed UCBs turned unsound; Madhavpura Mercantile crisis 2001 linked to the Ketan Parekh scam; dual-regulation gaps). Restart enablers: BR (Amendment) Act 2020 powers, four-tier framework since Dec 2022 (Tier 1 $\leq$ ₹100 cr; Tier 2 ₹100–1,000 cr; Tier 3 ₹1,000–10,000 cr; Tier 4 $>$ ₹10,000 cr deposits), UCB GNPA's at a six-year low ₹21,769 crore (FY26), and NUCFDC (est. 2024) for shared tech/liquidity/capital support.

Q71. A BS editorial on reorienting PM-KISAN (extended FY27–FY31) suggests using the scheme's JAM-DBT architecture to reform which subsidy, and extending coverage to which excluded group?

Answer B. Fertiliser subsidy; tenant and landless farmers

PM-KISAN (₹6,000/year in 3 instalments — unchanged since launch; ~95 million beneficiaries; Aadhaar-authenticated) is land-record linked, excluding tenant/landless cultivators — the editorial suggests state-level verification of genuine cultivators. It also proposes routing fertiliser subsidy directly to farmers via PM-KISAN's JAM-DBT rails (estimated from landholding + crop patterns) instead of through producers — cutting leakages and curbing excessive subsidised urea use.

Q72. Per the Quarterly PLFS Bulletin (April–June 2026), the unemployment rate for persons aged 15+ rose to:

Answer C. 5.4%

The NSO's Quarterly PLFS (Apr–Jun 2026): unemployment rate (15+) rose to 5.4%; overall LFPR 54.6% — rural 56.9%, urban 50.2%.

Q73. The Pradhan Mantri Matsya Sampada Yojana (PMMSY), the flagship scheme for fisheries and aquaculture development, was launched in which month and year?

Answer A. September 2020

PMMSY is administered by the Ministry of Fisheries, Animal Husbandry and Dairying and implemented through the Department of Fisheries. It sits alongside the older Blue Revolution Scheme, which focuses on raising fish production, improving infrastructure and expanding employment and fisher livelihoods. Together these form the backbone of Central support to the sector since 2015.

Q74. According to PLFS 2025, the rural Female Labour Force Participation Rate rose from 33 per cent to what level?

Answer C. 45.9 per cent

The post-pandemic recovery in female participation has been far stronger in rural India than urban, where the rate moved only from 23.3 to 27.7 per cent. Part of the rural rise reflects women entering own-account and unpaid family work in agriculture, which the survey counts as employment. States such as Bihar, Uttar Pradesh, West Bengal and Haryana combined a low starting base with fast improvement.

Q75. By 19 August 2026, what share of the FY27 fertiliser subsidy budget had already been spent?

Answer C. 58.04 per cent

Spending stood at Rs 99,128.70 crore less than five months into the financial year, driven by a rise in global urea prices linked to the West Asia conflict. India imports a large share of its urea and potash requirement, so international price shocks pass straight into the subsidy bill rather than to farmers, whose urea price is administratively fixed. An early exhaustion of the budget typically forces a supplementary demand for grants later in the year.

Q76. NABARD signed an MoU for rural infrastructure and PPP financing with NaBFID. Which statement about NaBFID is correct?

Answer B. It was set up in 2021 under the NaBFID Act, 2021, with headquarters in Mumbai

The National Bank for Financing Infrastructure and Development was established in 2021 under the NaBFID Act, 2021, and is India's Development Finance Institution (DFI) for infrastructure financing, headquartered in Mumbai with Rajkiran Rai G as Managing Director. Its MoU with NABARD aims to channel long-term, competitively priced finance into rural infrastructure and allied value chains, covering water and sanitation, irrigation, post-harvest storage and cold chains, terminal markets, rural roads and bridges, warehousing and compressed biogas projects.

