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STATIC GK

Field-wise Material with MCQs for Bank Exams

SBI PO & Clerk • IBPS PO, Clerk & RRB • LIC, NIACL & Insurance

As on 30 October 2026 • 22 Fields • 440 MCQs

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Tier 1 = asked in almost every paper · Tier 2 = asked regularly · Tier 3 = smaller fields that still appear

FIELD 1: INDIAN POLITY & CONSTITUTION

Exam tip: *Bank exams ask 2–3 direct polity questions per paper: Article numbers, Schedules, who appoints whom, oath and resignation, seat numbers and Lok Sabha Speakers. Learn the numbers exactly.*

Making of the Constitution & Preamble

- Constituent Assembly first met on **9 December 1946**; Sachchidananda Sinha was temporary President, **Dr Rajendra Prasad** the permanent President (11 Dec 1946).
- Drafting Committee chaired by **Dr B.R. Ambedkar** ("Father of the Indian Constitution"); B.N. Rau was Constitutional Adviser.
- Constitution adopted on **26 November 1949** (Samvidhan Divas / Constitution Day); came into force on **26 January 1950**.
- Original Constitution: **395 Articles, 22 Parts, 8 Schedules**; today it has **12 Schedules**.
- Preamble is based on Nehru's **Objectives Resolution** (13 Dec 1946); amended only once, by the **42nd Amendment (1976)**, which added **Socialist, Secular and Integrity**.
- Preamble declares India a **Sovereign, Socialist, Secular, Democratic Republic** and secures Justice, Liberty, Equality and Fraternity.
- **Kesavananda Bharati case (1973)**: Preamble is part of the Constitution; Parliament cannot alter the **basic structure**.
- Article 1: "India, that is Bharat, shall be a **Union of States**".
- Borrowed features: Fundamental Rights from **USA**, DPSP from **Ireland**, Fundamental Duties from **USSR**, parliamentary system from **UK**, Concurrent List from **Australia**, Emergency suspension of FRs from **Germany (Weimar)**, residuary powers with Centre from **Canada**.

Key Articles (Parts I–IV)

- **Art 3** – Parliament can form new States and alter areas, boundaries or names (Kerala renamed **Keralam** under Art 3, notified Aug 2026).
- **Art 12** defines "State"; Fundamental Rights are in **Part III, Articles 12–35**.
- **Art 14** equality before law; **Art 17** abolishes untouchability; **Art 18** abolishes titles.
- **Art 19** now guarantees **six freedoms**: speech & expression, assembly, association, movement, residence, profession. The right to property (old 19(1)(f)) was removed by the **44th Amendment (1978)**.
- Right to property is now a legal right under **Art 300A**, not a Fundamental Right.
- **Art 21** – life and personal liberty; **Art 21A** – free and compulsory education for children aged **6–14** (86th Amendment, 2002).
- **Art 24** – no child below **14 years** in factories, mines or hazardous work.
- **Art 32** – Right to Constitutional Remedies, called the "**heart and soul**" of the Constitution by Ambedkar; the Supreme Court issues writs under it, High Courts under **Art 226**.
- DPSP are in **Part IV (Art 36–51)**; **Art 39(d)** – **equal pay for equal work** for men and women.
- **Art 39A** – equal justice and **free legal aid** (added by 42nd Amendment).
- **Art 40** – village panchayats; **Art 44** – **Uniform Civil Code**; **Art 48A** – protection of environment; **Art 50** – separation of judiciary from executive.
- **Art 45** (after 86th Amendment) – **early childhood care and education** for all children until they complete **6 years**.
- **Art 51A** – **Fundamental Duties** (Part IVA), added by the **42nd Amendment (1976)** on the **Swaran Singh Committee**'s advice; originally 10, now **11** (11th added by 86th Amendment).
- Uttarakhand was the **first state to implement a UCC** (27 January 2025); Goa has had a UCC historically.

The Union Executive & Parliament (Art 52–123)

- **Art 52** President; **Art 53** executive power; **Art 54** election by elected MPs and elected MLAs (incl. Delhi and Puducherry).
- **Art 56** term 5 years; **Art 58** minimum age **35**; **Art 60** oath administered by the **Chief Justice of India**; **Art 61** impeachment; **Art 72** pardoning power.
- **Art 63** Vice-President; **Art 64** VP is **ex-officio Chairman of Rajya Sabha**; current VP **C.P.**

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Radhakrishnan (15th VP, Sept 2025; earlier Governor of **Maharashtra**) (as on Oct 2026).

- President of India: **Droupadi Murmu** (15th President) (as on Oct 2026).
- **Art 74** Council of Ministers to aid and advise the President; **Art 75** PM appointed by the President; **Art 78** PM's duty to inform the President.
- **Art 76** – **Attorney General**, the **first law officer** of India; appointed by the President, holds office during his pleasure; may speak in Parliament (**Art 88**) but cannot vote. Solicitor General: Tushar Mehta (reappointed July 2026).
- **Art 79** Parliament = President + Rajya Sabha + Lok Sabha; **Art 80** Rajya Sabha; **Art 81** Lok Sabha.
- **Art 85** – gap between two sessions cannot exceed **6 months**; by convention Parliament normally holds **3 sessions** a year: **Budget, Monsoon and Winter**.
- **Art 93** Speaker and Deputy Speaker; **Art 100** – quorum is **one-tenth** of the total members of the House.
- **Art 108** – joint sitting, presided over by the **Speaker**; **Art 110** – Money Bill (Speaker's certificate is final; Rajya Sabha can delay only **14 days**).
- **Art 112** – Annual Financial Statement (**Union Budget**).
- **Art 123** – **Ordinance** by the President when Parliament is not in session; must be approved within **6 weeks** of reassembly. Governor's ordinance: **Art 213**.

Lok Sabha & Rajya Sabha – Numbers

- Lok Sabha maximum strength **550** (530 States + 20 UTs); present strength **543** elected seats; term **5 years**; minimum age **25**.
- Two Anglo-Indian nominated seats (Art 331) were **ended by the 104th Amendment (2019)**.
- Reserved Lok Sabha seats (Art 330): **84 for SCs** and **47 for STs**.
- Largest Lok Sabha seat shares: **Uttar Pradesh 80**, Maharashtra 48, West Bengal 42. Assam has 14 Lok Sabha and 7 Rajya Sabha seats.
- Rajya Sabha maximum **250** (238 elected + **12 nominated**); present **245** (233 + 12). Minimum age **30**; member's term **6 years**.
- Rajya Sabha is a **permanent House**; **one-third** of members retire every **2 years**.
- The President nominates 12 members with special knowledge of **literature, science, art and social service** (Art 80(3)).
- Allocation of Rajya Sabha seats to States/UTs is in the **Fourth Schedule**; UP has the most (**31**).
- **106th Amendment (2023)** – Nari Shakti Vandan Adhiniyam: **one-third** of seats in Lok Sabha and State Assemblies reserved for women.
- **Om Birla** is Lok Sabha Speaker (17th Lok Sabha from 2019; re-elected for the 18th Lok Sabha in June 2024) (as on Oct 2026).
- **Sumitra Mahajan** was Speaker of the **16th Lok Sabha (2014–19)**; Deputy Speaker then was **M. Thambidurai**.
- **Meira Kumar** was the **first woman Speaker** (2009–14); **G.V. Mavalankar** was the first Speaker; **Balram Jakhar** was the longest-serving Speaker.

Speaker	Tenure
G.V. Mavalankar	1952–56 (first)
M.A. Ayyangar	1956–62
Sardar Hukam Singh	1962–67
N. Sanjiva Reddy	1967–69, 1977
G.S. Dhillon	1969–75
Bali Ram Bhagat	1976–77
K.S. Hegde	1977–80
Balram Jakhar	1980–89 (longest)
Rabi Ray	1989–91
Shivraj Patil	1991–96
P.A. Sangma	1996–98
G.M.C. Balayogi	1998–2002
Manohar Joshi	2002–04
Somnath Chatterjee	2004–09
Meira Kumar	2009–14 (first woman)
Sumitra Mahajan	2014–19
Om Birla	2019–present

Who Appoints, Oaths & Resignations

- The **President appoints**: PM and Union Ministers, **Attorney General**, **CAG**, **Chief**

Election Commissioner and Election Commissioners, Governors, **CJI and Supreme Court/High Court judges**, Finance Commission, UPSC Chairman and members.

- The **Governor appoints**: Chief Minister (**Art 164**), state ministers, **Advocate General (Art 165)**, State PSC members, State Election Commissioner, State Finance Commission.
- SC judges are appointed under **Art 124(2)**, HC judges under **Art 217**; SC judges retire at **65**, HC judges at **62**.
- Supreme Court strength raised from **34 to 38** (including CJI) in 2026; CJI **Surya Kant** is the **53rd CJI** (as on Oct 2026).
- **Art 148** – CAG; term **6 years or age 65**; appointed by the President, removed like an SC judge; CAG **K. Sanjay Murthy** (as on Oct 2026).

Office	Oath administered by
President	Chief Justice of India
Vice-President	President
PM & Union Ministers	President
SC Judges & CAG	President
Governor	Chief Justice of the High Court
CM & State Ministers	Governor
HC Judges	Governor

Office	Resignation addressed to
President	Vice-President
Vice-President	President
Speaker	Deputy Speaker
Deputy Speaker	Speaker
PM, Governor, CAG, AG	President
SC/HC Judges, CEC	President
Chief Minister	Governor
Advocate General	Governor
Lok Sabha MP	Speaker
Rajya Sabha MP	Chairman (Vice-President)

States, UTs & Local Government

- **Art 153** Governor; **Art 155** appointed by the President; **Art 156** term 5 years (during President's pleasure); one person can be Governor of two or more states (7th Amendment, 1956).
- **Art 168** state legislature; **Art 169** creation/abolition of Legislative Council (by Parliament on the Assembly's resolution).
- **Art 170** – Legislative Assembly strength **minimum 60, maximum 500**; exceptions: **Sikkim 32, Goa 40, Mizoram 40** (Puducherry, a UT, has 30 elected).
- Legislative Councils exist in **6 states**: Andhra Pradesh, Telangana, Uttar Pradesh, Bihar, Maharashtra and Karnataka.
- **Art 214** – a High Court for each State; **Art 167** – CM's duty to inform the Governor.
- India has **8 UTs**; **3 UTs have a legislature**: **Delhi** (Art 239AA, 70 seats), **Puducherry** (Art 239A) and **Jammu & Kashmir** (90 elected seats). Chandigarh is a UT without a legislature.
- **73rd Amendment (1992)** – Panchayati Raj, **Part IX (Art 243–243O)**, **Eleventh Schedule (29 subjects)**; in force **24 April 1993** (National Panchayati Raj Day).
- **74th Amendment (1992)** – Municipalities, **Part IXA (Art 243P–243ZG)**, **Twelfth Schedule (18 subjects)**.
- Three-tier Panchayati Raj recommended by the **Balwant Rai Mehta Committee (1957)**; first introduced in **Rajasthan (Nagaur, 2 October 1959)**.
- Panchayat term **5 years**; minimum age **21**; at least **one-third** seats for women (Art 243D); elections by the **State Election Commission (Art 243K)**.
- **Art 243-I** – **State Finance Commission** for Panchayats, constituted by the **Governor every 5 years**; the **Governor lays its report** with an action-taken memorandum before the State Legislature. **Art 243-Y** – SFC for Municipalities.
- **RGSA (Rashtriya Gram Swaraj Abhiyan)** aims to strengthen **Panchayati Raj institutions**.

Finance, Emergency, Amendment & J&K

- **Art 265** – no tax except by authority of law; **Art 266** – **Consolidated Fund of India** and Public Accounts; **Art 267** – Contingency Fund.
- **Art 279A** – **GST Council** (101st Amendment, 2016; GST from 1 July 2017).

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- **Art 280** – **Finance Commission**, set up by the President every **5 years**; Chairman + 4 members; recommends **tax devolution between Centre and States**.
- First Finance Commission: **K.C. Neogy (1951)**; 15th: **N.K. Singh**; **16th (2026-27 to 2030-31): Arvind Panagariya** (first Vice-Chairman of NITI Aayog); States' share **41%** of the divisible pool.
- **Art 312** – All India Services, created by Parliament after a **Rajya Sabha** resolution (two-thirds majority).
- **Art 315** – Public Service Commissions; **UPSC** set up **1 October 1926** (centenary in 2026; Lee Commission).
- **Art 324** – **Election Commission**; ECI set up **25 January 1950** (National Voters' Day); Arts 324–329 cover elections; CEC **Gyanesh Kumar (26th)** (as on Oct 2026).
- **Art 343** – **Hindi in Devanagari script** is the official language of the Union.
- **Art 352** National Emergency (proclaimed 1962, 1971, 1975); **Art 356** President's Rule in States (first in Punjab, 1951); **Art 360** Financial Emergency (**never imposed**).
- **Art 368** – power of Parliament to **amend the Constitution**.
- **Art 370** – temporary special status of **Jammu & Kashmir**; made inoperative on **5 August 2019**; J&K and Ladakh became UTs on 31 Oct 2019; SC upheld it in Dec 2023.

Amendment	Key change
1st (1951)	Added Ninth Schedule
7th (1956)	States reorganised on linguistic basis
42nd (1976)	Socialist, Secular, Integrity; Fundamental Duties ("Mini-Constitution")
44th (1978)	Property removed from Fundamental Rights
52nd (1985)	Anti-defection law, Tenth Schedule
61st (1988)	Voting age 21 to 18
73rd / 74th (1992)	Panchayats / Municipalities
86th (2002)	Art 21A education; Art 45 early childhood
97th (2011)	Co-operative societies (Part IXB)
100th (2015)	India–Bangladesh Land Boundary Agreement
101st (2016)	GST
103rd (2019)	10% EWS reservation
104th (2019)	Ended Anglo-Indian nomination
106th (2023)	One-third seats for women

The 12 Schedules

Schedule	Subject
First	States and Union Territories
Second	Salaries/emoluments of President, Governors, judges, CAG etc.
Third	Forms of oaths and affirmations
Fourth	Allocation of Rajya Sabha seats
Fifth	Scheduled Areas and Scheduled Tribes
Sixth	Tribal areas of Assam, Meghalaya, Tripura, Mizoram
Seventh	Union, State and Concurrent Lists
Eighth	22 official languages
Ninth	Land reform laws (1st Amendment)
Tenth	Anti-defection (52nd Amendment)
Eleventh	Panchayats – 29 subjects
Twelfth	Municipalities – 18 subjects

- **Seventh Schedule** distributes powers: **Defence** in the Union List, **Police** in the State List, **Education** in the Concurrent List (moved there by the 42nd Amendment); residuary powers rest with the **Union**.
- Eighth Schedule began with 14 languages; latest additions (92nd Amendment, 2003): **Bodo, Dogri, Maithili, Santhali**. **English is not** in the Eighth Schedule.

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- **Sixth Schedule** states: **Assam, Meghalaya, Tripura and Mizoram** (Autonomous District Councils).

Writs, Bodies & Lok Adalat

Writ	Meaning
Habeas Corpus	"To have the body" – against illegal detention
Mandamus	"We command" – to perform a public duty
Prohibition	Higher court stops a lower court
Certiorari	"To be certified" – quashes a lower court order
Quo Warranto	"By what authority" – against usurping a public office

- **Constitutional bodies**: Election Commission, UPSC, Finance Commission, CAG, Attorney General, NCSC (Art 338), NCST (Art 338A), NCBC (Art 338B, 102nd Amendment), GST Council.
- **Statutory bodies**: NHRC (1993, HQ New Delhi), **NCW (1992, statutory)**, CVC, Central Information Commission (RTI Act 2005), Lokpal (2013 Act), NALSA.
- **NITI Aayog** (1 Jan 2015, replaced Planning Commission) is neither constitutional nor statutory; chaired by the PM; Vice-Chairman **Ashok Kumar Lahiri**, CEO **Anurag Jain** (as on Oct 2026).
- **Lok Adalat** works under the Legal Services Authorities Act, 1987: **no court fee**, and its award is **deemed a decree of a civil court**, final and not appealable.

MCQs – Indian Polity & Constitution

Q1. Seats in the Rajya Sabha are allocated to the States and UTs under which Schedule?
(a) Second (b) Third (c) Fourth (d) Fifth (e) Seventh
Ans: (c) Fourth – the Fourth Schedule allocates Rajya Sabha seats; UP has the most (31).

Q2. Who administers the oath of office to the President of India?
(a) Vice-President (b) Prime Minister (c) Speaker of Lok Sabha (d) Chief Justice of India (e) Attorney General
Ans: (d) Chief Justice of India – Art 60; in his absence the senior-most SC judge.

Q3. How many Union Territories currently have their own Legislative Assembly?
(a) 1 (b) 2 (c) 3 (d) 4 (e) 5
Ans: (c) 3 – Delhi, Puducherry and Jammu & Kashmir.

Q4. How many Lok Sabha seats are reserved for Scheduled Castes?
(a) 47 (b) 79 (c) 84 (d) 88 (e) 131
Ans: (c) 84 – SCs 84 and STs 47 under Art 330.

Q5. Under Article 170, what is the minimum strength of a State Legislative Assembly (general rule)?
(a) 30 (b) 40 (c) 50 (d) 60 (e) 100
Ans: (d) 60 – range 60–500; exceptions Sikkim 32, Goa and Mizoram 40.

Q6. Who was the Speaker of the 16th Lok Sabha (2014–19)?
(a) Meira Kumar (b) Sumitra Mahajan (c) Om Birla (d) Somnath Chatterjee (e) M. Thambidurai
Ans: (b) Sumitra Mahajan – Thambidurai was Deputy Speaker; Om Birla followed in 2019.

Q7. How many sessions does the Indian Parliament normally hold in a year?
(a) 1 (b) 2 (c) 3 (d) 4 (e) 6
Ans: (c) 3 – Budget, Monsoon and Winter; the gap between sessions cannot exceed 6 months (Art 85).

Q8. Under Article 243-I, whose duty is it to lay the State Finance Commission's report before the State Legislature?
(a) Chief Minister (b) State Finance Minister (c) Governor (d) Speaker (e) State Election Commissioner
Ans: (c) Governor – the Governor constitutes the SFC every 5 years and causes its report to be laid.

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Q9. Which right is NOT part of Article 19 today?
(a) Freedom of speech (b) Freedom of assembly (c) Freedom of movement (d) Right to property (e) Freedom of profession
Ans: (d) Right to property – removed by the 44th Amendment; now a legal right under Art 300A.

Q10. Which Article provides for equal justice and free legal aid?
(a) Article 21A (b) Article 39(d) (c) Article 39A (d) Article 44 (e) Article 51A
Ans: (c) Article 39A – inserted by the 42nd Amendment; Art 39(d) is equal pay for equal work.

Q11. The anti-defection law is contained in which Schedule?
(a) Eighth (b) Ninth (c) Tenth (d) Eleventh (e) Twelfth
Ans: (c) Tenth – added by the 52nd Amendment, 1985.

Q12. Sixth Schedule areas are found in which group of states?
(a) Assam, Meghalaya, Tripura, Mizoram (b) Assam, Nagaland, Manipur, Sikkim (c) Meghalaya, Arunachal, Sikkim, Tripura (d) Jharkhand, Odisha, Chhattisgarh, MP (e) Mizoram, Manipur, Nagaland, Arunachal
Ans: (a) Assam, Meghalaya, Tripura, Mizoram – governed through Autonomous District Councils.

Q13. 'Quo warranto' literally means:
(a) We command (b) To have the body (c) By what authority (d) To be certified (e) To prohibit
Ans: (c) By what authority – it is issued against a person illegally holding a public office.

Q14. Who appoints the Election Commissioners of India?
(a) Prime Minister (b) Chief Justice of India (c) Parliament (d) President of India (e) Chief Election Commissioner
Ans: (d) President of India – the President also appoints the AG, CAG and SC/HC judges.

Q15. The Consolidated Fund of India is provided under which Article?
(a) Article 112 (b) Article 265 (c) Article 266 (d) Article 267 (e) Article 280
Ans: (c) Article 266 – Art 267 is the Contingency Fund.

Q16. How many members can the President nominate to the Rajya Sabha?
(a) 2 (b) 10 (c) 12 (d) 14 (e) 15
Ans: (c) 12 – for literature, science, art and social service.

Q17. To whom does the Speaker of the Lok Sabha address his resignation?
(a) President (b) Vice-President (c) Prime Minister (d) Deputy Speaker (e) Chief Justice of India
Ans: (d) Deputy Speaker – and the Deputy Speaker resigns to the Speaker.

Q18. Which Constitutional Amendment gave effect to the India–Bangladesh Land Boundary Agreement?
(a) 99th (b) 100th (c) 101st (d) 103rd (e) 106th
Ans: (b) 100th – passed in 2015.

Q19. A Lok Adalat award is deemed to be a:
(a) Recommendation (b) Supreme Court order (c) Decree of a civil court (d) Arbitration award open to appeal (e) Government notification
Ans: (c) Decree of a civil court – it is final, with no court fee and no appeal.

Q20. Article 45 now provides early childhood care and education for children up to what age?
(a) 3 years (b) 5 years (c) 6 years (d) 10 years (e) 14 years
Ans: (c) 6 years – substituted by the 86th Amendment; Art 21A covers ages 6–14.

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FIELD 2: NATIONAL PARKS, WILDLIFE SANCTUARIES, TIGER RESERVES, BIOSPHERE RESERVES & RAMSAR SITES

Exam tip: *Almost every bank Mains asks one "X National Park / Tiger Reserve / Ramsar site is in which state?" question; learn the state of each park, the counts (as on Oct 2026) and the famous animal of each park.*

Basics, Counts & Records (as on Oct 2026)

- National Parks, Wildlife Sanctuaries, Conservation Reserves and Community Reserves are notified under the **Wildlife (Protection) Act, 1972**.
- India has **107 National Parks** and **18 Biosphere Reserves** (as on Oct 2026, NBCC).
- India has **58 Tiger Reserves**; 58th is **Madhav Tiger Reserve (Shivpuri, MP)**; 57th Ratapani (MP); 56th Guru Ghasidas–Tamor Pingla (Chhattisgarh) (as on Oct 2026).
- India has **33 Elephant Reserves** and about 150 elephant corridors (as on Oct 2026).
- India has **103 Ramsar sites** (as on Oct 2026) — 1st in Asia, 3rd in the world after UK (176) and Mexico (144).
- State with the most National Parks: **Madhya Pradesh** (Andaman & Nicobar comes next).
- State with no National Park: **Punjab** (it has wildlife sanctuaries and the Harike wetland, but no National Park).
- State with the most Tiger Reserves: **Madhya Pradesh (9)**; MP also has the most tigers (785).
- India's first National Park: **Jim Corbett NP (1936)**, Uttarakhand — set up as Hailey National Park.
- Largest National Park: **Hemis NP (Ladakh)**; smallest National Park: **South Button Island NP (Andaman & Nicobar)**.
- Largest Tiger Reserve: **Nagarjunasagar–Srisailam (Andhra Pradesh)**; smallest Tiger Reserve: **Bor (Wardha, Maharashtra)**.
- Largest Wildlife Sanctuary: Kutch Desert (Rann of Kutch) WLS, **Gujarat**.
- Largest Biosphere Reserve: **Kachchh (Gujarat)**; smallest: Dibru-Saikhowa (Assam).
- Wildlife Institute of India: **Dehradun**; Zoological Survey of India: Kolkata (1916); Botanical Survey of India: Kolkata (1890); National Biodiversity Authority: Chennai.
- Tiger was declared India's **National Animal in 1973** (replacing the lion); Elephant was declared **National Heritage Animal in 2010**.
- India's 7 natural UNESCO World Heritage Sites: Kaziranga, Manas, Keoladeo, Sundarbans, Nanda Devi & Valley of Flowers, Western Ghats, Great Himalayan NP; **Khangchendzonga NP (Sikkim)** is India's only Mixed site (2016).

Conservation Projects

- **Project Tiger**: launched **1 April 1973** at Jim Corbett NP; run by the **National Tiger Conservation Authority (NTCA)**, a statutory body under MoEFCC.
- The first 9 tiger reserves (1973): Corbett, Manas, Melghat, Palamau, Ranthambore, Similipal, Sundarbans, Kanha, Bandipur.
- Tiger census (All India Tiger Estimation 2022): **3,682 tigers** (about 70% of the world's wild tigers); top states MP (785), Karnataka (563), Uttarakhand (560).
- Global Tiger Day: **29 July**; International Big Cat Alliance (IBCA, launched 2023 by PM Modi) covers 7 big cats — tiger, lion, leopard, snow leopard, cheetah, jaguar, puma; HQ New Delhi.
- **Project Elephant**: launched **1992**; World Elephant Day **12 August** (Gaj Gaurav Awards 2026 at Visakhapatnam).
- Cheetah was declared **extinct in India in 1952**.
- **Project Cheetah**: launched **17 September 2022** at **Kuno National Park (Sheopur, MP)** with 8 cheetahs from **Namibia**; later batches from **South Africa** (2023) and **Botswana**.
- 2nd cheetah home: **Gandhi Sagar Wildlife Sanctuary (Mandsaur–Neemuch, MP)**, 2025.
- 3rd cheetah home: **Veerangana Durgavati Tiger Reserve (Sagar–Damoh–Narsinghpur, MP)** — cheetahs Vyom and Neera released on 7 Oct 2026; all three cheetah sites are in MP.
- International Cheetah Day: **4 December**.
- Project Lion (2020): Asiatic lions survive in the wild only in **Gir (Gujarat)**.
- Project Snow Leopard (2009); India has **718 snow leopards**, 477 of them in Ladakh; India's first high-altitude snow leopard safari opened at Choglamsar, Leh (Oct 2026).

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- Project Dolphin (2020): Gangetic river dolphin is India's **National Aquatic Animal** (2009).
- Crocodile Conservation Project began in 1975 (Bhitarkanika, Odisha).
- Wild buffalo was reintroduced in Kanha TR (MP) in Oct 2026 after about 100 years, with animals from Kaziranga.

Famous Animals & Their Parks

- **Kaziranga NP (Assam)**: great **one-horned rhinoceros**; UNESCO site 1985; Kaziranga holds about **two-thirds** of the world's one-horned rhinos.
- **Gir NP (Junagadh, Gujarat)**: only wild home of the **Asiatic lion**.
- **Keibul Lamjao NP (Manipur)**: **Sangai** (brow-antlered deer); the **only floating National Park in the world**, on the phumdis of **Loktak Lake**.
- **Dachigam NP (J&K)**: **Hangul** (Kashmir stag).
- **Kanha NP (MP)**: **Barasingha** (hard-ground swamp deer), the state animal of MP.
- **Hemis NP (Ladakh)**: **snow leopard**.
- **Eravikulam NP (Kerala)**: **Nilgiri tahr**; Anamudi peak lies in it.
- **Silent Valley NP (Kerala)**: **lion-tailed macaque**.
- **Manas NP (Assam)**: golden langur, pygmy hog, wild buffalo; UNESCO site.
- **Desert NP (Jaisalmer, Rajasthan)**: **Great Indian Bustard**.
- **Keoladeo NP (Bharatpur, Rajasthan)**: migratory birds, **Siberian crane**; UNESCO site.
- **Sundarbans NP (West Bengal)**: Royal Bengal tiger in the world's largest mangrove forest.
- **Bhitarkanika NP (Odisha)**: **saltwater crocodile**; nearby **Gahirmatha** is one of the world's largest mass-nesting beaches of **olive ridley turtles**.
- **Namdapha NP (Arunachal Pradesh)**: four big cats — tiger, leopard, clouded leopard, snow leopard.
- **Velavadar Blackbuck NP (Gujarat)**: blackbuck.
- **Pobitora WLS (Assam)**: highest density of one-horned rhinos; **Orang NP (Assam)** is called "Mini Kaziranga".
- **Hoollongapar Gibbon WLS (Assam)**: hoolock gibbon, India's only ape.
- **Nokrek NP (Meghalaya)**: wild citrus (citrus gene sanctuary); also a UNESCO biosphere reserve.

State-wise Important National Parks

State/UT	National Parks
Assam	Kaziranga, Manas, Orang, Nameri, Dibru-Saikhowa, Raimona, Dehing Patkai
West Bengal	Sundarbans, Buxa, Gorumara, Jaldapara, Neora Valley, Singalila
Madhya Pradesh	Kanha, Bandhavgarh, Pench, Panna, Satpura, Madhav, Kuno, Sanjay, Van Vihar, Fossil NP
Uttarakhand	Jim Corbett, Rajaji, Nanda Devi, Valley of Flowers, Gangotri
Uttar Pradesh	Dudhwa (Lakhimpur Kheri)
Bihar	Valmiki (only NP of Bihar, West Champaran)
Jharkhand	Betla (Latehar, part of Palamau TR)
Chhattisgarh	Indravati, Kanger Valley, Guru Ghasidas
Odisha	Simlipal, Bhitarkanika
Rajasthan	Ranthambore, Sariska, Keoladeo, Desert NP, Mukundra Hills
Gujarat	Gir, Velavadar Blackbuck, Marine NP Gulf of Kutch, Vansda
Maharashtra	Sanjay Gandhi (Borivali, Mumbai), Tadoba, Chandoli, Gugamal
Kerala	Periyar, Silent Valley, Eravikulam, Mathikettan Shola
Tamil Nadu	Mudumalai, Anamalai (Indira Gandhi), Mukurthi, Guindy, Gulf of Mannar
Karnataka	Bandipur, Nagarhole, Kudremukh, Bannerghatta, Anshi
Himachal Pradesh	Great Himalayan (Kullu), Pin Valley

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State/UT	National Parks
J&K / Ladakh	Dachigam (Srinagar) / Hemis
Sikkim	Khangchendzonga (UNESCO mixed site)
Meghalaya	Balpakram (South Garo Hills), Nokrek (West Garo Hills)
Manipur	Keibul Lamjao (Bishnupur)
Arunachal Pradesh	Namdapha, Mouling
Goa	Bhagwan Mahavir (Mollem)
Telangana / AP	Kasu Brahmananda Reddy, Mrugavani / Sri Venkateswara

Tiger Reserves & Wildlife Sanctuaries in News

Tiger Reserve	State
Pench	Madhya Pradesh and Maharashtra (two separate TRs)
Kanha, Satpura, Panna, Bandhavgarh	Madhya Pradesh
Sanjay-Dubri, Ratapani, Madhav	Madhya Pradesh
Veerangana Durgavati (Nauradehi)	Madhya Pradesh
Sariska, Ranthambore, Mukundra Hills	Rajasthan
Ramgarh Vishdhari, Dholpur-Karauli	Rajasthan
Pilibhit, Dudhwa, Amangarh, Ranipur	Uttar Pradesh
Amrabad, Kawal	Telangana
Nagarjunasagar-Srisailam	Andhra Pradesh (largest TR)
Tadoba-Andhari, Melghat, Sahyadri, Bor	Maharashtra
Bandipur, Nagarhole, Bhadra, Kali, BRT	Karnataka
Periyar, Parambikulam	Kerala
Mudumalai, Anamalai, Sathyamangalam	Tamil Nadu
Kalakad-Mundanthurai, Srivilliputhur-Megamalai	Tamil Nadu
Kaziranga, Manas, Nameri, Orang	Assam
Namdapha, Pakke, Kamlang	Arunachal Pradesh
Similipal, Satkosia	Odisha
Sundarbans, Buxa	West Bengal
Valmiki	Bihar
Palamau	Jharkhand
Achanakmar, Indravati, Udanti-Sitanadi	Chhattisgarh
Guru Ghasidas-Tamor Pingla	Chhattisgarh
Corbett, Rajaji	Uttarakhand
Dampa	Mizoram

Wildlife/Bird Sanctuary	State
Salim Ali Bird Sanctuary	Goa (Chorao Island, Mandovi)
Halliday Island WLS	West Bengal (Sundarbans)
Tungareshwar WLS	Maharashtra (Palghar)
Chinnar WLS	Kerala (Idukki)
Kumarakom Bird Sanctuary	Kerala (Vembanad lake)
Sathyamangalam WLS	Tamil Nadu (Erode)
Lippa Asrang WLS	Himachal Pradesh (Kinnaur)
Trishna WLS	Tripura
Kamlang WLS / TR	Arunachal Pradesh (Lohit)
Gandhi Sagar WLS	Madhya Pradesh
Pobitora WLS	Assam (Morigaon)
Changthang WLS	Ladakh
Ranganathittu Bird Sanctuary	Karnataka (Kaveri)
Vedanthangal Bird Sanctuary	Tamil Nadu

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- Amangarh TR (UP) is the buffer of Corbett; **Pilibhit TR (UP)** won the first global **TX2 award** (2020) for doubling its tigers.
- Valmiki is both the only National Park and the only Tiger Reserve of **Bihar**; 31 gharials were released in its Gandak river (2026).

Marine National Parks

- **Marine National Park, Gulf of Kutch (Jamnagar, Gujarat)**: **India's first Marine National Park** (1982).
- **Gulf of Mannar Marine NP (Tamil Nadu)**: has **21 islands**; Gulf of Mannar was the first marine biosphere reserve of South & South-East Asia (1989).
- **Mahatma Gandhi Marine NP (Wandoor, Andaman)** and **Rani Jhansi Marine NP (Ritchie's Archipelago, Andaman & Nicobar)**.
- Malvan Marine Sanctuary is in Maharashtra; Bhitarkanika (Odisha) protects mangroves and crocodiles.

Biosphere Reserves

- Biosphere Reserves are set up under UNESCO's **Man and the Biosphere (MAB) Programme (1971)**; India has **18 Biosphere Reserves**, of which **13** are in UNESCO's World Network (as on Oct 2026).
- First Biosphere Reserve of India: **Nilgiri (1986)** — spread over Tamil Nadu, Kerala and Karnataka; first Indian BR in UNESCO list (2000).
- **Cold Desert Biosphere Reserve (Himachal Pradesh, Lahaul-Spiti/Kinnaur)** became India's **13th UNESCO MAB site in 2025**.

Biosphere Reserve	State (U = UNESCO MAB)
Nilgiri (1986)	TN, Kerala, Karnataka (U)
Nanda Devi	Uttarakhand (U)
Nokrek	Meghalaya (U)
Great Nicobar	Andaman & Nicobar (U)
Gulf of Mannar	Tamil Nadu (U)
Sundarban	West Bengal (U)
Simlipal	Odisha (U)
Pachmarhi	Madhya Pradesh (U)
Khangchendzonga	Sikkim (U)
Agasthyamala	Kerala, Tamil Nadu (U, 2016)
Achanakmar-Amarkantak	MP, Chhattisgarh (U)
Panna	Madhya Pradesh (U)
Cold Desert	Himachal Pradesh (U, 2025)
Manas	Assam
Dibru-Saikhowa	Assam
Dehang-Dibang	Arunachal Pradesh
Kachchh	Gujarat (largest)
Seshachalam	Andhra Pradesh

Ramsar Sites & Wetlands

- **Ramsar Convention** on wetlands was signed in **1971 at Ramsar (Iran)**; India joined in **1982**; **World Wetlands Day: 2 February**.
- India's first Ramsar sites (1981): **Chilika Lake (Odisha)** and **Keoladeo NP (Rajasthan)**.
- India has **103 Ramsar sites** (as on Oct 2026); **Tamil Nadu has the most (20)**, Uttar Pradesh is second.
- Largest Ramsar site of India: **Sundarban Wetland (West Bengal)**; second largest: **Vembanad-Kol Wetland (Kerala)**.
- Montreux Record (sites under threat) in India: **Keoladeo NP** and **Loktak Lake**; Chilika was removed from it in 2002.
- State with the largest wetland area: **Gujarat**.
- **Kanwar Lake (Kabar Tal), Begusarai** — Bihar's first Ramsar site and Asia's largest freshwater oxbow lake.
- **Udaipur Jheel (West Champaran)** and Gokul Jalashay (Buxar) are Ramsar sites of **Bihar** (2025).
- **Indore (MP) and Udaipur (Rajasthan)** were the first Indian cities to get **Ramsar Wetland City Accreditation** (2025); Indore, Bhopal and Udaipur had been nominated.
- 2026 additions: Patna Bird Sanctuary (Etah, UP) and Chhari-Dhand (Gujarat) early 2026; **99th Sheikha Jheel (Aligarh, UP)**, 22 April 2026.
- **100th Ramsar site: Jai Prakash Narayan Bird Sanctuary (Surha Taal), Ballia, UP** — 5 June 2026 (World Environment Day); Surha Taal is an oxbow lake of the Ganga.

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- **101st: Glaw (Glo) Lake, Kamlang Tiger Reserve, Lohit — Arunachal Pradesh's first Ramsar site** (Aug 2026).
- **102nd and 103rd: Sukhna Wetland (Chandigarh) and Sauj Jheel (Mainpuri, UP)** (Oct 2026); Sukhna Lake is artificial, at the Shivalik foothills.

Ramsar site / lake	State
Wular Lake	Jammu & Kashmir
Loktak Lake	Manipur
Deepor Beel	Assam
Chilika, Bhitarkanika	Odisha
Kolleru Lake	Andhra Pradesh
Sambhar Lake, Keoladeo	Rajasthan
Harike Wetland	Punjab
Renuka, Pong Dam, Chandertal	Himachal Pradesh
Tsomgo (Changu) Lake	Sikkim
Lonar Lake, Nandur Madhameshwar	Maharashtra
Nal Sarovar, Thol, Khijadia	Gujarat
Sultanpur NP, Bhindawas	Haryana
Bhoj Wetland, Sakhya Sagar	Madhya Pradesh
Ashtamudi, Sasthamkotta, Vembanad-Kol	Kerala
Point Calimere, Pallikaranai	Tamil Nadu

MCQs – National Parks, Wildlife Sanctuaries, Tiger Reserves, Biosphere Reserves & Ramsar Sites

Q1. Which state has no National Park?
(a) Haryana (b) Punjab (c) Goa (d) Bihar (e) Tripura
Ans: (b) Punjab – it is the only state without a National Park.

Q2. Which state has the largest number of National Parks in India?
(a) Assam (b) Uttarakhand (c) Madhya Pradesh (d) Karnataka (e) Kerala
Ans: (c) Madhya Pradesh – it also has the most tiger reserves (9).

Q3. Which is the largest Ramsar site in India by area?
(a) Chilika Lake (b) Vembanad-Kol Wetland (c) Wular Lake (d) Sundarban Wetland (e) Loktak Lake
Ans: (d) Sundarban Wetland – West Bengal; Vembanad-Kol (Kerala) is second.

Q4. Under Project Cheetah, the first batch of cheetahs from Namibia was released in which park?
(a) Gandhi Sagar WLS (b) Kanha NP (c) Kuno NP (d) Panna NP (e) Desert NP
Ans: (c) Kuno NP – Sheopur, Madhya Pradesh, on 17 September 2022.

Q5. Which tiger reserve became India's third cheetah habitat in October 2026?
(a) Madhav (b) Ratapani (c) Veerangana Durgavati (d) Satpura (e) Mukundra Hills
Ans: (c) Veerangana Durgavati – in Madhya Pradesh, after Kuno and Gandhi Sagar.

Q6. Kamlang Wildlife Sanctuary / Tiger Reserve is in which state?
(a) Assam (b) Sikkim (c) Nagaland (d) Arunachal Pradesh (e) Mizoram
Ans: (d) Arunachal Pradesh – Lohit district; its Glaw Lake became India's 101st Ramsar site.

Q7. Sariska Tiger Reserve is located in which state?
(a) Madhya Pradesh (b) Gujarat (c) Rajasthan (d) Uttar Pradesh (e) Haryana
Ans: (c) Rajasthan – in Alwar district.

Q8. Betla National Park is in which state?
(a) Chhattisgarh (b) Jharkhand (c) Odisha (d) Bihar (e) West Bengal
Ans: (b) Jharkhand – part of Palamau Tiger Reserve.

Q9. How many islands does the Gulf of Mannar Marine National Park have?
(a) 11 (b) 15 (c) 21 (d) 25 (e) 36
Ans: (c) 21 – the park is in Tamil Nadu.

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Q10. The Cold Desert Biosphere Reserve is located in which state?
(a) Ladakh (b) Sikkim (c) Uttarakhand (d) Himachal Pradesh (e) Arunachal Pradesh
Ans: (d) Himachal Pradesh – it joined the UNESCO MAB network in 2025.

Q11. Pench Tiger Reserve lies in which states?
(a) MP and Chhattisgarh (b) MP and Maharashtra (c) Maharashtra and Telangana (d) MP and Rajasthan (e) Karnataka and Kerala
Ans: (b) MP and Maharashtra – two separate tiger reserves share the name Pench.

Q12. Which animal is Keibul Lamjao National Park famous for?
(a) Hangul (b) Barasingha (c) Sangai (d) Nilgiri tahr (e) Golden langur
Ans: (c) Sangai – the world's only floating National Park, on Loktak Lake, Manipur.

Q13. Udaipur Jheel, declared a Ramsar site, is in which state?
(a) Rajasthan (b) Bihar (c) Uttar Pradesh (d) Madhya Pradesh (e) Jharkhand
Ans: (b) Bihar – in West Champaran district.

Q14. Which became India's 100th Ramsar site in June 2026?
(a) Sheikha Jheel (b) Sukhna Wetland (c) Jai Prakash Narayan Bird Sanctuary (Surha Taal) (d) Glaw Lake (e) Sauj Jheel
Ans: (c) Jai Prakash Narayan Bird Sanctuary (Surha Taal) – Ballia, UP, on World Environment Day.

Q15. Which state has the largest number of Ramsar sites (as on Oct 2026)?
(a) Uttar Pradesh (b) Kerala (c) Odisha (d) Tamil Nadu (e) Gujarat
Ans: (d) Tamil Nadu – it has 20 sites; India has 103 in all.

Q16. Halliday Island Wildlife Sanctuary is in which state?
(a) Odisha (b) Andaman & Nicobar (c) West Bengal (d) Kerala (e) Gujarat
Ans: (c) West Bengal – part of the Sundarbans.

Q17. Orang National Park is in which state?
(a) Assam (b) Meghalaya (c) Manipur (d) Tripura (e) West Bengal
Ans: (a) Assam – known as "Mini Kaziranga".

Q18. In which year was the cheetah declared extinct in India?
(a) 1947 (b) 1952 (c) 1962 (d) 1972 (e) 1973
Ans: (b) 1952 – Project Cheetah began 70 years later in 2022.

Q19. Where is the Wildlife Institute of India located?
(a) Bhopal (b) Kolkata (c) Dehradun (d) Chennai (e) New Delhi
Ans: (c) Dehradun – Forest Survey of India is also in Dehradun.

Q20. Which is India's largest Tiger Reserve (as on Oct 2026)?
(a) Similipal (b) Nagarjunasagar-Srisailam (c) Sundarbans (d) Corbett (e) Bor
Ans: (b) Nagarjunasagar-Srisailam – Andhra Pradesh; Bor (Maharashtra) is the smallest.

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FIELD 3: IMPORTANT DAYS & WEEKS

Exam tip: *Asked almost every year in bank exams as "When is X Day observed?", "Day Y honours whom?" or "Since when has Z been observed?". Learn the date, the person behind it and the year it started.*

Days honouring personalities (birth anniversaries)

- National Youth Day, **12 January**: birth anniversary of **Swami Vivekananda** (b. 1863). Declared in 1984 and observed since **1985**.
- Teachers' Day, **5 September**: birth anniversary of **Dr S. Radhakrishnan**. Observed since **1962**, the year he became President.
- National Engineers' Day, **15 September**: birth anniversary of **Sir M. Visvesvaraya** (b. 1861; Bharat Ratna 1955). 2026 marked his **165th** birth anniversary.
- National Doctors' Day, **1 July**: honours **Dr Bidhan Chandra Roy**, who was born and died on 1 July. He was a former West Bengal CM and a Bharat Ratna.
- National Sports Day, **29 August**: birth anniversary of hockey wizard **Major Dhyan Chand** (b. 1905).
- National Statistics Day, **29 June**: birth anniversary of **P.C. Mahalanobis** (observed since 2007). The 2026 edition was the 20th.
- Rashtriya Ekta Diwas (National Unity Day), **31 October**: birth anniversary of **Sardar Vallabhbhai Patel**, observed since **2014**.
- Vigilance Awareness Week (CVC) is held in the week that includes **31 October**, so it coincides with **Sardar Patel's** birth anniversary.
- Janjatiya Gaurav Divas, **15 November**: birth anniversary of tribal hero **Birsa Munda** (b. 1875), observed since **2021**.
- Parakram Diwas, **23 January**: birth anniversary of **Netaji Subhas Chandra Bose** (since 2021).
- Children's Day, **14 November**: **Jawaharlal Nehru**. National Education Day, **11 November**: **Maulana Abul Kalam Azad**.
- Good Governance Day, **25 December**: **Atal Bihari Vajpayee** (since 2014). Kisan Diwas, **23 December**: **Chaudhary Charan Singh**.
- National Mathematics Day, **22 December**: **Srinivasa Ramanujan**. Antyodaya Diwas, **25 September**: **Pandit Deendayal Upadhyaya**.
- World Students' Day, **15 October**: **Dr A.P.J. Abdul Kalam** (b. 1931, Rameswaram). 2026 marked his **95th** birth anniversary.
- Sadbhavana Diwas, **20 August**: **Rajiv Gandhi**. Anti-Terrorism Day, **21 May**: Rajiv Gandhi's death anniversary.
- National Women's Day, **13 February**: **Sarojini Naidu**. National Library Day, **12 August**: **S.R. Ranganathan**.
- World Red Cross & Red Crescent Day, **8 May**: **Henry Dunant**. World Blood Donor Day, **14 June**: **Karl Landsteiner**.
- International Nurses Day, **12 May**: **Florence Nightingale**. World Rabies Day, **28 September**: **Louis Pasteur's** death anniversary.
- World Braille Day, **4 January**: **Louis Braille**. Nelson Mandela International Day, **18 July**.
- Martyrs' Day, **30 January**: Mahatma Gandhi's death anniversary. Shaheed Diwas, **23 March**: Bhagat Singh, Rajguru and Sukhdev.
- International Day of Non-Violence, **2 October**: Gandhi Jayanti (declared by the UN in 2007).

January – March

Date	Day
4 Jan	World Braille Day
9 Jan	Pravasi Bharatiya Divas
10 Jan	World Hindi Day
12 Jan	National Youth Day
15 Jan	Indian Army Day
16 Jan	National Startup Day
23 Jan	Parakram Diwas
24 Jan	National Girl Child Day
25 Jan	National Voters' Day
30 Jan	Martyrs' Day
1 Feb	Indian Coast Guard Day
2 Feb	World Wetlands Day
4 Feb	World Cancer Day
10 Feb	World Pulses Day; National Deworming Day
13 Feb	World Radio Day; National Women's Day

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Date	Day
21 Feb	International Mother Language Day
28 Feb	National Science Day
3 Mar	World Wildlife Day
8 Mar	International Women's Day
15 Mar	World Consumer Rights Day
20 Mar	World Sparrow Day; Int'l Day of Happiness
21 Mar	International Day of Forests
22 Mar	World Water Day
23 Mar	World Meteorological Day
24 Mar	World TB Day

- Pravasi Bharatiya Divas (**9 January**) marks **Gandhiji's return from South Africa** (9 Jan **1915**), and the 2015 edition marked its centenary. The first PBD was held in 2003.
- PBD venues: **2017 Bengaluru**, **2019 Varanasi**, **2023 Indore** (chief guest **Mohamed Irfaan Ali**, President of Guyana), **2025 Bhubaneswar**.
- PBD 2025 (18th) theme: **"Diaspora's Contribution to a Viksit Bharat"**.
- National Voters' Day marks the founding of the **Election Commission (25 January 1950)** and has been observed since **2011**.
- National Science Day (28 Feb) marks the discovery of the **Raman Effect** (1928).
- World Wetlands Day (2 Feb) marks the **Ramsar Convention**, signed on 2 Feb 1971 at Ramsar, Iran.
- World Kidney Day falls on the **second Thursday of March**. Commonwealth Day is the **second Monday of March**.

April – June

Date	Day
2 Apr	World Autism Awareness Day
7 Apr	World Health Day (WHO founded 1948)
14 Apr	Ambedkar Jayanti
17 Apr	World Hemophilia Day
18 Apr	World Heritage Day
22 Apr	Earth Day
23 Apr	World Book & Copyright Day
24 Apr	National Panchayati Raj Day
25 Apr	World Malaria Day
26 Apr	World Intellectual Property Day
1 May	International Labour Day
3 May	World Press Freedom Day
8 May	World Red Cross Day
11 May	National Technology Day
22 May	Int'l Day for Biological Diversity
25 May	World Football Day
31 May	World No Tobacco Day
1 Jun	World Milk Day
5 Jun	World Environment Day
8 Jun	World Oceans Day
14 Jun	World Blood Donor Day
20 Jun	World Refugee Day
21 Jun	International Day of Yoga
26 Jun	Int'l Day against Drug Abuse
27 Jun	MSME Day

- National Technology Day (11 May) marks the **Pokhran-II** nuclear tests (1998) and has been observed since 1999.
- World Environment Day (5 June) was first observed in **1973**. India hosted it in **2018** (theme "Beat Plastic Pollution").
- The International Day of Yoga (21 June) has been observed since **2015**, after a UNGA resolution of 2014.
- Asteroid Day falls on **30 June** and National Statistics Day on **29 June**.
- Samvidhaan Hatya Diwas (**25 June**) marks the imposition of the **Emergency in 1975**.

July – September

Date	Day
1 Jul	National Doctors' Day; CA Day; GST Day

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Date	Day
11 Jul	World Population Day
15 Jul	World Youth Skills Day
18 Jul	Nelson Mandela International Day
20 Jul	International Moon Day
26 Jul	Kargil Vijay Diwas
28 Jul	World Hepatitis Day
29 Jul	International Tiger Day
7 Aug	National Handloom Day
9 Aug	Int'l Day of World's Indigenous Peoples
12 Aug	International Youth Day; World Elephant Day
19 Aug	World Humanitarian Day
21 Aug	Remembrance of Victims of Terrorism
23 Aug	National Space Day
29 Aug	National Sports Day
5 Sep	Teachers' Day; Int'l Day of Charity
8 Sep	International Literacy Day
14 Sep	Hindi Diwas
15 Sep	Engineers' Day; Int'l Day of Democracy
16 Sep	World Ozone Day
17 Sep	World Patient Safety Day
21 Sep	International Day of Peace
23 Sep	Int'l Day of Sign Languages
27 Sep	World Tourism Day
29 Sep	World Heart Day

- World Population Day (**11 July**) began after world population reached 5 billion on 11 July 1987. It is observed under **UNDP/UNFPA**.
- National Handloom Day (**7 August**, since 2015) recalls the **Swadeshi Movement** launched on 7 Aug 1905.
- National Space Day (**23 August**) marks the **Chandrayaan-3** landing on the Moon (2023).
- National Space Day 2024 theme: **"Touching Lives while Touching the Moon: India's Space Saga"**.
- World Ozone Day (16 Sep) marks the signing of the **Montreal Protocol** (1987), which was made under the **Vienna Convention** (1985).
- World Patient Safety Day 2025 theme: **"Safe care for every newborn and every child"**.
- SBI Foundation Day is **1 July**: the Imperial Bank was renamed SBI on 1 July 1955.

October – December

Date	Day
1 Oct	International Day of Older Persons
2 Oct	Gandhi Jayanti; Int'l Day of Non-Violence
8 Oct	Indian Air Force Day
9 Oct	World Post Day
10 Oct	World Mental Health Day
11 Oct	International Day of the Girl Child
12 Oct	NHRC Foundation Day
15 Oct	World Students' Day; Int'l Day of Rural Women
16 Oct	World Food Day
21 Oct	Police Commemoration Day
23 Oct	International Day of the Snow Leopard
24 Oct	United Nations Day
31 Oct	Rashtriya Ekta Diwas
14 Nov	Children's Day; World Diabetes Day
15 Nov	Janjatiya Gaurav Divas
16 Nov	National Press Day
19 Nov	World Toilet Day
20 Nov	Universal Children's Day
21 Nov	World Television Day
26 Nov	Constitution Day (Samvidhan Divas)
1 Dec	World AIDS Day
3 Dec	Int'l Day of Persons with Disabilities
4 Dec	Indian Navy Day
9 Dec	International Anti-Corruption Day
10 Dec	Human Rights Day

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- Other December days: **7 Dec** Armed Forces Flag Day, **11 Dec** International Mountain Day, **14 Dec** National Energy Conservation Day, **16 Dec** Vijay Diwas, **18 Dec** Minorities Rights Day.
- Later in December: **20 Dec** International Human Solidarity Day, **24 Dec** National Consumer Day, **26 Dec** Veer Bal Diwas.
- World Pneumonia Day is **12 November**. National Legal Services Day is **9 November** (the Legal Services Authorities Act came into force in 1995).
- Human Rights Day (**10 December**) marks the adoption of the **Universal Declaration of Human Rights** (1948).
- United Nations Day (**24 October**) marks the UN Charter coming into force in **1945**. UN Day 2026 was the **81st** anniversary.
- World Food Day (**16 October**) marks the founding of the **FAO** (1945; HQ Rome).
- Constitution Day (**26 November**) has been observed since **2015**. The Constitution was adopted on 26 Nov 1949.
- World Diabetes Day (14 Nov) marks the birthday of **Frederick Banting**, co-discoverer of insulin.
- International Mountain Day 2020 theme: **"Mountain Biodiversity"**.

Weeks, movable days and observances

- **Vigilance Awareness Week** (CVC): the week that includes **31 October** (Sardar Patel).
- **National Wildlife Week**: **2–8 October**. 2026 was the 72nd edition, theme "Connecting Habitats, Thriving Wildlife".
- **Financial Literacy Week**: run by the **RBI** every year **since 2016**.
- World Habitat Day falls on the **first Monday of October**. 2026 global event: **Muscat, Oman**.
- International Literacy Day (8 Sep) is a **UNESCO** observance. 2026 was its **60th** edition.
- World Teachers' Day (UNESCO) is **5 October**. India's Teachers' Day is **5 September**.
- International Day of Peace is on **21 September**. The International Day of Democracy is on **15 September**.
- UN International Years 2026: **Woman Farmer**; **Rangelands and Pastoralists**; Volunteers for Sustainable Development. 2027 is the year of Sustainable and Resilient Tourism.
- In 2026 the UN declared **27 November** the International Day for the Elimination of Child, Early and Forced Marriage.

Defence, police & institutional days

- Army Day: **15 January**. It marks **K.M. Cariappa** becoming the first Indian Commander-in-Chief (1949).
- Air Force Day is **8 October** and Navy Day is **4 December** (Operation Trident, 1971).
- Coast Guard Day: **1 February**. Kargil Vijay Diwas: **26 July** (1999). Vijay Diwas: **16 December** (1971 war).
- Police Commemoration Day is **21 October** (Hot Springs, Ladakh, 1959). ITBP was raised on **24 October 1962**.
- World Post Day (**9 October**) marks the founding of the **Universal Postal Union** in 1874 (HQ **Bern**).
- NHRC Foundation Day is **12 October** (NHRC set up in 1993). National Press Day (**16 November**) marks the Press Council of India.
- Income Tax Day is **24 July**: income tax was introduced in 1860 by **James Wilson**.

Themes 2026 (as on Oct 2026)

- International Day of Yoga 2026 (**12th**): **"Yoga for Healthy Ageing"**. Main event at **Red Road, Kolkata**.
- World Environment Day 2026: host **Azerbaijan (Baku)**. Theme "Inspired by Nature. For Climate. For Our Future."
- World Red Cross & Red Crescent Day 2026: **"United in Humanity"**.
- World Food Day 2026: **"Innovate today. Nourish tomorrow."**
- National Technology Day 2026: "Responsible Innovation for Inclusive Growth".
- National Statistics Day 2026: "Unlocking the Potential of Administrative Data".
- World Milk Day 2026: "Celebrating Women Farmers". World Milk Day began in 2001 (FAO); India's National Milk Day (**26 November**) honours **Verghese Kurien**.
- World Tourism Day 2026: host **El Salvador**. World Ozone Day 2026: "Global Action for a Cooler Planet".

- National Space Day 2026 (**3rd**): "Towards Viksit Bharat: Innovating, Collaborating and Aspiring to Global Space Leadership".
- World Population Day 2026: "Realizing the hopes and aspirations of young people today and for the future".
- World No Tobacco Day 2026: "Unmasking the appeal: countering nicotine and tobacco addiction".

MCQs – Important Days & Weeks

Q1. National Youth Day is observed on 12 January to honour:
(a) Rabindranath Tagore (b) Swami Vivekananda (c) Subhas Chandra Bose (d) Sri Aurobindo (e) Dayananda Saraswati
Ans: (b) Swami Vivekananda – it is his birth anniversary, observed since 1985.

Q2. Teachers' Day has been celebrated in India since which year?
(a) 1950 (b) 1957 (c) 1962 (d) 1965 (e) 1972
Ans: (c) 1962 – the year Dr S. Radhakrishnan became President.

Q3. National Engineers' Day (15 September) commemorates:
(a) Homi Bhabha (b) Vikram Sarabhai (c) M. Visvesvaraya (d) C.V. Raman (e) Satish Dhawan
Ans: (c) M. Visvesvaraya – Bharat Ratna 1955; 2026 was his 165th birth anniversary.

Q4. Janjatiya Gaurav Divas is observed on:
(a) 9 August (b) 2 October (c) 31 October (d) 15 November (e) 26 November
Ans: (d) 15 November – birth anniversary of Birsa Munda, observed since 2021.

Q5. Vigilance Awareness Week coincides with the birth anniversary of:
(a) Lal Bahadur Shastri (b) Sardar Vallabhbhai Patel (c) B.R. Ambedkar (d) Indira Gandhi (e) Rajendra Prasad
Ans: (b) Sardar Vallabhbhai Patel – the week includes 31 October (Rashtriya Ekta Diwas).

Q6. Human Rights Day is observed on:
(a) 10 October (b) 24 October (c) 1 December (d) 10 December (e) 9 December
Ans: (d) 10 December – the UDHR was adopted on 10 Dec 1948.

Q7. World Water Day is observed on:
(a) 2 February (b) 22 March (c) 22 April (d) 5 June (e) 8 June
Ans: (b) 22 March.

Q8. Pravasi Bharatiya Divas (9 January) commemorates:
(a) Founding of the MEA (b) Gandhiji's return from South Africa in 1915 (c) Dandi March (d) First Indian passport (e) Tagore's Nobel Prize
Ans: (b) Gandhiji's return from South Africa – on 9 January 1915.

Q9. National Doctors' Day (1 July) marks the birth anniversary of:
(a) Dr B.C. Roy (b) Dr Anandibai Joshi (c) Dr Y. Subbarow (d) Dr Devi Shetty (e) Dr Rajendra Prasad
Ans: (a) Dr Bidhan Chandra Roy – he was born and died on 1 July.

Q10. National Statistics Day is observed on:
(a) 1 April (b) 29 June (c) 1 July (d) 29 August (e) 15 September
Ans: (b) 29 June – birth anniversary of P.C. Mahalanobis.

Q11. World Ozone Day (16 September) is linked to which international agreement?
(a) Kyoto Protocol (b) Paris Agreement (c) Montreal Protocol under the Vienna Convention (d) Ramsar Convention (e) Basel Convention
Ans: (c) Montreal Protocol – signed on 16 Sep 1987 under the Vienna Convention of 1985.

Q12. When is the International Day of Sign Languages observed?
(a) 4 January (b) 3 December (c) 23 September (d) 21 September (e) 15 October
Ans: (c) 23 September.

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Q13. International Human Solidarity Day is observed on:
(a) 10 December (b) 20 December (c) 24 October (d) 21 September (e) 18 December
Ans: (b) 20 December.

Q14. World Braille Day is observed on:
(a) 4 January (b) 12 January (c) 24 January (d) 13 February (e) 3 December
Ans: (a) 4 January – birth anniversary of Louis Braille.

Q15. Which day is observed on 25 May?
(a) World Bee Day (b) World Football Day (c) World Biodiversity Day (d) World Telecom Day (e) World No Tobacco Day
Ans: (b) World Football Day – Bee Day is 20 May and Biodiversity Day is 22 May.

Q16. National Sports Day (29 August) honours:
(a) Milkha Singh (b) Major Dhyan Chand (c) P.T. Usha (d) K.D. Jadhav (e) Balbir Singh Sr.
Ans: (b) Major Dhyan Chand – the hockey legend was born on 29 Aug 1905.

Q17. What was the theme of the International Day of Yoga 2026?
(a) Yoga for Self and Society (b) Yoga for One Earth One Health (c) Yoga for Healthy Ageing (d) Yoga for Humanity (e) Yoga for Wellness
Ans: (c) Yoga for Healthy Ageing – the 12th edition; main event at Red Road, Kolkata.

Q18. Rashtriya Ekta Diwas, observed since 2014, falls on:
(a) 2 October (b) 31 October (c) 14 November (d) 26 November (e) 25 December
Ans: (b) 31 October – Sardar Patel's birth anniversary.

Q19. RBI has observed Financial Literacy Week every year since:
(a) 2010 (b) 2012 (c) 2014 (d) 2016 (e) 2019
Ans: (d) 2016.

Q20. National Space Day (23 August) marks:
(a) Launch of Aryabhata (b) Mangalyaan entering Mars orbit (c) Chandrayaan-3's lunar landing (d) Founding of ISRO (e) First SLV-3 launch
Ans: (c) Chandrayaan-3's lunar landing – on 23 Aug 2023; 2026 was the 3rd edition.

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FIELD 4: INDIAN GEOGRAPHY

Exam tip: *Bank exams ask one or two direct questions from Indian geography — peaks, passes, rivers and dams, lakes, borders and "wettest/highest/largest" facts; learn the state attached to every feature.*

Location, Borders & Neighbours

- India lies between **8°4'N and 37°6'N** latitude and **68°7'E and 97°25'E** longitude; total area **32.87 lakh sq km** — **7th largest** country (about 2.4% of world area).
- **Tropic of Cancer** passes through **8 states**: Gujarat, Rajasthan, Madhya Pradesh, Chhattisgarh, Jharkhand, West Bengal, Tripura, Mizoram.
- **Indian Standard Time** is based on **82°30'E**, which passes near **Mirzapur (Prayagraj), UP**.
- Southernmost point: **Indira Point (Great Nicobar)**; southern tip of the mainland: **Kanyakumari**.
- **Gujarat** has the longest coastline among states; India's coastline was re-measured at about **11,098 km** in 2023-24 (old figure 7,516.6 km).
- Longest land border: **Bangladesh (4,096 km)**; then China (3,488 km, LAC), Pakistan, Nepal, Myanmar, Bhutan, Afghanistan (shortest, via PoK).
- **Radcliffe Line**: India–Pakistan (and India–Bangladesh); **McMahon Line**: India–China (Arunachal); **Durand Line**: Pakistan–Afghanistan.
- **Palk Strait** separates India and Sri Lanka; **Ten Degree Channel** separates Andaman from Nicobar; **Eight Degree Channel** separates Minicoy (Lakshadweep) from Maldives.
- **Siliguri Corridor** (West Bengal) is India's **"Chicken's Neck"** — a narrow strip (about 20–22 km wide) joining the North-East to the rest of India, bordered by Nepal, Bhutan and Bangladesh.
- **Chumbi Valley** (Tibet, China) lies between **Sikkim** and Bhutan, close to the Siliguri Corridor; Doklam plateau is next to it.
- **Sikkim** borders three countries — China, Nepal and Bhutan; **Arunachal Pradesh** borders China, Bhutan and Myanmar.
- **Lipulekh Pass (Uttarakhand)** is at the India–China–Nepal tri-junction; reopened for Kailash Mansarovar Yatra (the other route is Nathu La, Sikkim).
- **Inner Line Permit (ILP)** is needed to enter **Arunachal Pradesh, Nagaland, Mizoram and Manipur** (Manipur added 2019); based on the **Bengal Eastern Frontier Regulation, 1873**.
- **Gorkhaland Territorial Administration (GTA)** covers the hill areas of **Darjeeling** (and Kalimpong), West Bengal.

Physiography, Mountains & Peaks

- The Himalayas have three parallel ranges: **Himadri (Greater)**, **Himachal (Lesser)** and **Shiwalik (Outer)**; the Purvanchal hills (Patkai, Naga, Mizo) lie in the North-East.
- **K2 (Godwin Austen, 8,611 m)** in PoK (Gilgit-Baltistan) is the highest peak of Indian territory; **Kangchenjunga (8,586 m, Sikkim)** is the highest peak in India and 3rd highest in the world.
- **Nanda Devi (7,816 m, Uttarakhand)** is the highest peak lying wholly within India; **Kamet (7,756 m)** is in **Chamoli, Uttarakhand**.
- **Mount Everest (8,849 m)** and **Makalu** (5th highest) lie on the **Nepal–China border**.
- **Anamudi (2,695 m, Idukki, Kerala)** is the highest peak of South India and the Western Ghats; **Doddabetta** is the highest peak of the Nilgiris (Tamil Nadu).
- **Guru Shikhar (Mount Abu, Rajasthan)** is the highest peak of the **Aravallis**; Mount Abu is Rajasthan's only hill station.
- **Dhupgarh (Pachmarhi, MP)** is the highest peak of the Satpuras; **Parasnath** is the highest peak of Jharkhand.
- **Siachen Glacier (Ladakh, Karakoram)** is India's longest glacier; **Gangotri Glacier** (Uttarakhand) is the source of the Bhagirathi at Gaumukh; **Zemu** is Sikkim's largest glacier.
- **Chota Nagpur Plateau** (Jharkhand) is the "mineral heart of India"; **Deccan Plateau** is made of basalt lava (Deccan Traps).
- Hill spots asked in exams: **Nandi Hills – Karnataka**; **Araku Valley – Andhra Pradesh**; **Magnetic Hill – near Leh, Ladakh**; **Mount Abu – Rajasthan**.

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State	Highest peak
Sikkim	Kangchenjunga
Uttarakhand	Nanda Devi (Kamet also here)
Himachal Pradesh	Reo Purgyil
Arunachal Pradesh	Kangto
Nagaland	Saramati
Meghalaya	Shillong Peak
Mizoram	Phawngpui (Blue Mountain)
Kerala	Anamudi
Tamil Nadu	Doddabetta
Karnataka	Mullayanagiri
Maharashtra	Kalsubai
Rajasthan	Guru Shikhar
Madhya Pradesh	Dhupgarh
Jharkhand	Parasnath
Gujarat	Girnar
Odisha	Deomali

Mountain Passes & Highest Roads

- **Umling La (Ladakh, about 19,024 ft)** — road built by BRO under **Project Himank**; recognised by Guinness (2021) as the **world's highest motorable road** (Chisumle–Demchok road).
- **Mig La (Ladakh, about 19,400 ft)** — BRO's Project Himank built the Likaru–Mig La–Fukche road (2023), which BRO says is higher than Umling La; the Guinness record answer remains **Umling La**.
- **Khardung La (Ladakh)** links Leh with the Nubra valley; Shinku La (HP–Ladakh) will have the world's highest tunnel.

Pass	State / Connects
Umling La, Mig La	Ladakh (highest motorable roads)
Khardung La	Ladakh: Leh–Nubra valley
Chang La	Ladakh: Leh–Pangong
Karakoram Pass	Ladakh–China
Zoji La	Srinagar–Kargil–Leh (NH-1)
Banihal	Jammu–Srinagar (Pir Panjal)
Rohtang	HP: Manali–Lahaul (Atal Tunnel)
Baralacha La	HP: Manali–Leh road
Shipki La	HP–Tibet (Sutlej enters India)
Shinku La	HP–Ladakh (Zanskar)
Lipulekh, Mana, Niti	Uttarakhand–Tibet
Nathu La, Jelep La	Sikkim–Tibet (Chumbi valley)
Bomdi La, Sela	Arunachal (Tawang route)
Diphu Pass	India–China–Myanmar tri-junction
Palghat Gap	Kerala–Tamil Nadu
Thal Ghat, Bhor Ghat	Maharashtra (Western Ghats)

Rivers: Himalayan & Peninsular

- **Himalayan rivers** (Indus, Ganga, Brahmaputra) are perennial (snow-fed + rain); **Peninsular/Deccan rivers** (Godavari, Krishna, Kaveri, Mahanadi, Narmada, Tapi) are mostly rain-fed.
- **Beas, Sutlej, Ravi, Chenab, Jhelum** are Himalayan (Indus system) — so **Beas is not a Deccan river**.
- **Indus** rises near **Lake Mansarovar (Tibet)**; its tributaries are **Jhelum, Chenab, Ravi, Beas, Sutlej**.
- **Sutlej** rises at Rakas Tal and enters India at **Shipki La**; **Beas** joins Sutlej at **Harike (Punjab)**; **Chenab** forms from Chandra and Bhaga at Tandi (HP); **Jhelum** rises at Verinag and flows through **Srinagar** and **Wular Lake**.
- **Indus Waters Treaty (1960)**, brokered by the **World Bank** — eastern rivers (Ravi, Beas, Sutlej) to India, western rivers (Indus, Jhelum, Chenab) to Pakistan; India put the treaty in **abeyance in April 2025**.
- **Ganga** forms at **Devprayag** where **Bhagirathi** (from Gaumukh, Gangotri) meets **Alaknanda**; it is India's **longest river (about 2,525 km)** and was declared the **National River (2008)**.
- Panch Prayag on Alaknanda: Vishnuprayag (Dhauliganga), Nandprayag (Nandakini),

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Karnaprayag (Pindar), Rudraprayag (Mandakini), Devprayag (Bhagirathi).

- **Yamuna** rises at **Yamunotri** and joins Ganga at **Prayagraj (Triveni Sangam)**; Chambal, Betwa, Ken and Sindh are tributaries of the Yamuna.
- Left-bank tributaries of the Ganga: Ramganga, **Gomti**, Ghaghara, Gandak, **Kosi ("Sorrow of Bihar")**, Mahananda; right-bank: **Yamuna, Son**. **Damodar** is the "Sorrow of Bengal".
- **Brahmaputra** rises in Tibet (as **Tsangpo**) and **flows from China into India** in Arunachal (as **Siang/Dihang**); it is called **Jamuna** in Bangladesh; **Majuli** (Assam) is the largest river island.
- East-flowing Peninsular rivers (into Bay of Bengal): **Mahanadi** (rises at Sihawa, Chhattisgarh), **Godavari**, **Krishna**, **Kaveri**.
- **Godavari** rises at **Trimbakeshwar (Nashik)** — longest Peninsular river (about 1,465 km), called **"Dakshin Ganga"**.
- **Krishna** rises at **Mahabaleshwar**; tributaries Tungabhadra, Bhima, Koyna, Ghataprabha, Malaprabha, Musi.
- **Kaveri** rises at **Talakaveri (Kodagu, Karnataka)**; tributaries Kabini, Hemavati, Bhavani, Amaravati.
- West-flowing rivers (into Arabian Sea): **Narmada** (rises at **Amarkantak**, flows in a **rift valley** between Vindhya and Satpura), **Tapi** (Multai, Betul), Mahi, Sabarmati; **Luni** is an inland river ending in the Rann of Kutch.
- **Mahi** is the only river that crosses the **Tropic of Cancer twice**; **Periyar** is Kerala's longest river.

City	River
Lucknow	Gomti
Bhagalpur, Patna, Varanasi	Ganga
Nashik, Rajahmundry	Godavari
Vijayawada	Krishna
Bengaluru	Vrishabhavathi (Arkavathi)
Srinagar	Jhelum
Delhi, Agra, Mathura	Yamuna
Ahmedabad	Sabarmati
Jabalpur	Narmada
Surat	Tapi
Hyderabad	Musi
Cuttack, Sambalpur	Mahanadi
Kota	Chambal
Guwahati, Dibrugarh	Brahmaputra
Kolkata	Hooghly
Ujjain	Shipra
Ludhiana	Sutlej
Tiruchirappalli	Kaveri
Madurai	Vaigai
Ayodhya	Saryu

Dams & River Projects

- **Tehri Dam** (on **Bhagirathi**, Uttarakhand) is India's **highest dam**; **Hirakud** (on **Mahanadi**, Odisha) is the longest dam.
- **Bhakra Nangal** is on the **Sutlej** (Gobind Sagar reservoir, HP–Punjab); **Indira Sagar (Narmada, MP)** has India's largest reservoir.
- **Ken–Betwa Link** (Daudhan dam, Panna) is India's first river-interlinking project (MP–UP), foundation laid in Dec 2024.
- **Damodar Valley Corporation (1948)** was independent India's first multipurpose river valley project.
- **Farakka Barrage** (on Ganga, West Bengal) diverts water into the Hooghly; India–Bangladesh **Ganga Water Treaty, 1996**.

Dam	River, State
Tehri	Bhagirathi, Uttarakhand
Lakhwar	Yamuna, Uttarakhand
Renukaji	Giri, Sirmaur (HP)
Bhakra	Sutlej, HP
Pong	Beas, HP
Baglihar, Salal	Chenab, J&K
Hirakud	Mahanadi, Odisha
Dudhawa, Gangrel	Mahanadi, Chhattisgarh
Sardar Sarovar	Narmada, Gujarat
Indira Sagar, Omkareshwar	Narmada, MP
Gandhi Sagar	Chambal, MP
Rana Pratap Sagar	Chambal, Rajasthan
Ukai	Tapi, Gujarat

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Dam	River, State
Koyna	Koyna, Maharashtra
Nagarjuna Sagar, Srisailam	Krishna, AP–Telangana
Tungabhadra	Tungabhadra, Karnataka
Krishna Raja Sagar	Kaveri, Karnataka
Mettur	Kaveri, Tamil Nadu
Bhavanisagar	Bhavani, Tamil Nadu
Idukki, Cheruthoni	Periyar, Kerala
Mullaperiyar	Periyar, Kerala (run by TN)
Polavaram	Godavari, Andhra Pradesh
Rihand (G.B. Pant Sagar)	Rihand, UP

Lakes, Islands & Beaches

- **Wular (J&K)** — largest freshwater lake of India (on Jhelum); **Dal Lake** — Srinagar.
- **Chilika (Odisha)** — largest brackish-water coastal lagoon; Irrawaddy dolphins; India's first Ramsar site (with Keoladeo).
- **Kolleru Lake (Andhra Pradesh)** lies **between the Krishna and Godavari deltas**; **Pulicat** (AP–TN) is the 2nd largest brackish lagoon, with Sriharikota in front of it.
- **Loktak (Manipur)** — largest freshwater lake of the North-East, with floating **phumdis** (Keibul Lamjao NP).
- **Sambhar (Rajasthan)** — India's largest inland saline lake; **Lonar (Buldhana, Maharashtra)** — meteor-impact crater lake.
- **Vembanad (Kerala)** — India's longest lake (Nehru Trophy boat race); **Tsomgo/Changu and Gurudongmar** — Sikkim; **Damdama** — Haryana (Gurugram); **Pangong Tso** — Ladakh–Tibet; **Hussain Sagar** — Hyderabad.
- Andaman & Nicobar capital **Port Blair** was renamed **Sri Vijaya Puram (2024)**; Havelock = Swaraj Dweep, Neil = Shaheed Dweep, Ross = Netaji Subhas Chandra Bose Dweep.
- **Barren Island (Andaman)** — India's only active volcano; **Narcondam** — dormant volcano.
- **Lakshadweep** — 36 coral islands, capital Kavaratti, smallest UT by area; the **Kochi–Lakshadweep submarine optical fibre cable** links **11 islands**.
- **Majuli (Assam)** — world's largest river island and India's first island district; **Umananda** (Guwahati) — smallest inhabited river island.
- **Blue Flag** beach certificate is given by the **Foundation for Environmental Education (FEE), Denmark**; **Kovalam (Tamil Nadu) and Eden (Puducherry)** got it in 2021; Kerala's first Blue Flag beach is **Kappad (Kozhikode)**.
- Other Blue Flag beaches: Shivrajpur (Gujarat), Ghoghla (Diu), Golden Beach Puri (Odisha), Rushikonda (AP), Radhanagar (Andaman), Kasarkod and Padubidri (Karnataka).
- **Varkala** beach (cliffs) and **Kovalam** beach are in **Kerala**; **Marina Beach (Chennai)** is India's longest urban beach.

Climate, Soils & Forests

- **Mawsynram (East Khasi Hills, Meghalaya)** is the **wettest place in India** (and the world); Cherrapunji (Sohra) is nearby.
- **Dras (Ladakh)** is one of the coldest inhabited places; **Phalodi (Rajasthan)** recorded India's highest temperature, 51°C (2016).
- South-west monsoon reaches **Kerala around 1 June**; **Tamil Nadu** gets most rain in winter from the **North-East monsoon**.
- Local winds: **Loo** (hot, north India), **Mango showers** (Kerala/Karnataka), **Kal Baisakhi/Nor'westers** (West Bengal, Assam), Western Disturbances (winter rain in north-west India, good for rabi).
- **Isobars** join places of equal **atmospheric pressure**; isotherms — equal temperature; isohyets — equal rainfall.
- **El Nino** is the warming of the central-east **Pacific Ocean**, linked with weak Indian monsoon.
- **Alluvial soil** covers the largest area (Indo-Gangetic plains); **Black soil (Regur)** — formed from Deccan lava, best for **cotton**, holds moisture.
- **Red soil** gets its colour from iron oxide; **Laterite soil** forms by leaching in heavy rainfall (Kerala, Karnataka, Meghalaya), good for cashew, tea, coffee.
- India State of Forest Report 2023: forest + tree cover **25.17%** of area; **Madhya Pradesh** has the largest forest cover by area; **Mizoram** has the highest share of area under forest.

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- **Sundarbans** (West Bengal) is the world's largest mangrove forest; MISHTI (2023) is the mangrove plantation scheme.

Crops & Minerals

- **Kharif** (sown June–July, monsoon): rice, **maize**, cotton, jowar, bajra, soybean, groundnut; **Rabi** (sown Oct–Nov, winter): wheat, barley, mustard, gram, oats; **Zaid**: summer crops like watermelon.
- **Cash crops** include **sugarcane**, cotton, jute, tobacco (wheat, jowar, paddy, bajra are food crops).

Crop	Top state
Wheat, Sugarcane	Uttar Pradesh
Tea	Assam
Coffee	Karnataka
Natural rubber	Kerala
Jute	West Bengal
Cotton	Gujarat
Saffron, Apple	Jammu & Kashmir
Large cardamom	Sikkim
Small cardamom	Kerala
Milk	Uttar Pradesh

- India is the world's **largest producer of turmeric** and milk; **China** is the world's largest producer of wheat.

Mineral	Key place / state
Iron ore	Odisha (largest producer); Bailadila (Chhattisgarh)
Bauxite, Aluminium	Odisha
Mica	Koderma (Jharkhand), Andhra Pradesh
Copper	Khetri (Rajasthan), Malanjkhand (MP)
Zinc–lead	Zawar, Rampura Agucha (Rajasthan)
Gold	Hutti (Karnataka)
Diamond	Panna (MP)
Uranium	Jaduguda (Jharkhand), Tummalapalle (AP)
Lithium	Reasi (J&K), found 2023
Oil	Digboi (Assam, oldest refinery 1901), Mumbai High (offshore)

MCQs – Indian Geography

Q1. Which pass in Ladakh carries the road recognised by Guinness (2021) as the world's highest motorable road?
(a) Khardung La (b) Zoji La (c) Umling La (d) Rohtang (e) Nathu La

Ans: (c) Umling La – about 19,024 ft, built by BRO under Project Himank.

Q2. BRO's Likaru–Fukche road (2023, Project Himank), at about 19,400 ft, crosses which Ladakh pass?
(a) Mig La (b) Chang La (c) Shipki La (d) Baralacha La (e) Lipulekh

Ans: (a) Mig La – BRO says it is higher than Umling La.

Q3. Mount Kamet is located in which state?
(a) Himachal Pradesh (b) Sikkim (c) Uttarakhand (d) Arunachal Pradesh (e) Ladakh

Ans: (c) Uttarakhand – in Chamoli district.

Q4. Tibet's Chumbi Valley borders which Indian state?
(a) Arunachal Pradesh (b) Sikkim (c) Uttarakhand (d) Himachal Pradesh (e) Assam

Ans: (b) Sikkim – it lies between Sikkim and Bhutan.

Q5. India's "Chicken's Neck" refers to which corridor?
(a) Palghat Gap (b) Siliguri Corridor (c) Wakhan Corridor (d) Chumbi Valley (e) Doklam

Ans: (b) Siliguri Corridor – West Bengal, linking the North-East with mainland India.

Q6. Which is the wettest place in India?
(a) Cherrapunji (b) Agumbe (c) Mawsynram (d) Shillong (e) Tura

Ans: (c) Mawsynram – East Khasi Hills, Meghalaya.

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Q7. Kolleru Lake lies between the deltas of which two rivers?
(a) Mahanadi and Godavari (b) Krishna and Kaveri (c) Krishna and Godavari (d) Godavari and Penna (e) Kaveri and Vaigai
Ans: (c) Krishna and Godavari – in Andhra Pradesh.

Q8. Which of the following is NOT a Deccan (Peninsular) river?
(a) Godavari (b) Krishna (c) Kaveri (d) Beas (e) Mahanadi
Ans: (d) Beas – a Himalayan river of the Indus system.

Q9. Which river flows from China into India?
(a) Ganga (b) Brahmaputra (c) Yamuna (d) Teesta (e) Kosi
Ans: (b) Brahmaputra – called Tsangpo in Tibet and Siang in Arunachal.

Q10. Tehri Dam is built on which river?
(a) Alaknanda (b) Yamuna (c) Bhagirathi (d) Mandakini (e) Ganga
Ans: (c) Bhagirathi – Uttarakhand; India's highest dam.

Q11. Hirakud Dam is in which state?
(a) Chhattisgarh (b) Jharkhand (c) Odisha (d) West Bengal (e) Andhra Pradesh
Ans: (c) Odisha – on the Mahanadi.

Q12. Indira Sagar Dam is located in which state?
(a) Gujarat (b) Maharashtra (c) Madhya Pradesh (d) Rajasthan (e) Uttar Pradesh
Ans: (c) Madhya Pradesh – on the Narmada.

Q13. Lucknow stands on the bank of which river?
(a) Ganga (b) Gomti (c) Ghaghara (d) Yamuna (e) Saryu
Ans: (b) Gomti – a left-bank tributary of the Ganga.

Q14. Kangto is the highest peak of which state?
(a) Sikkim (b) Nagaland (c) Arunachal Pradesh (d) Mizoram (e) Meghalaya
Ans: (c) Arunachal Pradesh.

Q15. Inner Line Permit is NOT required in which of these North-Eastern states?
(a) Arunachal Pradesh (b) Nagaland (c) Mizoram (d) Manipur (e) Assam
Ans: (e) Assam – ILP applies to Arunachal, Nagaland, Mizoram and Manipur.

Q16. Varkala beach is in which state?
(a) Goa (b) Karnataka (c) Kerala (d) Tamil Nadu (e) Odisha
Ans: (c) Kerala – famous for its cliffs.

Q17. Isobars are lines joining places of equal:
(a) temperature (b) rainfall (c) altitude (d) atmospheric pressure (e) humidity
Ans: (d) atmospheric pressure – isotherms join equal temperature.

Q18. Which is the highest peak of South India?
(a) Doddabetta (b) Anamudi (c) Mullayanagiri (d) Guru Shikhar (e) Dhupgarh
Ans: (b) Anamudi – 2,695 m, Idukki, Kerala.

Q19. Which of the following is a Kharif crop?
(a) Wheat (b) Barley (c) Mustard (d) Maize (e) Gram
Ans: (d) Maize – sown in the monsoon season.

Q20. Which state is the largest producer of natural rubber?
(a) Karnataka (b) Tamil Nadu (c) Kerala (d) Tripura (e) Assam
Ans: (c) Kerala.

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FIELD 5: WORLD GEOGRAPHY & COUNTRIES

Exam tip: *Capitals and currencies come up in almost every exam, often from Africa, the Gulf and ASEAN. Straits, El Niño, the Ring of Fire, deserts and "which continent" questions have also become regular since 2022.*

Continents & Oceans

- 7 continents by area: **Asia > Africa > North America > South America > Antarctica > Europe > Australia (Oceania)**.
- The **third-largest** continent is **North America**. The smallest is Australia.
- By population: Asia, Africa, Europe, North America, South America, Australia/Oceania, Antarctica (no permanent population).
- Largest country by area is **Russia**, followed by Canada, USA, China, Brazil and Australia; **India is 7th**. The smallest country is **Vatican City**.
- Most populous country: **India** (overtook China in 2023, per UN estimates).
- Oceans by size: **Pacific > Atlantic > Indian > Southern > Arctic**.
- **Pacific**: largest and deepest ocean. Its **Mariana Trench (Challenger Deep, about 11,000 m)** is the deepest point on Earth.
- **Atlantic**: second largest and S-shaped. The **Bermuda Triangle** lies in the **North Atlantic**.
- **Indian Ocean**: the only ocean named after a country. Seychelles, Mauritius, Maldives and the **Chagos Archipelago (Diego Garcia)** lie in it.
- **Arctic** is the smallest and shallowest ocean. The **Southern Ocean** encircles Antarctica.
- In 2024, three underwater features in the Indian Ocean were given Indian names: **Ashoka Seamount, Chandragupt Ridge and Kalpataru Ridge**.

Straits, Channels & Canals

Strait / Channel	Connects / Separates
Hormuz	Persian Gulf – Gulf of Oman (Iran–Oman)
Malacca	Andaman Sea – South China Sea
Palk	India – Sri Lanka
Gibraltar	Atlantic – Mediterranean (Spain–Morocco)
Bosphorus	Black Sea – Sea of Marmara (Istanbul)
Dardanelles	Sea of Marmara – Aegean Sea
Bab-el-Mandeb	Red Sea – Gulf of Aden (Yemen–Djibouti)
Bering	Asia (Russia) – N. America (Alaska)
Dover	England – France
Sunda	Java – Sumatra (Indonesia)
Bass	Australia mainland – Tasmania
Cook	North & South Islands of New Zealand
Magellan	S. America mainland – Tierra del Fuego
Taiwan	Taiwan – mainland China
Korea	South Korea – Japan
Mozambique Channel	Mozambique – Madagascar
Ten Degree Channel	Andaman – Nicobar Islands
Nine Degree Channel	Lakshadweep islands – Minicoy
Eight Degree Channel	Minicoy – Maldives
Duncan Passage	South Andaman – Little Andaman

- The **Strait of Hormuz** is the world's key **oil chokepoint**; most Gulf crude passes through it.
- The **Strait of Malacca** is the busiest shipping lane between the Indian and Pacific Oceans. **Singapore** sits at its southern end.
- The **Bosphorus** divides Istanbul between **Europe and Asia**.
- **Suez Canal** (Egypt): joins the **Mediterranean and the Red Sea**. Opened 1869, runs Port Said to Suez, and has no locks.
- **Panama Canal**: joins the **Atlantic (Caribbean) and the Pacific**. Opened 1914, uses locks, and was handed over to Panama in 1999.
- Other canals:
  - **Kiel Canal** (Germany): North Sea – Baltic Sea.
  - **Corinth Canal**: Greece.

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  - **Grand Canal**: China; the longest ancient canal.
  - **Welland Canal** (Canada): Lake Ontario – Lake Erie, bypassing Niagara Falls.

Capes, Islands & Boundary Lines

- **Cape Horn** is in **Chile**; it is the southern tip of South America.
- **Cape of Good Hope** is in **South Africa** (rounded by Bartolomeu Dias, 1488). **Cape Agulhas** is Africa's southernmost point.
- **Cape Comorin** = Kanyakumari (India). **Cape Canaveral** (Florida, USA) is NASA's and SpaceX's launch site. Cape York is Australia's northernmost point.
- The largest island is **Greenland**, an autonomous territory of **Denmark**. **Tasmania** belongs to Australia and **Assumption Island** to Seychelles.
- The largest lake is the **Caspian Sea**. The deepest lake is **Baikal** (Russia). The largest freshwater lake by area is **Lake Superior**.
- **Angel Falls** (Venezuela) is the highest waterfall. **Victoria Falls** is on the **Zambezi** (Zambia–Zimbabwe).

Line	Between
Durand Line	Afghanistan – Pakistan
McMahon Line	India – China
Radcliffe Line	India – Pakistan / Bangladesh
38th Parallel	North Korea – South Korea
49th Parallel	USA – Canada
Oder-Neisse Line	Germany – Poland
Maginot Line	France – Germany (fortification)

- India's longest land border is with **Bangladesh (4,096 km)**. The LAC with China is 3,488 km.

Volcanoes, Ring of Fire & El Niño

- The **Ring of Fire** is a horseshoe-shaped belt around the **Pacific Ocean**. It has about 75% of the world's active volcanoes and about 90% of earthquakes.
- **Barren Island** (Andaman Sea) is **India's only active volcano**. Narcondam is dormant.
- **Mount Etna** (Sicily, Italy) is Europe's most active volcano. **Vesuvius** (Italy) buried Pompeii in AD 79. **Stromboli** is the "Lighthouse of the Mediterranean".
- **Krakatoa** (1883) and **Tambora** (1815, the largest recorded eruption) are both in **Indonesia**. **Mount Ruang** (Indonesia) erupted in 2024.
- **Hunga Tonga–Hunga Ha'apai** (Tonga) is in the **South Pacific** and erupted in January 2022.
- More volcanoes:
  - **Mauna Loa** (Hawaii): the largest active volcano.
  - **Ojos del Salado** (Chile–Argentina): the highest active volcano.
  - **Mount Fuji**: Japan.
  - **Pinatubo**: Philippines (1991).
  - **Eyjafjallajokull**: Iceland (2010).
  - **Mount Erebus**: Antarctica.
- **Kilimanjaro** (Tanzania), a dormant volcano, is Africa's highest peak.
- **El Niño**: abnormal **warming** of the central and eastern equatorial **Pacific Ocean** (off Peru–Ecuador). It usually **weakens the Indian monsoon**.
- **La Niña**: abnormal **cooling** of the same Pacific waters. It usually **strengthens** the Indian monsoon. Together the cycle is called **ENSO** (El Niño–Southern Oscillation).
- **Indian Ocean Dipole (IOD)**: a positive IOD (warmer western Indian Ocean) favours a good Indian monsoon.