EXAM READY · TOPIC 6 OF 10

Science & Environment

7 must-know MCQs · Q77–83 · about 2 minutes

Q77 · 1 & 2 August 2026**The Cabinet approved the Pradhan Mantri Surya Sarovar Yojana (PM-SSY) with ₹5,070 crore outlay. What does it promote?**

- A. Rooftop solar on government buildings
- B. Floating Solar Photovoltaic (FSPV) with co-located battery storage on water bodies
- C. Solar pumps for irrigation
- D. Solar parks in deserts
- E. Solar-powered cold storage

Q78 · 5 & 6 August 2026**Whose tenure as IFSCA Chairperson was extended until 24 October 2028?**

- A. Injeti Srinivas
- B. K. Rajaraman
- C. Tuhin Kanta Pandey
- D. Ajay Seth
- E. M. Rajeshwar Rao

Q79 · 11 & 12 August 2026**Which port became India's FIRST with ISO 50001:2018 (Energy Management System) certification, also recognised as a Scope-2 Emission-Free Port with 93.89% renewable electricity in FY26?**

- A. Deendayal Port, Kandla
- B. V.O. Chidambaranar Port, Tamil Nadu
- C. Paradip Port
- D. JNPA, Mumbai
- E. Visakhapatnam Port

Q80 · 13 August 2026**The National Biodiversity Authority released over ₹15 crore under the Access and Benefit Sharing (ABS) mechanism arising from which genetic resource?**

- A. Turmeric
- B. Mustard
- C. Neem
- D. Basmati rice
- E. Ashwagandha

“Do not fear the mistake. Fear repeating it.”

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Q81 · 14 August 2026

Giriraj Singh inaugurated "IIHT SUTRA 2026" — the FIRST national conclave of the Indian Institutes of Handloom Technology. Its theme was:

- A. Handlooms for Atmanirbhar Bharat
- B. Weaving the Future of the Indian Handloom Sector – Educate. Innovate
- C. Threads of Tradition, Fabric of the Future
- D. Loom to Global: Skill and Scale
- E. Vocal for Local Handlooms

Q82 · 21 August 2026

The National Commission for Women, which organised the Yashoda AI programme at Jalandhar, derives its statutory basis from which legislation?

- A. National Commission for Women Act, 1990
- B. Protection of Women from Domestic Violence Act, 2005
- C. National Commission for Women Act, 1992
- D. Women's Empowerment Act, 2001
- E. Article 338B of the Constitution

Q83 · 30 & 31 August 2026

How many older, high-emission commercial trucks and buses does the PARIVARTAN Scheme aim to phase out and replace across the NCR?

- A. Over 20,000
- B. Over 50,000
- C. Over 1 lakh
- D. Over 2 lakh
- E. Over 5 lakh

ANSWERS — SCIENCE & ENVIRONMENT

Q77 B	Q78 B	Q79 B	Q80 B	Q81 B
Q82 A	Q83 D			

Q77. The Cabinet approved the Pradhan Mantri Surya Sarovar Yojana (PM-SSY) with ₹5,070 crore outlay. What does it promote?

Answer B. Floating Solar Photovoltaic (FSPV) with co-located battery storage on water bodies
PM-SSY (approved 31 July 2026; Central Sector Scheme; nodal MNRE, implementing agency SECI) promotes FSPV integrated with Energy Storage Systems on reservoirs, dams, lakes, irrigation tanks and industrial ponds. Targets: 5,000 MW FSPV + 10,000 MWh storage (minimum 2-hour); sanctioning window FY27–FY31; expanding floating solar from ~700 MW to 5,700 MW. Water surfaces cool the panels (better efficiency) and the plants reduce evaporation losses — avoiding land-use conflict.

Q78. Whose tenure as IFSCA Chairperson was extended until 24 October 2028?

Answer B. K. Rajaraman

K. Rajaraman (retired 1989–batch IAS; IFSCA's first full-time Chairperson from 2023) got an extension until 24 October 2028. Defence appointments the same week: Vice Admiral A.N. Pramod (communication & EW specialist, AVSM–YSM) became Deputy Chief of Naval Staff succeeding VAdm Tarun Sobti, and Air Marshal Tejpal Singh took charge as Deputy Chief of the Air Staff.

Q79. Which port became India's FIRST with ISO 50001:2018 (Energy Management System) certification, also recognised as a Scope-2 Emission-Free Port with 93.89% renewable electricity in FY26?

Answer B. V.O. Chidambaranar Port, Tamil Nadu

V.O.C. Port (Thoothukudi) became India's first ISO 50001:2018-certified port — also a Scope-2 Emission-Free Port with renewables meeting 93.89% of its FY26 electricity needs.

Q80. The National Biodiversity Authority released over ₹15 crore under the Access and Benefit Sharing (ABS) mechanism arising from which genetic resource?