Rivers, Deserts, Mountains

- **Nile** is the **longest river** (about 6,650 km). It flows north into the Mediterranean; the White and Blue Nile meet at **Khartoum**.
- **Amazon** is the largest river **by volume**. It flows into the Atlantic.
- More rivers:
  - **Yangtze**: longest in Asia (Three Gorges Dam). The Hwang Ho is the "Sorrow of China".
  - **Volga**: longest in Europe; ends in the **Caspian Sea**.
  - **Danube**: passes the most countries and four capitals (Vienna, Bratislava, Budapest, Belgrade).

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  - **Congo**: crosses the Equator twice. **Limpopo**: crosses the Tropic of Capricorn twice.
  - **Mekong**: China, Myanmar, Laos, Thailand, Cambodia, Vietnam.
  - **Tigris–Euphrates**: Iraq. **Thames**: London. **Seine**: Paris. **Murray–Darling**: Australia.
- **Sahara** (North Africa) is the **largest hot desert**. **Antarctica** is the largest desert overall (cold).
- The **Gobi Desert** lies in **China and Mongolia**. The **Atacama** (Chile) is the driest non-polar desert.
- More deserts:
  - **Kalahari**: Botswana, Namibia, South Africa.
  - **Namib**: Namibia; the oldest desert.
  - **Thar**: India–Pakistan.
  - **Taklamakan**: China.
  - **Great Victoria**: Australia.
  - **Arabian**: the second-largest hot desert.
- **Mount Everest** (8,849 m, Nepal–China) is the highest peak. **K2** is 2nd and **Kangchenjunga** 3rd. **Makalu** (5th) is on the Nepal–China border.
- Highest peak of each continent:
  - **Elbrus**: Europe (Russia).
  - **Aconcagua**: South America (Argentina).
  - **Denali**: North America.
  - **Vinson Massif**: Antarctica.
  - **Kosciuszko**: Australian mainland.
- The **Dead Sea** (Jordan–Israel) is the lowest point on land.

Capitals & Currencies – Asia, Gulf & Europe

Country	Capital – Currency
Pakistan	Islamabad – Pakistani Rupee
Afghanistan	Kabul – Afghani
China	Beijing – Renminbi (Yuan)
Nepal	Kathmandu – Nepalese Rupee
Bhutan	Thimphu – Ngultrum
Bangladesh	Dhaka – Taka
Myanmar	Naypyidaw – Kyat
Sri Lanka	Sri Jayawardenepura Kotte – SL Rupee
Maldives	Male – Rufiyaa
Malaysia	Kuala Lumpur – Ringgit
Indonesia	Jakarta – Rupiah
Thailand	Bangkok – Baht
Vietnam	Hanoi – Dong
Cambodia	Phnom Penh – Riel
Laos	Vientiane – Kip
Philippines	Manila – Peso
Singapore	Singapore – Singapore Dollar
Brunei	Bandar Seri Begawan – Brunei Dollar
Timor-Leste	Dili – US Dollar
Japan	Tokyo – Yen
South Korea	Seoul – Won
Mongolia	Ulaanbaatar – Tugrik
Kazakhstan	Astana – Tenge
Uzbekistan	Tashkent – Som
Kyrgyzstan	Bishkek – Som

- Countries whose currency is the **rupee**: India, **Pakistan, Nepal, Sri Lanka, Mauritius, Seychelles**. Indonesia uses the rupiah and Maldives the rufiyaa.
- Colombo is Sri Lanka's commercial capital. Tajikistan: **Dushanbe – Somoni**. Turkmenistan: **Ashgabat – Manat**.

Country	Capital – Currency
Saudi Arabia	Riyadh – Riyal
UAE	Abu Dhabi – UAE Dirham
Qatar	Doha – Riyal
Kuwait	Kuwait City – Dinar
Bahrain	Manama – Dinar
Oman	Muscat – Omani Rial
Iran	Tehran – Rial
Iraq	Baghdad – Iraqi Dinar
Israel	Jerusalem – Shekel
Jordan	Amman – Dinar
Syria	Damascus – Syrian Pound
Lebanon	Beirut – Lebanese Pound
Yemen	Sana'a – Yemeni Rial

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Country	Capital – Currency
Turkey (Turkiye)	Ankara – Lira
Russia	Moscow – Rouble
UK	London – Pound Sterling
Denmark	Copenhagen – Danish Krone
Sweden	Stockholm – Swedish Krona
Norway	Oslo – Norwegian Krone
Switzerland	Bern – Swiss Franc
Poland	Warsaw – Zloty
Hungary	Budapest – Forint
Serbia	Belgrade – Serbian Dinar
Czechia	Prague – Koruna
Ukraine	Kyiv – Hryvnia

- **Euro** countries include Germany (Berlin), France (Paris), Italy (Rome), Spain (Madrid), **Austria (Vienna)**, Netherlands (Amsterdam), Belgium (Brussels), Portugal (Lisbon), Greece (Athens) and Ireland (Dublin).
- More euro countries: Finland (Helsinki), **Luxembourg**, **Estonia (Tallinn)**, **Lithuania (Vilnius)**, Latvia (Riga) and Croatia (Zagreb; adopted the euro 2023).
- **Bulgaria (Sofia)** adopted the **euro on 1 January 2026**, replacing the lev, and became the **21st eurozone member** (as on Oct 2026).
- **Denmark, Sweden, Poland, Hungary and Czechia** are EU members but do **not** use the euro.

Capitals & Currencies – Africa, Americas & Oceania

Country	Capital – Currency
Morocco	Rabat – Moroccan Dirham
Egypt	Cairo – Egyptian Pound
Nigeria	Abuja – Naira
South Africa	Pretoria (executive) – Rand
Kenya	Nairobi – Kenyan Shilling
Ethiopia	Addis Ababa – Birr
Tanzania	Dodoma – Tanzanian Shilling
Uganda	Kampala – Ugandan Shilling
Zambia	Lusaka – Kwacha
Zimbabwe	Harare
Mozambique	Maputo – Metical
Namibia	Windhoek – Namibian Dollar
Botswana	Gaborone – Pula
Ghana	Accra – Cedi
Somalia	Mogadishu – Somali Shilling
Sudan	Khartoum – Sudanese Pound
Algeria	Algiers – Algerian Dinar
Libya	Tripoli – Libyan Dinar
Tunisia	Tunis – Tunisian Dinar
Angola	Luanda – Kwanza
Rwanda	Kigali – Rwandan Franc
Senegal	Dakar – CFA Franc
Seychelles	Victoria – Seychellois Rupee
Mauritius	Port Louis – Mauritian Rupee

- South Africa has 3 capitals: **Pretoria** (executive), **Cape Town** (legislative) and **Bloemfontein** (judicial).
- DR Congo's capital is **Kinshasa** and Madagascar's is **Antananarivo**.

Country	Capital – Currency
USA	Washington DC – US Dollar
Canada	Ottawa – Canadian Dollar
Mexico	Mexico City – Mexican Peso
Brazil	Brasilia – Real
Argentina	Buenos Aires – Peso
Chile	Santiago – Peso
Peru	Lima – Sol
Colombia	Bogota – Colombian Peso
Venezuela	Caracas – Bolivar
Ecuador	Quito – US Dollar
Cuba	Havana – Cuban Peso
Bahamas	Nassau – Bahamian Dollar
Guyana	Georgetown – Guyanese Dollar

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Country	Capital – Currency
Paraguay	Asuncion – Guarani
Uruguay	Montevideo – Uruguayan Peso
Australia	Canberra – Australian Dollar
New Zealand	Wellington – NZ Dollar
Fiji	Suva – Fijian Dollar
Tonga	Nuku'alofa – Pa'anga
Papua New Guinea	Port Moresby – Kina

- Guyana's official name is the **Co-operative Republic of Guyana**.
- Other Caribbean capitals: Trinidad & Tobago – **Port of Spain**; Jamaica – **Kingston**; Suriname – **Paramaribo**.

Famous Cities, Flags & Continents

City	Country
Florence, Venice, Milan	Italy
Geneva, Zurich, Davos, Basel	Switzerland
Lausanne, Gland	Switzerland
The Hague, Rotterdam, Utrecht	Netherlands
Frankfurt, Bonn, Munich	Germany
Lyon, Nice, Marseille	France
Istanbul, Antalya	Turkey
Dubai	UAE
Jeddah, Mecca	Saudi Arabia
Karachi, Lahore, Gwadar	Pakistan
Chittagong	Bangladesh
Hambantota, Jaffna	Sri Lanka
Chabahar	Iran
Shanghai	China
Osaka, Kobe	Japan
Songdo, Busan	South Korea
Samarkand	Uzbekistan
Rio de Janeiro, Sao Paulo	Brazil
Toronto, Montreal	Canada
Sydney, Melbourne	Australia
Johannesburg, Durban	South Africa
Casablanca	Morocco

- **Nepal** has the only **non-rectangular** national flag (two stacked triangular pennants). The flags of **Switzerland and Vatican City** are square.
- Denmark's flag (**Dannebrog**) is the oldest national flag still in use. Bhutan's flag shows a **dragon (Druk)**, Canada's a **maple leaf** and Lebanon's a **cedar tree**.
- **India's flag** was adopted by the Constituent Assembly on **22 July 1947**. It has a 3:2 ratio and a **24-spoke** navy-blue Ashoka Chakra.
- In the 2022 naval ensign, India's flag is in the **upper canton** (next to the staff).
- **Denmark is in Europe**. Its territory **Greenland** lies geographically in **North America**.
- **Russia and Turkey** span **Europe and Asia**. **Egypt** spans Africa and Asia through Sinai.
- **Guyana and Suriname** are in **South America**. **Seychelles, Mauritius and Madagascar** belong to **Africa**. **Maldives** is in **Asia**.
- Landlocked countries:
  - In Asia: **Nepal, Bhutan, Afghanistan, Mongolia, Kazakhstan** (largest landlocked).
  - Elsewhere: **Switzerland, Austria, Bolivia, Paraguay**.
- City nicknames:
  - Venice: "**City of Canals**".
  - Rome: "**Eternal City**".
  - New York: "**Big Apple**".
  - Japan: "**Land of the Rising Sun**".
  - Norway: "**Land of the Midnight Sun**".
  - Finland: "**Land of a Thousand Lakes**".
  - Bhutan: "**Land of the Thunder Dragon**".

Law of the Sea (UNCLOS)

- **UNCLOS** was signed in **1982** at Montego Bay, Jamaica. It came into force in 1994, and India ratified it in 1995.
- **Territorial sea**: **12 nautical miles** from the baseline, under full sovereignty.
- **Contiguous zone**: up to **24 nm**, for customs, fiscal, immigration and sanitary control.

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- **Exclusive Economic Zone (EEZ)**: up to **200 nautical miles**. The coastal state has sole rights over its living and non-living resources.
- **Continental shelf**: can extend up to **350 nm**. **1 nautical mile = 1.852 km**.
- The **International Tribunal for the Law of the Sea** sits in **Hamburg**. The **International Seabed Authority** is in **Kingston, Jamaica**.
- India's **Samudrayaan** (Deep Ocean Mission) will use **Matsya 6000**, a 3-person submersible built for 6,000 m depth by NIOT Chennai. It is India's first crewed ocean mission.

MCQs – World Geography & Countries

Q1. Which strait connects the Persian Gulf with the Gulf of Oman?
(a) Bab-el-Mandeb (b) Strait of Hormuz (c) Strait of Malacca (d) Bosphorus (e) Palk Strait
Ans: (b) Strait of Hormuz – it lies between Iran and Oman and is a key oil chokepoint.

Q2. The "Ring of Fire" surrounds which ocean?
(a) Atlantic (b) Indian (c) Pacific (d) Arctic (e) Southern
Ans: (c) Pacific – it holds about 75% of the world's active volcanoes.

Q3. El Niño refers to abnormal warming of the surface waters of which ocean?
(a) Indian Ocean (b) Atlantic Ocean (c) Pacific Ocean (d) Arctic Ocean (e) Southern Ocean
Ans: (c) Pacific Ocean – the central and eastern equatorial Pacific; it usually weakens India's monsoon.

Q4. Cape Horn is located in:
(a) South Africa (b) Argentina (c) Chile (d) Australia (e) New Zealand
Ans: (c) Chile – it is the southern tip of South America.

Q5. Which is the third-largest continent by area?
(a) Africa (b) South America (c) North America (d) Antarctica (e) Europe
Ans: (c) North America – after Asia and Africa.

Q6. Florence is located in which country?
(a) France (b) Spain (c) Italy (d) Portugal (e) Greece
Ans: (c) Italy – the Renaissance city in Tuscany.

Q7. Which country's national flag is not rectangular?
(a) Bhutan (b) Switzerland (c) Nepal (d) Vatican City (e) Sri Lanka
Ans: (c) Nepal – two stacked triangular pennants; Switzerland's and Vatican City's flags are square.

Q8. Rabat is the capital of:
(a) Algeria (b) Tunisia (c) Morocco (d) Libya (e) Mauritania
Ans: (c) Morocco – its currency is the Moroccan dirham.

Q9. What is the capital of Seychelles?
(a) Port Louis (b) Male (c) Victoria (d) Moroni (e) Antananarivo
Ans: (c) Victoria – Port Louis is Mauritius and Male is Maldives.

Q10. Denmark is located in which continent?
(a) Asia (b) Europe (c) North America (d) Africa (e) Oceania
Ans: (b) Europe – capital Copenhagen, currency Danish krone.

Q11. The Exclusive Economic Zone under UNCLOS extends up to:
(a) 12 nm (b) 24 nm (c) 100 nm (d) 200 nm (e) 350 nm
Ans: (d) 200 nautical miles – the territorial sea is 12 nm and the contiguous zone 24 nm.

Q12. In which year was UNCLOS signed?
(a) 1972 (b) 1982 (c) 1992 (d) 1994 (e) 1995
Ans: (b) 1982 – at Montego Bay; it came into force in 1994.

Q13. Which is the largest hot desert in the world?
(a) Arabian (b) Gobi (c) Kalahari (d) Sahara (e) Thar
Ans: (d) Sahara – Antarctica is the largest desert overall, but it is cold.

Q14. The Gobi Desert lies in:
(a) China and Mongolia (b) Kazakhstan and Russia (c) Iran and Afghanistan (d) India and Pakistan (e) Mongolia and Russia
Ans: (a) China and Mongolia – a cold desert.

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Q15. Which is the currency of Nigeria?
(a) Rand (b) Cedi (c) Naira (d) Birr (e) Kwacha
Ans: (c) Naira – Rand is South Africa, Cedi Ghana, Birr Ethiopia and Kwacha Zambia.

Q16. Kuala Lumpur is the capital of:
(a) Indonesia (b) Brunei (c) Malaysia (d) Singapore (e) Thailand
Ans: (c) Malaysia – its currency is the ringgit.

Q17. What is the currency of the UAE?
(a) Riyal (b) Dinar (c) Dirham (d) Rial (e) Lira
Ans: (c) UAE Dirham – Saudi Arabia and Qatar use the riyal; Kuwait and Bahrain the dinar.

Q18. The Hunga Tonga–Hunga Ha'apai volcano, which erupted in 2022, lies in which ocean?
(a) North Atlantic (b) Indian (c) South Pacific (d) Arctic (e) South Atlantic
Ans: (c) South Pacific – in Tonga.

Q19. Which country adopted the euro on 1 January 2026 as the 21st eurozone member?
(a) Romania (b) Bulgaria (c) Croatia (d) Hungary (e) Czechia
Ans: (b) Bulgaria – it replaced the lev; Croatia joined in 2023.

Q20. The Bermuda Triangle lies in which ocean?
(a) Pacific (b) Indian (c) North Atlantic (d) Arctic (e) South Atlantic
Ans: (c) North Atlantic Ocean.

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FIELD 6: HEADQUARTERS

Exam tip: *HQ questions are the most frequent static banking-awareness question: UN bodies, Indian banks and regulators, commodity boards, and which country a foreign bank comes from. Memorise them city by city.*

UN System – Headquarters

Organisation	Headquarters
United Nations	New York
UNICEF, UNDP, UNFPA	New York
UN Women	New York
UNEP	Nairobi, Kenya
UN-Habitat	Nairobi, Kenya
UNESCO	Paris
FAO, IFAD, WFP	Rome
WHO, ILO, WMO	Geneva
WTO, WIPO, ITU	Geneva
UNHCR, UNCTAD, IOM	Geneva
UN Human Rights Council	Geneva
IAEA, UNIDO, UNODC	Vienna
IMO (Maritime)	London
ICAO (Civil Aviation)	Montreal, Canada
UPU (Postal)	Bern, Switzerland
UNFCCC, UNCCD	Bonn, Germany
International Court of Justice	The Hague
UN Tourism (UNWTO)	Madrid

- **New York**: UN, UNICEF, UNDP, UNFPA and **UN Women**.
- **Nairobi, Kenya** hosts two UN HQs: **UNEP** (est. 1972) and **UN-Habitat** (est. 1978).
- **Geneva** cluster: WHO, ILO, WTO, WIPO, ITU, WMO, UNHCR, UNCTAD, IOM, UNHRC, ICRC and IPU.
- **Rome** cluster: FAO, IFAD and WFP, the three food agencies.
- **Vienna** cluster: IAEA, UNIDO, UNODC and **OPEC** (OPEC is not a UN body).
- **London**: IMO, Amnesty International, the Commonwealth Secretariat and the Commonwealth Games Federation.
- **Montreal**: ICAO and **WADA** (World Anti-Doping Agency).
- **The Hague**: the International Court of Justice (UN), the International Criminal Court (not UN) and the OPCW.
- The UNFCCC Secretariat is in **Bonn, Germany**. The UNCCD (est. 1994) is also based in Bonn.

Finance & Economic Bodies – Headquarters

Organisation	Headquarters
IMF	Washington DC
World Bank (IBRD, IDA, IFC, MIGA)	Washington DC
Asian Development Bank	Manila (Mandaluyong)
AIIB	Beijing
New Development Bank (BRICS)	Shanghai
Bank for International Settlements	Basel, Switzerland
Basel Committee (BCBS)	Basel
Financial Stability Board	Basel
FATF	Paris
OECD	Paris
International Energy Agency	Paris
Green Climate Fund	Songdo, South Korea
European Central Bank	Frankfurt
European Investment Bank	Luxembourg
World Economic Forum	Cologny, Geneva
SWIFT	La Hulpe, Belgium
World Customs Organization	Brussels

- The **BIS** (est. **1930**) is the "**central bank of central banks**". The Basel Committee and FSB are hosted at the BIS in **Basel**.
- **FATF**: est. **1989** (G7), HQ **Paris**, 40 members. India was an observer from 2006 and became a full member in **2010**.

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- **ADB**: est. **1966**, HQ **Manila**, President **Masato Kanda** (as on Oct 2026).
- **AIIB**: operational from **2016**, HQ **Beijing**, President **Zou Jiayi** (as on Oct 2026).
- **NDB**: est. **2015**, HQ **Shanghai**, President **Dilma Rousseff** (as on Oct 2026). Its first president was **K.V. Kamath**.
- **IMF and World Bank**: est. 1944 at **Bretton Woods**, both HQ **Washington DC**.
- **OECD**: est. 1961, HQ Paris. **IEA**: est. 1974, HQ Paris; India has been an association country since 2017.
- **SWIFT**: founded **1973**, HQ **La Hulpe, Belgium**.

Regional Groupings, Security, Sports & NGOs – Headquarters

Organisation	Headquarters
ASEAN Secretariat	Jakarta
SAARC Secretariat	Kathmandu
BIMSTEC Secretariat	Dhaka
IORA Secretariat	Ebene, Mauritius
SCO Secretariat	Beijing (RATS: Tashkent)
European Union, NATO	Brussels
African Union	Addis Ababa
Gulf Cooperation Council	Riyadh
Arab League	Cairo
OIC	Jeddah
OPEC	Vienna
Eurasian Economic Union	Moscow
International Solar Alliance	Gurugram, Haryana
Int'l Big Cat Alliance (IBCA)	New Delhi
CDRI	New Delhi
IUCN, WWF	Gland, Switzerland
ICRC (Red Cross)	Geneva
Interpol	Lyon, France

- Sports bodies:
  - **IOC**: **Lausanne**.
  - **FIDE**: Lausanne.
  - **FIH**: Lausanne.
  - **FIFA**: **Zurich**.
  - **ICC** (cricket): **Dubai**.
  - **WADA**: **Montreal**.
  - **AFC** and **BWF**: **Kuala Lumpur**.
  - **Olympic Council of Asia**: **Kuwait City**.
- Index publishers:
  - **RSF**: Paris.
  - **SIPRI**: Stockholm.
  - **IEP**: Sydney.
  - **Transparency International**: Berlin.
- **Amnesty International**: London. **ICAN**: Geneva. **Atlantic Council**: Washington DC. **OIML**: Paris.
- The **ISA** is the first treaty-based international organisation headquartered in India.
- The **IBCA** was launched in **2023** (50 years of Project Tiger). It is HQ'd in **New Delhi**.

Indian Banks – Headquarters

Public Sector Bank	Headquarters
State Bank of India	Mumbai
Punjab National Bank	New Delhi
Bank of Baroda	Vadodara
Canara Bank	Bengaluru
Union Bank of India	Mumbai
Bank of India	Mumbai
Indian Bank	Chennai
Central Bank of India	Mumbai
Indian Overseas Bank	Chennai
UCO Bank	Kolkata
Bank of Maharashtra	Pune
Punjab & Sind Bank	New Delhi

- There are **12 PSBs**. **Chennai** has two: **Indian Bank and IOB**. **New Delhi** has two: **PNB and Punjab & Sind Bank**.
- **UCO Bank** is the only PSB HQ'd in **Kolkata**. **IOB** (founded 1937 by M. Ct. M. Chidambaram Chettyar) is in **Chennai**, not Kolkata.
- PSB taglines:
  - **Canara Bank**: "**Together We Can**".
  - **Indian Bank**: "**Your Own Bank**".
  - **Central Bank**: "**Central to You**".
  - **SBI**: "The Banker to Every Indian".
  - **PNB**: "The Name You Can Bank Upon".
- Merged banks:

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  - **Corporation Bank** (Mangaluru) merged into **Union Bank** in 2020.
  - **United Bank of India** (Kolkata) merged into PNB in 2020.

Private Bank	Headquarters
HDFC, ICICI, Axis, Kotak	Mumbai
IndusInd, Yes, IDFC First	Mumbai
IDBI Bank, RBL Bank, DCB	Mumbai
Bandhan Bank	Kolkata
Federal Bank	Aluva, Kerala
South Indian Bank, CSB, Dhanlaxmi	Thrissur, Kerala
Karur Vysya Bank	Karur, Tamil Nadu
City Union Bank	Kumbakonam, TN
Tamilnad Mercantile Bank	Thoothukudi, TN
Karnataka Bank	Mangaluru
J&K Bank	Srinagar
Nainital Bank	Nainital

- **Bandhan Bank** started on 23 August 2015 in **Kolkata** (tagline "Aapka Bhala, Sabki Bhalai").
- **IDBI Bank** is classified as a private bank by the RBI. **RBL** = Ratnakar Bank (est. 1943).
- **Karur Vysya Bank** was est. 1916 (Karur) and **Federal Bank** in 1931 (Aluva).

SFB / Payments Bank	Headquarters
AU Small Finance Bank	Jaipur
Capital SFB (first SFB)	Jalandhar, Punjab
Equitas SFB	Chennai
ESAF SFB	Thrissur
Suryoday SFB	Navi Mumbai
Ujjivan SFB	Bengaluru
Jana SFB	Bengaluru
Utkarsh SFB	Varanasi
Unity SFB	New Delhi
slice SFB (ex-North East SFB)	Guwahati
Airtel Payments Bank	New Delhi
India Post Payments Bank	New Delhi
Fino Payments Bank	Navi Mumbai
Jio Payments Bank	Navi Mumbai
NSDL Payments Bank	Mumbai

- **11 SFBs** operate (as on Oct 2026), including **Shivalik SFB**, the first UCB to convert into an SFB. **AU SFB** is the largest SFB.
- **5 payments banks** operate (as on Oct 2026). **Paytm Payments Bank's** licence was cancelled on 24 April 2026.

Regulators & Financial Institutions – Headquarters

Institution	Headquarters
RBI (1935)	Mumbai
SEBI (1988; statutory 1992)	Mumbai
IRDAI (1999)	Hyderabad
PFRDA (2003)	New Delhi
IFSCA (2020)	GIFT City, Gandhinagar
NABARD (1982)	Mumbai
SIDBI (1990)	Lucknow
EXIM Bank (1982)	Mumbai
National Housing Bank (1988)	New Delhi
NaBFID (2021)	Mumbai
DICGC (1978)	Mumbai
NPCI (2008)	Mumbai
IBBI (2016), CCI (2003)	New Delhi
Insurance Information Bureau (IIB)	Hyderabad
LIC, GIC Re, New India Assurance	Mumbai
National Insurance Co.	Kolkata
United India Insurance	Chennai
Oriental Insurance	New Delhi
IBA (1946), IIBF	Mumbai

- Exam rule: most regulators and FIs are in **Mumbai**. The exceptions are **SIDBI – Lucknow**, **IRDAI – Hyderabad**, **NHB, PFRDA, IBBI and CCI – New Delhi**, and **IFSCA – GIFT City**.
- The **Insurance Information Bureau of India (IIB)**, set up by IRDAI, is in **Hyderabad**.

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- Banking training institutes:
  - **IDRBT**: **Hyderabad** (1996).
  - **NIBM**: **Pune**.
  - **College of Agricultural Banking** (RBI): Pune.
  - **RBI Staff College**: Chennai.
  - **BIRD** (NABARD): Lucknow.
  - **CAFRAL and IGIDR**: Mumbai.
- **RBI Innovation Hub**: Bengaluru. **ReBIT**: Mumbai. RBI's integrated ombudsman processing centre (CRPC) is in **Chandigarh**.
- RBI's central office was first in **Kolkata** and moved permanently to **Mumbai in 1937**. RBI has 4 Local Boards: Mumbai, Kolkata, Chennai and New Delhi.
- Note presses:
  - **Nashik and Dewas**: SPMCIL (Government of India).
  - **Mysuru and Salboni**: BRBNMPL (RBI).
- Government mints are at **Mumbai, Kolkata, Hyderabad and Noida**.
- **NSE, BSE, ECGC and CIBIL** are all in **Mumbai**. The **NPCI** (2008) is also in Mumbai; it was promoted by the RBI and IBA.

ISRO, Science, Legal & Other Institutions

Institution	Location
ISRO HQ	Bengaluru
Vikram Sarabhai Space Centre	Thiruvananthapuram
Satish Dhawan Space Centre (SHAR)	Sriharikota, AP
U R Rao Satellite Centre	Bengaluru
Space Applications Centre	Ahmedabad
National Remote Sensing Centre	Hyderabad
IIST	Thiruvananthapuram
IN-SPACe	Ahmedabad
DRDO	New Delhi
Wildlife Institute of India	Dehradun
Forest Survey of India	Dehradun
Zoological Survey of India	Kolkata
Geological Survey of India	Kolkata
National Biodiversity Authority	Chennai
Animal Welfare Board of India	Ballabhgarh, Haryana
NALSA	New Delhi
NHRC	New Delhi
NIRDPR	Hyderabad
ICAR	New Delhi
NDDB	Anand, Gujarat
Central Drug Research Institute	Lucknow
RDSO (Railways)	Lucknow
NIMHANS	Bengaluru

- The **Vikram Sarabhai Space Centre** (est. 1963) is in **Thiruvananthapuram, Kerala**. It is ISRO's lead centre for launch vehicles.
- **ISRO** was est. on 15 August 1969 and is HQ'd in **Bengaluru**.
- **NALSA** (National Legal Services Authority) is in **New Delhi**. The CJI is its Patron-in-Chief.
- **DRDO** was est. in 1958 (New Delhi). **BDL** is in Hyderabad. **HAL and BEL** are in Bengaluru.
- **IFSCA** sits in GIFT City, Gandhinagar. The **CBFC** is in Mumbai and the **Bureau of Indian Standards** (1987) in New Delhi.
- The **Wildlife Institute of India** (Dehradun) is an autonomous institute under MoEFCC. The **Forest Survey of India** is also in Dehradun.
- **GSI** (est. 1851) and **ZSI** (est. 1916) are in **Kolkata**. **IMD** (1875) is in New Delhi. **BARC** is in Mumbai (Trombay).
- **NIOT** (builder of Matsya 6000) is in **Chennai**. **NCERT** is in New Delhi.
- The Tibetan Parliament-in-Exile is in **Dharamshala**. The National Digital Library is hosted at **IIT Kharagpur**. Central Coalfields Ltd is in **Ranchi**.

Commodity Boards – Headquarters

Board	Headquarters
National Turmeric Board	Nizamabad, Telangana

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Board	Headquarters
Coffee Board	Bengaluru
Tea Board	Kolkata
Rubber Board	Kottayam, Kerala
Spices Board	Kochi
Coconut Development Board	Kochi
Coir Board	Kochi
MPEDA (marine exports)	Kochi
Tobacco Board	Guntur, AP
Central Silk Board	Bengaluru
National Jute Board	Kolkata
APEDA (1986)	New Delhi

- The **National Turmeric Board** (2025) is HQ'd at **Nizamabad**, Telangana. India is the largest producer of turmeric.
- **Kochi** hosts four boards: Spices, Coconut Development, Coir and MPEDA.

Foreign Banks & Companies – Home Countries

Bank / Company	Country
Mitsui (now SMBC), Mizuho, MUFG	Japan
Suzuki, Toyota, Honda	Japan
NongHyup Bank, KEB Hana, Shinhan	South Korea
DB Insurance, Samsung, POSCO	South Korea
Sberbank, VTB	Russia
DBS, OCBC, UOB	Singapore
HSBC, Standard Chartered, Barclays	UK
BNP Paribas, Societe Generale	France
Deutsche Bank (Frankfurt), Volkswagen	Germany
Holcim, UBS, Nestle	Switzerland
Rabobank (Utrecht), ING, ABN AMRO	Netherlands
Bank of Nova Scotia (Toronto), Fairfax	Canada
Emirates NBD (Dubai), FAB	UAE
Citibank, JP Morgan, Bank of America	USA
Antwerp Diamond Bank	Belgium
CTBC Bank	Taiwan
Cinepolis	Mexico
Reuters	UK

- **SMBC** (Sumitomo Mitsui Banking Corporation, Japan) became **Yes Bank's** largest shareholder (about 24%) in 2025.
- **Emirates NBD** (Dubai, UAE) acquired a **60%** controlling stake in **RBL Bank** for $2.75 billion (2026).
- A **Fairfax** entity (Canada) will buy **60.72% of IDBI Bank** (CCEA approval, Oct 2026).
- **SBI Life** was set up as a JV of SBI and **BNP Paribas Cardif (France)**. Bank of Baroda signed an M&A financing pact with **Mizuho (Japan)**.
- **POSCO** = Pohang Iron and Steel Company. **Osamu Suzuki** of Suzuki Motor was from **Japan**.
- **CTBC** became the first Taiwanese bank to open a GIFT City branch.
- **HSBC** opened India's **first ATM** (Mumbai, 1987).

MCQs – Headquarters

Q1. Where is UN Women headquartered?
(a) Geneva (b) New York (c) Vienna (d) Nairobi (e) Paris

Ans: (b) New York – along with the UN, UNICEF, UNDP and UNFPA.

Q2. The International Maritime Organization (IMO) is headquartered in:
(a) Geneva (b) Montreal (c) London (d) Hamburg (e) Rome

Ans: (c) London.

Q3. Where is the World Anti-Doping Agency (WADA) headquartered?
(a) Lausanne (b) Geneva (c) Montreal (d) Zurich (e) Paris

Ans: (c) Montreal, Canada – ICAO is also there.

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Q4. UN-Habitat is headquartered in:
(a) New York (b) Nairobi (c) Geneva (d) Bonn (e) Rome
Ans: (b) Nairobi, Kenya – along with UNEP.

Q5. The Green Climate Fund is headquartered at:
(a) Bonn (b) Songdo, South Korea (c) Geneva (d) Manila (e) Paris
Ans: (b) Songdo, Incheon, South Korea.

Q6. The UNFCCC Secretariat is located in:
(a) Geneva (b) New York (c) Bonn (d) Nairobi (e) Kyoto
Ans: (c) Bonn, Germany.

Q7. The Bank for International Settlements (BIS) is headquartered in:
(a) Zurich (b) Geneva (c) Basel (d) Brussels (e) Frankfurt
Ans: (c) Basel, Switzerland – the "central bank of central banks" (1930).

Q8. Where is FATF headquartered?
(a) Washington DC (b) Paris (c) London (d) Basel (e) Brussels
Ans: (b) Paris – est. 1989; India became a full member in 2010.

Q9. The IOC is headquartered in:
(a) Zurich (b) Geneva (c) Lausanne (d) Athens (e) Paris
Ans: (c) Lausanne – FIFA is in Zurich.

Q10. Indian Bank is headquartered in:
(a) Kolkata (b) Mumbai (c) Chennai (d) Bengaluru (e) New Delhi
Ans: (c) Chennai – IOB is also in Chennai.

Q11. Which of these PSBs is NOT headquartered in Mumbai?
(a) Bank of India (b) Union Bank of India (c) Central Bank of India (d) Bank of Maharashtra (e) SBI
Ans: (d) Bank of Maharashtra – it is in Pune.

Q12. Where is the Insurance Information Bureau of India (IIB) headquartered?
(a) Mumbai (b) New Delhi (c) Hyderabad (d) Chennai (e) Pune
Ans: (c) Hyderabad – IRDAI is also there.

Q13. SIDBI is headquartered in:
(a) Mumbai (b) New Delhi (c) Lucknow (d) Pune (e) Ahmedabad
Ans: (c) Lucknow – est. 2 April 1990.

Q14. Where is the Vikram Sarabhai Space Centre located?
(a) Bengaluru (b) Sriharikota (c) Thiruvananthapuram (d) Ahmedabad (e) Hyderabad
Ans: (c) Thiruvananthapuram, Kerala – ISRO's lead centre for launch vehicles.

Q15. The National Turmeric Board is headquartered at:
(a) Erode (b) Sangli (c) Nizamabad (d) Kochi (e) Guntur
Ans: (c) Nizamabad, Telangana.

Q16. Where is NALSA headquartered?
(a) Mumbai (b) New Delhi (c) Hyderabad (d) Bengaluru (e) Kolkata
Ans: (b) New Delhi.

Q17. Mitsui Bank, now part of SMBC, originated in which country?
(a) South Korea (b) China (c) Japan (d) Singapore (e) Taiwan
Ans: (c) Japan – SMBC is Sumitomo Mitsui Banking Corporation.

Q18. NongHyup Bank and DB Insurance belong to which country?
(a) Japan (b) South Korea (c) China (d) Vietnam (e) Taiwan
Ans: (b) South Korea.

Q19. Sberbank belongs to which country?
(a) Belarus (b) Ukraine (c) Russia (d) Kazakhstan (e) Poland
Ans: (c) Russia.

Q20. BNP Paribas is headquartered in which country?
(a) Germany (b) Switzerland (c) France (d) Belgium (e) Netherlands
Ans: (c) France (Paris) – its Cardif arm co-founded SBI Life with SBI.

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FIELD 7: BOOKS & AUTHORS

Exam tip: *Bank Mains asks 1–2 "Who wrote ...?" questions in almost every paper. Classic titles repeat, and so do autobiographies, books by RBI governors and Booker winners. Learn the book–author pairs, plus one tag (prize or subject) for each.*

Ancient & Medieval Indian Classics

- Arthashastra (statecraft, economics) – **Kautilya (Chanakya)**, minister of Chandragupta Maurya.
- Abhijnanashakuntalam, Meghaduta, Raghuvamsha, Kumarasambhava – **Kalidasa**, the most famous Sanskrit poet-dramatist (Gupta age).
- Panchatantra (animal fables) – **Vishnu Sharma**.
- Natyashastra (treatise on drama, dance and music) – **Bharata Muni**.
- Ashtadhyayi (Sanskrit grammar) – **Panini**. Mahabhashya – **Patanjali**.
- Mudrarakshasa – **Vishakhadatta**. Harshacharita – **Banabhatta**. Buddhacharita – **Ashvaghosha**.
- Rajatarangini (history of Kashmir) – **Kalhana**. Gita Govinda – **Jayadeva**.
- Indica – **Megasthenes** (Greek envoy at Chandragupta Maurya's court).
- Tirukkural (Tamil ethics) – **Thiruvalluvar**. Silappadikaram – **Ilango Adigal**.
- Kitab-ul-Hind – **Al-Biruni**. Prithviraj Raso – **Chand Bardai**.
- Ramcharitmanas – **Tulsidas**. Amuktamalyada (Telugu) – **Krishnadevaraya**.
- Baburnama (Tuzuk-i-Baburi) – **Babur**. Humayun-nama – **Gulbadan Begum**. Akbarnama and Ain-i-Akbari – **Abul Fazl**.

Freedom Struggle & Nation-Builders

- A Nation in Making (autobiography) – **Surendranath Banerjee**, founder of the Indian National Association (1876).
- Poverty and Un-British Rule in India (the "Drain Theory") – **Dadabhai Naoroji**.
- Gita Rahasya – **Bal Gangadhar Tilak** (who also made Ganesh Utsav a public festival).
- Anandamath (source of "Vande Mataram") – **Bankim Chandra Chattopadhyay**.
- Hind Swaraj and The Story of My Experiments with Truth – **Mahatma Gandhi**.
- The Discovery of India, Glimpses of World History and An Autobiography – **Jawaharlal Nehru**.
- India Wins Freedom – **Maulana Abul Kalam Azad**. Annihilation of Caste – **B.R. Ambedkar**.
- Why I Am an Atheist – **Bhagat Singh**. Unhappy India – **Lala Lajpat Rai**.
- Wings of Fire (autobiography), Ignited Minds and India 2020 – **A.P.J. Abdul Kalam**.

Indian Literature & Indian-Origin Authors

- Gitanjali – **Rabindranath Tagore**, India's first Nobel laureate (Literature, 1913). He also wrote Gora and Chokher Bali.
- Devdas and Parineeta – **Sarat Chandra Chattopadhyay**. Godan and Gaban – **Munshi Premchand**.
- Malgudi Days, Swami and Friends and The Guide – **R.K. Narayan**. Untouchable – **Mulk Raj Anand**.
- Train to Pakistan – **Khushwant Singh**. A Suitable Boy – **Vikram Seth**.
- The God of Small Things (Booker 1997) and The Ministry of Utmost Happiness (2017) – **Arundhati Roy**.
- Midnight's Children (Booker 1981), The Satanic Verses and Joseph Anton (memoir) – **Salman Rushdie**.
- The Inheritance of Loss (Booker 2006) – **Kiran Desai**. Her mother **Anita Desai** wrote Where Shall We Go This Summer?
- The White Tiger (Booker 2008) – **Aravind Adiga**.
- Interpreter of Maladies (Pulitzer 2000), The Namesake and The Lowland – **Jhumpa Lahiri**.
- The Emperor of All Maladies (biography of cancer, Pulitzer 2011) and The Gene – **Siddhartha Mukherjee**.
- The Glass Palace and Sea of Poppies – **Amitav Ghosh**. The Lives of Others – **Neel Mukherjee**.
- Lajja and Nirbasan – **Taslima Nasreen** (Bangladeshi author).
- Five Point Someone, Revolution 2020, Half Girlfriend and One Indian Girl – **Chetan Bhagat**.

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- The Immortals of Meluha (Shiva Trilogy), Legend of Suheldev and Chola Tigers – **Amish Tripathi**.
- Business Sutra and Jaya – **Devdutt Pattanaik** (mythologist).
- The Room on the Roof, A Song of India, How to Be a Writer, Coming Round the Mountain and Our Trees Still Grow in Dehra – **Ruskin Bond**.
- The Mother I Never Knew and Wise and Otherwise – **Sudha Murty**. The Legend of Lakshmi Prasad – **Twinkle Khanna**.
- Lockdown Liaisons – **Shobhaa De**. I am HIV positive, so what? – **Jayanta Kalita**.
- The Golden Road and White Mughals – **William Dalrymple**. The Unquiet River (history of the Brahmaputra) – **Arupjyoti Saikia**.
- The Argumentative Indian, The Idea of Justice and Home in the World – **Amartya Sen**.

Politicians, Diplomats & Public Figures

- The India Way and Why Bharat Matters – **S. Jaishankar**, External Affairs Minister.
- The Dramatic Decade: The Indira Gandhi Years, The Turbulent Years and The Coalition Years – **Pranab Mukherjee**.
- Relentless (autobiography) – **Yashwant Sinha**. India at Risk – **Jaswant Singh**.
- Moving On, Moving Forward – **M. Venkaiah Naidu**. Exam Warriors – **Narendra Modi**.
- Not Just an Accountant – **Vinod Rai** (former CAG). 2014: The Election That Changed India – **Rajdeep Sardesai**.
- Dreams from My Father, The Audacity of Hope and A Promised Land – **Barack Obama**. Becoming – **Michelle Obama**.
- Hard Choices – **Hillary Clinton**. Long Walk to Freedom – **Nelson Mandela**.
- Hit Refresh – **Satya Nadella** (Microsoft CEO). Bangalore Tiger is a book about **Wipro** (by Steve Hamm).
- Romancing with Life (autobiography) – **Dev Anand**. The Big Thoughts of Little Luv – **Karan Johar**.
- Goodbye Shahzadi (on Benazir Bhutto) – **Shyam Bhatia**. Women of Vision – **Alam Srinivas**.

Economists & RBI Governors

- Fault Lines, I Do What I Do, The Third Pillar and Saving Capitalism from the Capitalists – **Raghuram Rajan** (23rd RBI Governor).
- Who Moved My Interest Rate? – **D. Subbarao**. Overdraft: Saving the Indian Saver – **Urjit Patel**.
- Advice and Dissent – **Y.V. Reddy**. Forks in the Road – **C. Rangarajan** (both former RBI Governors).
- Quest for Restoring Financial Stability in India – **Viral Acharya** (former RBI Deputy Governor).
- The Poverty of Political Economy – **Meghnad Desai**.
- Breakout Nations and The Ten Rules of Successful Nations – **Ruchir Sharma**.
- The Wealth of Nations (1776, "father of economics") – **Adam Smith**. Das Kapital – **Karl Marx**.
- The General Theory of Employment, Interest and Money – **J.M. Keynes**. Poverty and Famines – **Amartya Sen**.

Sportspersons' Autobiographies

Book	Sportsperson
Playing It My Way	Sachin Tendulkar
Unbreakable	Mary Kom (boxing)
The Test of My Life	Yuvraj Singh
Playing to Win	Saina Nehwal
Ace Against Odds	Sania Mirza
A Shot at History	Abhinav Bindra
The Race of My Life	Milkha Singh
Golden Girl	P.T. Usha
Sunny Days	Sunil Gavaskar
Straight from the Heart	Kapil Dev
281 and Beyond	V.V.S. Laxman
The One: Cricket, My Life and More	Shikhar Dhawan
No Spin	Shane Warne
All In	Billie Jean King
Open	Andre Agassi

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World Classics & Popular Non-Fiction

- Man's Search for Meaning – **Viktor Frankl**, an Austrian psychiatrist and Holocaust survivor who founded logotherapy. (Asked in SBI Clerk Mains, 29 Oct 2026.)
- The Alchemist – **Paulo Coelho** (Brazil). The Da Vinci Code – **Dan Brown**.
- A Tale of Two Cities and Oliver Twist – **Charles Dickens**. The Mother – **Maxim Gorky**. War and Peace – **Leo Tolstoy**.
- Animal Farm and 1984 – **George Orwell**, born in Motihari, Bihar. Kim and The Jungle Book – **Rudyard Kipling**.
- A Passage to India – **E.M. Forster**. The English Patient – **Michael Ondaatje** (winner of the Golden Man Booker, 2018).
- Harry Potter series and The Casual Vacancy – **J.K. Rowling**. Life of Pi (Booker 2002) – **Yann Martel**.
- The Secret and The Secret Gratitude Book – **Rhonda Byrne**.
- The Monk Who Sold His Ferrari and Who Will Cry When You Die? – **Robin Sharma**.
- The Women and The Nightingale – **Kristin Hannah**. Sapiens – **Yuval Noah Harari**. Atomic Habits – **James Clear**.
- The Origin of Species – **Charles Darwin**. The Republic – **Plato**. The Prince – **Niccolo Machiavelli**.
- World Book and Copyright Day falls on **23 April**. **Bhilar** (Satara, Maharashtra) is India's first "book village".

Booker & International Booker – India Connection

- The Booker Prize was started in **1969** in the UK. It goes to the best English-language novel published in the UK or Ireland. Prize money: **£50,000**.
- Indian and Indian-origin winners: **V.S. Naipaul** (1971, In a Free State), **Salman Rushdie** (1981, Midnight's Children), **Arundhati Roy** (1997, the first Indian woman), **Kiran Desai** (2006) and **Aravind Adiga** (2008).
- Midnight's Children was also named the **Booker of Bookers** (1993) and the **Best of the Booker** (2008).
- Recent Booker winners: The Promise – **Damon Galgut** (2021); The Seven Moons of Maali Almeida – **Shehan Karunatilaka**, Sri Lanka (2022); Prophet Song – **Paul Lynch** (2023); Orbital – **Samantha Harvey** (2024); Flesh – **David Szalay** (2025).
- Kiran Desai was **shortlisted for the Booker 2025** for The Loneliness of Sonia and Sunny.
- Booker 2026: the shortlist was announced on 22 Sep 2026 (jury chair **Mary Beard**). The winner will be named on **9 Nov 2026** in London (as on Oct 2026).
- The International Booker goes to **translated fiction**. The prize is shared equally by the author and the translator.
- First Indian winner of the International Booker: **Geetanjali Shree**, for Tomb of Sand (Ret Samadhi, Hindi), 2022, translated by **Daisy Rockwell**.
- International Booker 2025: Heart Lamp by **Banu Mushtaq** (Kannada), translated by **Deepa Bhasthi**. It is the **first short-story collection** to win.
- International Booker 2026: Taiwan Travelog by **Yang Shuang-zi**, translated by Lin King. It is the first Mandarin novel to win.
- From 2026 the prize is called the **Bukhman International Booker Prize**, and the money has doubled from £50,000 to **£100,000** (as on Oct 2026).
- Earlier International Booker winners: Philip Roth (2011) and **Jokha Alharthi** of Oman (2019, Celestial Bodies).

2026 Books in News (NBCC)

Book (2026)	Author
Triumph of the Indian Republic	Ram Nath Kovind
The Second Orbit	Gp Capt Shubhanshu Shukla
China's War	Vijay Gokhale
When Audit Matters (ed.)	Vinod Rai
The Bench, the Bar, and the Bizarre	Tushar Mehta (SG)
Apnapan	Shivraj Singh Chouhan
Belonging: A Journey of Love	Sonia Gandhi

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Book (2026)	Author
Better Never Stops	Shyam Srinivasan
From Guerrilla Fighter to Chief Minister	Zoramthanga
A Road Well Travelled	R.K. Raghavan (ex-CBI)
The Curious and the Classified	Gen M.M. Naravane
Crimson Spring	Navtej Sarna
Jeete Ji Allahabad	Mamta Kalia
Do You Know Your Hinduism	Rajmohan Gandhi
My Life in Indian Politics	Mohsina Kidwai

- Ram Nath Kovind (14th President) released his autobiography, Triumph of the Indian Republic: My Life, My Struggles, in 2026.
- Gen M.M. Naravane, the 28th Army Chief, also wrote **Four Stars of Destiny**.
- Sahitya Akademi Awards 2025: **Navtej Sarna** (English, Crimson Spring), **Mamta Kalia** (Hindi, Jeete Ji Allahabad) and **Yogesh Vaidya** (Gujarati).
- Shyam Srinivasan, author of Better Never Stops, is the former MD & CEO of **Federal Bank**.

MCQs – Books & Authors

Q1. 'Man's Search for Meaning' was written by:
(a) Sigmund Freud (b) Viktor Frankl (c) Carl Jung (d) Erich Fromm (e) Alfred Adler
Ans: (b) Viktor Frankl – Austrian psychiatrist and Holocaust survivor who founded logotherapy.

Q2. 'A Nation in Making' is the autobiography of:
(a) Dadabhai Naoroji (b) Gopal Krishna Gokhale (c) Surendranath Banerjee (d) Bipin Chandra Pal (e) Lala Lajpat Rai
Ans: (c) Surendranath Banerjee – moderate leader who founded the Indian National Association.

Q3. Who wrote 'The India Way'?
(a) Shashi Tharoor (b) S. Jaishankar (c) Shivshankar Menon (d) Ajit Doval (e) Vijay Gokhale
Ans: (b) S. Jaishankar – External Affairs Minister; he also wrote 'Why Bharat Matters'.

Q4. 'Chola Tigers' is written by:
(a) Devdutt Pattanaik (b) Ashwin Sanghi (c) Amish Tripathi (d) Anand Neelakantan (e) Chetan Bhagat
Ans: (c) Amish Tripathi – also the author of the Shiva Trilogy and Legend of Suheldev.

Q5. The author of 'Business Sutra' is:
(a) Devdutt Pattanaik (b) Gurcharan Das (c) R. Gopalakrishnan (d) Robin Sharma (e) Rashmi Bansal
Ans: (a) Devdutt Pattanaik – mythologist who applies Indian myth to management.

Q6. 'The Emperor of All Maladies' (Pulitzer 2011) was written by:
(a) Atul Gawande (b) Abraham Verghese (c) Siddhartha Mukherjee (d) Jhumpa Lahiri (e) Vikram Seth
Ans: (c) Siddhartha Mukherjee – a biography of cancer.

Q7. 'The Ministry of Utmost Happiness' is a novel by:
(a) Kiran Desai (b) Anita Desai (c) Arundhati Roy (d) Jhumpa Lahiri (e) Shobhaa De
Ans: (c) Arundhati Roy – she won the Booker in 1997 for The God of Small Things.

Q8. Who was the first Indian author to win the International Booker Prize?
(a) Banu Mushtaq (b) Geetanjali Shree (c) Perumal Murugan (d) Arundhati Roy (e) Kiran Desai
Ans: (b) Geetanjali Shree – Tomb of Sand (2022), translated by Daisy Rockwell.

Q9. Banu Mushtaq won the International Booker Prize 2025 for:
(a) Tomb of Sand (b) Heart Lamp (c) Pyre (d) Celestial Bodies (e) Flesh
Ans: (b) Heart Lamp – the first short-story collection to win; originally written in Kannada.

Q10. 'Forks in the Road' was written by which former RBI Governor?
(a) Y.V. Reddy (b) D. Subbarao (c) C. Rangarajan (d) Bimal Jalan (e) Urjit Patel
Ans: (c) C. Rangarajan – memoir of his years at the RBI.

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Q11. 'Fault Lines' is a book by:
(a) Raghuram Rajan (b) Arvind Subramanian (c) Kaushik Basu (d) Viral Acharya (e) Urjit Patel
Ans: (a) Raghuram Rajan – former RBI Governor; he also wrote 'I Do What I Do'.

Q12. 'The Secret Gratitude Book' is written by:
(a) Louise Hay (b) Rhonda Byrne (c) Robin Sharma (d) Napoleon Hill (e) Kristin Hannah
Ans: (b) Rhonda Byrne – author of 'The Secret'.

Q13. 'Unbreakable' is the autobiography of:
(a) Saina Nehwal (b) P.T. Usha (c) Mary Kom (d) Sania Mirza (e) Mirabai Chanu
Ans: (c) Mary Kom – Olympic bronze medallist boxer.

Q14. What is the prize money of the Booker Prize?
(a) £25,000 (b) £50,000 (c) £75,000 (d) £100,000 (e) £1,00,000 shared by three
Ans: (b) £50,000 – the International Booker has been raised to £100,000.

Q15. 'Who Will Cry When You Die?' is written by:
(a) Paulo Coelho (b) Robin Sharma (c) Ruskin Bond (d) Chetan Bhagat (e) Dale Carnegie
Ans: (b) Robin Sharma – author of 'The Monk Who Sold His Ferrari'.

Q16. Who wrote 'The Golden Road'?
(a) Ramachandra Guha (b) William Dalrymple (c) Shashi Tharoor (d) Amitav Ghosh (e) Sanjeev Sanyal
Ans: (b) William Dalrymple – he also wrote 'White Mughals'.

Q17. 'Dreams from My Father' is the memoir of:
(a) Bill Clinton (b) Joe Biden (c) Barack Obama (d) Nelson Mandela (e) Kamala Harris
Ans: (c) Barack Obama – he also wrote 'The Audacity of Hope'.

Q18. 'Triumph of the Indian Republic: My Life, My Struggles' (2026) is the autobiography of:
(a) Pranab Mukherjee (b) Ram Nath Kovind (c) M. Venkaiah Naidu (d) Pratibha Patil (e) Hamid Ansari
Ans: (b) Ram Nath Kovind – India's 14th President.

Q19. 'Relentless' is the autobiography of:
(a) Jaswant Singh (b) Yashwant Sinha (c) Arun Shourie (d) L.K. Advani (e) P. Chidambaram
Ans: (b) Yashwant Sinha – former Finance Minister.

Q20. Which of these books was written by Ruskin Bond?
(a) The Guide (b) A Song of India (c) Train to Pakistan (d) The Namesake (e) Untouchable
Ans: (b) A Song of India – The Guide is by R.K. Narayan; Train to Pakistan by Khushwant Singh.

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FIELD 8: AWARDS & THEIR FIELDS

Exam tip: *Questions on this field mostly ask which award is given for which field, for example "Ustad Bismillah Khan Yuva Puraskar is given for?" or "Which is a gallantry award?". Questions also ask about first recipients and the latest winners of the Phalke award, the Booker and the Nobel.*

Civilian Awards – Bharat Ratna & Padma

- **Bharat Ratna** is India's highest civilian award. It was instituted on **2 Jan 1954**. At most **3 a year** are normally given. It carries no cash, only a sanad and a medallion shaped like a peepal leaf.
- First recipients (1954): **C. Rajagopalachari, S. Radhakrishnan and C.V. Raman**.
- First posthumous Bharat Ratna: **Lal Bahadur Shastri** (1966). First woman: **Indira Gandhi** (1971).
- First person of non-Indian origin: **Khan Abdul Ghaffar Khan** (1987). First foreigner: **Nelson Mandela** (1990).
- Youngest recipient and first sportsperson: **Sachin Tendulkar** (2014).
- In 2024 a record **5** people were awarded: Karpoori Thakur, L.K. Advani, P.V. Narasimha Rao, Chaudhary Charan Singh and M.S. Swaminathan.
- The **Padma awards** were also instituted in 1954. In descending order: **Padma Vibhushan** (exceptional and distinguished service), **Padma Bhushan** (distinguished service of a high order) and **Padma Shri** (distinguished service).
- The Padma awards are announced on the **eve of Republic Day** and presented by the President.
- Padma Awards 2026: **131** in all – **5 Padma Vibhushan, 13 Padma Bhushan, 113 Padma Shri**. Padma Bhushan went to Mammootty and Alka Yagnik; Padma Shri to Rohit Sharma and R. Madhavan.
- Past questions: Pandit Jasraj – **Padma Vibhushan**; Waheeda Rehman – Padma Shri 1972 and Padma Bhushan 2011; 2023 had **6** Padma Vibhushan awards.

Gallantry Awards

- Wartime awards, highest first: **Param Vir Chakra**, then **Maha Vir Chakra**, then **Vir Chakra**.
- Peacetime awards, highest first: **Ashoka Chakra**, then **Kirti Chakra**, then **Shaurya Chakra**.
- The Param Vir Chakra was instituted in **1950** and the Ashoka Chakra in **1952** (both with effect from 15 Aug 1947). The PVC was designed by **Savitri Khanolkar**.
- First PVC: **Major Somnath Sharma** (1947, posthumous).
- **Sarvottam Yudh Seva Medal** (wartime) and **Param Vishisht Seva Medal** (peacetime) recognise distinguished service. They are **not gallantry awards**.
- The **Jeevan Raksha Padak** series is given for saving human life.
- Defence Investiture 2026: **51** gallantry awards – 7 Kirti Chakra, 15 Vir Chakra and 29 Shaurya Chakra.
- Armed Forces Flag Day is observed on **7 Dec**.

Sports Awards

Award	Field / cash
Major Dhyan Chand Khel Ratna	Highest sports honour; ₹25 lakh
Arjuna Award	Outstanding sportspersons; ₹15 lakh
Dronacharya Award	Sports coaches; ₹15 lakh (lifetime)
Rashtriya Khel Protsahan Puraskar	Organisations promoting sport
MAKA Trophy	Top university in sports
Tenzing Norgay National Adventure Award	Adventure (land, sea, air)

- Khel Ratna was instituted in **1991-92**. First recipient: **Viswanathan Anand**. It was renamed after **Major Dhyan Chand** in 2021.
- Arjuna Award was instituted in **1961**. Dronacharya Award (coaching) was instituted in **1985**. The regular Dronacharya Award carries ₹10 lakh.

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- The National Sports Awards are presented around **29 Aug**, National Sports Day and the birth anniversary of Dhyan Chand.
- Khel Ratna 2024: **Manu Bhaker, D. Gukesh, Harmanpreet Singh, Praveen Kumar**.
- National Sports Awards 2025: **no Khel Ratna** was given, the first time since 2014, and **17** players received the Arjuna Award (as on Oct 2026).
- Past winners asked: Khel Ratna – Gagan Narang (2011), Vijay Kumar (2012), Sania Mirza (2015). Arjuna – R. Ashwin (2014).

Cinema Awards

- The **Dadasaheb Phalke Award** is India's highest award in cinema, given for lifetime contribution. It was instituted in **1969** and is presented at the National Film Awards.
- First recipient: **Devika Rani** (1969). First posthumous: **Prithviraj Kapoor** (1971).
- **Mohanlal** (Malayalam actor) was the 55th recipient, for 2023.
- **Anant Nag** (Kannada actor) is the **56th recipient**, for 2024. He was announced on 16 Sep 2026 and received the award at the 72nd National Film Awards (as on Oct 2026).
- The 72nd National Film Awards ceremony was held at **Ekta Nagar (Kevadia), Gujarat**, the first one outside Delhi.

Year of award	Phalke recipient
2010	K. Balachander
2015	Manoj Kumar
2017	Vinod Khanna
2018	Amitabh Bachchan
2019	Rajinikanth
2020	Asha Parekh
2021	Waheeda Rehman
2022	Mithun Chakraborty
2023	Mohanlal (55th)
2024	Anant Nag (56th)

- Other Phalke recipients: Lata Mangeshkar (1989) and Asha Bhosle (2000). **M.R. Radha** (Tamil actor) never received it.
- 72nd National Film Awards: Best Feature Film **Article 370**; Best Actor Mammootty (Bramayugam) and Kartik Aaryan (Chandu Champion); Best Actress Yami Gautam; Best Hindi Film Srikanth.
- 71st National Film Awards: Best Feature Film **12th Fail**; Best Actor Shah Rukh Khan (Jawan) and Vikrant Massey (12th Fail); Best Actress Rani Mukerji.
- 70th National Film Awards: Best Director **Sooraj R. Barjatya** (Uunchai); Best Feature Film Aattam.
- Oscars (Academy Awards) are given for **films** by the US Academy of Motion Picture Arts and Sciences.
- India's Oscar winners: **Bhanu Athaiya** (1983, costume design, the first Indian); **A.R. Rahman, Resul Pookutty and Gulzar** (2009, Slumdog Millionaire); **Naatu Naatu** (RRR, Best Original Song) and **The Elephant Whisperers** (Documentary Short) in 2023. Satyajit Ray received an honorary Oscar in 1992.
- India's Oscar entries: **Laapataa Ladies** (dir. Kiran Rao) for the 97th Academy Awards; Marathi film **Gondhal** for the 99th (2027).
- Golden Globe – **films and TV**. Emmy – **TV**. Tony – **theatre**. BAFTA – British film and TV. Palme d'Or – Cannes. Golden Peacock – IFFI Goa. Golden Conch – MIFF (Mumbai).

Literature Awards

Award	Given by / field
Jnanpith Award	Bharatiya Jnanpith; Indian literature
Sahitya Akademi Award	Sahitya Akademi; 24 languages
Saraswati Samman	K.K. Birla Foundation; 22 languages
Vyas Samman	K.K. Birla Foundation; Hindi
Bihari Puraskar	K.K. Birla Foundation; Rajasthani writers
Moortidevi Award	Bharatiya Jnanpith
Booker Prize	UK; English novel
Pulitzer Prize	Columbia University, USA

- **Jnanpith** is India's highest literary award. It was first given in **1965** to **G. Sankara Kurup** (Malayalam). The award is ₹11 lakh and a

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bronze statue of Vagdevi (Saraswati). First woman: **Ashapurna Devi** (1976).

- 60th Jnanpith: **R. Vairamuthu** (Tamil poet), the 3rd Tamil winner after Akilan and Jayakanthan. The 58th went to Gulzar and Rambhadracharya, the 59th to Vinod Kumar Shukla. Jnanpith 2015: **Raghuveer Chaudhari** (Gujarati).
- **Sahitya Akademi** was set up in 1954. Its award covers 24 languages: the 22 Eighth Schedule languages plus English and Rajasthani.
- **Saraswati Samman** was started in **1991** and carries ₹15 lakh. First winner: Harivansh Rai Bachchan. The 35th Saraswati Samman (2025) went to **Ramkumar Mukhopadhyay** (Bengali) for Hara Parvati Katha. Past winners: Sugathakumari (2012) and M. Veerappa Moily (2014).
- **Vyas Samman** is for Hindi literature. 2018 winner: **Liladhar Jagudi**.
- Booker Prize: started 1969, **£50,000**. The International Booker (for translated fiction) is now **£100,000** and has been renamed the Bukhman International Booker (as on Oct 2026).
- Pulitzer Prize: started in **1917** by Columbia University for journalism, literature and music. Indian-origin winners: Jhumpa Lahiri (Fiction 2000), Siddhartha Mukherjee (2011), Vijay Seshadri (Poetry 2014).
- Pulitzer 2026: Anand R.K. and Suparna Sharma (with Bloomberg) won for "trAPPed", a report on digital-arrest cybercrime.
- State awards: **Kalidas Samman** (Madhya Pradesh) is for classical music, dance, theatre and visual arts. **Tansen Samman** (Madhya Pradesh) is for Hindustani music. **Sarala Puraskar** is for Odia literature; the 47th went to Ashutosh Parida.

Science & Arts Awards

- **Rashtriya Vigyan Puraskar** is the national award for **science, technology and innovation**. It was set up in 2023 and replaced about 300 earlier science awards.
  - It has four categories: Vigyan Ratna (lifetime), Vigyan Shri, Vigyan Yuva–Shanti Swarup Bhatnagar (up to 45 years) and Vigyan Team.
  - It is announced on **11 May** (National Technology Day) and presented on **23 Aug** (National Space Day). First Vigyan Ratna: **G. Padmanabhan**.
- The **Shanti Swarup Bhatnagar Prize** was given by **CSIR** from 1958 to young scientists under 45. It now continues as Vigyan Yuva–SSB.
- The **Kalinga Prize** is a **UNESCO** prize for **popularisation of science**. It was set up in **1952** with a donation from **Biju Patnaik** (Kalinga Foundation Trust, Odisha).
- **Ustad Bismillah Khan Yuva Puraskar** goes to young artists (under 40) in the **performing arts – music, dance, theatre**, puppetry and folk arts. It is given by the **Sangeet Natak Akademi** and was started in 2006.
- The **Sangeet Natak Akademi Award** is for performing arts and the **Lalit Kala Akademi Award** for visual arts.
- The Fields Medal and the Abel Prize are for **mathematics**. The Turing Award is for **computer science**. The Pritzker Prize is for **architecture**; **B.V. Doshi** (2018) was the first Indian winner.
- Royal Gold Medal 2022 (Balkrishna Doshi) is given by the **RIBA, UK**. The World Food Prize was first won by **M.S. Swaminathan** (1987).
- The Goldman Environmental Prize is called the "Green Nobel"; the **Whitley Award** (UK) is called the "Green Oscar". The **Right Livelihood Award** (Sweden) is the "Alternative Nobel".
- The **Grammy** is for **music** (Recording Academy, USA). First Indian winner: **Pt. Ravi Shankar**. **Zakir Hussain** won 3 Grammys in 2024.

Nobel Prize

- The Nobel Prize was set up under the will of **Alfred Nobel**, the inventor of dynamite. It was first given in **1901** and is presented on **10 Dec**.
- It has 6 categories: **Physics, Chemistry, Physiology or Medicine, Literature, Peace and Economic Sciences**. There is **no Nobel for Mathematics**.
- The Peace Prize is presented in **Oslo** (Norway); the others in **Stockholm** (Sweden).
- The Economics prize (Sveriges Riksbank) was set up in **1968** and first awarded in 1969.
- Prize money was raised to **SEK 12 million** per category for 2026.

- Indian or Indian-origin winners:
  - Tagore (Literature 1913), C.V. Raman (Physics 1930), Hargobind Khorana (Medicine 1968) and Mother Teresa (Peace 1979)
  - S. Chandrasekhar (Physics 1983), Amartya Sen (Economics 1998), V. Ramakrishnan (Chemistry 2009)
  - Kailash Satyarthi (Peace 2014, with Malala) and Abhijit Banerjee (Economics 2019)
- **Malala Yousafzai** is the youngest laureate (17, Peace 2014). Annie Ernaux (2022) was the **17th** woman to win the Literature prize.
- Nobel 2025:
  - Peace – **Maria Corina Machado** (Venezuela). Literature – **Laszlo Krasznahorkai** (Hungary).
  - Medicine – **Mary Brunkow, Fred Ramsdell, Shimon Sakaguchi** (peripheral immune tolerance).
- Nobel 2026:
  - Peace – **Navi Pillay** (South Africa, of Indian Tamil origin). Literature – **Anne Carson** (Canada).
  - Economics – Robert E. Hall and Michael Woodford. Physics – Francis Halzen.
- Past questions: Physics 2023 – attosecond light pulses; Peace 2023 – **Narges Mohammadi** (Iran).

Other National & International Awards

- **Ramon Magsaysay Award** is called "Asia's Nobel Prize". It was set up in **1957** and is based in **Manila, Philippines**. First Indian winner: Vinoba Bhave (1958).
  - Past Indian winners: Sonam Wangchuk and **Bharat Vatwani** (psychiatrist) in 2018; **Ravish Kumar** (journalist) in 2019.
  - 2025: **Educate Girls**, the first Indian organisation to win.
  - 2026 (68th): Tommy Koh (Singapore), Runa Khan (Bangladesh) and Bo Kyi (Myanmar).
- **Gandhi Peace Prize** is given by the Government of India. It was set up in **1995** (Gandhi's 125th birth anniversary) and carries ₹1 crore. First winner: Julius Nyerere. Winners include **Chandi Prasad Bhatt** (2013) and Gita Press (2021).
- Other honours and their fields:
  - Indira Gandhi Prize – peace, disarmament and development. Tagore Award – cultural harmony.
  - Nari Shakti Puraskar – women empowerment. National Teachers' Award – presented on 5 Sep.
  - **Mother Teresa Memorial Award** – social justice; given by the **Harmony Foundation**.
- The International Children's Peace Prize is given by KidsRights (Netherlands); Malala won it in 2013 and Kehkashan Basu in 2016.

MCQs – Awards & their Fields

Q1. Which of the following is a gallantry award?
(a) Padma Bhushan (b) Kirti Chakra (c) Bharat Ratna (d) Arjuna Award (e) Param Vishisht Seva Medal

Ans: (b) Kirti Chakra – it is the 2nd-highest peacetime gallantry award.

Q2. In which field is the Nobel Prize NOT given?
(a) Physics (b) Literature (c) Economics (d) Mathematics (e) Peace

Ans: (d) Mathematics – mathematics has the Fields Medal and the Abel Prize.

Q3. Ustad Bismillah Khan Yuva Puraskar is given in which field?
(a) Literature (b) Sports (c) Performing arts – music, dance, theatre (d) Science (e) Journalism

Ans: (c) Performing arts – it is given by the Sangeet Natak Akademi to artists under 40.

Q4. Rashtriya Vigyan Puraskar is given in which field?
(a) Sports (b) Science, technology and innovation (c) Literature (d) Social work (e) Agriculture

Ans: (b) Science, technology and innovation – it replaced about 300 science awards in 2023.

Q5. Who among the following has NOT received the Dadasaheb Phalke Award?
(a) Rajinikanth (b) Mohanlal (c) M.R. Radha (d) Waheeda Rehman (e) Asha Parekh

Ans: (c) M.R. Radha – all the others are Phalke recipients.

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Q6. Who is the 56th recipient of the Dadasaheb Phalke Award (for 2024)?
(a) Mohanlal (b) Mithun Chakraborty (c) Anant Nag (d) Mammootty (e) Kamal Haasan
Ans: (c) Anant Nag – Kannada actor; the 55th recipient was Mohanlal.

Q7. Who was the first recipient of the Dadasaheb Phalke Award (1969)?
(a) Prithviraj Kapoor (b) Devika Rani (c) Satyajit Ray (d) Raj Kapoor (e) Lata Mangeshkar
Ans: (b) Devika Rani – the award was instituted in 1969.

Q8. The Dronacharya Award is given for excellence in:
(a) Sports coaching (b) Teaching in schools (c) Archery only (d) Adventure sports (e) Sports journalism
Ans: (a) Sports coaching – it was instituted in 1985.

Q9. India's highest wartime gallantry award is:
(a) Ashoka Chakra (b) Maha Vir Chakra (c) Param Vir Chakra (d) Kirti Chakra (e) Vir Chakra
Ans: (c) Param Vir Chakra – the Ashoka Chakra is the highest peacetime gallantry award.

Q10. Which of these is a literature award?
(a) Kirti Chakra (b) Kalinga Prize (c) Saraswati Samman (d) Dronacharya Award (e) Shanti Swarup Bhatnagar Prize
Ans: (c) Saraswati Samman – given by the K.K. Birla Foundation (₹15 lakh).

Q11. The Kalinga Prize is awarded by UNESCO for:
(a) Peace (b) Popularisation of science (c) Literature (d) Heritage conservation (e) Journalism
Ans: (b) Popularisation of science – it was instituted in 1952 with a donation from Biju Patnaik.

Q12. The first Bharat Ratna awards (1954) went to:
(a) Nehru, Patel, Azad (b) Rajagopalachari, Radhakrishnan, C.V. Raman (c) Gandhi, Tagore, Bose (d) Indira Gandhi, Shastri, Kamaraj (e) Ambedkar, Rajendra Prasad, Bhabha
Ans: (b) C. Rajagopalachari, S. Radhakrishnan and C.V. Raman.

Q13. Who was the first person to receive the Bharat Ratna posthumously?
(a) Jawaharlal Nehru (b) Lal Bahadur Shastri (c) Sardar Patel (d) B.R. Ambedkar (e) K. Kamaraj
Ans: (b) Lal Bahadur Shastri – awarded in 1966.

Q14. The Ramon Magsaysay Award is presented in which country?
(a) Indonesia (b) Thailand (c) Philippines (d) Malaysia (e) Singapore
Ans: (c) Philippines – it is presented in Manila and known as "Asia's Nobel".

Q15. Which Indian organisation won the Ramon Magsaysay Award 2025?
(a) Pratham (b) Educate Girls (c) SEWA (d) Goonj (e) Akshaya Patra
Ans: (b) Educate Girls – the first Indian organisation to win it.

Q16. Which film won Best Feature Film at the 72nd National Film Awards?
(a) 12th Fail (b) Article 370 (c) Srikanth (d) Amaran (e) Kalki 2898 AD
Ans: (b) Article 370 – its lead actress Yami Gautam won Best Actress.

Q17. The 60th Jnanpith Award was given to:
(a) Gulzar (b) Vinod Kumar Shukla (c) R. Vairamuthu (d) Damodar Mauzo (e) Nilmani Phookan
Ans: (c) R. Vairamuthu – Tamil poet; the first Jnanpith (1965) went to G. Sankara Kurup.

Q18. The Gandhi Peace Prize is given by:
(a) UNESCO (b) Government of India (c) Gandhi Smriti Trust (d) Sabarmati Ashram (e) Nobel Committee
Ans: (b) Government of India – it was instituted in 1995 and carries ₹1 crore.

Q19. Pandit Jasraj's highest civilian award was:
(a) Bharat Ratna (b) Padma Vibhushan (c) Padma Bhushan (d) Padma Shri (e) Sangeet Natak Akademi Fellowship
Ans: (b) Padma Vibhushan – the second-highest civilian award.

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Q20. Golden Globe Awards are given for:

(a) Literature (b) Films and television (c) Music only (d) Theatre (e) Journalism

Ans: (b) Films and television – the Tony is for theatre and the Grammy for music.

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FIELD 9: DEFENCE

Exam tip: *Questions in this field mostly ask "Exercise X is between India and?". Also asked: missile type and range, the builder of a ship, which ministry a PSU is under, BRO projects and the current service chiefs. Learn the partner country for each exercise.*

Structure & Service Chiefs (as on Oct 2026)

- The **President** is the Supreme Commander of the Armed Forces. The Defence Minister heads the Ministry of Defence (MoD).
- The post of **Chief of Defence Staff (CDS)** was created in 2019. The CDS heads the **Department of Military Affairs** (DMA, 2020) and is the senior military adviser to the Defence Minister.
- CDS so far: Gen **Bipin Rawat** (1st, 1 Jan 2020), Gen **Anil Chauhan** (2nd) and Gen **N.S. Raja Subramani** (3rd, from May 2026).

Post	Office-holder (Oct 2026)
Chief of Defence Staff	Gen N.S. Raja Subramani (3rd)
Chief of Army Staff	Gen Dhiraj Seth (31st)
Chief of Naval Staff	Adm Krishna Swaminathan (27th)
Chief of Air Staff	ACM Amar Preet Singh
CAS-designate	Air Marshal Ashutosh Dixit (29th, from 31 Oct 2026)
Vice Chief of Army Staff	Lt Gen Sandeep Jain
Chief of Integrated Defence Staff	Air Marshal Tejinder Singh
DG, Border Roads	Lt Gen Raghu Srinivasan

- Gen **Dhiraj Seth** took over as COAS on 30 June 2026 from Gen Upendra Dwivedi. His Army roadmaps are **VIJAY** and SAMARTH.
- Adm **Krishna Swaminathan** took over as CNS on 31 May 2026 from Adm Dinesh K. Tripathi.
- Air Marshal **Ashutosh Dixit** has been appointed the 29th Chief of Air Staff from 31 Oct 2026, succeeding ACM Amar Preet Singh.
- Past chiefs asked: Gen Manoj Pande (29th COAS), Adm J.G. Nadkarni (14th CNS), Adm Karambir Singh (CNS in 2019) and Adm D.K. Joshi (CNS in 2013).
- First Indian chiefs: Army – **K.M. Cariappa** (1949); Air Force – **Subroto Mukerjee** (1954); Navy – **R.D. Katari** (1958).
- Five-star ranks: Field Marshal **Sam Manekshaw** (first, 1973) and **K.M. Cariappa** (1986); Marshal of the IAF **Arjan Singh**.
- Days: Army Day **15 Jan**, Air Force Day **8 Oct**, Navy Day **4 Dec** (marks **Operation Trident**, the 1971 attack on Karachi) and Armed Forces Flag Day 7 Dec.
- Mottos: Army – "Service Before Self"; Navy – "Sham No Varunah"; IAF – "Nabhah Sparsham Deeptam".
- FDI in defence: up to **74%** through the automatic route; above 74% through the government route (since 2020).

Commands & Headquarters

Command	Headquarters
Army – Northern	Udhampur (J&K)
Army – Western	Chandimandir (Haryana)
Army – South Western	Jaipur
Army – Southern	Pune
Army – Central	Lucknow
Army – Eastern	Kolkata
Army – Training (ARTRAC)	Shimla
Navy – Western	Mumbai
Navy – Eastern	Visakhapatnam
Navy – Southern (Training)	Kochi
IAF – Western	New Delhi
IAF – South Western	Gandhinagar
IAF – Central	Prayagraj
IAF – Eastern	Shillong
IAF – Southern	Thiruvananthapuram
IAF – Training	Bengaluru
IAF – Maintenance	Nagpur
Andaman & Nicobar (tri-service)	Port Blair (2001)
Strategic Forces Command	New Delhi (2003)

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- The **Andaman & Nicobar Command** (2001) is India's only theatre-level tri-service command.
- The **Strategic Forces Command** manages India's nuclear arsenal. India's nuclear triad was completed with **INS Arihant**.
- The first full-fledged Navy Services Selection Board was opened at **Kolkata**.
- Capt **Abhilasha Barak** became the first woman combat aviator of the Army Aviation Corps (2022).

Bilateral Military Exercises

Exercise	Partner country
Yudh Abhyas (Army)	USA
Vajra Prahar (Special Forces)	USA
Tiger Triumph (tri-service)	USA
Cope India (Air)	USA
INDRA (tri-service/Navy)	Russia
Dharma Guardian (Army)	Japan
JIMEX (Navy) / Veer Guardian (Air)	Japan
Ajeya Warrior (Army)	UK
KONKAN (Navy) / Indradhanush (Air)	UK
Shakti (Army)	France
Varuna (Navy) / Garuda (Air)	France
Mitra Shakti (Army) / SLINEX (Navy)	Sri Lanka
Surya Kiran	Nepal
Sampriti	Bangladesh
Ekuverin	Maldives
Nomadic Elephant	Mongolia
KAZIND	Kazakhstan
Khanjar	Kyrgyzstan
Dustlik	Uzbekistan
Lamitiye	Seychelles
Bold Kurukshetra (Army) / SIMBEX (Navy)	Singapore
Harimau Shakti / Udara Shakti / Samudra Laksamana	Malaysia
Maitree	Thailand
Garuda Shakti	Indonesia
VINBAX	Vietnam

Exercise	Partner / host
AUSTRAHIND (Army) / AUSINDEX (Navy)	Australia
Al Najah (Army)	Oman
Desert Cyclone / Mountain Guardian	UAE
Cyclone (Special Forces)	Egypt
Hand-in-Hand	China
CINBAX	Cambodia
Malabar (Navy)	USA, Japan, Australia
IBSAMAR (Navy)	Brazil and South Africa
Pitch Black (Air)	Hosted by Australia (Darwin)
RIMPAC (Navy)	Hosted by USA (Hawaii)
Red Flag (Air)	Hosted by USA
Bright Star	Hosted by Egypt (with USA)
Tarang Shakti (Air)	Hosted by India (IAF)
MILAN (Navy)	Hosted by India (Visakhapatnam)
ZAPAD	Russia and Belarus
Vostok	Russia

- **Malabar** began in 1992 as an India–US exercise. Japan became a permanent member in 2015 and Australia joined in 2020, making it a Quad exercise.
- **Yudh Abhyas** 2026 was the 22nd edition, held at Auli (Uttarakhand) and Bikaner.
- **Nomadic Elephant** 2026 was the 18th edition, held at Pithoragarh.
- **Tarang Shakti** is India's first multinational air exercise, started in 2024. The 2nd edition was held at AFS Jodhpur in 2026.
- **RIMPAC** is the world's largest maritime exercise, held every two years since 1971.

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- Garuda VI was held at Mont-de-Marsan, France. **Vijay Prahar** (2018) was an Indian Army exercise in **Rajasthan**.
- **Sea Vigil** is India's national coastal defence exercise. **SAREX** is the Coast Guard's search-and-rescue exercise.

Missiles & Weapon Systems

- The **Integrated Guided Missile Development Programme** (IGMDP, 1983) was led by **A.P.J. Abdul Kalam**. It produced Prithvi, Agni, Akash, Trishul and Nag.
- Missiles are test-fired from **Dr APJ Abdul Kalam Island** (formerly Wheeler Island) and from **ITR Chandipur**, both in Odisha. The **Dr APJ Abdul Kalam Missile Complex** is in **Hyderabad**.

Missile / system	Type and range
Prithvi-II	Surface-to-surface, about 350 km
Agni-I	Ballistic, about 700–900 km
Agni-II	Ballistic, about 2,000 km
Agni-III	Ballistic, about 3,000 km
Agni-IV	Ballistic, about 4,000 km
Agni-V	Over 5,000 km, MIRV (Divyastra 2024)
Agni-Prime	New-gen, 1,000–2,000 km
BrahMos	Supersonic cruise; India–Russia JV
Nirbhay	Subsonic cruise, about 1,000 km
Akash	Surface-to-air
Nag / Helina	Anti-tank, fire-and-forget
Astra	Air-to-air (beyond visual range)
Pralay	Quasi-ballistic surface-to-surface
Rudram-II	Air-to-surface, 300–350 km
K-4 / K-15	Submarine-launched ballistic
Pinaka	Multi-barrel rocket system (DRDO)

- **BrahMos** takes its name from the **Brahmaputra** and **Moskva** rivers. Export buyers: the **Philippines** (2022) and **Vietnam** (2026, US$629 million).

Foreign system	Country
Iron Dome (air defence)	Israel
Arrow / David's Sling	Israel
S-400 Triumf	Russia
Shturm-Ataka (anti-tank)	Russia
Patriot / THAAD	USA
Tomahawk	USA
Rafale fighter	France (Dassault)
Shaheen / Ghauri / Babur	Pakistan
Dongfeng	China

- Indian aircraft: **Tejas** is the indigenous Light Combat Aircraft (HAL/ADA). **Prachand** is the Light Combat Helicopter and **Dhruv** the Advanced Light Helicopter.
- **AMCA** (Advanced Medium Combat Aircraft) is India's 5th-generation fighter project.
- Missile basics:
  - **Prithvi** is a surface-to-surface missile and the first missile of the IGMDP.
  - **Agni-V** is India's longest-range ballistic missile. In 2024 it was tested with MIRV technology (Mission Divyastra).
  - **Nag** is an anti-tank guided missile; its helicopter-launched version is **Helina**.
  - **Akash** is a surface-to-air missile that is to be exported to Tajikistan and Turkmenistan (2026).
- The **K-series** missiles (K-4, K-15 Sagarika) are fired from the **Arihant-class** submarines and are named after Dr Kalam.
- **Rudram** is India's first indigenous anti-radiation missile. It is fired from the **Su-30MKI**.
- **TARA** is India's first indigenous glide weapon system. It was tested by DRDO and the IAF off the Odisha coast in 2026.
- The **Airbus C295** transport aircraft is being made in India by Tata Advanced Systems at **Vadodara**.
- **Pakistan's** missiles include Shaheen, Ghauri and Babur. **China's** Dongfeng series are ballistic missiles.

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- The **AK-203** rifle is made at Korwa, Amethi (India–Russia JV).

Navy – Ships, Submarines & Shipyards

Ship / class	Key fact
INS Vikrant	1st indigenous carrier; Cochin Shipyard; 2022
INS Vikramaditya	Ex-Admiral Gorshkov (Russia); 2013
INS Arihant	1st indigenous SSBN; reactor critical 2013
INS Arighat / Aridhaman	2nd (2024) and 3rd (2026) SSBN
Kalvari class (P-75)	Scorpene submarines; MDL with France
INS Vela	4th Kalvari (Scorpene) submarine
Visakhapatnam class (P-15B)	Stealth destroyers; MDL
Kolkata class (P-15A)	Destroyers; INS Chennai
Nilgiri class (P-17A)	Stealth frigates; MDL and GRSE
INS Chakra	Akula-II nuclear sub leased from Russia
INS Sindhudhvaj	Kilo-class sub, decommissioned July 2022
INS Sindhurakshak	Sank after explosions, Mumbai, 2013

- The Kalvari-class submarines are Kalvari, Khanderi, Karanj, **Vela**, Vagir and Vagsheer.
- The P-15B stealth destroyers are Visakhapatnam, Mormugao, Imphal and Surat. **INS Visakhapatnam** was built by **Mazagon Dock Shipbuilders**.
- **INS Vikrant** (IAC-1) was built by **Cochin Shipyard Ltd**, launched in Aug 2013 and commissioned on 2 Sep 2022.
- **INS Chennai** rescued the crew of the hijacked ship MV Lila Norfolk (2024). **INS Sumitra** was the first Indian warship to visit Sabang port (Indonesia).
- 2026 updates: INS **Mahendragiri** (6th P-17A frigate, MDL) was delivered to the Navy. **Surya** (FSS-1), India's first indigenous Fleet Support Ship, was launched by Hindustan Shipyard.
- **Mazagon Dock Shipbuilders** (MDL) is in Mumbai. **Garden Reach Shipbuilders & Engineers** (GRSE) is in **Kolkata**; it was the first Indian shipyard to build **100 warships** and became the 29th Navratna.
- **Goa Shipyard** and **Hindustan Shipyard** (Visakhapatnam) are under MoD. **Cochin Shipyard** is under the Ministry of Ports, Shipping & Waterways.
- Under AUKUS, Australia dropped a French deal to acquire **nuclear-powered submarines** from the US and UK.

DRDO & Defence PSUs

- **DRDO** (Defence Research and Development Organisation) was set up in **1958** and is headquartered in **New Delhi**. Motto: "Balasya Mulam Vigyanam".
  - The Defence Secretary, **Rajesh Kumar Singh**, holds additional charge as DRDO Chairman (as on Oct 2026).
  - DRDO set up **5** Young Scientist Labs (2020) and made **450 patents** free for industry.

Defence PSU	HQ / role
HAL	Bengaluru; aircraft; 14th Maharatna
BEL	Bengaluru; defence electronics; Navratna
BEML	Bengaluru; earth-movers, rail, defence vehicles
BDL	Hyderabad; missiles (est. 1970)
MIDHANI	Hyderabad; special metals and alloys
Mazagon Dock (MDL)	Mumbai; warships, submarines
GRSE	Kolkata; warships; Navratna
Goa Shipyard	Goa; patrol vessels
Hindustan Shipyard	Visakhapatnam; ships, submarine refits

- **BEML** (Bharat Earth Movers Ltd) comes under the **Ministry of Defence**.
- The DPSUs are managed by the MoD's **Department of Defence Production**.

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- The Ordnance Factory Board was split into **7 new DPSUs** on 1 Oct 2021. Examples: Munitions India (Pune), Armoured Vehicles Nigam (Avadi), Yantra India (Nagpur) and India Optel (Dehradun).
- Defence production in FY 2025-26 reached a record **₹1.78 lakh crore**, and exports were **₹38,424 crore**.

Paramilitary Forces & NSG

Force	Year / role
Assam Rifles	1835, oldest; Myanmar border
CRPF	1939; largest CAPF; internal security
BSF	1965; Pakistan and Bangladesh borders
ITBP	1962; China border (LAC)
SSB	1963; Nepal and Bhutan borders
CISF	1969; industry, airports, metro
NSG	1984; "Black Cats", counter-terror
Indian Coast Guard	1978; under MoD

- The CAPFs (CRPF, BSF, ITBP, SSB, CISF), the Assam Rifles and the NSG all come under the **Ministry of Home Affairs**.
- The Assam Rifles is under MHA for administration, but operationally it is controlled by the **Army**. Its HQ is in Shillong.
- The **NSG** was set up in **1984** after Operation Blue Star and was formally constituted under the **NSG Act, 1986**.
- The **Coast Guard** and the **Territorial Army** come under the **Ministry of Defence**.

Border Roads Organisation (BRO)

- BRO was set up on **7 May 1960**. It works under the **Ministry of Defence**, fully since 2015. Motto: "Shramena Sarvam Sadhyam".

BRO project	Area
Dantak	Bhutan (1961; first foreign project)
Himank	Ladakh
Vijayak	Ladakh
Beacon	Jammu & Kashmir
Vartak	Arunachal Pradesh (Tawang)
Arunank	Arunachal Pradesh
Brahmank	Arunachal Pradesh (2011)
Udayak	Assam / Arunachal (1990)
Swastik	Sikkim
Chetak	Rajasthan, Punjab, Gujarat (1980)
Deepak	Himachal Pradesh
Shivalik	Uttarakhand

- **Umling La** (about 19,024 ft) in eastern **Ladakh, India** was certified by Guinness in 2021 as the world's highest motorable road. It was built under Project Himank.
- **Mig La** (about 19,400 ft, Ladakh): BRO's Project Himank road over Mig La is claimed by BRO to be higher than Umling La; for exams, **Umling La** remains the standard answer for the world's highest motorable road.
- **Atal Tunnel** (Rohtang, Himachal, 9.02 km, 2020) is the world's longest highway tunnel above 10,000 ft.
- **Sela Tunnel** (Arunachal, 2024) is a BRO-built tunnel on the road to Tawang.
- Project Chetak's slogan is "Chetak ka Prayas, Desh ka Vikas"; its HQ is at Bikaner.