Answer B. Mustard

The ₹15+ crore ABS proceeds from mustard genetic resources will be distributed among 26 State Biodiversity Boards and 3 UT Biodiversity Councils — operationalising fair benefit-sharing from biological resource use. Also: Amit Shah and Rajnath Singh paid tributes to Ahilyabai Holkar (heritage restoration, social welfare) on her death anniversary; Shah launched the Gramin Gyan Setu app integrating libraries in the Gandhinagar Lok Sabha constituency; and 50,000+ saplings were planted on Hariyali Amavasya under 'Ek Ped Maa Ke Naam' with Vriksh Mitra Parivar, led by Shivraj Singh Chouhan.

Q81. Giriraj Singh inaugurated "IIHT SUTRA 2026" — the FIRST national conclave of the Indian Institutes of Handloom Technology. Its theme was:

Answer B. Weaving the Future of the Indian Handloom Sector – Educate. Innovate

IIHT SUTRA 2026 — the first national conclave of the IIHTs — focused on education, research, skills and innovation in handlooms, with MoUs signed with Grasim Industries, NITRA and IIM Sambalpur.

Q82. The National Commission for Women, which organised the Yashoda AI programme at Jalandhar, derives its statutory basis from which legislation?

Answer A. National Commission for Women Act, 1990

The Act dates from 1990 while the Commission itself was established in 1992, and this split between the two years is the most common source of error. It is a statutory body, not a constitutional one, is headquartered in New Delhi and is currently chaired by Vijaya Rahatkar. The Yashoda AI programme focuses on AI literacy, digital empowerment, cyber safety and participation of women in emerging technologies.

Q83. How many older, high-emission commercial trucks and buses does the PARIVARTAN Scheme aim to phase out and replace across the NCR?

Answer D. Over 2 lakh

PARIVARTAN targets phasing out and replacing more than 2 lakh older commercial trucks and buses across the National Capital Region to cut vehicular air pollution and particulate emissions. The scheme has gained rapid traction, registering over 1,300 beneficiaries, onboarding 42 banks and NBFCs to provide financing for replacement vehicles, and partnering with 15 automobile OEMs across Delhi-NCR.

EXAM READY · TOPIC 7 OF 10

Appointments & Awards

6 must-know MCQs · Q84–89 · about 2 minutes

Q84 · 7 & 8 August 2026

Astrophysicist Annapurni Subramaniam — Director, Indian Institute of Astrophysics — became the FIRST Indian woman to win which international award?

- A. Shaw Prize
- B. COSPAR Vikram Sarabhai Medal 2026
- C. Kavli Prize
- D. Gruber Cosmology Prize
- E. Dirac Medal

Q85 · 11 & 12 August 2026

Prof. Deepak Dhar became the FIRST Indian physicist to win the Dirac Medal (2026), awarded by which institution?

- A. Royal Society, London
- B. International Centre for Theoretical Physics (ICTP)
- C. CERN
- D. American Physical Society
- E. Institute of Physics, UK

Q86 · 14 August 2026

The Gaj Gaurav Awards — conferred at World Elephant Day 2026 celebrations in Visakhapatnam — were instituted in which year, marking 30 years of Project Elephant?

- A. 2018
- B. 2020
- C. 2022
- D. 2024
- E. 2015

Q87 · 15 August 2026

How many personnel received the Shaurya Chakra in the 2026 Independence Day honours?

- A. 15
- B. 17
- C. 19
- D. 21
- E. 23

Q88 · 16 & 17 August 2026

Major General Sunil Kumar Razdan (Retd.), who passed away at 70, was the Indian Army's FIRST wheelchair-borne General and a recipient of which gallantry award — India's second-highest PEACETIME gallantry honour?

- A. Ashoka Chakra
- B. Kirti Chakra
- C. Shaurya Chakra
- D. Vir Chakra
- E. Param Vishisht Seva Medal

Q89 · 25 August 2026

The three newly appointed part-time directors on the RBI Central Board were appointed under which provision of the RBI Act, 1934?