Operations & Miscellaneous

- Military operations:
  - **Operation Trident** – Navy attack on Karachi, 1971. **Operation Meghdoot** – Siachen, 1984.
  - **Operation Vijay** – Kargil 1999 (and Goa 1961). **Operation Blue Star** – Golden Temple, 1984.
- Evacuation operations: **Rahat** (Yemen, 2015), **Kaveri** (Sudan, 2023), **Ajay** (Israel, 2023).
- **Operation Sindoor** (May 2025): India's strikes on terror camps in Pakistan and PoK.
- India bought the **S-400** air-defence system from **Russia** and the **Rafale** fighter jet from **France**.
- The first batch of 17 women NDA cadets was commissioned in 2026.

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- **Samudra Pradakshina** (2026) was the first tri-service all-women circumnavigation, on the sailing vessel IASV Triveni.
- Sqn Ldr **Bhawana Kanth** became the IAF's first woman Fighter Combat Leader.
- The Assam Rifles is called the "Sentinels of the North East". The NSG is nicknamed the "**Black Cats**".
- The Territorial Army Day is observed on 9 Oct.

MCQs – Defence

Q1. Umling La, once certified as the world's highest motorable road, is in:
(a) Sikkim (b) Ladakh, India (c) Himachal Pradesh (d) Arunachal Pradesh (e) Tibet, China
Ans: (b) Ladakh, India – built by BRO under Project Himank.

Q2. BRO built the roads over Umling La and Mig La in Ladakh under which project?
(a) Dantak (b) Vartak (c) Himank (d) Swastik (e) Chetak
Ans: (c) Himank – BRO's project in Ladakh.

Q3. Exercise Nomadic Elephant is held between India and:
(a) Kazakhstan (b) Mongolia (c) Kyrgyzstan (d) Nepal (e) Bhutan
Ans: (b) Mongolia – the 18th edition was held at Pithoragarh.

Q4. Exercise Bright Star is hosted by:
(a) USA (b) Israel (c) Egypt (d) Saudi Arabia (e) Jordan
Ans: (c) Egypt – a multinational exercise co-led with the USA.

Q5. Exercise Ajeya Warrior is held between India and:
(a) France (b) USA (c) United Kingdom (d) Australia (e) Japan
Ans: (c) United Kingdom – the India–UK Army exercise.

Q6. Exercise Bold Kurukshetra is conducted between India and:
(a) Malaysia (b) Singapore (c) Indonesia (d) Thailand (e) Vietnam
Ans: (b) Singapore – the Army exercise; SIMBEX is the Navy exercise.

Q7. Exercise ZAPAD is conducted by:
(a) USA and NATO (b) China and Pakistan (c) Russia and Belarus (d) India and Russia (e) Iran and Russia
Ans: (c) Russia and Belarus.

Q8. Exercise Vajra Prahar is a special forces exercise between India and:
(a) USA (b) Russia (c) France (d) Israel (e) UK
Ans: (a) USA – India's other US exercises are Yudh Abhyas, Tiger Triumph and Cope India.

Q9. In which year was the National Security Guard (NSG) set up?
(a) 1965 (b) 1969 (c) 1984 (d) 1999 (e) 2008
Ans: (c) 1984 – after Operation Blue Star; formally constituted under the NSG Act, 1986.

Q10. BEML comes under which ministry?
(a) Heavy Industries (b) Ministry of Defence (c) Railways (d) Mines (e) Road Transport
Ans: (b) Ministry of Defence.

Q11. The Iron Dome air-defence system belongs to:
(a) USA (b) Russia (c) Israel (d) France (e) China
Ans: (c) Israel – the S-400 is Russian.

Q12. INS Vikrant, India's first indigenous aircraft carrier, was built by:
(a) Mazagon Dock (b) GRSE (c) Cochin Shipyard (d) Goa Shipyard (e) Hindustan Shipyard
Ans: (c) Cochin Shipyard Ltd – commissioned on 2 Sep 2022.

Q13. Who is the Chief of Army Staff as on October 2026?
(a) Gen Upendra Dwivedi (b) Gen Manoj Pande (c) Gen Dhiraj Seth (d) Gen Anil Chauhan (e) Gen N.S. Raja Subramani
Ans: (c) Gen Dhiraj Seth – 31st COAS since 30 June 2026; Gen Raja Subramani is the CDS.

Q14. India's 3rd Chief of Defence Staff is:
(a) Gen Bipin Rawat (b) Gen Anil Chauhan (c) Gen N.S. Raja Subramani (d) Adm Krishna Swaminathan (e) Gen M.M. Naravane
Ans: (c) Gen N.S. Raja Subramani – he succeeded Gen Anil Chauhan in 2026.

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Q15. Pinaka, developed by DRDO, is a:
(a) Main battle tank (b) Multi-barrel rocket launcher system (c) Submarine (d) Fighter aircraft (e) Radar
Ans: (b) Multi-barrel rocket launcher system.

Q16. The approximate range of Prithvi-II is:
(a) 150 km (b) 350 km (c) 700 km (d) 2,000 km (e) 5,000 km
Ans: (b) 350 km – a surface-to-surface missile from the IGMDP.

Q17. INS Vela is a submarine of which class?
(a) Arihant (b) Sindhughosh (c) Kalvari (Scorpene) (d) Shishumar (e) Akula
Ans: (c) Kalvari (Scorpene) class – the 4th of six built by MDL under Project-75.

Q18. India's first shipyard to build 100 warships is:
(a) Mazagon Dock (b) Cochin Shipyard (c) GRSE, Kolkata (d) Goa Shipyard (e) Hindustan Shipyard
Ans: (c) GRSE, Kolkata – it is now a Navratna.

Q19. Project Dantak of the BRO builds roads in which country?
(a) Nepal (b) Bhutan (c) Myanmar (d) Afghanistan (e) Tajikistan
Ans: (b) Bhutan – started in 1961, BRO's first foreign project.

Q20. Exercise SIMBEX is held between the navies of India and:
(a) Sri Lanka (b) Singapore (c) Malaysia (d) South Korea (e) Saudi Arabia
Ans: (b) Singapore – SLINEX is with Sri Lanka.

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FIELD 10: GI TAGS, HANDICRAFTS, FESTIVALS, DANCES & FOLK ARTS

Exam tip: *Almost every question in this field names an item and asks for its state: "Arani silk / Bidriware / Medaram Jatara / Bidesia belongs to which state?". Learn every item with its state, and especially the GI tags that recently came into the news.*

GI Tag – Basics

- A **Geographical Indication (GI)** identifies a product that comes from a specific place and has qualities or a reputation due to that origin.
- In India, GIs are governed by the **Geographical Indications of Goods (Registration & Protection) Act, 1999**, which came into force on **15 Sep 2003**. Globally, GIs are covered by the WTO's **TRIPS** agreement.
- GIs are administered by **DPIIT** (Ministry of Commerce & Industry). The **GI Registry** is in **Chennai**.
- A GI registration is valid for **10 years** and can be renewed.
- India's first GI tag was **Darjeeling Tea** (West Bengal), in 2004.
- India has about **822** GI products, after 125 new tags in FY 2025-26. **Uttar Pradesh** has the most (83), followed by Tamil Nadu (76) and West Bengal (59) (as on Oct 2026).
- Assam awarded a set of GI tags to products of the **Bodo** community, such as Bodo Aronai and Bodo Gamsa.
- Makaibari in Darjeeling is a famous **tea estate**.

GI Products & Handicrafts by State

GI product / craft	State
Darjeeling Tea (first GI)	West Bengal
Arani Silk	Tamil Nadu
Kanchipuram Silk, Madurai Malli	Tamil Nadu
Thanjavur Painting	Tamil Nadu
Bidriware (Bidar)	Karnataka
Mysore Silk, Channapatna Toys	Karnataka
Pochampally Ikat	Telangana
Patola (Patan)	Gujarat
Sikki Grass Craft	Bihar
Madhubani Painting, Shahi Litchi	Bihar
Mithila Makhana	Bihar
Longpi Pottery	Manipur
Kashmir Saffron (incl. Kishtwar)	Jammu & Kashmir
Karthumbi Umbrellas	Kerala
Aranmula Kannadi (mirror)	Kerala
Muga Silk, Joha Rice, Tezpur Litchi	Assam
Kandhamal Haldi, Kotpad Handloom	Odisha
Banarasi Saree	Uttar Pradesh
Chanderi Saree, Kadaknath	Madhya Pradesh
Tirupati Laddu, Kondapalli Toys	Andhra Pradesh
Alphonso Mango, Kolhapuri Chappal	Maharashtra
Feni	Goa
Kangra Tea, Kullu Shawl	Himachal Pradesh
Phulkari	Punjab
Blue Pottery, Bikaneri Bhujia	Rajasthan

- **Bidriware** is zinc–copper alloy work inlaid with silver, made at Bidar in Karnataka.
- **Patola** is a double-ikat silk saree from Patan in Gujarat. **Pochampally Ikat** is a tie-and-dye saree from Telangana.
- **Sikki** is a craft of golden grass, from Mithila in Bihar. **Longpi** is black stone pottery made by the Tangkhul Nagas of Ukhrul, Manipur.
- **Karthumbi umbrellas** are made by tribal women of **Attappady** in Kerala.
- **Arani silk** comes from Tiruvannamalai district in Tamil Nadu.
- **Kanchipuram silk** is known as the "queen of silks". **Madurai Malli** is a jasmine flower GI from Tamil Nadu.
- **Muga silk** is a golden silk found only in Assam. **Joha** is an aromatic rice from Assam.

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- **Mysore Silk** is a Karnataka GI made by KSIC. **Channapatna toys** are lacquered wooden toys and are called the "toy town" craft.
- **Kadaknath** is a black-meat chicken from Jhabua, Madhya Pradesh. **Chanderi** is a handloom saree from Ashoknagar, Madhya Pradesh.
- **Kashmir saffron** got its GI in 2020. It is grown on the karewas of Pampore, Budgam, Srinagar and **Kishtwar**.
- **Aranmula Kannadi** is a handmade metal-alloy mirror from Pathanamthitta, Kerala.
- **Rasagola**: Odisha Rasagola (2019) and Banglar Rasogolla, West Bengal (2017) each have a GI.
- **Tirupati Laddu** (Andhra Pradesh) is a temple-prasad GI. In 2026 the **Ambaji Temple Mohanthal** prasad (Gujarat) also got a GI.
- **Kandhamal Haldi** is a turmeric from Odisha. Meghalaya's **Lakadong turmeric** is known for its high curcumin content.
- **Sirsa Kinnow** is Haryana's first fruit GI. **Mandar**, a tribal red-clay drum, is from Jharkhand.
- APEDA's first GI exports in 2026: Tezpur Litchi (Assam) to Dubai, and Mithila Makhana (Bihar) to Australia.

GI in news 2025-26	State
Ponduru Khadi	Andhra Pradesh
Sirsa Kinnow (first fruit GI)	Haryana
Mandar (tribal drum)	Jharkhand
Sohrai-Khovar (first GI)	Jharkhand
Jodhpur Mojari	Rajasthan
Unjha Jeera, Pithora Painting	Gujarat
Basohli Painting	Jammu & Kashmir
Tripura Sarinda (string instrument)	Tripura
Bihu Pepa (horn instrument)	Assam
Kinnauri Topi, Chamba Metal Art	Himachal Pradesh
Santiniketan Batik, Jal Bhara Sandesh	West Bengal
Bawan Buti Saree, Pidiya Painting	Bihar
Jeera Phool Rice	Chhattisgarh
Khurasani Imli, Ratlami Garadu	Madhya Pradesh

Classical Dances & Classical Languages

- The **Sangeet Natak Akademi** recognises **8** classical dances. The Ministry of Culture also counts **Chhau**, making **9**.

Classical dance	State
Bharatanatyam	Tamil Nadu
Kathak	Uttar Pradesh (North India)
Kathakali	Kerala
Mohiniyattam	Kerala
Kuchipudi	Andhra Pradesh
Odissi	Odisha
Manipuri	Manipur
Sattriya	Assam
Chhau (9th, Ministry of Culture)	Odisha, Jharkhand, West Bengal

- Kerala has **two** classical dances: Kathakali and Mohiniyattam. **Sattriya** was started by Srimanta Sankardeva in the satras (monasteries) of Assam.
- Famous dancers:
  - Kathak – **Sitara Devi**, Birju Maharaj. Odissi – Kelucharan Mohapatra, Sonal Mansingh.
  - Bharatanatyam – Rukmini Devi Arundale (founded Kalakshetra). Kuchipudi – Vempati Chinna Satyam.
  - **Yamini Krishnamurthy** (Bharatanatyam and Kuchipudi). **Mallika Sarabhai** – classical dance (Kuchipudi and Bharatanatyam).
- Chhau is a masked dance. Its 3 styles are Seraikela (Jharkhand), Purulia (West Bengal) and Mayurbhanj (Odisha). It is on UNESCO's intangible heritage list.
- India has **11 classical languages** (as on Oct 2026).
  - Tamil (first, 2004), Sanskrit (2005), Telugu and Kannada (2008), Malayalam (2013) and Odia (2014).
  - Marathi, Pali, Prakrit, Assamese and Bengali were added in **Oct 2024**.

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  - In Feb 2024 **Bengali** was not yet a classical language; it was added in Oct 2024.
- The **Eighth Schedule** of the Constitution lists **22 languages**.

Folk Dances by State

Folk dance	State
Bihu, Bagurumba, Jhumur	Assam
Bidesia, Jat-Jatin, Jhijhiya	Bihar
Garba, Dandiya Raas, Tippani	Gujarat
Fugdi, Dekhni	Goa
Ghoomar, Kalbelia, Chari	Rajasthan
Bhangra, Giddha	Punjab
Lavani, Koli	Maharashtra
Cheraw (bamboo dance)	Mizoram
Hojagiri, Sangrai	Tripura
Theyyam, Thiruvathirakali, Oppana	Kerala
Yakshagana, Dollu Kunitha	Karnataka
Karagattam, Kummi, Kolattam	Tamil Nadu
Perini Sivatandavam	Telangana
Gotipua, Dhimsa	Odisha
Gambhira	West Bengal
Paika, Jhumar	Jharkhand
Panthi, Raut Nacha, Karma	Chhattisgarh
Matki, Tertali	Madhya Pradesh
Charkula, Raslila	Uttar Pradesh
Nati (Kullu Nati)	Himachal Pradesh
Chholiya	Uttarakhand
Rouf, Dumhal	Jammu & Kashmir
Singhi Chham	Sikkim
Thang-Ta (martial art)	Manipur
Wangala, Nongkrem	Meghalaya

- **Sangrai** is danced by the Mog community of Tripura during their New Year.
- **Bidesia** is a Bhojpuri folk dance-drama from Bihar about migrant workers. It was popularised by **Bhikhari Thakur**.
- **Kalbelia** (Rajasthan, the snake-charmer community) is on UNESCO's intangible heritage list.
- **Ghoomar** is a Rajasthani women's dance associated with the Bhil tribe and Rajput royalty.
- **Dandiya Raas** and **Garba** of Gujarat are performed during Navratri.
- **Fugdi** of Goa is a women's dance performed in a circle during festivals.
- **Cheraw** of Mizoram is danced between moving bamboo poles.
- **Hojagiri** of Tripura is performed by Reang women balancing pots and lamps.
- **Lavani** of Maharashtra is danced to the beat of the dholki. **Yakshagana** of Karnataka is a dance-drama.
- **Bihu** dance is performed during Rongali (Bohag) Bihu in Assam. **Bagurumba** is the "butterfly dance" of the Bodos.
- **Kullu Nati** of Himachal is in the Guinness Book as the largest folk dance.

Festivals & Fairs by State

Festival / fair	State
Mahamaham (once in 12 years)	Tamil Nadu (Kumbakonam)
Pongal, Jallikattu	Tamil Nadu
Medaram Jatara (Sammakka-Saralamma)	Telangana
Bathukamma, Bonalu	Telangana
Dhanu Jatra (Bargarh)	Odisha
Raja Parba, Nuakhai	Odisha
Hornbill Festival (1–10 Dec)	Nagaland (Kisama)
Sekrenyi, Moatsu	Nagaland
Bihu, Ambubachi Mela	Assam
Hemis, Losar	Ladakh
Kheer Bhawani Mela	Jammu & Kashmir
Onam, Vishu, Thrissur Pooram	Kerala
Chhath	Bihar

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Festival / fair	State
Hareli, Bastar Dussehra	Chhattisgarh
Pushkar Mela, Teej	Rajasthan
Hola Mohalla, Lohri	Punjab
Gudi Padwa, Ganesh Utsav	Maharashtra
Ugadi	Karnataka, AP, Telangana
Chapchar Kut	Mizoram
Wangala	Meghalaya (Garo)
Losoong	Sikkim
Sangai Festival	Manipur
Kharchi Puja	Tripura
Dree, Solung	Arunachal Pradesh
Rann Utsav	Gujarat (Kutch)

- **Nagaland** is called the "**Land of Festivals**" (17 major tribes). The **Hornbill Festival**, the "Festival of Festivals", is held at Naga Heritage Village, **Kisama**, near Kohima. The 27th edition is on 1–10 Dec 2026.
- **Mahamaham** is held once in **12 years** at the Mahamaham tank in **Kumbakonam**, Tamil Nadu.
- **Medaram Jatara** (Mulugu district, **Telangana**) is a biennial festival of the Koya tribe and is called Asia's largest tribal fair.
- **Dhanu Jatra** (Bargarh, **Odisha**) is known as the world's largest open-air theatre; it re-enacts the story of Krishna and Kansa.
- Assam has 3 Bihus: Rongali or Bohag Bihu (April), Kongali or Kati Bihu (October) and Bhogali or **Magh Bihu** (January, the harvest festival).
- **Onam** is the harvest festival of Kerala, linked to King Mahabali. The **Nehru Trophy Boat Race** is held on Punnamada Lake, Alappuzha.
- **Bathukamma** is the flower festival of Telangana, celebrated by women.
- **Raja Parba** is a 3-day festival in Odisha that celebrates womanhood and the earth. **Nuakhai** is the harvest festival of western Odisha.
- **Chapchar Kut** is the spring festival of Mizoram. **Wangala** is the harvest festival of the Garos of Meghalaya.
- **Hola Mohalla** is held at Anandpur Sahib, Punjab. **Pushkar Mela** (Ajmer, Rajasthan) is a camel fair.
- **Bastar Dussehra** (Chhattisgarh) lasts about 75 days, the longest Dussehra in India.
- **Hemis** festival is held at Hemis Monastery in **Ladakh**. Ambubachi Mela takes place at the Kamakhya Temple in Assam.
- **Bal Gangadhar Tilak** made Ganesh Utsav a public festival.
- Dance festivals: **Konark** Dance Festival – Odisha; **Khajuraho** – Madhya Pradesh; **Elephanta** – Maharashtra (Mumbai); Hampi Utsav – Karnataka.
- **La Tomatina** (a tomato-throwing festival) is held in **Spain**. The Kumbh Mela is on UNESCO's intangible heritage list (2017).

Folk Paintings & Arts

Painting / art	State
Madhubani (Mithila)	Bihar
Manjusha, Pidiya	Bihar
Warli (tribal)	Maharashtra
Pattachitra	Odisha and West Bengal
Saura	Odisha
Kalighat	West Bengal
Kalamkari	Andhra Pradesh
Cheriyal Scroll	Telangana
Gond, Bhil	Madhya Pradesh
Pithora (Rathwa tribe)	Gujarat
Rogan Art	Gujarat (Kutch)
Phad, Pichwai	Rajasthan
Tanjore	Tamil Nadu
Mysore Painting, Chittara	Karnataka
Kerala Mural	Kerala
Sohrai-Khovar	Jharkhand
Aipan	Uttarakhand
Kangra, Basohli (Pahari miniature)	Himachal Pradesh, J&K
Thangka	Sikkim, Ladakh

- **Warli** painting uses white rice paste on mud walls and is made by the Warli tribe of Thane-Palghar, Maharashtra.

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- **Kalamkari** is done with a pen (kalam). Its styles are Srikalahasti and Machilipatnam.
- **Pattachitra** is a cloth-based scroll painting from Odisha, especially Raghurajpur near Puri.
- **Madhubani** (Mithila) painting is done by women of the Mithila region of Bihar. It uses natural colours and bold outlines.
- **Gond** painting is the art of the Gond tribe of Madhya Pradesh and is made of dots and lines.
- **Phad** is a scroll painting from Rajasthan of folk deities such as Pabuji and Devnarayan. **Pichwai** comes from Nathdwara.
- **Cheriyal** scrolls of Telangana are made by the Nakashi artist community.
- **Tanjore** paintings of Tamil Nadu use gold foil and gesso work.
- **Sohrai** and **Khovar** are mural arts of Jharkhand painted on house walls; together they were Jharkhand's first GI.
- **Rogan** art (Kutch) is painting on cloth with castor-oil paste.
- Tyeb Mehta's "Rickshaw Puller" sold for **₹69.1 crore** at auction (2026).

Folk Theatre & Folk Music

Folk theatre / music	State
Pandavani	Chhattisgarh
Yakshagana	Karnataka
Tamasha	Maharashtra
Jatra	West Bengal, Odisha
Nautanki	Uttar Pradesh
Bhavai	Gujarat
Swang / Saang	Haryana
Therukoothu	Tamil Nadu
Ankiya Naat	Assam
Bhand Pather	Jammu & Kashmir
Koodiyattam, Mudiyettu	Kerala
Ramman	Uttarakhand
Baul (music)	West Bengal

- **Pandavani** is a ballad style that tells stories from the Mahabharata (the Pandavas). Its greatest exponent was **Teejan Bai** of Chhattisgarh, who sang in the Kapalik style. She received the Padma Vibhushan (2019) and died in 2026.
- **Sharda Sinha** was a **folk singer from Bihar**, famous for Chhath songs in Bhojpuri and Maithili.
- **Koodiyattam** is Sanskrit theatre from Kerala. It is on UNESCO's intangible heritage list, along with Mudiyettu (Kerala), Ramman (Uttarakhand) and Baul (West Bengal).
- **Bhawaiya** is a folk music of North Bengal and Assam. The **Bihu Pepa**, a buffalo-horn pipe played in Assam, got a GI tag.

MCQs – GI Tags, Handicrafts, Festivals, Dances & Folk Arts

Q1. GI-tagged Arani silk belongs to which state?
(a) Karnataka (b) Tamil Nadu (c) Andhra Pradesh (d) Kerala (e) Odisha
Ans: (b) Tamil Nadu – from Tiruvannamalai district.

Q2. Bidriware is associated with which state?
(a) Telangana (b) Karnataka (c) Maharashtra (d) Rajasthan (e) Uttar Pradesh
Ans: (b) Karnataka – metal craft of Bidar, inlaid with silver.

Q3. Pochampally Ikat (GI) belongs to:
(a) Andhra Pradesh (b) Odisha (c) Telangana (d) Gujarat (e) Tamil Nadu
Ans: (c) Telangana – a tie-and-dye handloom saree.

Q4. Patola sarees with a GI tag are from:
(a) Rajasthan (b) Gujarat (c) Maharashtra (d) Madhya Pradesh (e) West Bengal
Ans: (b) Gujarat – double-ikat silk from Patan.

Q5. Sikki grass craft is from:
(a) Odisha (b) Assam (c) Bihar (d) Jharkhand (e) Tripura
Ans: (c) Bihar – golden-grass craft of the Mithila region.

Q6. Longpi pottery belongs to which state?
(a) Nagaland (b) Mizoram (c) Manipur (d) Meghalaya (e) Arunachal Pradesh
Ans: (c) Manipur – black stone pottery of the Tangkhul Nagas, Ukhrul.

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Q7. Karthumbi umbrellas are made in:
(a) Karnataka (b) Kerala (c) Tamil Nadu (d) Goa (e) Andhra Pradesh
Ans: (b) Kerala – made by tribal women of Attappady.

Q8. Which GI product is associated with Kishtwar?
(a) Pashmina (b) Saffron (c) Walnut (d) Apple (e) Basmati rice
Ans: (b) Saffron – Kashmir saffron (GI) is grown in Pampore and Kishtwar.

Q9. India's first GI-tagged product is:
(a) Mysore Silk (b) Darjeeling Tea (c) Pochampally Ikat (d) Banarasi Saree (e) Kanchipuram Silk
Ans: (b) Darjeeling Tea – West Bengal, 2004; the GI Registry is in Chennai.

Q10. The Mahamaham festival, held once in 12 years, is celebrated in:
(a) Kerala (b) Karnataka (c) Tamil Nadu (d) Andhra Pradesh (e) Odisha
Ans: (c) Tamil Nadu – at Kumbakonam.

Q11. Medaram Jatara is celebrated in:
(a) Odisha (b) Chhattisgarh (c) Telangana (d) Jharkhand (e) Maharashtra
Ans: (c) Telangana – Asia's largest tribal fair (Sammakka-Saralamma).

Q12. Which state is called the 'Land of Festivals' and hosts the Hornbill Festival?
(a) Mizoram (b) Manipur (c) Nagaland (d) Arunachal Pradesh (e) Meghalaya
Ans: (c) Nagaland – Hornbill is held at Kisama, near Kohima, on 1–10 Dec.

Q13. Bidesia folk dance belongs to:
(a) Uttar Pradesh (b) Bihar (c) Jharkhand (d) West Bengal (e) Madhya Pradesh
Ans: (b) Bihar – a Bhojpuri dance-drama popularised by Bhikhari Thakur.

Q14. Fugdi is a folk dance of:
(a) Maharashtra (b) Goa (c) Karnataka (d) Gujarat (e) Kerala
Ans: (b) Goa – performed by women.

Q15. Sattriya is the classical dance of:
(a) Manipur (b) Assam (c) Odisha (d) West Bengal (e) Tripura
Ans: (b) Assam – started by Srimanta Sankardeva.

Q16. Teejan Bai, who died in 2026, was an exponent of:
(a) Yakshagana (b) Pandavani (c) Tamasha (d) Bhavai (e) Nautanki
Ans: (b) Pandavani – a Mahabharata ballad form of Chhattisgarh.

Q17. Which of these languages was NOT a classical language as of Feb 2024?
(a) Tamil (b) Malayalam (c) Bengali (d) Odia (e) Kannada
Ans: (c) Bengali – it was added in Oct 2024; India now has 11 classical languages.

Q18. Hemis festival is celebrated in:
(a) Sikkim (b) Ladakh (c) Himachal Pradesh (d) Arunachal Pradesh (e) Uttarakhand
Ans: (b) Ladakh – at Hemis Monastery.

Q19. Cheraw, the bamboo dance, belongs to:
(a) Tripura (b) Mizoram (c) Nagaland (d) Manipur (e) Assam
Ans: (b) Mizoram.

Q20. Warli painting is a tribal art of which state?
(a) Madhya Pradesh (b) Gujarat (c) Maharashtra (d) Odisha (e) Chhattisgarh
Ans: (c) Maharashtra – white rice-paste figures on mud walls.

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FIELD 11: REPORTS & INDICES WITH THEIR PUBLISHERS

Exam tip: *Asked as "Which organisation publishes X?" or "What is India's rank in Y?". Learn the publisher pairs as static facts, and use the latest NBCC 2026 ranks for the rank questions.*

World Bank & IMF Reports

Report / Index	Publisher
Global Economic Prospects (GEP)	World Bank
World Development Report	World Bank
B-READY (Business Ready)	World Bank
Doing Business (discontinued)	World Bank
Logistics Performance Index	World Bank
Human Capital Index	World Bank
Global Findex (financial inclusion)	World Bank
Women, Business and the Law	World Bank
Container Port Performance Index	World Bank & S&P Global
World Economic Outlook (WEO)	IMF
Global Financial Stability Report	IMF
Fiscal Monitor	IMF
External Sector Report	IMF

- The **Global Economic Prospects** is the **World Bank's** flagship report, released twice a year (January and June).
- **B-READY** is the World Bank's new business-environment report (first edition 2024). It **replaced the Doing Business report**, which was discontinued in 2021.
- The **World Economic Outlook** is published by the **IMF** twice a year (April and October). In October 2026 it projected India's **FY27 growth at 7.0%**.
- The **Global Financial Stability Report (GFSR)** and the **Fiscal Monitor** are also IMF publications, released twice a year.
- The IMF creates **Special Drawing Rights (SDRs)**, introduced in **1969**. The SDR basket has 5 currencies: USD, Euro, Yuan, Yen and Pound.
- Container Port Performance Index 2025: **JNPA (22nd)** is India's best-ranked port; Fuzhou (China) is 1st.

WEF, UN & UN Agency Reports

Report / Index	Publisher
Global Gender Gap Index	World Economic Forum
Global Risks Report	World Economic Forum
Global Competitiveness Report	World Economic Forum
Travel & Tourism Development Index	World Economic Forum
Energy Transition Index	World Economic Forum
Future of Jobs Report	World Economic Forum
Human Development Index / HDR	UNDP
Global Multidimensional Poverty Index	UNDP & OPHI (Oxford)
SDG Index (Sustainable Dev. Report)	UN SDSN
World Happiness Report	Gallup, Oxford WRC & UN SDSN
World Economic Situation & Prospects	UN DESA
World Investment Report	UNCTAD
State of the World's Children	UNICEF
State of World Population	UNFPA
Emissions Gap Report	UNEP
World Employment & Social Outlook	ILO
World Migration Report	IOM
World Drug Report	UNODC

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Report / Index	Publisher
Global TB Report, World Malaria Report	WHO
Global Innovation Index	WIPO
Global Cybersecurity Index	ITU

- The **Global Risks Report** (WEF) is released every January, before the Davos meeting.
- The WEF's **Global Competitiveness Report** ranks countries on **12 pillars**. The **WEF** is HQ'd in **Cologny, Geneva**.
- The **HDI** is published by **UNDP** in the Human Development Report (since 1990). It measures health (life expectancy), education and income.
- India ranked **130th** in the HDI (Human Development Report 2025).
- The **Global MPI** is released by **UNDP with OPHI** (Oxford Poverty & Human Development Initiative).
- The **World Economic Situation and Prospects** report is published by the **United Nations (UN DESA)**.
- The 2019 report on heat stress and labour productivity ("Working on a Warmer Planet") was published by the **ILO**. The ILO also publishes the Global Wage Report.

FAO, IUCN & Environment Reports

Report / Index	Publisher
IUCN Red List of Threatened Species	IUCN
Global Forest Resources Assessment	FAO
State of Food Security & Nutrition (SOFI)	FAO with IFAD, UNICEF, WFP, WHO
State of World Fisheries (SOFIA)	FAO
FAO Food Price Index	FAO
Living Planet Report	WWF
Environmental Performance Index	Yale & Columbia Universities
Climate Change Performance Index	Germanwatch, NewClimate, CAN

Report / Index	Publisher
World Energy Outlook	International Energy Agency
Renewable Capacity Statistics	IRENA
World Air Quality Report	IQAir
India State of Forest Report	Forest Survey of India

- The **IUCN Red List** (since **1964**) rates species in **9 categories**. They range from Least Concern to Extinct and include Critically Endangered, Endangered and Vulnerable.
- **IUCN**: founded 1948, HQ **Gland, Switzerland**. Its World Conservation Congress is held every **4 years**.
- The FAO's **Global Forest Resources Assessment (FRA)** comes out every 5 years. In **FRA 2025**, India is **9th in forest area** and **3rd in net annual forest gain**.
- **FAO Food Price Index**: base **2014–16 = 100**. FAO is HQ'd in Rome.
- **Living Planet Report 2026 (WWF)**: monitored wildlife populations fell by about **73%** (1970–2022).

Other Global Indices & Publishers

Report / Index	Publisher
Global Hunger Index	Concern Worldwide & Welthungerhilfe
Global Peace Index	Institute for Economics & Peace
Global Terrorism Index	Institute for Economics & Peace
World Press Freedom Index	Reporters Without Borders (RSF)
Henley Passport Index	Henley & Partners
Global Passport Index	Global Citizen Solutions
Corruption Perceptions Index	Transparency International
Democracy Index, Global Liveability	Economist Intelligence Unit
Index of Economic Freedom	Heritage Foundation
Economic Freedom of the World	Fraser Institute

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Report / Index	Publisher
World Inequality Report	World Inequality Lab
SIPRI Yearbook / military spending	SIPRI, Stockholm
World Competitiveness Ranking	IMD, Lausanne
QS World University Rankings	Quacquarelli Symonds
THE World University Rankings	Times Higher Education
Global Startup Ecosystem Report	Startup Genome
Hurun Global Rich List	Hurun

- The **Henley Passport Index** covers **199 passports** and ranks them by visa-free access. It is based on IATA data.
- The **Global Peace Index** is published by the **IEP** (HQ **Sydney**). 2026 was its **20th** edition.
- The **World Press Freedom Index** is published by **RSF** (HQ **Paris**) and covers 180 countries.
- **World Inequality Report 2022**: the **Middle East & North Africa (MENA)** was the most unequal region.
- Toppers of past editions:
  - **Index of Economic Freedom** 2016 and 2017: **Hong Kong**.
  - **Global Peace Index** 2019: **Iceland**.
  - **Henley Passport Index** 2023: **Japan**.
  - **EIU Global Liveability** 2022: **Osaka** was the only Asian city in the top 10.

Index Facts – Indicators & First Editions

- The **HDI** was developed by **Mahbub ul Haq** with **Amartya Sen**. The first Human Development Report came out in **1990**.
- The **Global Gender Gap Index** (WEF) was first published in **2006**. Its 4 sub-indices:
  - Economic Participation & Opportunity.
  - Educational Attainment.
  - Health & Survival.
  - Political Empowerment.
- The **Global Hunger Index** uses 4 indicators: **undernourishment, child stunting, child wasting and child mortality**.
- The **Global Peace Index** was first released in **2007**. The **World Press Freedom Index** has run since **2002**.
- The **Corruption Perceptions Index** (Transparency International, Berlin) has run since **1995**. It scores from **0 (highly corrupt) to 100 (very clean)**.
- The **World Happiness Report** was first published in **2012**. It is released around the International Day of Happiness (**20 March**).
- The **Global Innovation Index** was first published in **2007**. It is now released by **WIPO**.
- The **World Migration Report** (IOM) and the **Living Planet Report** (WWF) are both **biennial**.
- **Doing Business 2020**: India was **63rd**, its best ever rank, before the report was discontinued.
- Under the **National Logistics Policy** (2022), India aims to be in the **top 25** of the Logistics Performance Index by 2030.
- EIU **Global Liveability Index 2026**: **Copenhagen** is 1st and New Delhi 120th.

India's Rank in Global Indices (as on Oct 2026)

Index (Edition)	India's Rank – Topper
Global Hunger Index 2026	100th of 122 (serious)
Global Gender Gap 2026	131st – Iceland
Human Development Index (HDR 2025)	130th
Global Peace Index 2026	127th of 163 – Iceland
World Press Freedom 2026	157th of 180 – Norway
SDG Index 2026	94th of 167 – Finland
Global Innovation Index 2025	38th of 139 – Switzerland
Henley Passport Index (Oct 2026)	84th – Singapore
Global Passport Index 2026	125th – Sweden
World Happiness Report 2026	116th – Finland
Global Terrorism Index 2026	13th – Pakistan most affected

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Index (Edition)	India's Rank – Topper
Travel & Tourism Dev. Index 2026	31st of 110 – Japan
Energy Transition Index 2026	70th – Sweden
Environmental Performance Index 2026	176th of 177 – Estonia
World Investment Report 2026 (FDI)	11th
SIPRI military spending 2025	5th ($92.1 bn) – USA
World Migration Report 2026 (remittances)	1st ($137.67 bn)

- **GHI 2026**: India is **100th** (102nd in 2025). Theme: "No Security Without Food Security". **Somalia** is worst. Neighbours: Sri Lanka 53, Nepal 72, Bangladesh 84, Pakistan 106.
- **Gender Gap 2026**: **Iceland** topped for the **17th** straight year and is the only country above 90% parity. India is unchanged at **131st**.
- **Global Peace Index 2026**: **Iceland** is the most peaceful country. Russia is the least peaceful (163rd) for the first time, and **Bhutan** (16th) is best in South Asia.
- **Press Freedom 2026**: **Norway** has been 1st for 10 years. India is in the "Very Serious" category, and Eritrea is last.
- **Henley Passport Index (Oct 2026)**: India is **84th**, with visa-free access to 55 destinations. **Singapore** is 1st.
- **SIPRI Yearbook 2026**: India has **190** nuclear warheads and is the **2nd-largest arms importer** (after Ukraine).
- Patent filings: India is **6th** (WIPO). Ship recycling: India is **1st** (UNCTAD). Renewable capacity: India is **3rd** (IRENA).
- University rankings: **THE WUR 2027** top Indian is **IISc** (Oxford is 1st). **QS WUR 2027** top Indian is **IIT Delhi**, 118th (MIT is 1st).

RBI Reports & Publications

- **"State Finances: A Study of Budgets"** is an annual report by the **RBI** on the finances of the state governments.
- **Report on Currency and Finance** (RBI) is published **annually**, each year on a chosen theme.
- **Financial Stability Report (FSR)**: **half-yearly** (June and December), by the RBI with the FSDC Sub-Committee. FSR June 2026 put GNPA at **1.8%**, a 10-year low.
- **Report on Trend and Progress of Banking in India**: annual, statutory under Section 36(2) of the Banking Regulation Act.
- **Monetary Policy Report**: half-yearly (April and October). The **RBI Annual Report** is a statutory report on RBI's own working.
- Other RBI publications: **Handbook of Statistics on the Indian Economy**, the Handbook of Statistics on Indian States and the **monthly RBI Bulletin**.
- **RBI Digital Payments Index**: base period **March 2018 = 100**. The **Financial Inclusion Index (FI-Index)** is published annually.
- RBI's **Inflation Expectations Survey of Households** covers **19 cities**. RBI also runs the Consumer Confidence Survey.
- The **National Strategy for Financial Education (2020–25)** was released by the **RBI**, through NCFE.
- RBI also publishes a **Report on Municipal Finances**. The RBI Annual Report FY26 showed the balance sheet up **20.6%** to about ₹91.97 lakh crore.

Indian Government Reports & Indices

Report / Index	Publisher
Economic Survey	Ministry of Finance (CEA)
CPI, IIP, GDP, PLFS	NSO, MoSPI
WPI, Eight Core Industries	Office of Economic Adviser, DPIIT
SDG India Index	NITI Aayog
Export Preparedness Index	NITI Aayog
India Innovation Index	NITI Aayog
Fiscal Health Index	NITI Aayog
Investment Friendliness Index	NITI Aayog
Swachh Survekshan, Ease of Living	MoHUA
LEADS (logistics)	Ministry of Commerce

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Report / Index	Publisher
States' Startup Ranking	DPIIT
Crime in India	NCRB (MHA)
NFHS	MoHFW (nodal IIPS Mumbai)
India Justice Report	Tata Trusts & partners
PGI, NIRF, AISHE	Ministry of Education
Panchayat Advancement Index	Ministry of Panchayati Raj

- The **CPI** is released by the **NSO**, Ministry of Statistics & Programme Implementation (MoSPI). The **WPI** is released by the Office of the Economic Adviser, DPIIT.
- Toppers:
  - **SDG India Index 2023-24**: **Kerala and Uttarakhand** jointly.
  - **Export Preparedness Index 2022**: **Tamil Nadu**.
  - **India Justice Report 2020** (large states): **Maharashtra**.
  - **Fiscal Health Index**: **Odisha**.
  - **Investment Friendliness Index** (first edition): **Gujarat** among large states.
- The **Economic Survey** is prepared by the Chief Economic Adviser and tabled a day before the Union Budget.
- The **Investment Friendliness Index** (NITI Aayog, first edition) covers 28 states and 8 UTs on **84 indicators** across 8 pillars.
- The **NCRB** (est. 1986, under MHA) publishes **Crime in India**. The nodal agency for **NFHS-6** is **IIPS Mumbai**.
- 2026 domestic toppers:
  - **School Education Quality Index** (NITI): **Punjab**.
  - **Panchayat Advancement Index 2.0**: **Tripura**.
  - **Swachh Vayu Survekshan** (cities over 10 lakh): **Lucknow**.
- Private lists 2026: **Hurun India Rich List** No. 1 is **Gautam Adani**; **Brand Finance India 100** No. 1 is the **Tata Group** (18th year).

MCQs – Reports & Indices with their Publishers

Q1. Which organisation publishes the Global Economic Prospects (GEP) report?
(a) IMF (b) World Bank (c) WTO (d) UNCTAD (e) OECD

Ans: (b) World Bank – released every January and June.

Q2. The World Bank's B-READY report replaced which report?
(a) World Development Report (b) Doing Business report (c) Global Findex (d) Logistics Performance Index (e) Human Capital Index

Ans: (b) Doing Business – discontinued in 2021; B-READY began in 2024.

Q3. The Global Financial Stability Report is published by:
(a) World Bank (b) BIS (c) IMF (d) RBI (e) FSB

Ans: (c) IMF – twice a year, along with the World Economic Outlook.

Q4. Which body publishes the Red List of threatened species?
(a) WWF (b) UNEP (c) IUCN (d) CITES (e) FAO

Ans: (c) IUCN – since 1964; IUCN is HQ'd in Gland, Switzerland.

Q5. The Global Risks Report is published by:
(a) IMF (b) World Bank (c) World Economic Forum (d) UNDP (e) OECD

Ans: (c) World Economic Forum – every January.

Q6. Which country is the world's most peaceful as per the Global Peace Index 2026?
(a) Denmark (b) New Zealand (c) Iceland (d) Ireland (e) Bhutan

Ans: (c) Iceland – India is 127th of 163.

Q7. What is India's rank in the UNDP Human Development Index (HDR 2025)?
(a) 105 (b) 116 (c) 126 (d) 130 (e) 134

Ans: (d) 130th.

Q8. How many passports does the Henley Passport Index cover?
(a) 150 (b) 180 (c) 193 (d) 199 (e) 227

Ans: (d) 199 passports.

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Q9. RBI's Report on Currency and Finance is released:
(a) Monthly (b) Quarterly (c) Half-yearly (d) Annually (e) Once every five years
Ans: (d) Annually – each year on a chosen theme.

Q10. "State Finances: A Study of Budgets" is published by:
(a) Finance Commission (b) NITI Aayog (c) RBI (d) CAG (e) Ministry of Finance
Ans: (c) RBI.

Q11. The World Economic Outlook is published by:
(a) World Bank (b) IMF (c) WEF (d) UN DESA (e) OECD
Ans: (b) IMF – in April and October.

Q12. The Global Multidimensional Poverty Index is released by UNDP together with:
(a) World Bank (b) OPHI (c) UNICEF (d) Gallup (e) IFPRI
Ans: (b) OPHI – Oxford Poverty & Human Development Initiative.

Q13. India's rank in the Global Hunger Index 2026 is:
(a) 102nd (b) 105th (c) 100th (d) 111th (e) 94th
Ans: (c) 100th of 122 – "serious" category; India was 102nd in 2025.

Q14. Which country topped the Global Gender Gap Index 2026 for the 17th consecutive year?
(a) Norway (b) Finland (c) Iceland (d) New Zealand (e) Sweden
Ans: (c) Iceland – India is 131st.

Q15. Which country tops the SDG Index 2026?
(a) Sweden (b) Denmark (c) Finland (d) Austria (e) Norway
Ans: (c) Finland – India is 94th of 167 (UN SDSN).

Q16. The Global Innovation Index is published by:
(a) WEF (b) WIPO (c) UNCTAD (d) World Bank (e) ITU
Ans: (b) WIPO – India was 38th of 139 in 2025.

Q17. The World Economic Situation and Prospects report is published by:
(a) IMF (b) World Bank (c) United Nations (UN DESA) (d) WTO (e) WEF
Ans: (c) United Nations – by UN DESA.

Q18. The State of the World's Children report is published by:
(a) UNFPA (b) UNESCO (c) UNICEF (d) WHO (e) UNDP
Ans: (c) UNICEF.

Q19. What is the base period of RBI's Digital Payments Index?
(a) March 2015 (b) March 2016 (c) March 2018 (d) March 2020 (e) 2011-12
Ans: (c) March 2018 = 100.

Q20. The World Press Freedom Index is published by:
(a) Freedom House (b) Reporters Without Borders (c) Amnesty International (d) UNESCO (e) Press Council of India
Ans: (b) Reporters Without Borders (RSF), Paris – India is 157th of 180 in 2026.

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FIELD 12: INTERNATIONAL ORGANISATIONS & GROUPINGS

Exam tip: *Typical questions are founding year, number of members, HQ, the newest member or the one that left, and "Which is NOT a member of X?". BRICS, ASEAN, OPEC and NATO membership changes are the favourites. For HQs, also see Field 06.*

United Nations

- **UN Charter**: signed **26 June 1945** at San Francisco. It came into force on **24 October 1945**, now observed as UN Day.
- The UN had **51 original members**, including **India**. It has **193 members** today; **South Sudan** became the 193rd in 2011.
- HQ: **New York**. Secretary-General: **Antonio Guterres** (Portugal), the 9th SG (as on Oct 2026).
- **6 principal organs**:
  - General Assembly.
  - Security Council.
  - ECOSOC.
  - Trusteeship Council (suspended since 1994).
  - **International Court of Justice** (The Hague).
  - Secretariat.
- **6 official languages**: Arabic, Chinese, English, French, Russian, Spanish.
- **UN Security Council**: 15 members.
  - **P5 with veto**: USA, UK, France, Russia and China.
  - **10 non-permanent members** elected for 2 years.
- **India** has been a non-permanent UNSC member **8 times**, last in **2021–22**. Its campaign for 2028–29 is called "**SHANTI**".
- **ICJ**: 15 judges with 9-year terms. **UN Human Rights Council**: est. **2006**, Geneva, **47 members**, **3-year terms**.
- **81st UNGA President** (Sept 2026): **Khalilur Rahman** (Bangladesh). The first Indian UNGA President was **Vijaya Lakshmi Pandit** (1953).
- **G77** (1964) is the largest group of developing countries at the UN. Palestine chaired it in 2019.

UN Specialised Agencies & Related Bodies

Agency	Founded – HQ
ITU	1865 (oldest) – Geneva
UPU	1874 – Bern
ILO	1919 – Geneva
FAO	1945 – Rome
UNESCO	1945 – Paris
WHO	1948 – Geneva
IMO	1948 – London
WMO	1950 – Geneva
IAEA	1957 – Vienna
WIPO	1967 – Geneva
IFAD	1977 – Rome
UNICEF	1946 – New York
UNHCR	1950 – Geneva
WFP	1961 – Rome
UNEP	1972 – Nairobi
UN Women	2010 – New York
WTO	1995 – Geneva

- **ILO** (1919) is older than the UN. It is **tripartite** (governments, employers, workers) and won the Nobel Peace Prize in 1969.
- **IAEA**: est. **29 July 1957**, HQ **Vienna**. It came from Eisenhower's "**Atoms for Peace**" idea and won the Nobel Peace Prize in 2005.
- **IAEA DG**: **Rafael Mariano Grossi** (as on Oct 2026).
- Heads (as on Oct 2026):
  - **UNESCO** DG: **Khaled El-Enany** (Egypt). UNESCO works in **education, science and culture**.
  - **WHO** DG: Tedros. **FAO** DG: Qu Dongyu.
  - **ITU** SG: Doreen Bogdan-Martin. **IMO** SG: Arsenio Dominguez.
  - **UN Women** Executive Director: **Sima Bahous**.
- Nobel Peace Prizes: **UNICEF** 1965, **UNHCR** 1954 and 1981, **WFP** 2020.
- The **UN Climate (UNFCCC)** convention was signed at Rio in 1992; its Secretariat is in **Bonn**.
- COP hosts:
  - **COP30**: Belem, Brazil (2025).
  - **COP31**: Antalya, Turkey (2026).

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  - **COP32**: Ethiopia (2027).
  - **COP33**: India (2028).

IMF, World Bank Group, WTO & Development Banks

- **IMF** and **World Bank (IBRD)** were set up at the **Bretton Woods** Conference in **1944**. Both are HQ'd in **Washington DC**, and **India** is a **founding member**.
- **IMF**: **191 members**, MD **Kristalina Georgieva** (Bulgaria) (as on Oct 2026). It created the **SDR in 1969**.
- **World Bank**: **189 members**; Nauru is the 189th. President **Ajay Banga** (as on Oct 2026). The **USA** is the largest shareholder.

World Bank Group arm	Founded – Role
IBRD	1944 – loans to middle-income countries
IFC	1956 – private-sector lending
ICSID	1966 – investment dispute settlement
IDA	1960 – soft loans to poorest countries
MIGA	1988 – political risk insurance

- **WTO**: est. **1 January 1995** (Marrakesh Agreement), replacing **GATT (1947)**. HQ **Geneva**, **166 members**.
- **WTO DG**: **Ngozi Okonjo-Iweala**, the first woman and first African to hold the post (as on Oct 2026).
- The WTO's 14th Ministerial Conference (MC14) was held in **Yaounde, Cameroon**. **Timor-Leste** is the WTO's **166th** member.
- **ADB**: est. **1966**, HQ **Manila**, **69 members**. **AIIB**: operational **2016**, HQ **Beijing**.
- **New Development Bank** (BRICS bank): est. **2015**, HQ **Shanghai**. Its first President was **K.V. Kamath**; the current one is **Dilma Rousseff** (as on Oct 2026).
- NDB members: BRICS 5 + Bangladesh, UAE, Egypt, Algeria, and **Uzbekistan**, which joined on 5 June 2026 as the **10th member**.
- **BIS** (1930, Basel) is the central bank of central banks. **FATF**: 1989, Paris. **FSB**: 2009, Basel. **OECD**: 1961, Paris.

BRICS, G20, G7, SCO & QUAD

- The term **BRIC** was coined by **Jim O'Neill** (Goldman Sachs, 2001). The first BRIC summit was in **2009** (Yekaterinburg).
- **South Africa** joined in **2010**, turning BRIC into BRICS; it was the last country to join before the 2024 expansion.
- **BRICS has 11 full members** (as on Oct 2026):
  - Original: Brazil, Russia, India, China, South Africa.
  - Joined 2024: Egypt, Ethiopia, Iran, UAE, Saudi Arabia.
  - Joined January **2025**: **Indonesia**.
  - BRICS also has 10 partner countries.
- **17th BRICS Summit** (2025): **Rio de Janeiro**, Brazil.
- **India chairs BRICS in 2026** for the **4th time**, after 2012, 2016 and 2021. The **18th Summit** was held in **New Delhi** (Sept 2026), and **China** hosts in 2027.
- **G20**: formed **1999**; leaders' summits since 2008. It has **21 members**: 19 countries + EU + **African Union** (joined at New Delhi, 2023).
- **G20 presidencies**:
  - **India 2023**: "Vasudhaiva Kutumbakam – One Earth, One Family, One Future".
  - **South Africa 2025**: the first summit in Africa.
  - **USA 2026**, **UK 2027**, **South Korea 2028**.
- **G7**: formed **1975**. Members: **USA, UK, France, Germany, Italy, Japan, Canada**, with the EU as a guest.
- Russia's G8 membership (1997) was suspended in 2014. In 2021 the G7 backed a **15% global minimum corporate tax**.
- **52nd G7 Summit** (2026): **Evian-les-Bains, France**; PM Modi attended as an outreach partner. The 2022 G7 was at **Schloss Elmau, Germany**.
- **SCO**: est. **2001** (Shanghai), HQ **Beijing**, with an anti-terror body (RATS) in **Tashkent**. It has **10 members**:
  - The original 6: China, Russia, Kazakhstan, Kyrgyzstan, Tajikistan, Uzbekistan.

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  - **India and Pakistan** (2017), **Iran** (2023), **Belarus** (2024).
- SCO 2026: summit at **Bishkek**; **Pakistan** chairs for 2026–27. **Varanasi** was the SCO's first Tourism & Cultural Capital (2022–23).
- **QUAD**: **India, USA, Japan, Australia**. Proposed in 2007, revived in 2017; the first leaders' summit was virtual in 2021. **Pakistan is not a member**. India is the 2026 host (as on Oct 2026).

ASEAN, SAARC, BIMSTEC, IORA & Other Regional Groupings

Grouping	Founded – Members – Secretariat
ASEAN	1967 – 11 – Jakarta
SAARC	1985 – 8 – Kathmandu
BIMSTEC	1997 – 7 – Dhaka
IORA	1997 – 23 – Ebene, Mauritius
SCO	2001 – 10 – Beijing
GCC	1981 – 6 – Riyadh
African Union	2002 – 55 – Addis Ababa
European Union	1993 – 27 – Brussels
Eurasian Economic Union	2015 – 5 – Moscow
EFTA	1960 – 4 – Geneva

- **ASEAN**: founded **8 August 1967** by the **Bangkok Declaration**.
  - Founders: **Indonesia, Malaysia, Philippines, Singapore, Thailand**.
  - Later members: Brunei (1984), Vietnam (1995), Laos and Myanmar (1997), Cambodia (1999).
  - **Timor-Leste** joined as the **11th** member in **October 2025**.
  - **Japan, China and India are NOT members**. 2026 is the ASEAN–India Year of Maritime Cooperation.
- **SAARC**: founded **8 December 1985** at Dhaka.
  - Members: India, Pakistan, Bangladesh, Nepal, Bhutan, Sri Lanka, Maldives, and **Afghanistan** (8th, 2007).
  - The **18th Summit** was held in **Kathmandu** (2014). The 19th (**Islamabad**, 2016) was never held.
- **BIMSTEC**: Bangkok Declaration, **6 June 1997**.
  - **7 members**: Bangladesh, Bhutan, India, Myanmar, Nepal, Sri Lanka, Thailand.
  - Secretariat **Dhaka**. **Sri Lanka** hosted the 5th Summit (2022).
- **IORA**: est. 1997, **23 members** and 12 dialogue partners, Secretariat **Mauritius**. **India chairs IORA for 2025–27**.
- **Eurasian Economic Union (EAEU)**: **Russia, Belarus, Kazakhstan, Kyrgyzstan, Armenia**.
- **EU**: 27 members. **Croatia** became the **28th** in 2013, and the **UK left in 2020**. The **euro** is the common currency of 21 members, Bulgaria the latest (2026).
- **African Union**: replaced the OAU (1963) in 2002. It became a permanent G20 member in 2023.
- **GCC**: **Saudi Arabia, UAE, Qatar, Kuwait, Bahrain, Oman**.
- **EFTA**: Iceland, Liechtenstein, Norway, Switzerland. The India–EFTA TEPA came into force on 1 October 2025.
- **CIS** = **Commonwealth of Independent States** (1991), the former Soviet republics.

NATO, OPEC & the Commonwealth

- **NATO** was created by the **North Atlantic Treaty** (Washington Treaty), signed **4 April 1949** by 12 founding members.
- NATO's **Article 5** is collective defence: an attack on one is an attack on all. HQ **Brussels**, SG **Mark Rutte** (as on Oct 2026).
- NATO has **32 members**: **Finland** became the 31st (2023) and **Sweden** the **32nd** (2024). It had 30 members in 2021.
- NATO members agreed a **5% of GDP** defence spending target at **The Hague Summit (2025)**; the 2026 Summit was held in **Ankara**.
- **OPEC**: founded **September 1960** at the Baghdad Conference by **Iran, Iraq, Kuwait, Saudi Arabia, Venezuela**. HQ **Vienna**.
- **OPEC+** (with Russia and others) was formed in 2016.
- **The UAE exited OPEC and OPEC+** on **1 May 2026**, leaving OPEC with **11 members** (as on Oct 2026). Earlier exits: Qatar (2019), Ecuador (2020), Angola (2024).

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- **Non-OPEC** distractors: **China, France and Indonesia** (Indonesia's membership is suspended). OPEC members include Iran, Kuwait, Libya, Algeria and Nigeria.
- **Commonwealth of Nations**: **56 members**, rooted in the **London Declaration (1949)**. The Secretariat is at Marlborough House, **London**, and **King Charles III** is its Head.
- **Gabon and Togo** joined the Commonwealth in 2022. **Commonwealth Day** falls on the **second Monday of March**.
- Commonwealth Games: **2026 in Glasgow**; the **2030 centenary edition in Ahmedabad**, India.

Red Cross, IUCN, ISA, IBCA & Fair Trade

- **ICRC** was founded in **1863** in **Geneva** by **Henry Dunant**, who received the **first Nobel Peace Prize (1901)**. The ICRC itself won the Nobel in 1917, 1944 and 1963.
- The Red Cross movement has **7 Fundamental Principles**: **Humanity, Impartiality, Neutrality, Independence, Voluntary Service, Unity, Universality**.
- **World Red Cross Day** is **8 May** (Dunant's birthday). The **Indian Red Cross Society** was set up in 1920, and the President of India is its President.
- **IUCN**: founded **1948**, HQ **Gland, Switzerland**. It publishes the **Red List** and holds the World Conservation Congress every **4 years**.
- **International Solar Alliance (ISA)**: launched **30 November 2015** at **COP21 Paris** by **India and France**. HQ **Gurugram**, Haryana.
  - **France** is co-president with India. Its vision is "One Sun, One World, One Grid".
- **International Big Cat Alliance (IBCA)**: launched **9 April 2023** (50 years of Project Tiger), HQ **New Delhi**.
  - It covers **7 big cats**: tiger, lion, leopard, snow leopard, cheetah, jaguar, puma.
  - The first IBCA Summit was held in New Delhi in June 2026. **Saudi Arabia** is the 26th member and **Bangladesh** the 27th.
- **Fair Trade** is a movement that ensures **fair prices** and better trading conditions for **producers and workers in developing countries**. Typical products are coffee, tea, cocoa and cotton.
- Fair Trade certified goods carry a minimum price plus a premium for community development.
- **Kimberley Process** (conflict diamonds): **India** chairs it in 2026, for the 3rd time.

MCQs – International Organisations & Groupings

Q1. How many member countries does ASEAN have after Timor-Leste joined in October 2025?
(a) 9 (b) 10 (c) 11 (d) 12 (e) 8

Ans: (c) 11 – Timor-Leste is the 11th member.

Q2. Which of the following is NOT an ASEAN member?
(a) Indonesia (b) Japan (c) Malaysia (d) Philippines (e) Singapore

Ans: (b) Japan – it is a dialogue partner, not a member.

Q3. Which country became a full member of BRICS in January 2025?
(a) Saudi Arabia (b) Indonesia (c) Argentina (d) Turkey (e) Nigeria

Ans: (b) Indonesia – BRICS now has 11 full members.

Q4. Where was the 17th BRICS Summit (2025) held?
(a) Kazan (b) Johannesburg (c) Rio de Janeiro (d) New Delhi (e) Beijing

Ans: (c) Rio de Janeiro, Brazil – India hosted the 18th Summit in 2026.

Q5. What is the official name of the BRICS bank?
(a) BRICS Development Bank (b) Asian Infrastructure Investment Bank (c) New Development Bank (d) Contingent Reserve Bank (e) Global South Bank

Ans: (c) New Development Bank – est. 2015, HQ Shanghai.

Q6. How many member countries does IORA have?
(a) 19 (b) 21 (c) 22 (d) 23 (e) 27

Ans: (d) 23 – Secretariat in Mauritius; India chairs it for 2025–27.

Q7. Which treaty created NATO?
(a) Treaty of Rome (b) North Atlantic (Washington) Treaty, 1949 (c) Treaty of Paris,

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1951 (d) Warsaw Pact, 1955 (e) Maastricht Treaty

Ans: (b) North Atlantic Treaty – signed in Washington on 4 April 1949.

Q8. In which year was the IAEA established?

(a) 1945 (b) 1950 (c) 1957 (d) 1968 (e) 1970

Ans: (c) 1957 – HQ Vienna.

Q9. How many fundamental principles does the Red Cross movement have?

(a) Five (b) Six (c) Seven (d) Eight (e) Ten

Ans: (c) Seven – Humanity, Impartiality, Neutrality, Independence, Voluntary Service, Unity and Universality.

Q10. Which country is the largest shareholder of the World Bank?

(a) China (b) Japan (c) USA (d) Germany (e) UK

Ans: (c) USA.

Q11. Which World Bank Group body, set up in 1988, provides political risk insurance?

(a) IDA (b) IFC (c) ICSID (d) MIGA (e) IBRD

Ans: (d) MIGA – Multilateral Investment Guarantee Agency.

Q12. Which country exited OPEC and OPEC+ with effect from 1 May 2026?

(a) Qatar (b) Angola (c) UAE (d) Nigeria (e) Iraq

Ans: (c) UAE – OPEC now has 11 members.

Q13. Which of the following is NOT an OPEC member?

(a) Iran (b) Kuwait (c) Libya (d) China (e) Algeria

Ans: (d) China.

Q14. Which of the following is NOT a QUAD member?

(a) India (b) Japan (c) Australia (d) Pakistan (e) USA

Ans: (d) Pakistan.

Q15. Which countries are the members of the Eurasian Economic Union?

(a) Russia, Belarus, Kazakhstan, Kyrgyzstan, Armenia (b) Russia, Ukraine, Belarus, Georgia, Moldova (c) Russia, China, Kazakhstan, Uzbekistan, Tajikistan (d) Russia, Belarus, Azerbaijan, Turkmenistan, Armenia (e) Russia, Kazakhstan, Uzbekistan, Mongolia, Belarus

Ans: (a) Russia, Belarus, Kazakhstan, Kyrgyzstan and Armenia.

Q16. "Fair Trade" mainly aims to:

(a) Remove all tariffs among WTO members (b) Ensure fair prices for producers in developing countries (c) Fix global oil prices (d) Promote free trade agreements between rich nations (e) Regulate currency exchange rates

Ans: (b) Ensure fair prices and better trading conditions for producers and workers in developing countries.

Q17. The African Union became a permanent member of which grouping in 2023?

(a) G7 (b) BRICS (c) G20 (d) SCO (e) OECD

Ans: (c) G20 – at the New Delhi Summit; the G20 now has 21 members.

Q18. Which country became NATO's 32nd member in 2024?

(a) Finland (b) Ukraine (c) Sweden (d) Georgia (e) Austria

Ans: (c) Sweden – Finland was the 31st (2023).

Q19. The International Solar Alliance was launched in 2015 by India and which country?

(a) USA (b) Japan (c) France (d) Germany (e) UAE

Ans: (c) France – at COP21 Paris; HQ Gurugram.

Q20. In which year were India and Pakistan admitted as full members of the SCO?

(a) 2001 (b) 2015 (c) 2017 (d) 2019 (e) 2023

Ans: (c) 2017 – Iran joined in 2023 and Belarus in 2024.

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FIELD 13: GOVERNMENT SCHEMES

Exam tip: *Scheme questions are almost always static numbers: launch year, ministry, age band, premium, cover, loan limit or interest rate. Memorise the numbers in the tables.*

Jan Suraksha – PMJDY, PMJJBY, PMSBY, APY

- **PM Jan Dhan Yojana (PMJDY)**: launched **28 August 2014** (announced 15 Aug 2014); run by the **Department of Financial Services (DFS)**, Ministry of Finance; main aim **financial inclusion**.
- PMJDY slogan "**Mera Khata Bhagya Vidhata**"; zero-balance BSBD account with **RuPay** debit card.
- PMJDY RuPay accident cover **₹2 lakh** (for accounts opened after 28 Aug 2018; earlier ₹1 lakh); premium for this cover is paid by **NPCI**.
- PMJDY overdraft up to **₹10,000** (₹2,000 without conditions; earlier ₹5,000); OD age limit raised from 60 to **65**.
- PMJDY life cover of **₹30,000** was only for accounts opened between 15 Aug 2014 and 31 Jan 2015.
- PMJDY set a **Guinness World Record** for most bank accounts opened in one week (about 1.8 crore, August 2014).
- PMJDY accounts: **59.09 crore**, women about 55.7% (19 Aug 2026) (as on Oct 2026).
- **PMJJBY, PMSBY and APY** were all launched on **9 May 2015** (Kolkata); APY became operational on **1 June 2015**.
- **PMJJBY** (life insurance): age **18–50** (cover till 55), cover **₹2 lakh** on death due to any cause, premium **₹436 a year** (raised from ₹330 in June 2022); pure term cover with **no maturity benefit**.
- **PMSBY** (accident insurance): age **18–70**, **₹2 lakh** for accidental death/total disability, **₹1 lakh** for partial disability; premium **₹20 a year** (raised from ₹12 in 2022).
- Cover year for PMJJBY and PMSBY: **1 June to 31 May**, through auto-debit from a bank or post office account.
- **Atal Pension Yojana (APY)**: entry age **18–40**; guaranteed pension of **₹1,000 to ₹5,000 a month from age 60**; minimum 20 years of contribution.
- APY is administered by **PFRDA** under the overall scheme of **DFS**; it **replaced Swavalamban** (NPS-Lite).
- Income-tax payers cannot join APY from **1 October 2022**.

Scheme	Age / Premium / Cover
PMJJBY	18–50; ₹436; ₹2 lakh life
PMSBY	18–70; ₹20; ₹2 lakh accident
APY	18–40; pension ₹1,000–5,000
PMJDY	OD ₹10,000; accident ₹2 lakh

Small Savings Schemes

- Small savings rates are reviewed **every quarter** by the Department of Economic Affairs, using the **Shyamala Gopinath Committee** formula. Rates for Oct–Dec 2026 are unchanged for the **11th straight quarter** (as on Oct 2026).
- **PPF (1968)**: tenure **15 years** (extendable in 5-year blocks); deposit **₹500 to ₹1.5 lakh** a year; EEE tax status; rate **7.1%**.
- **Sukanya Samriddhi Yojana (SSY)**: launched **22 January 2015** at Panipat under **Beti Bachao Beti Padhao**; for a girl child **below 10 years**.
- SSY deposit **₹250 to ₹1.5 lakh** a year; deposits for **15 years**; matures **21 years** from opening; rate **8.2%**.
- **Senior Citizens Savings Scheme (SCSS, 2004)**: age **60+**; deposit **₹1,000 to ₹30 lakh**; tenure **5 years** (extendable by 3 years); rate **8.2%**.
- SCSS interest is paid **quarterly** (1 April, 1 July, 1 October, 1 January).
- **NSC**: 5-year certificate, minimum ₹1,000, Section 80C benefit, rate **7.7%**.
- **Kisan Vikas Patra (KVP)**: launched 1988, discontinued in 2011 (risk of money laundering), relaunched in **2014**; sold by **India Post** and banks; minimum ₹1,000.
- KVP doubles money in **115 months** at **7.5%**; lock-in period **30 months**.
- PO Monthly Income Scheme: **7.4%**; limit **₹9 lakh single / ₹15 lakh joint**. PO Savings Account: **4%**.

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- **PMVVY** (Pradhan Mantri Vaya Vandana Yojana) was a pension scheme for **senior citizens (60+) run by LIC**; it is **not** a small savings scheme.

Scheme (Q3 FY27)	Rate
SCSS	8.2%
Sukanya Samriddhi	8.2%
NSC	7.7%
KVP (115 months)	7.5%
5-year PO Time Deposit	7.5%
PO Monthly Income Scheme	7.4%
PPF	7.1%
PO Savings Account	4.0%

Pension – NPS, UPS & Others

- **NPS** started on **1 January 2004** for new Central Government employees (except armed forces); opened to **all citizens** voluntarily from **2009**.
- NPS is regulated by **PFRDA** (set up 2003; statutory under the PFRDA Act 2013; Chairperson S. Ramann); entry age **18–70**; account number **PRAN** has **12 digits**.
- **NPS Tier-I** (pension account, restricted withdrawal): minimum **₹500 per contribution** and minimum **₹1,000 a year**.
- **NPS Tier-II** (voluntary savings account, free withdrawal): minimum **₹1,000 at opening**, ₹250 per later contribution; needs an active Tier-I account.
- Extra NPS tax deduction of **₹50,000** under Section 80CCD(1B); Budget 2024 raised employer contribution deduction for private employees to **14%** of salary.
- **NPS Vatsalya** (18 Sept 2024): parents invest for **minors**; account shifts to the child at 18. **NPS Divas** is observed on **1 October**.
- **Unified Pension Scheme (UPS)** from **1 April 2025** for Central Government NPS employees: **50%** of average basic pay of last 12 months after 25 years; minimum ₹10,000 a month after 10 years.
- **PM Kisan Maandhan Yojana** (12 Sept 2019): **₹3,000 a month** pension after 60 for small and marginal farmers (up to 2 ha); entry age **18–40**; fund manager **LIC**.

Credit & Entrepreneurship Schemes

- **PM MUDRA Yojana (PMMY)**: launched **8 April 2015**; MUDRA = **Micro Units Development & Refinance Agency**, a subsidiary of **SIDBI**; loans for non-farm micro enterprises.
- MUDRA's maximum loan was ₹10 lakh until 2024; **Tarun Plus** (from 24 Oct 2024) raised it to **₹20 lakh** for those who repaid Tarun loans.
- **Stand-Up India**: launched **5 April 2016**; bank loans of **₹10 lakh to ₹1 crore** for **SC/ST and women** entrepreneurs for **greenfield** enterprises.
- **PMEGP (2008)**: credit-linked subsidy scheme of the **Ministry of MSME**; nodal agency **KVIC**; maximum project cost **₹50 lakh (manufacturing)** and **₹20 lakh (service)**; subsidy **15–35%**.
- **PM SVANidhi**: for **street vendors**, launched **1 June 2020** by **MoHUA**; extended to **31 March 2030**; loan tranches **₹15,000, ₹25,000 and ₹50,000**; **7% interest subsidy** (as on Oct 2026).
- **PM Vishwakarma**: launched **17 September 2023**, **Ministry of MSME**; **18 traditional trades**; collateral-free loans of **₹1 lakh + ₹2 lakh at 5%** interest.
- **Startup India**: launched **16 January 2016** (National Startup Day 16 Jan); nodal **DPIIT**; **Fund of Funds for Startups ₹10,000 crore** managed by **SIDBI**; Fund of Funds 2.0 of another ₹10,000 crore launched in 2026.
- **Kisan Credit Card (1998)**: designed by **NABARD** on the **R.V. Gupta Committee**'s advice; card validity **5 years**; **Payments Banks cannot issue KCCs**.
- **Differential Rate of Interest (DRI)** scheme: loans up to **₹15,000** at **4%** for the weaker sections.

MUDRA category	Loan size
Shishu	Up to ₹50,000
Kishore	₹50,000 – ₹5 lakh
Tarun	₹5 lakh – ₹10 lakh
Tarun Plus	₹10 lakh – ₹20 lakh

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Agriculture & Rural Livelihood

- **PM-KISAN**: launched **24 February 2019** at Gorakhpur (effective from 1 Dec 2018); **₹6,000 a year in three instalments of ₹2,000**; 100% Central funding; Ministry of Agriculture & Farmers Welfare.
- PM-KISAN extended for FY27–FY31 with ₹3,15,614 crore; 23rd instalment released on 20 June 2026 (as on Oct 2026).
- **PMFBY** (crop insurance): launched **18 February 2016**; replaced NAIS and MNAIS; farmer premium **2% Kharif, 1.5% Rabi, 5% commercial/horticulture** crops.
- **PM Matsya Sampada Yojana (PMMSY)**: launched **10 September 2020**; ₹20,050 crore; fisheries sector.
- **DAY-NRLM**: started in **June 2011** as Aajeevika, renamed Deendayal Antyodaya Yojana–NRLM in 2016; **Ministry of Rural Development**.
- Under DAY-NRLM an SHG normally has **10–20 members**; **minimum 5** in difficult, hilly or tribal areas; collateral-free loans to SHGs up to **₹20 lakh**.
- DAY-NRLM products are marketed under the brand **SARAS** (e-SARAS online); **Mahila Kisan Sashaktikaran Pariyojana** empowers women in agriculture.
- **Lakhpati Didi** (announced 15 Aug 2023), **Ministry of Rural Development**: an SHG woman earning at least **₹1 lakh a year**; target **doubled from 3 crore to 6 crore by 2029** (as on Oct 2026).
- **VB-G RAM G Act, 2025** (Viksit Bharat – Guarantee for Rozgar and Ajeevika Mission (Gramin)) **replaced MGNREGA (2005)** from **1 July 2026**: **125 days** of work instead of 100; funding **60:40** (90:10 for NE/Himalayan states) (as on Oct 2026).

Health, Housing & Social Welfare

- **Ayushman Bharat PM-JAY**: launched **23 September 2018** at **Ranchi**; cover **₹5 lakh per family per year** for secondary and tertiary hospitalisation; cashless and portable.
- PM-JAY covers **3 days of pre-hospitalisation** and **15 days of post-hospitalisation** expenses.
- PM-JAY is implemented by the **National Health Authority (NHA)** under the Ministry of Health & Family Welfare; extended to **all senior citizens aged 70+** regardless of income (Oct 2024).
- **West Bengal** joined PM-JAY in 2026 as the **36th and final** State/UT (as on Oct 2026).
- **PM Ujjwala Yojana**: launched **1 May 2016** at **Ballia (UP)**; **Ministry of Petroleum & Natural Gas**; free LPG connections to **women of BPL households**; Ujjwala 2.0 in 2021; ₹300 subsidy per 14.2 kg cylinder.
- **PMAY-Urban**: launched **25 June 2015** (**MoHUA**); PMAY-U 2.0 gives **₹2.5 lakh** assistance per house.
- **PMAY-Gramin**: from **1 April 2016** (**Ministry of Rural Development**), replacing Indira Awaas Yojana; **₹1.20 lakh** (plains) and **₹1.30 lakh** (hilly areas) per house.
- **SMILE** scheme (Ministry of Social Justice & Empowerment) is for **transgender persons and persons engaged in begging**.
- **NSAP** renamed **Pradhan Mantri Samajik Sahayata Yojana** in October 2026 (as on Oct 2026).
- **PM Surya Ghar Muft Bijli Yojana** (13 Feb 2024, **MNRE**): **300 free units a month** from rooftop solar; runs till **March 2027**.
- **Saubhagya** (household electrification, 2017): nodal agency **REC Ltd**, Ministry of Power.
- **Mid-Day Meal** (now **PM POSHAN**) is run by the **Ministry of Education**, not Rural Development.

Sanitation, Water & Urban Missions

- **Swachh Bharat Mission**: launched **2 October 2014**; SBM-Gramin is run by the **Department of Drinking Water & Sanitation (Ministry of Jal Shakti)**; SBM-Urban and **Swachh Survekshan** by **MoHUA**.
- **GOBARdhan** (Galvanizing Organic Bio-Agro Resources Dhan, **2018**) is part of SBM-G; nodal ministry **Ministry of Jal Shakti** (DDWS). It turns cattle dung and farm waste into biogas and compost.
- In 2026 the Cabinet approved the **National Circular Bio-Energy Scheme** (expanded GOBARdhan, ₹23,731 crore) under the **Ministry of Petroleum & Natural Gas** (as on Oct 2026).
- **SATAT** scheme relates to **Compressed Biogas (CBG)**.

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- **Jal Jeevan Mission**: launched **15 August 2019**, **Ministry of Jal Shakti**; **Har Ghar Jal** tap water for every rural home (55 litres per person per day); deadline extended to **December 2028**; **Goa** was the first Har Ghar Jal state.
- **AMRUT** (Atal Mission for Rejuvenation and Urban Transformation): **25 June 2015**, 500 cities, MoHUA.
- **Indore** was ranked India's cleanest city in Swachh Survekshan every year from **2017 to 2023**.

Flagship Missions & Ministry Quick Table

- **Make in India**: launched **25 September 2014**; nodal **DPIIT**; logo is a **lion** made of gears.
- **Digital India**: launched **1 July 2015**; **MeitY**.
- **Skill India** and **PMKVY**: both launched on **15 July 2015** (World Youth Skills Day); **Ministry of Skill Development & Entrepreneurship (MSDE)**; PMKVY gives short-term, free skill training.
- **FAME India** (EV adoption) is run by the **Ministry of Heavy Industries**; replaced by **PM E-DRIVE** (2024), extended to 31 March 2028.
- **Mission Solar Charkha** was launched by the **Ministry of MSME**.
- **Gyan Bharatam Mission** digitises **manuscripts**; **Mission Karmayogi** (NPCSCB) builds civil-service capacity.
- **Jan Samarth** is a single portal for **credit-linked government schemes**.
- **Make in India is not** a financial inclusion scheme (asked as an odd-one-out).

Scheme	Ministry / Nodal body
PMJDY, PMJJBY, PMSBY, APY	Finance (DFS)
PMEGP, PM Vishwakarma, Solar Charkha	MSME (PMEGP via KVIC)
PMKVY, Skill India	Skill Development (MSDE)
Startup India, Make in India	DPIIT (Commerce & Industry)
DAY-NRLM, Lakhpati Didi, PMAY-G	Rural Development
PM SVANidhi, PMAY-U, AMRUT	Housing & Urban Affairs
Jal Jeevan, SBM-G, GOBARdhan	Jal Shakti
Ujjwala	Petroleum & Natural Gas
PM-JAY	Health & Family Welfare (NHA)
PM-KISAN, PMFBY	Agriculture & Farmers Welfare
PM Surya Ghar	New & Renewable Energy
FAME / PM E-DRIVE	Heavy Industries
SMILE	Social Justice & Empowerment

MCQs – Government Schemes

Q1. In which year was Pradhan Mantri Kaushal Vikas Yojana (PMKVY) launched?
(a) 2014 (b) 2015 (c) 2016 (d) 2017 (e) 2019

Ans: (b) 2015 – launched on 15 July 2015 with Skill India, under MSDE.

Q2. Under Ayushman Bharat PM-JAY, for how many days are pre- and post-hospitalisation expenses covered?
(a) 1 and 10 days (b) 3 and 15 days (c) 7 and 30 days (d) 15 and 30 days (e) 30 and 60 days

Ans: (b) 3 and 15 days – 3 days before and 15 days after hospitalisation.

Q3. How often is interest paid under the Senior Citizens Savings Scheme (SCSS)?
(a) Monthly (b) Quarterly (c) Half-yearly (d) Annually (e) On maturity

Ans: (b) Quarterly – on 1 April, 1 July, 1 October and 1 January.

Q4. What is the minimum annual contribution to an NPS Tier-I account?
(a) ₹250 (b) ₹500 (c) ₹1,000 (d) ₹2,000 (e) ₹6,000

Ans: (c) ₹1,000 – with at least ₹500 per contribution.

Q5. What is the annual premium of PMJJBY?
(a) ₹12 (b) ₹20 (c) ₹330 (d) ₹436 (e) ₹500

Ans: (d) ₹436 – raised from ₹330 in June 2022; cover ₹2 lakh.

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Q6. What is the annual premium of PMSBY?
(a) ₹12 (b) ₹20 (c) ₹50 (d) ₹330 (e) ₹436
Ans: (b) ₹20 – raised from ₹12; accident cover ₹2 lakh.

Q7. What is the entry age band for Atal Pension Yojana?
(a) 18–35 (b) 18–40 (c) 18–50 (d) 18–60 (e) 21–45
Ans: (b) 18–40 – pension of ₹1,000–5,000 a month from age 60.

Q8. GOBARdhan scheme comes under which ministry?
(a) Agriculture (b) Rural Development (c) Jal Shakti (d) Environment (e) Panchayati Raj
Ans: (c) Jal Shakti – through the Department of Drinking Water & Sanitation, under SBM-Gramin.

Q9. Which of these schemes is run by the Department of Financial Services?
(a) PMEGP (b) PM SVANidhi (c) Atal Pension Yojana (d) PMKVY (e) Jal Jeevan Mission
Ans: (c) Atal Pension Yojana – PFRDA administers it under DFS.

Q10. What is the maximum loan under PM MUDRA Yojana after Tarun Plus was introduced?
(a) ₹5 lakh (b) ₹10 lakh (c) ₹15 lakh (d) ₹20 lakh (e) ₹1 crore
Ans: (d) ₹20 lakh – Tarun Plus covers ₹10–20 lakh.

Q11. PMEGP is implemented by which ministry?
(a) Finance (b) MSME (c) Rural Development (d) Labour (e) Commerce & Industry
Ans: (b) MSME – with KVIC as the nodal agency.

Q12. Which of these is NOT a small savings scheme?
(a) PPF (b) NSC (c) SCSS (d) PMVVY (e) KVP
Ans: (d) PMVVY – a pension scheme for senior citizens run by LIC.

Q13. Which ministry runs the Lakhpati Didi initiative?
(a) Women & Child Development (b) MSME (c) Rural Development (d) Finance (e) Skill Development
Ans: (c) Rural Development – target raised to 6 crore by 2029.

Q14. Minimum number of members to form an SHG under DAY-NRLM in difficult or tribal areas?
(a) 3 (b) 5 (c) 10 (d) 15 (e) 20
Ans: (b) 5 – normally 10–20 members.

Q15. Stand-Up India provides bank loans in which range?
(a) ₹50,000–₹5 lakh (b) ₹1–10 lakh (c) ₹10 lakh–₹1 crore (d) ₹1–5 crore (e) up to ₹20 lakh
Ans: (c) ₹10 lakh–₹1 crore – for SC/ST and women entrepreneurs.

Q16. In how many months does Kisan Vikas Patra double the investment?
(a) 100 (b) 110 (c) 112 (d) 115 (e) 120
Ans: (d) 115 months – at 7.5%.

Q17. What is the farmer's premium for Rabi crops under PMFBY?
(a) 1% (b) 1.5% (c) 2% (d) 2.5% (e) 5%
Ans: (b) 1.5% – Kharif 2%, commercial/horticulture 5%.

Q18. PM SVANidhi has been extended up to:
(a) December 2024 (b) March 2026 (c) March 2028 (d) March 2030 (e) December 2030
Ans: (d) March 2030 – first tranche raised to ₹15,000.

Q19. PM Ujjwala Yojana is implemented by which ministry?
(a) Rural Development (b) Women & Child Development (c) Petroleum & Natural Gas (d) Power (e) Consumer Affairs
Ans: (c) Petroleum & Natural Gas – launched 1 May 2016 at Ballia.

Q20. From which year was NPS opened to all citizens on a voluntary basis?
(a) 2004 (b) 2006 (c) 2009 (d) 2013 (e) 2015
Ans: (c) 2009 – for Central Government employees it began on 1 January 2004.

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FIELD 14: MONUMENTS, UNESCO SITES & CULTURE

Exam tip: *Asked as "Where is X located / who built X / which is India's newest UNESCO site / which is not a classical language". Learn site–state–builder triplets and the 2024–26 additions (Moidams, Maratha forts, Sarnath).*

UNESCO World Heritage Sites – Key Facts (as on Oct 2026)

- India has **45 World Heritage Sites (as on Oct 2026)**: **37 Cultural, 7 Natural, 1 Mixed**.
- The only Mixed site is **Khangchendzonga National Park** (Sikkim, 2016).
- **45th site: Sarnath** (Varanasi, Uttar Pradesh), the "Ancient Buddhist Site", inscribed in **July 2026** at the **48th World Heritage Committee session, Busan (South Korea)**.
- Sarnath is where **Gautam Buddha gave his first sermon** (Dharma Chakra Pravartan). It is **Uttar Pradesh's 4th site** (after Taj Mahal, Agra Fort, Fatehpur Sikri).
- **44th site: Maratha Military Landscapes** (2025, 47th session, Paris): **12 forts**, 11 in Maharashtra (Salher, Shivneri, Lohagad, Khanderi, Raigad, Rajgad, Pratapgad, Suvarnadurg, Panhala, Vijaydurg, Sindhudurg) and **Gingee in Tamil Nadu**.
- **43rd site: Moidams of Charaideo** (Assam, 2024) – mound burials of the **Ahom dynasty**; inscribed at the 46th session held in **New Delhi** (Bharat Mandapam), the first WHC session hosted by India.
- **Maharashtra** has the most World Heritage Sites in India.
- World: **Italy has the most sites (61)**, China second (60). In Asia-Pacific, India is **second after China**.
- First Indian sites (1983): **Agra Fort, Ajanta Caves, Ellora Caves, Taj Mahal**.
- India's **first UNESCO World Heritage City: Ahmedabad (2017)**; second: **Jaipur (2019)**.
- **Mumbai's Victorian Gothic and Art Deco Ensembles** were inscribed in 2018.
- UNESCO: founded **1945**, HQ **Paris**. Works in **education, science and culture**. Director-General **Khaled El-Enany** (Egypt), the first Arab DG.
- India's **Tentative List rose 69 → 73 → 78 (Sep 2026)**. The 4 added in Jul–Aug 2026: Ahom capital ensemble at Rangpur-Sivasagar (Assam), Colonial Penal Settlement (A&N), Painted Haveli Towns of Shekhawati (Rajasthan), Nicobarese Cultural Continuity (A&N).
- 5 added on 29 Sep 2026: **Bagh Cave Paintings, Chambal Valley temples (Bateshwar, Padavali, Kakanmath), Udayagiri Caves, Ginnorgarh Fort** (all Madhya Pradesh) and **Sites of Satyagraha**, a joint India–South Africa nomination.
- World Heritage Day (International Day for Monuments and Sites) is observed on **18 April**.
- **Parichha Weir** (Betwa river, Jhansi, UP) was declared a **World Heritage Irrigation Structure by ICID**. This is not a UNESCO listing.

India's 45 World Heritage Sites – List

Site (year)	State
Agra Fort, Taj Mahal (1983)	Uttar Pradesh
Ajanta, Ellora Caves (1983)	Maharashtra
Mahabalipuram monuments (1984)	Tamil Nadu
Sun Temple, Konark (1984)	Odisha
Churches & Convents of Goa (1986)	Goa
Fatehpur Sikri (1986)	Uttar Pradesh
Hampi monuments (1986)	Karnataka
Khajuraho temples (1986)	Madhya Pradesh
Elephanta Caves (1987)	Maharashtra
Great Living Chola Temples (1987)	Tamil Nadu
Pattadakal monuments (1987)	Karnataka
Sanchi Buddhist monuments (1989)	Madhya Pradesh
Humayun's Tomb, Qutb Minar (1993)	Delhi

Site (year)	State
Mountain Railways (1999/2005/2008)	WB, TN, HP
Mahabodhi Temple, Bodh Gaya (2002)	Bihar
Bhimbetka Rock Shelters (2003)	Madhya Pradesh
Champaner-Pavagadh (2004)	Gujarat
CST railway station (2004)	Maharashtra
Red Fort Complex (2007)	Delhi
Jantar Mantar, Jaipur (2010)	Rajasthan
Hill Forts of Rajasthan (2013)	Rajasthan
Rani-ki-Vav, Patan (2014)	Gujarat
Nalanda Mahavihara (2016)	Bihar
Capitol Complex, Le Corbusier (2016)	Chandigarh
Ahmedabad (2017), Jaipur City (2019)	Gujarat, Rajasthan

Site (year)	State
Victorian Gothic & Art Deco (2018)	Maharashtra
Ramappa Temple (2021)	Telangana
Dholavira (2021)	Gujarat
Santiniketan (2023)	West Bengal
Hoysala temples (2023)	Karnataka
Moidams, Charaideo (2024)	Assam
Maratha Military Landscapes (2025)	Maharashtra + TN
Sarnath (2026)	Uttar Pradesh
Kaziranga NP (1985) – Natural	Assam
Manas WLS (1985) – Natural	Assam
Keoladeo NP (1985) – Natural	Rajasthan
Sundarbans NP (1987) – Natural	West Bengal
Nanda Devi & Valley of Flowers (1988)	Uttarakhand
Western Ghats (2012) – Natural	6 states
Great Himalayan NP (2014) – Natural	Himachal Pradesh
Khangchendzonga NP (2016) – Mixed	Sikkim

- Mountain Railways: **Darjeeling Himalayan (1999)**, **Nilgiri (2005)**, **Kalka–Shimla (2008)**.
- Hill Forts of Rajasthan (6 forts): **Chittorgarh, Kumbhalgarh, Ranthambore, Gagron, Amber, Jaisalmer**.
- Hoysala temples: **Belur, Halebidu, Somanathapura** (Karnataka).

Famous Monuments – Location & Builder

- **Dhamek Stupa – Sarnath** (UP). It was first built under **Ashoka** and enlarged in the **Gupta** period, and it marks the site of Buddha's first sermon.
- **Sanchi Stupa – Madhya Pradesh** (Raisen district), commissioned by **Ashoka** (3rd century BCE). Its gateways (toranas) were added later. The Sanchi Stupa is on the reverse of the **₹200 note**.
- **Kumbhalgarh Fort – Rajasthan** (Rajsamand), built by **Rana Kumbha** (15th century). Its wall (about 36 km) is called the **"Great Wall of India"**, and the fort is the birthplace of **Maharana Pratap**.
- **Dholavira – Gujarat** (Khadir Bet, Rann of Kutch), a **Harappan city**. It is India's **40th site** and the **first Indus Valley site in India** on the list.
- **Ramappa (Rudreshwara) Temple – Telangana** (Palampet, Mulugu), a **Kakatiya** temple (1213 CE) named after its sculptor Ramappa. It is India's **39th site**. Nearby **Gollala Gudi Temple** was declared a Monument of National Importance in 2026.
- **Konark Sun Temple – Odisha**, built by **Narasimhadeva I** (Eastern Ganga dynasty,

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13th century). It is called the **"Black Pagoda"**, and its wheel is on the **₹10 note**.