- A. Section 7(1)
- B. Section 8(1)(b)
- C. Section 8(1)(c)
- D. Section 17(4)
- E. Section 42(1)

ANSWERS — APPOINTMENTS & AWARDS

Q84 B	Q85 B	Q86 C	Q87 C	Q88 B
Q89 C				

Q84. Astrophysicist Annapurni Subramaniam — Director, Indian Institute of Astrophysics — became the FIRST Indian woman to win which international award?

Answer B. COSPAR Vikram Sarabhai Medal 2026

Annapurni Subramaniam received the COSPAR Vikram Sarabhai Medal 2026 in Italy — the first Indian woman and fourth Indian scientist to win it. Other appointments: Rahul Jain — Senior Adviser to the IMF Executive Director; Baldeo Purushartha — Senior Adviser to the ADB Executive Director (with other postings to ICAO etc.).

Q85. Prof. Deepak Dhar became the FIRST Indian physicist to win the Dirac Medal (2026), awarded by which institution?

Answer B. International Centre for Theoretical Physics (ICTP)

Deepak Dhar received the ICTP's 2026 Dirac Medal for pioneering work in statistical mechanics, stochastic processes and complex physical systems — shared with Bernard Derrida, Marc Mézard and Haim Sompolinsky. He is the first Indian physicist to win it.

Q86. The Gaj Gaurav Awards — conferred at World Elephant Day 2026 celebrations in Visakhapatnam — were instituted in which year, marking 30 years of Project Elephant?

Answer C. 2022

Gaj Gaurav — India's national honour for frontline Asian elephant conservation service — was instituted in 2022 by MoEF&CC on 30 years of Project Elephant (launched 1992) and is presented on World Elephant Day (12 August). 2026 winners: 7 mahouts of Jaldapara NP, West Bengal (bravery in the Torsha-Malangi floods — incl. Bikash Kharia who guided stranded kumki/trained elephants to safety) and 2 caregivers of Namdapha NP-TR, Arunachal (Ganesh Tamang 26+ years, Sumit Gogoi) — the only Northeast recipients.

Q87. How many personnel received the Shaurya Chakra in the 2026 Independence Day honours?

Answer C. 19

19 Shaurya Chakras: 11 Army, 1 Navy, 1 Air Force, and 6 Police/Central Armed Forces personnel. Lance Naik Narender Sindhu of 9 Rashtriya Rifles received the award posthumously.

Q88. Major General Sunil Kumar Razdan (Retd.), who passed away at 70, was the Indian Army's FIRST wheelchair-borne General and a recipient of which gallantry award — India's second-highest PEACETIME gallantry honour?

Answer B. Kirti Chakra

Maj Gen Razdan (Kirti Chakra and VSM) led a 1994 counter-terrorist hostage-rescue operation in J&K despite severe injuries, later becoming the Army's first wheelchair-borne General. The Kirti Chakra is India's second-highest peacetime gallantry award (after the Ashoka Chakra).

Q89. The three newly appointed part-time directors on the RBI Central Board were appointed under which provision of the RBI Act, 1934?

Answer C. Section 8(1)(c)

Annie George Mathew, Janmejaya Kumar Sinha and Syed Akbaruddin were appointed for a four-year term beginning 24 August 2026, under a Governor led by Sanjay Malhotra. Section 8 sets out the composition of the Central Board, and clause (c) covers directors nominated by the Central Government from varied fields of expertise. These part-time directors supply outside perspective on policy without holding executive responsibility inside the central bank.

EXAM READY · TOPIC 8 OF 10

International

5 must-know MCQs · Q90–94 · about 2 minutes

Q90 · 1 & 2 August 2026

The Constitution (130th Amendment) Bill, 2025 — referred to a 31-member Joint Committee — provides for automatic removal of a Minister/CM/PM who is arrested and detained in custody for how many consecutive days on serious charges?

- A. 15 days
- B. 30 days
- C. 45 days
- D. 60 days
- E. 90 days

Q91 · 3 & 4 August 2026

World Wide Web Day (1 August) commemorates Sir Tim Berners-Lee, who launched the world's first website in which year?

- A. 1989
- B. 1990
- C. 1991
- D. 1993
- E. 1995

Q92 · 5 & 6 August 2026

Renowned mountaineer Nirmal Purja — who died in an avalanche on Broad Peak (Pakistan) — was famous for climbing all 14 eight-thousanders in what record time (Project Possible 14/7, 2019)?