- **Khajuraho – Madhya Pradesh**, built by the **Chandela** dynasty.
- **Brihadeeswara Temple, Thanjavur – Tamil Nadu**, built by **Rajaraja Chola I**.
- **Mahabalipuram (Shore Temple, Rathas) – Tamil Nadu**, built by the **Pallavas** (Narasimhavarman I "Mamalla").
- **Kailasa Temple (Ellora Cave 16)** was built by the **Rashtrakuta king Krishna I**. Ellora is on the **₹20 note**.
- **Hampi – Karnataka**, capital of the **Vijayanagara** empire. The **Stone Chariot** of Hampi is on the **₹50 note**.
- **Pattadakal – Karnataka**, built by the **Chalukyas of Badami**. It has both Nagara and Dravida temples.
- **Rani-ki-Vav – Patan, Gujarat**, a stepwell built by **Queen Udayamati** (Solanki dynasty, 11th century). It is on the **₹100 note**.
- **Red Fort and Taj Mahal** were built by **Shah Jahan**. The Red Fort is on the **₹500 note**.
- **Qutb Minar** was begun by **Qutb-ud-din Aibak** and completed by **Iltutmish**. **Humayun's Tomb** was built by his widow **Bega Begum**.
- **Fatehpur Sikri and Buland Darwaza** were built by **Akbar**.
- **Charminar – Hyderabad**, built by **Muhammad Quli Qutb Shah** (1591). **Gol Gumbaz – Vijayapura (Bijapur)**, built by **Muhammad Adil Shah**.
- **Bibi ka Maqbara** (Aurangabad) is called the "Taj of the Deccan". **Itmad-ud-Daulah** (Agra), built by Nur Jahan, is called the "Baby Taj".
- **Hawa Mahal** (Jaipur) was built by **Sawai Pratap Singh**. **Jantar Mantar** was built by **Sawai Jai Singh II**.
- **Golden Temple (Harmandir Sahib), Amritsar** – its construction was completed by **Guru Arjan Dev**.
- **Gateway of India – Mumbai** (architect **George Wittet**) marks King George V's visit of 1911. **India Gate – Delhi** was designed by **Edwin Lutyens**.
- The **old Parliament House** was designed by **Edwin Lutyens and Herbert Baker**.
- **Statue of Unity** (Sardar Patel, **182 m**, Kevadia, Gujarat) is the world's tallest statue.
- **Meenakshi Amman Temple – Madurai** (TN). **Katas Raj temples are in Pakistan** (Punjab).
- Palaces: **Umaid Bhawan – Jodhpur**, **Amar Mahal – Jammu**, **Aga Khan Palace – Pune**, **Marble Palace – Kolkata**.
- **Ajanta Caves** (Chhatrapati Sambhajinagar, Waghora river) are Buddhist caves famous for their paintings. **Elephanta Caves** are on **Gharapuri island** near Mumbai and are dedicated to Shiva.
- **Bhimbetka** (Raisen, MP) has prehistoric rock shelters discovered by **V. S. Wakankar**. **Nalanda Mahavihara** (Bihar) was founded under **Kumaragupta I** (Gupta).
- **Great Living Chola Temples**: **Brihadeeswara (Thanjavur), Gangaikonda Cholapuram, Airavatesvara (Darasuram)**.
- **Somnath** (Gujarat) is the first of the **12 Jyotirlingas**. **Modhera Sun Temple** (Gujarat) was built by **Bhima I** (Solanki).
- **Vijay Stambh** (Chittorgarh) was built by **Rana Kumbha**. **Lingaraj Temple** is in **Bhubaneswar**, and the **Jagannath Temple** in **Puri**.

Temple Architecture Styles

- **Nagara (North Indian)**: curvilinear **shikhara** over the sanctum, usually no elaborate boundary wall, built on a raised platform (jagati). Examples: **Khajuraho, Konark, Modhera Sun Temple, Lingaraj**.
- **Ram Mandir, Ayodhya** is built in the **Nagara** style (designed by the Sompura family).
- The Odisha form of Nagara has the **Rekha deul** (tower) and the **jagamohana** (hall).
- **Dravida (South Indian)**: pyramidal **vimana** over the sanctum, tall **gopuram** gateways, high compound walls, and a temple tank. Examples: **Brihadeeswara (Thanjavur), Meenakshi (Madurai), Shore Temple**.
- **Vesara (hybrid)**: blends Nagara and Dravida features. It was developed by the **Chalukyas of Kalyani** and the **Hoysalas** in Karnataka. Examples: **Belur, Halebidu**.
- Nagara is linked to the land between the Himalayas and the Vindhyas, Dravida to the land between the Krishna and Kaveri rivers,

and Vesara to the Deccan between the Vindhyas and the Krishna.

Intangible Cultural Heritage & Memory of the World

- India has **16 elements** on UNESCO's Intangible Cultural Heritage list. The latest is **Deepavali (Dec 2025)**, inscribed at the session hosted at the Red Fort, New Delhi.
- Earlier elements: **Vedic Chanting, Ramlila, Kutiyattam** (2008); **Ramman** (2009); **Mudiyettu, Kalbelia, Chhau** (2010); **Buddhist chanting of Ladakh** (2012); **Sankirtana of Manipur** (2013); **Thatheras of Jandiala Guru** (2014); **Nowruz, Yoga** (2016); **Kumbh Mela** (2017); **Durga Puja in Kolkata** (2021); **Garba of Gujarat** (2023).
- India was elected to UNESCO's **Intergovernmental Committee for Safeguarding the ICH for 2022–26**.
- Memory of the World Register: the **Bhagavad Gita** and **Bharata's Natyashastra** were added in **April 2025**, taking India's entries to **14**.
- Other Indian entries include the **Rigveda manuscripts** (2007, BORI Pune), the **Gilgit Manuscripts** (2017), the **Shantinath Charitra** (2013) and the **Tamil Medical Manuscripts** (1997).
- Asia-Pacific Regional Register (2024): **Ramcharitmanas, Panchatantra, Sahṛdayaloka-Locana**.
- UNESCO Creative Cities in India: **Jaipur (crafts), Varanasi (music), Chennai (music), Mumbai (film), Hyderabad (gastronomy), Srinagar (crafts), Gwalior (music), Kozhikode (literature), Lucknow (gastronomy, Oct 2025)**.

Classical Languages

- India has **11 classical languages (as on Oct 2026)**. **Tamil was the first (2004)**.
- Order of recognition: **Tamil (2004), Sanskrit (2005), Telugu & Kannada (2008), Malayalam (2013), Odia (2014)**. In **October 2024**, **Marathi, Pali, Prakrit, Assamese and Bengali** were added.
- Centres of Excellence for the 5 new classical languages: Assamese – **Tezpur University**; Bengali – **Visva-Bharati**; Marathi – **Deccan College, Pune**; Pali – **Central University of Odisha**; Prakrit – **Central University of Gujarat**.
- The **8th Schedule** lists **22 languages**. Classical status is a separate recognition granted by the Ministry of Culture.

Classical & Folk Dances (frequently asked)

Dance	State
Bharatanatyam	Tamil Nadu
Kathak	Uttar Pradesh (North)
Kathakali, Mohiniyattam	Kerala
Kuchipudi	Andhra Pradesh
Odissi	Odisha
Manipuri	Manipur
Sattriya	Assam
Ghoomar	Rajasthan
Fugdi	Goa
Cheraw (bamboo dance)	Mizoram
Bidesia	Bihar
Sangrai	Tripura
Dandiya Raas, Garba	Gujarat
Lavani	Maharashtra

- Sangeet Natak Akademi recognises **8 classical dances**. Exponents: **Sitara Devi – Kathak**; **Mallika Sarabhai, Yamini Krishnamurthy – classical dance**.

Festivals & Fairs (static pairs)

- **Nagaland** is called the "Land of Festivals". Its **Hornbill Festival** is held on 1–10 Dec at **Kisama**, near Kohima.
- **Mahamaham** (once in 12 years) is held at **Kumbakonam, Tamil Nadu**. **Ambubachi Mela** is held at the **Kamakhya Temple, Assam**.
- **Konark Dance Festival – Odisha**; **Elephanta Festival – Maharashtra**; **Hemis Festival – Ladakh**; **Raja Parba – Odisha**; **Kheer Bhawani Mela – J&K**.
- **Bal Gangadhar Tilak** made **Ganesh Utsav** a public festival. **La Tomatina** is held in **Spain**.
- **Kalidas Samman** is Madhya Pradesh's award for the arts. The **Ustad Bismillah Khan Yuva Puraskar** is for performing arts.

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Famous Museums

- **Indian Museum, Kolkata (1814)** is India's **oldest and largest** museum.
- **National Museum, New Delhi** (1949). **Salar Jung Museum – Hyderabad** is a large one-man collection.
- **National Museum of Indian Cinema – Mumbai** (Gulshan Mahal, 2019) was India's first film museum.
- **Chhatrapati Shivaji Maharaj Vastu Sangrahalaya – Mumbai** was formerly the Prince of Wales Museum.
- **Nehru Memorial Museum & Library – Teen Murti Bhavan, New Delhi**, now the **Prime Ministers' Museum and Library**.
- **Subhas Chandra Bose museum – Red Fort, Delhi** (2019).
- **Shabdalok – National Library (Belvedere House), Kolkata** (19 July 2026) is India's first immersive/digital **language museum**, showcasing about 380 languages.
- India's first world-class **Geological Museum** is at **Jabalpur** (2026). International Museum Day is observed on **18 May**.

MCQs – Monuments, UNESCO Sites & Culture

Q1. Which site became India's 45th UNESCO World Heritage Site in July 2026?
(a) Dholavira (b) Sarnath (c) Charaideo Moidams (d) Bagh Caves (e) Santiniketan
Ans: (b) Sarnath – inscribed at the 48th WHC session at Busan, South Korea.

Q2. Where is the Dhamek Stupa located?
(a) Sanchi, MP (b) Bodh Gaya, Bihar (c) Sarnath, UP (d) Kushinagar, UP (e) Amaravati, AP
Ans: (c) Sarnath, Uttar Pradesh – it marks the site of Buddha's first sermon.

Q3. How many UNESCO World Heritage Sites does India have (as on Oct 2026)?
(a) 42 (b) 43 (c) 44 (d) 45 (e) 46
Ans: (d) 45 – 37 cultural, 7 natural, 1 mixed.

Q4. Kumbhalgarh Fort, known for the "Great Wall of India", is in which state?
(a) Gujarat (b) Madhya Pradesh (c) Rajasthan (d) Maharashtra (e) Haryana
Ans: (c) Rajasthan – built by Rana Kumbha; part of the Hill Forts of Rajasthan.

Q5. Dholavira, a Harappan site on the World Heritage list, is in which state?
(a) Rajasthan (b) Haryana (c) Punjab (d) Gujarat (e) Maharashtra
Ans: (d) Gujarat – Khadir Bet, Rann of Kutch.

Q6. In which architectural style is the Ram Mandir at Ayodhya built?
(a) Dravida (b) Vesara (c) Nagara (d) Indo-Saracenic (e) Hoysala
Ans: (c) Nagara – the North Indian shikhara style.

Q7. Which of the following is NOT a classical language of India?
(a) Tamil (b) Malayalam (c) Odia (d) Gujarati (e) Pali
Ans: (d) Gujarati – the 11 classical languages include Tamil, Malayalam, Odia and Pali, but not Gujarati.

Q8. Which was the first language to be declared a classical language in India?
(a) Sanskrit (b) Telugu (c) Tamil (d) Kannada (e) Odia
Ans: (c) Tamil – in 2004.

Q9. Which manuscripts were added to UNESCO's Memory of the World Register in 2025?
(a) Rigveda and Ramayana (b) Bhagavad Gita and Natyashastra (c) Panchatantra and Jataka (d) Arthashastra and Gita (e) Ramcharitmanas and Rigveda
Ans: (b) Bhagavad Gita and Bharata's Natyashastra – India now has 14 entries.

Q10. Which was India's first UNESCO World Heritage City?
(a) Jaipur (b) Varanasi (c) Ahmedabad (d) Hyderabad (e) Mumbai
Ans: (c) Ahmedabad – 2017; Jaipur followed in 2019.

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Q11. Which Indian city was named a UNESCO Creative City of Gastronomy in October 2025?
(a) Hyderabad (b) Lucknow (c) Amritsar (d) Kolkata (e) Indore
Ans: (b) Lucknow – Hyderabad was named earlier (2019).

Q12. The Sanchi Stupa is located in which state?
(a) Bihar (b) Uttar Pradesh (c) Madhya Pradesh (d) Odisha (e) Andhra Pradesh
Ans: (c) Madhya Pradesh – commissioned by Ashoka.

Q13. Which is India's oldest and largest museum?
(a) National Museum, Delhi (b) Salar Jung Museum (c) Indian Museum, Kolkata (d) CSMVS, Mumbai (e) Government Museum, Chennai
Ans: (c) Indian Museum, Kolkata – founded in 1814.

Q14. The 12 forts of the Maratha Military Landscapes (India's 44th site) lie in Maharashtra and which other state?
(a) Karnataka (b) Goa (c) Tamil Nadu (d) Gujarat (e) Telangana
Ans: (c) Tamil Nadu – Gingee Fort.

Q15. Which of the following is India's only Mixed World Heritage Site?
(a) Kaziranga (b) Khangchendzonga National Park (c) Western Ghats (d) Sundarbans (e) Great Himalayan NP
Ans: (b) Khangchendzonga National Park – Sikkim, 2016.

Q16. The Ramappa Temple, a World Heritage Site, was built by which dynasty?
(a) Cholas (b) Pallavas (c) Kakatiyas (d) Hoysalas (e) Chandelas
Ans: (c) Kakatiyas – Palampet, Telangana.

Q17. Which is India's latest element on UNESCO's Intangible Cultural Heritage list?
(a) Garba (b) Durga Puja (c) Deepavali (d) Kumbh Mela (e) Yoga
Ans: (c) Deepavali – inscribed in December 2025.

Q18. Sattriya is the classical dance of which state?
(a) Manipur (b) Assam (c) Odisha (d) Kerala (e) Tripura
Ans: (b) Assam – one of the 8 classical dances.

Q19. The Salar Jung Museum is located in which city?
(a) Lucknow (b) Bhopal (c) Hyderabad (d) Mysuru (e) Kolkata
Ans: (c) Hyderabad.

Q20. How many sites are on India's UNESCO Tentative List after the September 2026 additions?
(a) 69 (b) 73 (c) 75 (d) 78 (e) 80
Ans: (d) 78 – the 5 additions include 4 sites in Madhya Pradesh and the India–South Africa "Sites of Satyagraha".

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FIELD 15: NICKNAMES OF CITIES, STATES & PLACES

Exam tip: *Asked as "Which city is called the Garden City of India?" or "Surat is known as the city of?"; learn the pairs both ways (city to nickname and nickname to city).*

Most Asked Indian Nicknames

- **Garden City of India**: **Bengaluru** (also Silicon Valley of India, IT Capital, Pensioners' Paradise).
- **Diamond City of India**: **Surat** (Gujarat) — about 90% of the world's diamonds are cut and polished here; also called Silk City.
- **Land of Festivals**: **Nagaland** — home to 17 major tribes; its Hornbill Festival (Kisama, near Kohima, 1–10 December) is the "Festival of Festivals".
- **Pink City**: **Jaipur** (painted pink in 1876 for the visit of the Prince of Wales).
- **Manchester of India**: **Ahmedabad** (cotton textiles); Ahmedabad is also India's first UNESCO World Heritage City (2017).
- **Scotland of the East**: **Shillong** (Meghalaya); **Scotland of India**: **Coorg (Kodagu)**, Karnataka.
- **Chicken's Neck**: **Siliguri Corridor** (West Bengal).
- **City of Joy**: **Kolkata**; also called City of Palaces.
- **Gateway of India / City of Dreams / Maximum City**: **Mumbai**.
- **City of Nawabs**: **Lucknow**; Lucknow became a **UNESCO Creative City of Gastronomy** in Oct 2025 (Hyderabad got the same tag in 2019).

Cities of India

City	Nickname
Bengaluru	Garden City, Silicon Valley of India
Hyderabad	City of Pearls, City of Nizams
Kolkata	City of Joy, City of Palaces
Mumbai	City of Dreams, Gateway of India
Jaipur	Pink City
Jodhpur	Blue City, Sun City
Jaisalmer	Golden City
Udaipur	City of Lakes, Venice of the East
Bhopal	City of Lakes
Surat	Diamond City, Silk City
Ahmedabad	Manchester of India
Coimbatore	Manchester of South India
Kanpur	Manchester of the East, Leather City
Chennai	Detroit of India, Gateway to South India
Nagpur	Orange City
Bhubaneswar	Temple City of India
Madurai	Athens of the East
Pune	Queen of the Deccan, Oxford of the East
Kochi	Queen of the Arabian Sea
Alappuzha	Venice of the East
Varanasi	Spiritual Capital of India
Amritsar	Golden Temple City
Chandigarh	City Beautiful
Mysuru	City of Palaces, Sandalwood City
Agra	City of the Taj

City	Nickname
Jamshedpur	Steel City (Tatanagar)
Dhanbad	Coal Capital of India
Panipat	City of Weavers
Bhagalpur	Silk City of India
Firozabad	Glass City (City of Bangles)
Moradabad	Brass City (Peetal Nagri)
Nashik	Wine Capital, Grape City
Tiruppur	Knitwear Capital, Dollar City
Sivakasi	Little Japan, Fireworks Capital
Thoothukudi	Pearl City
Kollam	Cashew Capital
Rishikesh	Yoga Capital of the World
Haridwar	Gateway to the Gods
Guwahati	Gateway of the North-East

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City	Nickname
Visakhapatnam	City of Destiny
Indore	Cleanest City, Mini Mumbai
Puducherry	French Riviera of the East
Gurugram	Millennium City
Tezpur	City of Eternal Romance
Kanchipuram	City of Thousand Temples

- **Ahmedabad** is the Manchester of India; **Coimbatore** is the Manchester of South India; **Kanpur** (UP) is called the Manchester of the East and the Leather City.
- **Hyderabad** is called **Cyberabad** for its IT hub (HITEC City); Bengaluru is the main "Silicon Valley of India".
- **Jamshedpur** is India's first planned industrial (steel) city, founded by Jamsetji Tata; Bhilai and Rourkela are also steel cities.
- **Udaipur** is called both "City of Lakes" and "Venice of the East"; **Alappuzha (Kerala)** is also called "Venice of the East" for its backwaters.
- **Bhubaneswar** is the "Temple City of India"; **Varanasi** is one of the oldest living cities in the world.
- **Hyderabad** is the "City of Pearls" — it is India's main pearl-trading centre; it was ruled by the Nizams.
- **Jodhpur** is the "Blue City" (blue houses of the old city) and "Sun City" (bright sunny weather all year).
- **Jaisalmer** is the "Golden City" — buildings of yellow sandstone in the Thar desert.
- **Nagpur** is the "Orange City" and lies at the geographical centre of India (Zero Mile Stone).
- **Chennai** is the "Detroit of India" for its automobile industry.
- **Kolkata** is the "City of Joy" (from Dominique Lapierre's novel) and "City of Palaces".
- **Mumbai** is the "City of Dreams" and India's financial capital; the Gateway of India monument stands there.
- **Pune** is the "Queen of the Deccan" and "Oxford of the East" for its colleges.
- **Kochi** is the "Queen of the Arabian Sea" for its harbour and spice trade.
- **Madurai** is the "Athens of the East" and is built around the Meenakshi Temple.
- **Mysuru** is the "City of Palaces" (Mysore Palace) and famous for sandalwood.
- **Chandigarh**, designed by Le Corbusier, is the "City Beautiful".
- **Dhanbad** (Jharkhand) is the "Coal Capital of India"; **Panipat** (Haryana) is the "City of Weavers".
- **Firozabad** (UP) is the "Glass City" (bangles); **Moradabad** (UP) is the "Brass City".
- **Nashik** is India's "Wine Capital"; **Tiruppur** (Tamil Nadu) is the "Knitwear Capital".
- **Thoothukudi** (Tamil Nadu) is the "Pearl City"; **Kollam** (Kerala) is the "Cashew Capital of the World".
- **Rishikesh** is the "Yoga Capital of the World"; **Haridwar** is the "Gateway to the Gods".
- **Indore** has been ranked India's cleanest city many times in Swachh Survekshan; it is also called "Mini Mumbai".
- **Sivakasi (Tamil Nadu)** is called "Little Japan" (Mini Japan) — named by Jawaharlal Nehru for its fireworks and match industry.

Hill Stations & Places

Place	Nickname
Shimla	Queen of Hills (summer capital of British India)
Darjeeling	Queen of the Hills
Mussoorie	Queen of the Hills
Ooty (Udhagamandalam)	Queen of Hill Stations
Kodaikanal	Princess of Hill Stations
Nainital	Lake District of India
Khajjiar (HP)	Mini Switzerland of India
Kashmir	Paradise on Earth, Switzerland of India
Gulmarg	Meadow of Flowers
Shillong	Scotland of the East
Coorg (Kodagu)	Scotland of India
Nilgiris	Blue Mountains
Majuli (Assam)	Largest river island
Chota Nagpur Plateau	Mineral heart of India

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- **Shimla, Darjeeling and Mussoorie** are all called "Queen of the Hills"; **Ooty** is the "Queen of Hill Stations".
- **Kosi** is the "Sorrow of Bihar"; **Damodar** is the "Sorrow of Bengal"; **Brahmaputra** is the "lifeline of Assam".
- **Godavari** is called "Dakshin Ganga" (Ganga of the South).
- **Kashmir** is called "Paradise on Earth" and the "Switzerland of India"; **Khajjiar** (Chamba, HP) is the "Mini Switzerland of India".
- **Nainital** (Uttarakhand) is the "Lake District of India".
- **Ooty** lies in the **Nilgiris ("Blue Mountains")** of Tamil Nadu; **Kodaikanal** is the "Princess of Hill Stations".
- **Coorg (Kodagu)** in Karnataka is the "Scotland of India" and is famous for coffee.
- **Gulmarg** means "Meadow of Flowers"; it is a ski resort in J&K.

States of India

State	Nickname
Kerala	God's Own Country, Land of Spices
Nagaland	Land of Festivals
Meghalaya	Abode of Clouds
Arunachal Pradesh	Land of the Rising Sun (of India)
Assam	Land of Red River and Blue Hills
Manipur	Jewel of India
Mizoram	Land of Hill People (Mizo)
Uttarakhand	Dev Bhoomi (Land of Gods)
Himachal Pradesh	Dev Bhoomi, Apple State
Punjab	Land of Five Rivers
Rajasthan	Land of Kings (Rajputana)
Madhya Pradesh	Heart of India, Tiger State, Soya State
Ladakh	Land of High Passes
Goa	Pearl of the Orient
Sikkim	India's first fully organic state

- **Punjab** = "Land of Five Rivers" (Sutlej, Beas, Ravi, Chenab, Jhelum); "Punj" = five, "ab" = water.
- **Ladakh** = "Land of High Passes" ("La" means pass); it has **Umling La**, the world's highest motorable road.
- **Meghalaya** literally means "Abode of Clouds"; it has **Mawsynram**, the wettest place on Earth.
- **Arunachal Pradesh** is the "Land of the Rising Sun" (of India) and "Land of Dawn-lit Mountains" — the sun rises first at Dong village.
- **Madhya Pradesh** is the "Tiger State" — most tigers (785) and most tiger reserves (9); it is also the "Heart of India" (central location).
- **Kerala** is "God's Own Country" (tourism slogan) and the "Land of Spices" (pepper, cardamom).
- **Uttarakhand** is "Dev Bhoomi" (Land of Gods) — Char Dham: Yamunotri, Gangotri, Kedarnath, Badrinath.
- **Assam** is the "Land of Red River and Blue Hills" — the red river is the Brahmaputra.
- **Manipur** was called the "Jewel of India" by Jawaharlal Nehru.
- **Rajasthan** means "Land of Kings"; **Goa** is the "Pearl of the Orient".
- **Sikkim** became India's **first fully organic state** (2016).

Countries & Places of the World

Nickname	Country / Place
Land of the Rising Sun	Japan
Land of the Midnight Sun	Norway
Land of Thousand Lakes	Finland
Land of the Thunder Dragon	Bhutan
Land of the White Elephant	Thailand
Land of Smiles	Thailand
Land of Morning Calm	Korea
Land of Golden Pagodas	Myanmar
Land of Kangaroos	Australia
Land of Maple Leaf	Canada

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Nickname	Country / Place
Land of Tulips	Netherlands
Land of Cakes	Scotland
Land of Fire and Ice	Iceland
Rainbow Nation	South Africa
Sugar Bowl of the World	Cuba
Pearl of the Antilles	Cuba
Pearl of the Indian Ocean	Sri Lanka
Island of Cloves	Zanzibar (Tanzania)
Island of Pearls	Bahrain
Emerald Isle	Ireland
Gift of the Nile	Egypt
Dark Continent	Africa
Roof of the World	Pamir Plateau (also Tibet)
Playground of Europe	Switzerland
Cockpit of Europe	Belgium

Nickname	City / Feature
Big Apple	New York
Windy City	Chicago
City of Angels	Los Angeles
Motor City	Detroit
Sin City	Las Vegas
City of Golden Gate	San Francisco
City of Brotherly Love	Philadelphia
Eternal City / City of Seven Hills	Rome
City of Canals / Queen of Adriatic	Venice
City of Light	Paris
Big Smoke	London
Venice of the North	Stockholm
Forbidden City	Lhasa (Tibet)
Manchester of Japan	Osaka
Granite City	Aberdeen (Scotland)
Sorrow of China	Hwang Ho (Yellow River)
Herring Pond	Atlantic Ocean
Gate of Tears	Bab-el-Mandeb Strait
Sick Man of Europe	Turkey (Ottoman Empire)
Down Under	Australia and New Zealand

- **Japan** = "Land of the Rising Sun" (Nippon means "origin of the sun"); **Norway** = "Land of the Midnight Sun" (sun visible at midnight in summer, north of the Arctic Circle).
- **Cuba** = "Sugar Bowl of the World" (sugarcane); **Pamir** = "Roof of the World".
- **Bhutan** = "Land of the Thunder Dragon" (Druk Yul); **Finland** = "Land of Thousand Lakes".
- **New York** = "Big Apple"; **Chicago** = "Windy City"; **Rome** = "Eternal City".
- **Thailand** is the "Land of the White Elephant" and "Land of Smiles"; **Myanmar** is the "Land of Golden Pagodas".
- **Korea** is the "Land of Morning Calm"; **Canada** is the "Land of Maple Leaf"; **Netherlands** is the "Land of Tulips".
- **Sri Lanka** is the "Pearl of the Indian Ocean"; **Bahrain** is the "Island of Pearls"; **Zanzibar** is the "Island of Cloves".
- **Egypt** is the "Gift of the Nile" (Herodotus); **Africa** is the "Dark Continent".
- **Ireland** is the "Emerald Isle"; **Iceland** is the "Land of Fire and Ice"; **South Africa** is the "Rainbow Nation".
- **Venice** is the "City of Canals" and "Queen of the Adriatic"; **Paris** is the "City of Light".
- **Detroit** is the "Motor City" (Motown); **Los Angeles** is the "City of Angels"; **Las Vegas** is the "Sin City".
- **Hwang Ho (Yellow River)** is the "Sorrow of China"; **Bab-el-Mandeb** strait is the "Gate of Tears".
- **Italy's** national football team is nicknamed **"Azzurri"** (the Blues).

People Known As (Static)

- **J. Robert Oppenheimer** — Father of the **Atomic Bomb**; **Matti Makkonen** — Father of **SMS**.
- **E. Sreedharan** — **"Metro Man" of India**; **Narinder Singh Kapany** — Father of Fibre Optics.
- **Dr. Verghese Kurien** — Father of the White Revolution; **M.S. Swaminathan** — Father of the Green Revolution (India).
- **Sardar Vallabhbhai Patel** — Iron Man of India; **Sarojini Naidu** — Nightingale of India.

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- **Milkha Singh** — Flying Sikh; **P.T. Usha** — Payyoli Express; **Sachin Tendulkar** — Master Blaster.

MCQs – Nicknames of Cities, States & Places

Q1. Which city is known as the "Garden City of India"?
(a) Mysuru (b) Chennai (c) Bengaluru (d) Pune (e) Chandigarh
Ans: (c) Bengaluru – also called the Silicon Valley of India.

Q2. Which Indian city is called the "Diamond City"?
(a) Jaipur (b) Surat (c) Mumbai (d) Hyderabad (e) Panna
Ans: (b) Surat – the world's main diamond cutting and polishing centre.

Q3. Which state is called the "Land of Festivals"?
(a) Mizoram (b) Manipur (c) Nagaland (d) Assam (e) Sikkim
Ans: (c) Nagaland – it has 17 major tribes and the Hornbill Festival.

Q4. "Scotland of the East" refers to:
(a) Darjeeling (b) Coorg (c) Shillong (d) Gangtok (e) Ooty
Ans: (c) Shillong – Coorg is the "Scotland of India".

Q5. Which city is known as the "Manchester of India"?
(a) Kanpur (b) Coimbatore (c) Ahmedabad (d) Surat (e) Ludhiana
Ans: (c) Ahmedabad – Coimbatore is the Manchester of South India.

Q6. Which Indian city was named a UNESCO Creative City of Gastronomy in October 2025?
(a) Hyderabad (b) Lucknow (c) Amritsar (d) Indore (e) Kolkata
Ans: (b) Lucknow – Hyderabad had got the same tag in 2019.

Q7. India's "Chicken's Neck" is the:
(a) Palk Strait (b) Siliguri Corridor (c) Rann of Kutch (d) Chumbi Valley (e) Palghat Gap
Ans: (b) Siliguri Corridor – West Bengal.

Q8. Which country is known as the "Land of the Midnight Sun"?
(a) Finland (b) Japan (c) Norway (d) Iceland (e) Canada
Ans: (c) Norway – Japan is the Land of the Rising Sun.

Q9. Which country is called the "Sugar Bowl of the World"?
(a) Brazil (b) India (c) Cuba (d) Jamaica (e) Mauritius
Ans: (c) Cuba.

Q10. "Roof of the World" refers to:
(a) Mount Everest (b) Pamir Plateau (c) Andes (d) Alps (e) Deccan Plateau
Ans: (b) Pamir Plateau – Tibet is also called so.

Q11. "Big Apple" is the nickname of:
(a) Chicago (b) London (c) Los Angeles (d) New York (e) Washington DC
Ans: (d) New York – Chicago is the Windy City.

Q12. Which city is called the "Pink City"?
(a) Jodhpur (b) Jaipur (c) Udaipur (d) Jaisalmer (e) Bikaner
Ans: (b) Jaipur – Jodhpur is the Blue City, Jaisalmer the Golden City.

Q13. Which city is known as the "City of Joy"?
(a) Mumbai (b) Kolkata (c) Lucknow (d) Hyderabad (e) Chennai
Ans: (b) Kolkata.

Q14. "Land of the Thunder Dragon" is:
(a) Nepal (b) China (c) Bhutan (d) Tibet (e) Myanmar
Ans: (c) Bhutan – known locally as Druk Yul.

Q15. Which city is called the "Orange City"?
(a) Nashik (b) Nagpur (c) Pune (d) Shillong (e) Aurangabad
Ans: (b) Nagpur – in Maharashtra.

Q16. Which state is called "God's Own Country"?
(a) Goa (b) Kerala (c) Uttarakhand (d) Himachal Pradesh (e) Tamil Nadu
Ans: (b) Kerala – Uttarakhand is "Dev Bhoomi".

Q17. "Land of Five Rivers" refers to:
(a) Haryana (b) Punjab (c) Jammu & Kashmir (d) Assam (e) Uttar Pradesh
Ans: (b) Punjab – Sutlej, Beas, Ravi, Chenab, Jhelum.

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Q18. "Land of Thousand Lakes" is:
(a) Canada (b) Sweden (c) Finland (d) Switzerland (e) Norway
Ans: (c) Finland.

Q19. Which Indian city is known as the "Temple City of India"?
(a) Madurai (b) Varanasi (c) Bhubaneswar (d) Puri (e) Tirupati
Ans: (c) Bhubaneswar – capital of Odisha.

Q20. Who is known as the "Metro Man" of India?
(a) Verghese Kurien (b) E. Sreedharan (c) M. Visvesvaraya (d) Sam Pitroda (e) Ratan Tata
Ans: (b) E. Sreedharan – led Delhi Metro and Konkan Railway.

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FIELD 16: ABBREVIATIONS & FULL FORMS

Exam tip: *Almost every bank exam has 1–2 questions like "Expand X" or "What does 'C' stand for in Y?". Learn each full form word by word; the asked letter is usually the least obvious word.*

Payments & Digital Banking

- **NEFT** – National Electronic Funds Transfer; settles in half-hourly batches; **24x7** since 16 Dec 2019; no minimum amount.
- **RTGS** – Real Time Gross Settlement; minimum **₹2 lakh**; 24x7 since 14 Dec 2020; run by RBI.
- **IMPS** – **Immediate Payment Service**; instant 24x7 transfer run by NPCI; uses **MMID** (Mobile Money Identifier).
- **UPI** – **Unified** Payments Interface; launched (pilot) **11 April 2016** by NPCI.
- **NPCI** – National Payments Corporation of India; set up **2008**, not-for-profit, HQ **Mumbai**, promoted by RBI and IBA.
- **NBSL** – **NPCI BHIM Services Ltd** (NPCI subsidiary); **BHIM** = Bharat Interface for Money.
- **NACH** – National **Automated** Clearing House (NPCI); replaced **ECS** (Electronic Clearing Service).
- **AePS** – Aadhaar enabled Payment System; **APBS** – Aadhaar **Payment** Bridge System.
- **USSD** – **Unstructured** Supplementary Service Data; used for ***99#** mobile banking without internet.
- **CTS** – Cheque Truncation System; **MICR** – Magnetic Ink **Character** Recognition (9-digit code: city–bank–branch).
- **IFSC** – Indian Financial System Code; **11 characters** (4 bank letters, 0, 6 branch characters).
- **SWIFT** – **Society** for Worldwide Interbank Financial Telecommunication.
- **EFTPOS** – **Electronic** Funds Transfer at **Point** of Sale; **POS** – Point of Sale.
- **MDR** – **Merchant** Discount Rate (fee paid by merchants on card/digital payments).
- **CNP** – Card Not **Present** (online/phone card transactions).
- **EMV** – Europay, MasterCard and Visa (chip card standard).
- **ICCW** – Interoperable Card-less Cash Withdrawal (cash from ATMs using UPI).
- **NCMC** – National Common Mobility Card (RuPay On-The-Go).
- **CBS** – **Core** Banking Solution: all branches, ATMs and internet banking on one central system.
- **EFT** – Electronic Funds Transfer; **ECS** – Electronic Clearing Service; **ATM** – Automated Teller Machine.
- **MANI** – **Mobile** Aided Note Identifier (RBI app for visually impaired users).
- **KYC** – Know Your Customer; **CKYC** – Central KYC, run by **CERSAI**, **14-digit** number.
- **STP** – Straight Through **Processing**; **AQB** – Average Quarterly Balance.

RBI, Monetary Policy & Banking Ratios

- **CRR** – Cash Reserve Ratio; **SLR** – Statutory Liquidity Ratio. Current **CRR 3%, SLR 18%** (as on Oct 2026).
- **MCLR** – **Marginal Cost** of Funds based Lending Rate (from 1 April 2016; replaced Base Rate).
- **EBLR** – External Benchmark based Lending Rate (from **1 Oct 2019**, after the Janak Raj Committee review of MCLR).
- **LAF** – **Liquidity** Adjustment Facility (repo and reverse repo window).
- **MSF** – Marginal **Standing** Facility; **SDF** – Standing Deposit Facility; **OMO** – Open Market Operations.
- **MPC** – Monetary Policy Committee (2016; 6 members – 3 RBI + 3 Government; Governor has casting vote).
- **PCA** – **Prompt Corrective Action** (RBI framework for weak banks).
- **NPA** – Non-Performing Asset (overdue for more than 90 days); **SMA** – Special Mention Account.
- **CRAR** – Capital to Risk (Weighted) Assets Ratio; **LCR** – Liquidity Coverage Ratio; **NSFR** – Net Stable Funding Ratio (Basel III).
- **ALM** – Asset Liability Management; **NIM** – Net Interest Margin; **LTV** – Loan to **Value**.
- **CASA** – Current Account Savings Account; **ANBC** – Adjusted Net Bank Credit (base for 40% PSL target).

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- **D-SIB** – Domestic Systemically Important Bank (SBI, HDFC Bank, ICICI Bank).
- **FITL** – Funded Interest Term Loan (loan created out of unpaid interest during restructuring).
- **CBLO** – Collateralised Borrowing and Lending Obligation (money-market instrument).
- **LRS** – **Liberalised Remittance** Scheme; limit **USD 2,50,000** per financial year.
- **FEMA** – Foreign Exchange **Management** Act (1999), replaced FERA (Regulation).
- **FSDC** – Financial Stability and Development Council (chaired by the Finance Minister).
- **CFT** – **Combating** the Financing of Terrorism; **AML** – Anti-Money Laundering.
- **BR Act** – Banking **Regulation** Act, 1949.

Banks, Institutions & Rural Credit

- **NABARD** – National Bank for Agriculture and Rural Development; set up **12 July 1982**, HQ Mumbai.
- **SIDBI** – **Small Industries Development Bank of India**; set up 2 April 1990, HQ **Lucknow**.
- **MUDRA** – **Micro** Units Development & Refinance Agency (SIDBI subsidiary).
- **NHB** – **National Housing Bank** (1988); **EXIM** – Export-Import Bank of India.
- **NaBFID** – National Bank for Financing Infrastructure and Development (2021); **IIFCL** – India Infrastructure Finance Company Ltd.
- **DICGC** – Deposit Insurance and Credit Guarantee Corporation; insures deposits up to **₹5 lakh** per depositor.
- **ECGC** – Export Credit **Guarantee** Corporation of India.
- **CGTMSE** – Credit Guarantee Fund Trust for Micro and Small Enterprises; **NCGTC** – National Credit Guarantee Trustee Company.
- **NBFC** – Non-Banking **Financial** Company; **CIC** – Core **Investment** Company (NBFC type).
- **NOFHC** – **Non-Operative** Financial Holding Company.
- **ARC** – Asset Reconstruction Company; **ARCIL** – Asset Reconstruction Company (India) Ltd, the first ARC; **NARCL** – National Asset Reconstruction Company Ltd (2021).
- **PACS** – **Primary Agricultural Credit Societies** (base of the short-term co-operative credit structure).
- **DCCB** – District Central Co-operative Bank; **UCB** – Urban Co-operative Bank; **RRB** – Regional Rural Bank; **SFB** – Small Finance Bank.
- **RIDF** – Rural **Infrastructure** Development Fund (NABARD).
- **DRDA** – District Rural Development **Agency**.
- **SHG** – Self Help **Group**; **JLG** – Joint Liability Group; **KCC** – Kisan Credit Card; **FPO** – Farmer Producer Organisation.
- **USB** – **Ultra Small Branch** (RBI financial-inclusion outlet).
- **IDRBT** – Institute for Development and Research in Banking Technology (Hyderabad).
- **IBA** – Indian Banks' Association; **CERSAI** – Central Registry of Securitisation Asset Reconstruction and Security Interest of India.
- **SARFAESI** – Securitisation and Reconstruction of Financial Assets and Enforcement of Security Interest (Act, 2002).
- **NCLT** – National Company Law Tribunal; **NCLAT** – National Company Law **Appellate** Tribunal; **CIRP** – Corporate Insolvency Resolution Process (IBC).
- **BIFR** – Board for Industrial and Financial Reconstruction; **SFIO** – Serious **Fraud** Investigation Office.
- **FINO** – Financial Inclusion Network & Operations.

Capital Markets, Forex & Insurance

- **SEBI** – Securities and Exchange Board of India; **IRDAI** – Insurance Regulatory and Development Authority of India; **PFRDA** – Pension Fund Regulatory and Development Authority.
- **IFSCA** – International Financial Services Centres Authority (GIFT City).
- **IPO** – Initial Public Offering; **QIP** – **Qualified Institutional Placement**; **NAV** – Net Asset Value.
- **SIP** – Systematic **Investment** Plan; **ETF** – Exchange Traded Fund; **ULIP** – Unit Linked **Insurance** Plan.
- **NSDL** – National **Securities** Depository Ltd; **CDSL** – Central Depository Services (India) Ltd.

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- **ASBA** – Application Supported by Blocked Amount; **SCSB** – **Self Certified Syndicate Bank**.
- **FDI** – Foreign Direct Investment; **FII** – Foreign Institutional Investor; **FPI** – Foreign Portfolio Investor.
- **ECB** – External Commercial Borrowing; **FCCB** – Foreign Currency Convertible Bond.
- **ADR** – American Depositary Receipt; **GDR** – Global Depository Receipt.
- **FCNR(B)** – Foreign Currency Non-Resident (Bank) account; **NRE / NRO** – Non-Resident External / Ordinary.
- **LIBOR** – London Inter-Bank Offered Rate; **TIBOR** – Tokyo; **MIBOR** – Mumbai; **SOFR** – Secured Overnight Financing Rate.
- **TSX** – **Toronto Stock Exchange** (Canada).
- **TPA** – Third Party **Administrator** (health insurance); **FPR** – First Premium Receipt.
- **IGMS** – Integrated Grievance Management System (IRDAI).
- **GARUDA** (SEBI, 2026) – Green Channel AIF Rollout Upon Document Acknowledgement.

Economy, Tax & Government

- **GDP / GNP / GVA** – Gross Domestic Product / Gross National Product / Gross Value Added.
- **CPI** – Consumer Price Index; **WPI** – Wholesale Price Index; **IIP** – Index of Industrial Production; **CAGR** – **Compound** Annual Growth Rate.
- **GST** – Goods and Services Tax; **GSTN** – GST Network.
- **GSTIN** – GST Identification Number, **15 characters**: **first 2 digits = State code**, next 10 = **PAN**, 13th = entity number, 14th = "Z" by default, 15th = check digit.
- **PAN** – Permanent Account Number (10 characters); **TAN** – Tax Deduction and Collection Account Number; **TDS** – Tax Deducted at Source.
- **CBDT** – Central Board of Direct Taxes; **CBIC** – Central Board of Indirect Taxes and Customs.
- **NITI** Aayog – **National** Institution for Transforming India.
- **ESG** – **Environmental, Social and Governance**.
- **CSR** – **Corporate** Social Responsibility; **OPC** – One **Person** Company; **LLP** – Limited Liability Partnership.
- **HAM** – Hybrid **Annuity** Model (road projects); **PPP** – Public Private Partnership.
- **SEZ** – **Special** Economic Zone; **PLI** – Production Linked Incentive; **MMF** – Man-**Made** Fibre (textile PLI).
- **MSME** – Micro, Small and Medium Enterprises; **TReDS** – Trade Receivables Discounting System.
- **DBT** – Direct Benefit Transfer; **JAM** – Jan Dhan–Aadhaar–Mobile; **PFMS** – Public **Financial** Management System.
- **DPIIT** – Department for Promotion of Industry and Internal Trade.
- **MPLADS** – Members of Parliament Local Area Development Scheme.
- **VVPAT** – Voter Verifiable **Paper** Audit Trail; **EVM** – Electronic Voting Machine; **NOTA** – None of the Above.

Scheme acronym	Full form
MGNREGA	Mahatma Gandhi National Rural Employment Guarantee Act
PMGSY	Pradhan Mantri Gram Sadak Yojana
AMRUT	Atal Mission for Rejuvenation and Urban Transformation
ICDS	Integrated Child Development Services
FAME	Faster Adoption and Manufacturing of (Hybrid &) Electric Vehicles
TIES	Trade Infrastructure for Export Scheme
RAFTAAR	RKVY – Remunerative Approaches for Agriculture and Allied sector Rejuvenation
RISE	Revitalising Infrastructure and Systems in Education
SHRESHTA	Scheme for Residential Education for Students in High Schools in Targeted Areas
PM-JUGA	PM Janjatiya Unnat Gram Abhiyan
BHAVYA	Bharat Audyogik Vikas Yojana

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Scheme acronym	Full form
PM SETU	PM Skilling and Employability Transformation through Upgraded ITIs
ULLAS	Understanding Lifelong Learning for All in Society
GRIHA	Green Rating for Integrated Habitat Assessment
HIRA	Highways, I-ways, Railways, Airways
OCMC	Online Consumer Mediation Centre

International Organisations & Groupings

Acronym	Full form
IMF	International Monetary Fund
IBRD	International Bank for Reconstruction and Development
WTO / WHO	World Trade Organization / World Health Organization
ILO	International Labour Organization
UNESCO	UN Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization
UNCTAD	UN Conference on Trade and Development
IFAD	International Fund for Agricultural Development
BIS	Bank for International Settlements
FATF	Financial Action Task Force
NDB / AIIB	New Development Bank / Asian Infrastructure Investment Bank
ASEAN	Association of Southeast Asian Nations
SAARC	South Asian Association for Regional Cooperation
BIMSTEC	Bay of Bengal Initiative for Multi-Sectoral Technical and Economic Cooperation
SCO	Shanghai Cooperation Organisation

Acronym	Full form
BRICS	Brazil, Russia, India, China, South Africa
CIS	Commonwealth of Independent States
OPEC	Organization of the Petroleum Exporting Countries
IORA	Indian Ocean Rim Association
IUCN	International Union for Conservation of Nature
IFRS	International Financial Reporting Standards
ICAN	International Campaign to Abolish Nuclear Weapons
SAWEN	South Asia Wildlife Enforcement Network
COMCASA	Communications Compatibility and Security Agreement
POSCO	Pohang Iron and Steel Company (South Korea)

Science, Space & Technology

- **ISRO** – Indian Space Research Organisation (15 Aug 1969, HQ Bengaluru); **DRDO** – Defence Research and Development Organisation (1958).
- **NavIC** – Navigation with Indian **Constellation** (India's regional navigation system, earlier IRNSS).
- **PSLV / GSLV** – Polar / **Geosynchronous** Satellite Launch Vehicle; **SSLV** – Small Satellite Launch Vehicle; **IN-SPACe** – Indian National Space Promotion and Authorization Centre.
- **LiDAR** – Light Detection and **Ranging**; **RADAR** – Radio Detection and Ranging; **SONAR** – Sound Navigation and Ranging.
- **LASER** – Light Amplification by Stimulated Emission of Radiation.
- **FLOPS** – **Floating-point Operations Per Second** (supercomputer speed).
- **CAPTCHA** – Completely Automated Public Turing test to tell Computers and Humans Apart.