- A. 3 months and 3 days
- B. 6 months and 6 days
- C. 1 year and 1 day
- D. 9 months and 9 days
- E. 189 days

Q93 · 11 & 12 August 2026

The 13th BRICS Education Ministers' Meeting — adopting the "Bhubaneswar Declaration" under India's BRICS Chairship 2026 — was chaired by which Union Minister?

- A. Dharmendra Pradhan
- B. Pralhad Joshi
- C. S. Jaishankar
- D. Jitendra Singh
- E. Ashwini Vaishnaw

Q94 · 14 August 2026

International Left-Handers Day (13 August) was conceptualised by Dean Robert Campbell in which year?

- A. 1966
- B. 1976
- C. 1986
- D. 1992
- E. 2000

ANSWERS — INTERNATIONAL**Q90** B**Q91** C**Q92** B**Q93** B**Q94** B

Q90. The Constitution (130th Amendment) Bill, 2025 — referred to a 31-member Joint Committee — provides for automatic removal of a Minister/CM/PM who is arrested and detained in custody for how many consecutive days on serious charges?

Answer B. 30 days

The 130th Amendment Bill (introduced by Amit Shah, 20 August 2025) amends Articles 75, 164 and 239AA: a Minister arrested and detained 30 consecutive days for an offence punishable with 5+ years is removed by the President on the PM's advice (or Governor on CM's advice) on the 31st day — failing such advice, they cease to hold office; a PM/CM must resign by the 31st day. Re-appointment on release is not barred. Companion Bills extend the scheme to J&K and Puducherry (the 130th itself covers Delhi).

Q91. World Wide Web Day (1 August) commemorates Sir Tim Berners-Lee, who launched the world's first website in which year?

Answer C. 1991

Berners-Lee developed the first web server and browser in 1990 and launched the world's first website in 1991. World FinTech Day is also observed on 1 August — highlighting fintech's role in modernising finance and expanding financial inclusion.

Q92. Renowned mountaineer Nirmal Purja — who died in an avalanche on Broad Peak (Pakistan) — was famous for climbing all 14 eight-thousanders in what record time (Project Possible 14/7, 2019)?

Answer B. 6 months and 6 days

Nepali-British mountaineer Nirmal "Nims" Purja completed all 14 eight-thousanders in 6 months and 6 days under Project Possible 14/7 (2019); he died in an avalanche on Broad Peak, Pakistan.

Q93. The 13th BRICS Education Ministers' Meeting — adopting the "Bhubaneswar Declaration" under India's BRICS Chairship 2026 — was chaired by which Union Minister?

Answer B. Pralhad Joshi

Union Education Minister Pralhad Joshi chaired the meeting in Bhubaneswar, Odisha, calling for a "people-centric and humanity-first" approach. India's 2026 Chairship theme: "Building for Resilience, Innovation, Cooperation and Sustainability." The 3rd BRICS Education Senior Officials' Meeting (5 August, Bhubaneswar) finalised the draft. Priorities align with NEP 2020 — FLN under NIPUN Bharat, multidisciplinary learning, internationalisation, digital transformation.

Q94. International Left-Handers Day (13 August) was conceptualised by Dean Robert Campbell in which year?

Answer B. 1976

Conceptualised by Dean Robert Campbell in 1976 and officially launched by the Left-Handers Club in 1992, the day (13 August) celebrates left-handed people and the challenges they face in a right-handed world.

EXAM READY · TOPIC 9 OF 10

Misc GA

5 must-know MCQs · Q95–99 · about 2 minutes

Q95 · 9 & 10 August 2026

Nagasaki Day (9 August 2026 — 81st anniversary) commemorates the atomic bombing by the B-29 "Bockscar", which dropped which plutonium-based bomb?

- A. Little Boy
- B. Fat Man
- C. Trinity
- D. Ivy Mike
- E. Gadget

Q96 · 11 & 12 August 2026

Manipur's Ariha Pangambam won India's FIRST-ever senior women's individual gold at the 2026 Asian Aerobic Gymnastics Championships (19.100 points), held in:

- A. Bangkok, Thailand
- B. Tagaytay City, Philippines
- C. Tokyo, Japan
- D. Hanoi, Vietnam
- E. Jakarta, Indonesia

Q97 · 13 August 2026

The 2026 Hurun India Most Valuable Family Businesses list is topped by the Ambani family with what valuation?

- A. ₹18.6 lakh crore
- B. ₹21.4 lakh crore
- C. ₹25.8 lakh crore
- D. ₹30.2 lakh crore
- E. ₹15.9 lakh crore

Q98 · 26 August 2026

According to IRCC data, how many Indians were admitted as Canadian permanent residents in the first half of 2026?

- A. 22,915
- B. 31,480
- C. 44,335
- D. 58,260
- E. 71,540

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Q99 · 28 & 29 August 2026

India's crude oil imports from Russia in August 2026 are estimated at about 2.1 million barrels per day. What share of India's total crude imports does Russia still account for?

- A. Less than 10 per cent
- B. About 15 per cent
- C. About 25 per cent
- D. More than 40 per cent
- E. More than 75 per cent

ANSWERS — MISC GA**Q95** B**Q96** B**Q97** C**Q98** C**Q99** D

Q95. Nagasaki Day (9 August 2026 — 81st anniversary) commemorates the atomic bombing by the B-29 "Bockscar", which dropped which plutonium-based bomb?

Answer B. Fat Man

The US B-29 bomber Bockscar dropped the plutonium-based "Fat Man" on Nagasaki on 9 August 1945 (Hiroshima's "Little Boy" was uranium-based, 6 August). 2026 marked the 81st anniversary.

Q96. Manipur's Ariha Pangambam won India's FIRST-ever senior women's individual gold at the 2026 Asian Aerobic Gymnastics Championships (19.100 points), held in:

Answer B. Tagaytay City, Philippines

Ariha Pangambam scored 19.100 for India's first senior women's individual aerobic gymnastics gold in Asia; Thailand's Chanyapit Manee took silver and Japan's Mahiro Kishibe bronze.

Q97. The 2026 Hurun India Most Valuable Family Businesses list is topped by the Ambani family with what valuation?

Answer C. ₹25.8 lakh crore

Ambani family (Mukesh Ambani) tops at ₹25.8 lakh crore; Birla family 2nd, Jindal family 3rd. India's top 300 family businesses are together worth ~₹138 lakh crore.

Q98. According to IRCC data, how many Indians were admitted as Canadian permanent residents in the first half of 2026?

Answer C. 44,335

That is nearly one in four of the 1.8 lakh permanent residents Canada admitted in the period, far ahead of the Philippines at 13,475 and China at 9,630. India's share has nevertheless slipped from about 30 per cent in 2023 to 25 per cent in 2025, when 98,830 Indians were admitted. India remains the world's largest recipient of remittances and holds the largest overseas migrant population, around 18.5 million according to NITI Aayog.

Q99. India's crude oil imports from Russia in August 2026 are estimated at about 2.1 million barrels per day. What share of India's total crude imports does Russia still account for?

Answer D. More than 40 per cent

Russia remains India's largest crude oil supplier, accounting for more than 40 per cent of India's crude imports. August 2026 volumes of around 2.1 mbpd are lower than the record 2.6 mbpd seen in June and July. The decline is attributed to refinery maintenance schedules, reduced Russian availability and stronger buying competition from China, rather than to any weakening of Indian refining demand.

EXAM READY · TOPIC 10 OF 10

Sports & Days

1 must-know MCQs · Q100–100 · about 2 minutes

Q100 · 3 & 4 August 2026

The revamped Khelo India Scheme (FY27–FY31) plus enhanced Assistance to National Sports Federations carries a combined outlay of:

- A. ₹18,000 crore
- B. ₹24,500 crore
- C. ₹36,441 crore
- D. ₹42,000 crore
- E. ₹30,000 crore

ANSWERS — SPORTS & DAYS

Q100 C

Q100. The revamped Khelo India Scheme (FY27–FY31) plus enhanced Assistance to National Sports Federations carries a combined outlay of:**Answer** C. ₹36,441 crore

The Cabinet-approved ₹36,441 crore outlay is nearly eight times the previous cycle — described as India's most ambitious sports programme since Independence, aligned with Khelo Bharat Niti 2025 and NEP 2020, supporting CWG and Olympic hosting ambitions. Khelo India was originally launched 2016–17 and restructured 2017–18 by merging the Rajiv Gandhi Khel Abhiyan, Urban Sports Infrastructure Scheme and National Sports Talent Search System.

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