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- **RFID** – Radio Frequency Identification; **NFC** – Near Field Communication; **QR** – Quick Response code.
- **PKI** – Public Key Infrastructure; **SSL** – Secure Sockets Layer; **OTP** – One Time Password; **VPN** – Virtual Private Network.
- **LAN / MAN / WAN** – Local / **Metropolitan** / Wide Area Network.
- **IoT** – Internet of Things; **AI** – Artificial Intelligence; **ML** – Machine Learning; **API** – Application Programming Interface.
- **SARAH** (WHO AI health assistant) – **Smart** AI Resource Assistant for Health.
- **KLEMS** (RBI productivity database) – **Capital (K)**, Labour, Energy, Materials, Services.
- **PRAVAAH** (RBI portal) – Platform for Regulatory Application, **Validation** And AutHorisation.
- **AQI** – Air Quality **Index**; **CNG** – Compressed **Natural** Gas; **SEU** – Slightly Enriched Uranium.
- **CERT-In** – Indian Computer Emergency Response Team.

MCQs – Abbreviations & Full Forms

Q1. In ESG, what does 'G' stand for?
(a) Growth (b) Green (c) Governance (d) Global (e) Guarantee
Ans: (c) Governance – ESG = Environmental, Social and Governance.

Q2. In DRDA, what does 'A' stand for?
(a) Authority (b) Agency (c) Association (d) Administration (e) Assistance
Ans: (b) Agency – District Rural Development Agency.

Q3. What is the full form of PACS?
(a) Public Agricultural Credit Scheme (b) Primary Agricultural Credit Societies (c) Primary Agro Cooperative Services (d) Priority Agricultural Credit System (e) Primary Allied Credit Societies
Ans: (b) Primary Agricultural Credit Societies – the village-level co-operative credit unit.

Q4. 'U' in USSD stands for:
(a) Unified (b) Universal (c) Unstructured (d) Unique (e) User
Ans: (c) Unstructured – Unstructured Supplementary Service Data (*99#).

Q5. In NavIC, what does 'C' stand for?
(a) Circuit (b) Communication (c) Control (d) Constellation (e) Coordinates
Ans: (d) Constellation – Navigation with Indian Constellation.

Q6. In LiDAR, 'R' stands for:
(a) Radio (b) Radiation (c) Ranging (d) Radar (e) Reflection
Ans: (c) Ranging – Light Detection and Ranging.

Q7. The first two digits of a GSTIN indicate:
(a) PAN of the taxpayer (b) Year of registration (c) State code (d) Entity number (e) Check digit
Ans: (c) State code – the next 10 characters are the PAN.

Q8. FLOPS, used to measure supercomputer speed, stands for:
(a) Fixed Logical Operations Per Second (b) Floating-point Operations Per Second (c) Fast Logic Output Processing System (d) Floating Line Output Per Signal (e) Full Load Operations Per Second
Ans: (b) Floating-point Operations Per Second.

Q9. TSX stands for:
(a) Tokyo Stock Exchange (b) Taiwan Securities Exchange (c) Toronto Stock Exchange (d) Tel Aviv Stock Exchange (e) Trade Settlement Exchange
Ans: (c) Toronto Stock Exchange – Canada's main exchange.

Q10. In MCLR, 'C' stands for:
(a) Credit (b) Cost (c) Capital (d) Current (e) Central
Ans: (b) Cost – Marginal Cost of Funds based Lending Rate.

Q11. 'A' in NACH stands for:
(a) Aadhaar (b) Account (c) Automated (d) Authorised (e) Advanced
Ans: (c) Automated – National Automated Clearing House, run by NPCI.

Q12. In NBSL, the NPCI subsidiary, 'B' stands for:
(a) Bharat (b) Banking (c) BHIM (d) Bill (e) Bond
Ans: (c) BHIM – NPCI BHIM Services Ltd.

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Q13. CAPTCHA stands for Completely Automated Public ___ test to tell Computers and Humans Apart.
(a) Turing (b) Testing (c) Typing (d) Tracking (e) Token
Ans: (a) Turing – named after Alan Turing's test.

Q14. IMPS stands for:
(a) Interbank Mobile Payment System (b) Immediate Payment Service (c) Instant Money Payment Scheme (d) Integrated Mobile Payment Service (e) Immediate Money Processing System
Ans: (b) Immediate Payment Service – 24x7 instant transfer run by NPCI.

Q15. In PCA (RBI framework), 'P' stands for:
(a) Primary (b) Priority (c) Prompt (d) Preventive (e) Prudential
Ans: (c) Prompt – Prompt Corrective Action.

Q16. What does SIDBI stand for?
(a) State Industrial Development Bank of India (b) Small Industries Development Bank of India (c) Small Investment and Development Bank of India (d) Securities and Industrial Development Bank of India (e) Small Industries Deposit Bank of India
Ans: (b) Small Industries Development Bank of India – HQ Lucknow.

Q17. In NOFHC, what does 'O' stand for?
(a) Operating (b) Operative (c) Organised (d) Overseas (e) Ownership
Ans: (b) Operative – Non-Operative Financial Holding Company.

Q18. In KLEMS, the letter 'K' represents:
(a) Knowledge (b) Kinetics (c) Capital (d) Key inputs (e) Kilowatt
Ans: (c) Capital – K = Capital, L = Labour, E = Energy, M = Materials, S = Services.

Q19. RTGS stands for:
(a) Real Time Gross Settlement (b) Rapid Transfer Gross System (c) Real Transaction Gross Settlement (d) Real Time General Settlement (e) Reserve Transfer Gross Settlement
Ans: (a) Real Time Gross Settlement – minimum ₹2 lakh.

Q20. In ICCW, the second 'C' stands for:
(a) Credit (b) Card-less (c) Cash (d) Central (e) Cheque
Ans: (c) Cash – Interoperable Card-less Cash Withdrawal.

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FIELD 17: SCIENCE & SPACE BASICS

Exam tip: *2–3 questions every year: ISRO centre locations, mission years and "firsts", planets and moons, scam terms (vishing, deepfake), full forms (LiDAR, NavIC) and nuclear plant states.*

ISRO – Organisation & Centres

- **ISRO** was established on **15 August 1969** and has its HQ (Antariksh Bhavan) in **Bengaluru**. Its Chairman is **Dr. V. Narayanan (as on Oct 2026)**.
- **Vikram Sarabhai** is the father of the Indian space programme. INCOSPAR (1962) was ISRO's predecessor, and the Department of Space was formed in 1972.
- India's first rocket was launched from **Thumba (TERLS), Kerala on 21 Nov 1963**. Thumba lies near the magnetic equator.
- Commercial arms: **Antrix Corporation (1992)** and **NewSpace India Ltd – NSIL (2019)**. **IN-SPACe** (2020, HQ **Bopal, Ahmedabad**) authorises private space activity.

ISRO Centre	Location
Vikram Sarabhai Space Centre (VSSC)	Thiruvananthapuram
Satish Dhawan Space Centre (SDSC-SHAR)	Sriharikota, AP
U R Rao Satellite Centre (URSC)	Bengaluru
Liquid Propulsion Systems Centre (LPSC)	Valiamala & Bengaluru
ISRO Propulsion Complex (IPRC)	Mahendragiri, TN
Space Applications Centre (SAC)	Ahmedabad
National Remote Sensing Centre (NRSC)	Hyderabad
Human Space Flight Centre (HSFC)	Bengaluru
ISTRAC (tracking)	Bengaluru
Master Control Facility (MCF)	Hassan & Bhopal
Physical Research Laboratory (PRL)	Ahmedabad
IIRS	Dehradun
IIST	Thiruvananthapuram
NE-SAC	Shillong
Semi-Conductor Laboratory (SCL)	Mohali
NARL (atmospheric research)	Gadanki, AP

- India's **second spaceport** is coming up at **Kulasekarapattinam (Thoothukudi, Tamil Nadu)** for the SSLV.
- The **Pushpak RLV** landing tests were done at **Chitradurga, Karnataka** (Aeronautical Test Range).
- Launch vehicles: SLV-3 (1980) → ASLV → **PSLV** (Polar Satellite Launch Vehicle) → **GSLV** (Geosynchronous Satellite Launch Vehicle) → **LVM3** (GSLV Mk III) → **SSLV** (Small Satellite Launch Vehicle).
- **CE-20** is ISRO's indigenous cryogenic engine, hot-tested at Mahendragiri.

Indian Space Missions – Timeline

- **Aryabhata (19 April 1975)** was India's first satellite. It was launched by the **Soviet Union**.
- **Rohini (1980)**, launched by **SLV-3**, was the first satellite put in orbit by an Indian rocket. The project director was **A.P.J. Abdul Kalam**.
- **Rakesh Sharma (1984, Soyuz T-11)** was the first Indian in space. **Kalpana Chawla (1997)** was the first Indian-born woman in space.
- **Chandrayaan-1** was launched on **22 Oct 2008** (PSLV-C11) and discovered **water molecules on the Moon**.
- **Mangalyaan / Mars Orbiter Mission** was launched on **5 Nov 2013** (PSLV-C25) and entered Mars orbit on **24 Sep 2014**. It cost about **₹450 crore**.
- Through Mangalyaan, **India was the first country to reach Mars orbit in its maiden attempt** and the **first Asian country** to reach Mars. ISRO was the 4th agency to do so, after the Soviet Union, NASA and ESA.
- **PSLV-C37 (15 Feb 2017)** launched **104 satellites** in one mission, a record at the time.
- **Chandrayaan-2 (22 Jul 2019, GSLV Mk III)**: its lander Vikram crash-landed, but the orbiter works. The crash spot is named **"Tiranga Point"**.

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- **Chandrayaan-3** was launched on **14 Jul 2023 (LVM3-M4)** and landed on **23 Aug 2023**. Its lander was **Vikram** and its rover **Pragyan**.
- With Chandrayaan-3, India became the **first country to land near the lunar south pole** and the **4th to soft-land** on the Moon (after the USSR, USA and China). The landing site is the **Shiv Shakti Point**.
- **23 August** is observed as **National Space Day**, first in 2024.
- **Aditya-L1** was launched on **2 Sep 2023 (PSLV-C57)**. It is India's first solar mission and reached its halo orbit around **Lagrange point L1** (about 1.5 million km from Earth) on 6 Jan 2024.
- **XPoSat** was launched on **1 Jan 2024** by **PSLV-C58**, the **60th PSLV** mission. It is India's first X-ray **polarimetry** satellite and the world's second, after NASA's IXPE.
- **SpaDeX** (docking experiment, launched Dec 2024): India became the **4th nation to dock** spacecraft in space (Jan 2025).
- **NISAR** (NASA–ISRO Synthetic Aperture Radar) was launched in **July 2025** on GSLV.
- **Gaganyaan** is India's human spaceflight programme: a **3-member crew** to a **400 km** orbit. India aims to be the **4th human-spaceflight nation** (after the USA, Russia and China). **Vyommitra** is the humanoid robot for the uncrewed flight.
- Gaganyaan astronaut-designates were trained in **Russia**. **Gp Capt Shubhanshu Shukla** flew Axiom-4 (2025) and became the **first Indian on the ISS**.
- Future plans: **Bharatiya Antariksh Station by 2035**, an **Indian on the Moon by 2040**, and the **Venus Orbiter Mission** targeted for **2028**.
- **Chandrayaan-5 / LUPEX** is a joint mission with Japan's **JAXA** to study water ice at the lunar south pole.
- **NavIC** stands for **Navigation with Indian Constellation** (earlier called IRNSS). It is India's regional navigation system covering India plus about 1,500 km around it. **NVS-02** (Jan 2025) was the **100th launch from Sriharikota**.
- **GAGAN** (GPS Aided GEO Augmented Navigation) is a joint ISRO + AAI system.
- **EOS-05** is India's first imaging satellite in **geosynchronous orbit (2026)**.
- **Vikram-1 (Skyroot Aerospace, 18 July 2026, Mission Aagaman)** was India's **first privately built orbital rocket**. With it, India became the **3rd nation, after the USA and China,** with private orbital launch capability.
- **Vikram-S (2022)** was India's first private **sub-orbital** rocket. **Skyroot** became India's first space-tech unicorn.
- **TRISHNA** is an ISRO–**CNES (France)** thermal-infrared satellite. The **ISRO–ESA** cooperation agreement was extended to 2032.
- **GSAT-31** was launched from **Kourou, French Guiana** (Arianespace).

World Space Missions

- **Sputnik-1 (USSR, 1957)** was the first satellite. **Yuri Gagarin (1961)** was the first human in space, and **Valentina Tereshkova (1963)** the first woman.
- **Neil Armstrong (Apollo 11, 20 July 1969)** was the first person on the Moon. **China** was the 3rd country to send humans to space (2003), after the USSR and USA.

Mission	Agency / Target
Tianwen-1 (rover Zhurong)	China – Mars
Hope Mars Mission	UAE (launched from Japan)
Perseverance & Ingenuity	NASA – Mars
Psyche (2023)	NASA – metal asteroid 16 Psyche
SLIM "Moon Sniper" (2024)	Japan – Moon landing
Chang'e-4 / Chang'e-6	China – Moon far side
Europa Clipper (2024)	NASA – Jupiter's moon Europa
JUICE (2023)	ESA – Jupiter's icy moons
Dragonfly	NASA – drone to Titan
Parker Solar Probe	NASA – Sun
PUNCH	NASA – solar corona & wind
Cassini	NASA–ESA–ASI – Saturn
Dawn	NASA – Vesta & Ceres
DART (2022)	NASA – asteroid deflection
James Webb Telescope (2021)	NASA–ESA–CSA, at L2

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Mission	Agency / Target
Project Kuiper	Amazon – satellite internet

- With SLIM, **Japan** became the **5th country** to soft-land on the Moon. Russia's **Luna-25 crashed** (Aug 2023).
- The first all-female spacewalk was made by **Christina Koch and Jessica Meir** (2019).
- In 2026, **Türkiye** became the **71st signatory** of the Artemis Accords.

Planets & Moons

- The **Moon** is **Earth's only natural satellite**. It is about 3,84,400 km away, and its light reaches Earth in about 1.3 seconds.
- Sunlight reaches Earth in about **8 minutes 20 seconds**. One **Astronomical Unit** is about 150 million km, the Earth–Sun distance.
- **Mercury**: smallest planet and nearest to the Sun; no moon.
- **Venus**: hottest and brightest planet ("morning/evening star", "Earth's twin"). It rotates east to west (retrograde) and has no moon.
- **Mars**: the "Red Planet" (iron oxide). Its moons are **Phobos and Deimos**, and it has the highest volcano, **Olympus Mons**.
- **Jupiter**: the largest planet, with the **Great Red Spot**. **Ganymede** is the largest moon in the Solar System, **Europa** has a subsurface ocean, and **Io** is volcanic.
- **Saturn**: has prominent rings, is the least dense planet, and has the most known moons. **Titan** has a thick atmosphere and methane lakes.
- **Uranus** rotates on its side. **Neptune** is the farthest planet, and its moon **Triton** orbits in reverse.
- **Pluto** was reclassified as a **dwarf planet** in **2006** (IAU, Prague). Its largest moon is Charon.
- A **light year** is a unit of **distance**, not time. A green comet, **C/2022 E3 (ZTF)**, was in the news in 2023.

Basic Physics, Chemistry & Biology

Quantity	SI unit
Force	Newton
Work / Energy / Heat	Joule
Power	Watt
Pressure	Pascal
Electric current	Ampere
Resistance	Ohm
Temperature	Kelvin
Frequency	Hertz
Electric charge	Coulomb
Magnetic flux density	Tesla

- There are **7 SI base units**: metre, kilogram, second, ampere, kelvin, mole, candela.
- **Absolute zero = 0 K = –273.15 °C**. −40 °C equals −40 °F. Normal body temperature is **37 °C (98.6 °F)**.
- Light travels at **3 × 10^8 m/s**. Sound travels fastest in **solids** and cannot travel in a vacuum.
- Instruments: **barometer** – atmospheric pressure; **hygrometer** – humidity; **seismograph** – earthquakes; **anemometer** – wind speed; **lactometer** – milk purity; **sphygmomanometer** – blood pressure; **ammeter** – current.
- Chemical names: common salt **NaCl**; baking soda **NaHCO3**; washing soda **Na2CO3**; plaster of Paris (calcium sulphate hemihydrate); dry ice = solid **CO2**; laughing gas **N2O**; marsh gas **methane**; LPG is mainly **butane + propane**; CNG is **methane**.
- **Nitrogen (78%)** is the most abundant gas in the air. **Oxygen** is the most abundant element in the Earth's crust, and **aluminium** the most abundant metal.
- **Mercury** is the only metal that is liquid at room temperature; **bromine** is a liquid non-metal. **Diamond** is the hardest natural substance.
- Natural acids: **vinegar – acetic acid**; **lemon – citric acid**; **curd – lactic acid**; **ant sting – formic acid**; **stomach – hydrochloric acid**. A pH of 7 is neutral.
- Alloys: **brass = copper + zinc**; **bronze = copper + tin**; **steel = iron + carbon**. **Galvanisation** is a zinc coating on iron.
- Vitamin deficiencies: **A – night blindness**; **B1 – beriberi**; **C – scurvy**; **D – rickets**; **K – poor**

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blood clotting. **Iodine** deficiency causes **goitre**; **iron** deficiency causes **anaemia**.

- Blood: **O negative** is the universal donor and **AB positive** the universal recipient. Blood groups were discovered by **Karl Landsteiner**. RBCs live about 120 days.
- Body facts: largest organ **skin**; largest gland **liver**; longest bone **femur**; smallest bone **stapes**; an adult has **206 bones**. **Insulin** (pancreas) controls blood sugar.
- Disease agents: **Ebola, rabies, polio, COVID-19 – virus**. **TB, cholera, typhoid – bacteria**. **Malaria – Plasmodium**, spread by the female Anopheles mosquito. **Dengue** is spread by the **Aedes** mosquito.
- Rotavirus mainly causes **severe diarrhoea** in children. **Mitochondria** are the powerhouse of the cell. The **DNA double helix** was described by Watson and Crick.

Inventors, Discoveries & Scientists

Invention / Discovery	Person
Telephone	Alexander Graham Bell
Electric bulb	Thomas Edison
Radio	G. Marconi
Dynamite	Alfred Nobel
Computer (Analytical Engine)	Charles Babbage
Computer mouse	Douglas Engelbart
World Wide Web	Tim Berners-Lee
Penicillin	Alexander Fleming
X-rays	W. C. Röntgen
Smallpox vaccine	Edward Jenner
Rabies vaccine, pasteurisation	Louis Pasteur
Aeroplane	Wright brothers
Television	John Logie Baird
Raman Effect (Nobel 1930)	C. V. Raman
Atomic bomb (Manhattan Project)	J. Robert Oppenheimer

- **Homi J. Bhabha** is the father of India's nuclear programme. **A.P.J. Abdul Kalam** is the "Missile Man of India".
- **National Science Day** is on **28 Feb** (Raman Effect). **National Technology Day** is on **11 May** (Pokhran-II, 1998).
- **PARAM 8000 (C-DAC, 1991)** was India's first supercomputer. The **National Quantum Mission** runs for **8 years (2023-24 to 2030-31)**.
- The first city hit by an atomic bomb was **Hiroshima (1945)**.

Technology Terms & Cyber Frauds

- **Blockchain**: a decentralised, distributed **ledger** that underlies cryptocurrencies. The World Bank's blockchain bond is called **"bond-i"**, and **IDRBT** built a model blockchain platform for banks.
- **Deepfake**: AI-generated fake video, image or audio of a real person.
- **Phishing**: fraud through fake **emails/websites**. **Vishing**: through **voice/phone calls**, for example posing as bank staff. **Smishing**: through **SMS**.
- **Ransomware** encrypts data and demands payment. **Malware** is any malicious software. A **firewall** blocks unauthorised network access.
- **Cloud computing**: storing and accessing data on remote servers over the internet.
- **LiDAR = Light Detection and Ranging**. **RADAR = Radio Detection and Ranging**. **SONAR = Sound Navigation and Ranging**.
- **CAPTCHA** = Completely Automated Public Turing test to tell Computers and Humans Apart. **QR** = Quick Response code.
- **Aarogya Setu** used **Bluetooth and GPS** for contact tracing. **1 byte = 8 bits**. **RAM** is volatile memory.
- **CERT-In** handles cyber incident response. The cybercrime helpline is **1930** (I4C, MHA).

Nuclear Power Basics

- India's **first nuclear power plant: Tarapur (Maharashtra), 1969**, built with US help.
- **Apsara (1956, Trombay)** was Asia's first research reactor and belongs to **BARC**.

Atomic power station	State
Tarapur	Maharashtra
Rawatbhata (RAPS)	Rajasthan
Kalpakkam (MAPS)	Tamil Nadu
Narora	Uttar Pradesh

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Atomic power station	State
Kakrapar	Gujarat
Kaiga	Karnataka
Kudankulam (with Russia)	Tamil Nadu
Jaitapur (proposed, France)	Maharashtra
Gorakhpur (upcoming)	Haryana

- Silchar has **no** nuclear plant (past exam distractor).
- India follows a **three-stage nuclear programme** (Bhabha), aimed at using **thorium**. The **Prototype Fast Breeder Reactor** is at Kalpakkam.
- Nuclear tests: **Pokhran-I (1974, "Smiling Buddha")** and **Pokhran-II (1998, "Operation Shakti")**.
- India's nuclear capacity is **8.78 GW**, with a target of **100 GW by 2047 (as on Oct 2026)**. The world's first nuclear process-heat-based hydrogen plant was commissioned at **IGCAR, Kalpakkam**.
- **SEU** = Slightly Enriched Uranium. **INS Arihant** is India's first indigenous nuclear-powered submarine. Russia's floating nuclear plant is the **Akademik Lomonosov**.
- SIPRI 2026: India has about **190 nuclear warheads**.

MCQs – Science & Space Basics

Q1. What is the natural satellite of the Earth?
(a) Phobos (b) Titan (c) Moon (d) Europa (e) Deimos
Ans: (c) Moon – Phobos and Deimos orbit Mars, Titan orbits Saturn and Europa orbits Jupiter.

Q2. Which country was the first to reach Mars orbit in its very first attempt?
(a) USA (b) Russia (c) China (d) India (e) Japan
Ans: (d) India – Mangalyaan entered Mars orbit on 24 Sep 2014.

Q3. Where is the Vikram Sarabhai Space Centre located?
(a) Bengaluru (b) Sriharikota (c) Thiruvananthapuram (d) Ahmedabad (e) Hyderabad
Ans: (c) Thiruvananthapuram – the lead centre for launch vehicles.

Q4. In which year was Chandrayaan-1 launched?
(a) 2006 (b) 2008 (c) 2010 (d) 2013 (e) 2019
Ans: (b) 2008 – it found water molecules on the Moon.

Q5. XPoSat was launched on which PSLV mission number?
(a) 50th (b) 55th (c) 58th (d) 60th (e) 62nd
Ans: (d) 60th – PSLV-C58, on 1 Jan 2024.

Q6. In NavIC, what does 'C' stand for?
(a) Communication (b) Constellation (c) Control (d) Coordinate (e) Civil
Ans: (b) Constellation – Navigation with Indian Constellation.

Q7. In LiDAR, what does 'R' stand for?
(a) Radar (b) Radiation (c) Ranging (d) Reflection (e) Range-finder
Ans: (c) Ranging – Light Detection and Ranging.

Q8. A phone fraud in which the caller poses as bank staff to steal details is called:
(a) Phishing (b) Smishing (c) Vishing (d) Pharming (e) Spoofing
Ans: (c) Vishing – voice phishing.

Q9. AI-generated fake video in which a person's face or voice is manipulated is called:
(a) Malware (b) Deepfake (c) Botnet (d) Ransomware (e) Spyware
Ans: (b) Deepfake.

Q10. NASA's Psyche mission is to study:
(a) Mars's moon Phobos (b) Jupiter's moon Europa (c) A metal-rich asteroid (d) The Sun's corona (e) Saturn's rings
Ans: (c) A metal-rich asteroid – 16 Psyche.

Q11. Which was India's first nuclear power plant?
(a) Kalpakkam (b) Narora (c) Tarapur (d) Rawatbhata (e) Kaiga
Ans: (c) Tarapur – Maharashtra, 1969.

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Q12. The Kudankulam nuclear power plant was built with the help of which country?
(a) USA (b) France (c) Japan (d) Russia (e) Canada
Ans: (d) Russia – in Tamil Nadu.

Q13. Which ISRO mission aims to send a 3-member crew to a 400 km orbit?
(a) Aditya-L1 (b) Gaganyaan (c) SpaDeX (d) NISAR (e) Shukrayaan
Ans: (b) Gaganyaan – India's human spaceflight programme.

Q14. India's first satellite, Aryabhata (1975), was launched by which country?
(a) USA (b) France (c) Soviet Union (d) Japan (e) India itself
Ans: (c) Soviet Union.

Q15. India's first privately built orbital rocket, launched on 18 July 2026, is:
(a) Agnibaan (b) Vikram-S (c) Vikram-1 (d) Pushpak (e) Prarambh
Ans: (c) Vikram-1 – by Skyroot Aerospace under Mission Aagaman.

Q16. What is the SI unit of heat (energy)?
(a) Watt (b) Calorie (c) Joule (d) Newton (e) Kelvin
Ans: (c) Joule.

Q17. Which of the following is a physics term?
(a) Credit (b) Absolute zero (c) Rabies (d) Thyroxin (e) Liquidity
Ans: (b) Absolute zero – 0 K = −273.15 °C.

Q18. Who invented dynamite?
(a) Thomas Edison (b) Alfred Nobel (c) J. Robert Oppenheimer (d) Marie Curie (e) Michael Faraday
Ans: (b) Alfred Nobel.

Q19. Who is known as the father of India's nuclear programme?
(a) Vikram Sarabhai (b) A.P.J. Abdul Kalam (c) Homi J. Bhabha (d) C.V. Raman (e) Satish Dhawan
Ans: (c) Homi J. Bhabha.

Q20. Where were ISRO's Pushpak reusable launch vehicle landing tests conducted?
(a) Sriharikota (b) Chitradurga (c) Thumba (d) Mahendragiri (e) Balasore
Ans: (b) Chitradurga, Karnataka – at the Aeronautical Test Range.

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FIELD 18: COMPANIES – FOUNDERS, BRANDS, TAGLINES & PARENT COMPANIES

Exam tip: *Asked as "X is a brand of / founder of / tagline of which bank / which CPSE became the Nth Navratna / which company developed app X". Brand–parent pairs and bank taglines come up in almost every Mains paper.*

Indian Companies & Founders

Company	Founder(s)
Tata Group	Jamsetji Tata (1868)
Reliance Industries	Dhirubhai Ambani
Infosys (1981)	N. R. Narayana Murthy & 6 others
Wipro	M. H. Hasham Premji; built by Azim Premji
HCL	Shiv Nadar
Zoho (Chennai)	Sridhar Vembu
Flipkart (2007)	Sachin Bansal & Binny Bansal
Paytm (One97)	Vijay Shekhar Sharma
Zomato (now Eternal Ltd)	Deepinder Goyal & Pankaj Chaddah
Swiggy	Sriharsha Majety & others
Ola	Bhavish Aggarwal
OYO	Ritesh Agarwal
Nykaa	Falguni Nayar
MakeMyTrip	Deep Kalra
Zerodha	Nithin & Nikhil Kamath
Bharti Airtel	Sunil Bharti Mittal
Biocon	Kiran Mazumdar-Shaw
Serum Institute of India	Cyrus Poonawalla
Bharat Biotech	Krishna Ella
Patanjali Ayurved	Baba Ramdev & Acharya Balkrishna
Adani Group	Gautam Adani
Camlin (now Kokuyo Camlin)	Dandekar family (Subhash Dandekar)
Skyroot Aerospace (Hyderabad)	Pawan Chandana & Naga Bharath Daka

- **Amul** is the brand of the Gujarat Co-operative Milk Marketing Federation (**GCMMF, Anand**). It was founded by **Tribhuvandas Patel** and built by **Verghese Kurien** (father of the White Revolution). Tagline: **"The Taste of India"**.
- **Tata Group** is India's **most valuable brand** (Brand Finance, 18th year in a row, as on 2026). **N. Chandrasekaran** was re-appointed Tata Sons Chairman for a **third term**. **Noel Tata** chairs Tata Trusts.
- Tata companies and acquisitions: **TCS, Tata Steel (Jamshedpur), Titan/Tanishq, Taj Hotels (IHCL), Jaguar Land Rover** (Tata Motors, 2008), **Air India** (Tata, 2022), **Tetley** (Tata Consumer), **BigBasket, 1mg** (Tata Digital).
- **Reliance**: **Jio** (2016), **JioMart**, and the revived **Campa Cola** (owned by **Reliance Consumer Products**).
- **Zomato** acquired **Blinkit** (formerly **Grofers**). **PhonePe** and **Myntra** began in the **Flipkart** group, and **Walmart** has owned a majority of Flipkart since 2018.
- **Jawa** motorcycles were revived in 2018 by **Mahindra** (Classic Legends). **Bajaj Auto** makes **Triumph** bikes in India.
- **ITC** brands: **Aashirvaad, Sunfeast, Bingo, Yippee, Classmate, Savlon**.
- **Vedanta** is chaired by **Anil Agarwal**.
- **Skyroot Aerospace** became India's **first space-tech unicorn** (2026).
- More founders: **Godrej** – Ardeshir Godrej (1897, locks); **Mahindra & Mahindra** – J.C. & K.C. Mahindra (1945, as Mahindra & Mohammed); **Bajaj** – Jamnalal Bajaj (1926).
- **Hero MotoCorp** was founded by **Brijmohan Lall Munjal** and was called Hero Honda until 2011. **Dabur** was founded by **S.K. Burman** (1884).
- Pharma founders: **Cipla** – K.A. Hamied (1935); **Sun Pharma** – Dilip Shanghvi; **Dr. Reddy's** – K. Anji Reddy.
- **Air India** began as **Tata Airlines (1932)**, founded by **J.R.D. Tata**. **IndiGo** (InterGlobe Aviation) was founded by **Rahul Bhatia and Rakesh Gangwal**.
- **Parle Products** makes Parle-G, Monaco and Hide & Seek. **Thums Up, Limca and Gold Spot** were Parle brands **sold to Coca-Cola in 1993**.

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- **Maruti Udyog** was set up in **1981**, and the **Maruti 800** was launched in **1983**. **Domino's** in India is run by **Jubilant FoodWorks**, and **Starbucks** by **Tata Starbucks** (a JV).
- **Aditya Birla Group** (Chairman **Kumar Mangalam Birla**) owns **Hindalco, UltraTech and Grasim**. Birla returned as Chairman of Vodafone Idea in 2026.
- 2026 corporate heads (NBCC): **Sunil Bharti Mittal** – Chairman, Bharti Airtel (5 years from 1 Oct 2026); **Pankaj Pawar** – CEO, Jio Platforms; **Tewolde GebreMariam** – MD & CEO, Air India; **Leo Puri** – incoming Chairman, Asian Paints.
- Hurun India Rich List 2026 is topped by **Gautam Adani**. **Roshni Nadar Malhotra** (HCL) is the richest woman.
- Brand ambassadors (2026): **Shah Rukh Khan – Visa and Vodafone Idea**; **Sheetal Devi – Hyundai Motor India**; **Carlos Alcaraz – Infosys**; **Amitabh Bachchan – Policybazaar**; **Virat Kohli – Johnnie Walker** (United Spirits).
- **Muthoot FinCorp** is the **BCCI title sponsor** till March 2028, replacing IDFC FIRST Bank.
- 2026 deals: **Emirates NBD** (Dubai) took a **60% stake in RBL Bank** ($2.75 billion), India's largest foreign banking investment. **Kotak** bought Deutsche Bank's India retail business.
- **Tata Steel** (TISCO, **1907, Jamshedpur**) was Asia's first private-sector integrated steel plant. The **Taj Mahal Palace, Mumbai (1903)** was the first Taj hotel.
- IT company HQs: **TCS – Mumbai** (est. 1968); **Infosys, Wipro – Bengaluru**; **HCLTech – Noida**.
- The **Amul girl** mascot dates from **1966**. Amul is India's top food brand (2026 ranking).

Apps & Developers

App / Product	Developer
Arattai (messaging)	Zoho
Ulaa (browser)	Zoho
Threads (2023)	Meta
WhatsApp, Instagram	Meta (Facebook)
ChatGPT	OpenAI
Gemini	Google
Telegram	Pavel Durov
TikTok	ByteDance (China)
YONO	SBI
iris (mobile banking)	YES Bank
BHIM, UPI, RuPay	NPCI
BIS CARE (hallmark check)	Bureau of Indian Standards
ABHA (health ID)	National Health Authority
Adi Vaani (tribal AI translator)	Ministry of Tribal Affairs
Jan Dhan Darshak	Ministry of Finance
Hello! UPI (voice payments)	NPCI

Global Companies – Founders & Owned Brands

- **Google**: founded by **Larry Page & Sergey Brin** (1998). Its parent is **Alphabet**, and **Sundar Pichai** is CEO. Owns **YouTube** (2006), **Android**, **DeepMind** and **Fitbit**.
- **Meta (Facebook)**: founded by **Mark Zuckerberg** (2004). Bought **Instagram** (2012) and **WhatsApp** (2014); owns **Threads**.
- **Microsoft**: founded by **Bill Gates & Paul Allen** (1975). Chairman & CEO **Satya Nadella**. Owns **LinkedIn, GitHub** and **Activision Blizzard**.
- **Apple**: founded by **Steve Jobs, Steve Wozniak** and Ronald Wayne (1976). **John Ternus** became its **8th CEO** from **1 Sep 2026**, and **Tim Cook** became Executive Chairman.
- **Amazon**: founded by **Jeff Bezos** (1994); CEO **Andy Jassy**. Owns **Whole Foods, Audible, Twitch, IMDb**; runs **Project Kuiper** (satellite internet). Plans to invest **$48 billion** in India by 2030.
- **Elon Musk**: Tesla, **SpaceX** (2002), **Starlink**, **X** (bought Twitter, 2022), xAI. Twitter was co-founded by **Jack Dorsey**.
- **Uber** acquired **Careem** (Middle East). **Netflix** was founded by **Reed Hastings**.
- **Alibaba** – Jack Ma (China). **Samsung** – South Korea. **Volkswagen** – Germany (owns **Audi, Porsche, Skoda, Lamborghini**).
- **Holcim** – Switzerland. **Nokia** – Finland. **IKEA** – Sweden. **Lenovo** – China (bought IBM's PC business). **Zara** – Inditex (Spain).

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- **Volvo Cars** is owned by **Geely** (China). **MG Motor** is owned by **SAIC** (China). **Maruti Suzuki** is controlled by **Suzuki** (Japan).
- **Adidas** (Adi Dassler) and **Puma** (Rudolf Dassler) are both German, founded by two brothers.
- **Berkshire Hathaway**: **Warren Buffett** stepped down as Chairman (Sep 2026), and **Howard Buffett** took over.
- **Adobe**: Anil Chakravarthy is President & CEO (2026). **HUL**: **Priya Nair** is the **first woman CEO**.
- **Apple** was the world's most valuable company in early 2023. **Reliance Industries** was the only Indian firm in the Fortune Global 500 top 100 (2020).
- Social media founders: **WhatsApp** – Jan Koum & Brian Acton; **Instagram** – Kevin Systrom & Mike Krieger; **YouTube** (2005) – Chad Hurley, Steve Chen & Jawed Karim.
- **Uber** was founded by **Travis Kalanick & Garrett Camp**. **Nvidia** was founded by **Jensen Huang** (1993).
- **OpenAI** (2015, **Sam Altman**) launched **ChatGPT** in Nov 2022. **Prabhjeet Singh** became OpenAI's first India MD in 2026.
- **Xiaomi** – Lei Jun (China); **Huawei** – Ren Zhengfei (China); **Walmart** – Sam Walton (USA).
- Countries of origin: **Sony, Toyota – Japan**; **Hyundai – South Korea**; **Philips – Netherlands**; **Nestlé – Switzerland**; **Unilever – UK**; **Siemens – Germany**; **BNP Paribas – France (Paris)**.
- **Ajay Banga**, President of the World Bank, was earlier CEO of **Mastercard**.
- US tech HQs: **Apple – Cupertino**; **Google – Mountain View**; **Microsoft – Redmond**; **Amazon – Seattle**; **Meta – Menlo Park**.
- **Tesla** was founded in 2003 (by Martin Eberhard & Marc Tarpenning), and **Elon Musk** became its CEO.
- **Lenovo** owns **Motorola Mobility**. **BBK Electronics** (China) is linked to **Oppo, Vivo, OnePlus and Realme**.

Brand – Parent Company Pairs

Brand	Parent company
Sprite, Fanta, Thums Up	Coca-Cola
Limca, Maaza, Minute Maid, Kinley	Coca-Cola
Pepsi, 7Up, Mountain Dew, Mirinda	PepsiCo
Lay's, Kurkure, Tropicana, Quaker	PepsiCo
Maggi, KitKat, Nescafé, Munch	Nestlé
Cadbury, Oreo, Bournvita, Tang	Mondelez
Surf Excel, Rin, Lux, Lifebuoy, Dove	Hindustan Unilever
Brooke Bond, Kissan, Knorr, Horlicks	Hindustan Unilever
Ariel, Tide, Gillette, Pampers, Vicks	Procter & Gamble
Whisper, Head & Shoulders	Procter & Gamble
Jaguar, Land Rover	Tata Motors
Campa Cola	Reliance Consumer Products
Blinkit	Zomato (Eternal)
YouTube, Android	Alphabet (Google)
LinkedIn, GitHub	Microsoft
KFC, Pizza Hut	Yum! Brands

- In 2015 **Nestlé**'s **Maggi** noodles were withdrawn in India over a safety row.

Taglines – Banks, Insurers & Brands

Bank	Tagline
State Bank of India	The Banker to Every Indian
Punjab National Bank	The Name You Can Bank Upon
Bank of Baroda	India's International Bank
Canara Bank	Together We Can
Union Bank of India	Good People to Bank With
Bank of India	Relationship Beyond Banking
Indian Bank	Your Own Bank
Central Bank of India	Central to You Since 1911

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Bank	Tagline
Indian Overseas Bank	Good People to Grow With
UCO Bank	Honours Your Trust
Bank of Maharashtra	One Family One Bank
Punjab & Sind Bank	Where Service is a Way of Life
India Post Payments Bank	Aapka Bank, Aapke Dwar
HDFC Bank	We Understand Your World
ICICI Bank	Hum Hai Na
Axis Bank	Dil Se Open
Bandhan Bank	Aapka Bhala, Sabki Bhalai

- LIC: **"Zindagi ke saath bhi, zindagi ke baad bhi"**. Its motto is **"Yogakshemam Vahamyaham"**.
- HDFC Life: **"Sar Utha Ke Jiyo"**. PMJDY slogan: **"Mera Khata Bhagya Vidhata"**.
- ISRO's official tagline: **"Space is Open for All"**.
- Brand taglines: **Nike – "Just Do It"**; **Adidas – "Impossible is Nothing"**; **McDonald's – "I'm Lovin' It"**; **Apple – "Think Different"**; **L'Oréal – "Because You're Worth It"**; **Nokia – "Connecting People"**; **Tata Salt – "Desh Ka Namak"**.

Maharatna, Navratna & Miniratna (CPSE status)

- The **Department of Public Enterprises (DPE)**, Ministry of Finance, grants the "Ratna" status. **Maharatna** was introduced in **2010**; **Navratna** in **1997**.
- **Maharatna count: 14 (as on Oct 2026)**. The newest is **HAL – Hindustan Aeronautics Ltd (14th)**. **REC Ltd** was the **12th** (2022) and **Oil India** the 13th (2024).
- The first Maharatnas (2010) were **NTPC, ONGC, SAIL and IOCL**. Others include **Coal India, BHEL, GAIL, BPCL, Power Grid and PFC**.
- **Maharatna** autonomy: invest up to **₹5,000 crore** or **15% of net worth** in a project without government approval.
- Maharatna criteria: already a Navratna, listed, and over the last 3 years an average **net profit above ₹5,000 crore**, **turnover above ₹25,000 crore** and **net worth above ₹15,000 crore**.
- **Navratna count: 29 (as on Oct 2026)**. The **29th is GRSE** (Garden Reach Shipbuilders & Engineers, Kolkata), the **28th CPCL** (Chennai Petroleum, June 2026), and the **27th NRL** (Numaligarh Refinery).
- **Navratna** autonomy: invest up to **₹1,000 crore** or 15% of net worth. For example, **IREDA** gained this power on becoming a Navratna.
- **Miniratna**: Category-I can invest up to **₹500 crore**, Category-II up to **₹300 crore**.
- Category-I criteria: 3 years of continuous profit, pre-tax profit of at least ₹30 crore in one year, and positive net worth. **MECON** and **Yantra India Ltd** became Category-I in 2026.
- Other CPSE facts: **Antrix** and **NSIL** are the commercial arms of ISRO. **SAIL** (Maharatna, Ministry of Steel) has its HQ in **New Delhi**. **GAIL** (1984) also has its HQ in New Delhi.
- **ONGC** posted India's then-highest quarterly profit (₹18,348 crore, Q2 FY22). **LIC** acquired control of **IDBI Bank** (2019), which RBI classifies as a private bank.

Company Law Basics

- Companies are governed by the **Companies Act, 2013** and come under the **Ministry of Corporate Affairs**.
- A **public company** needs at least **7 members** and a **private company** at least **2**. An **OPC** (One Person Company) has just **1 member**.
- A **shell company** exists only on paper, with no real business activity.
- Company disputes and insolvency go to the **NCLT**, and appeals to the **NCLAT** (National Company Law Appellate Tribunal).
- **CIBIL** is a **credit information company** (TransUnion CIBIL). **ARCIL** stands for Asset Reconstruction Company (India) Ltd.
- **NOFHC** stands for Non-Operative Financial Holding Company.

MCQs – Companies – Founders, Brands, Taglines & Parent Companies

Q1. Which company developed the Arattai messaging app?

(a) Infosys (b) Zoho (c) TCS (d) Reliance Jio (e) Paytm

Ans: (b) Zoho – founded by Sridhar Vembu, Chennai.

Q2. Sprite is a brand of which company?
(a) PepsiCo (b) Nestlé (c) Coca-Cola (d) Parle Agro (e) Dabur
Ans: (c) Coca-Cola – Thums Up, Limca and Maaza are also Coca-Cola brands.

Q3. Which CPSE became the 28th Navratna in June 2026?
(a) GRSE (b) NRL (c) CPCL (d) IREDA (e) MOIL
Ans: (c) Chennai Petroleum Corporation Ltd – GRSE later became the 29th.

Q4. How many Maharatna CPSEs are there (as on Oct 2026) and which is the newest?
(a) 13, Oil India (b) 14, HAL (c) 12, REC (d) 14, BEL (e) 15, GRSE
Ans: (b) 14, HAL – Hindustan Aeronautics Ltd is the 14th Maharatna.

Q5. Which company became India's 12th Maharatna in 2022?
(a) PFC (b) REC Ltd (c) Oil India (d) ONGC Videsh (e) BEL
Ans: (b) REC Ltd.

Q6. What is the tagline of Canara Bank?
(a) Good People to Bank With (b) Together We Can (c) Honours Your Trust (d) Your Own Bank (e) Relationship Beyond Banking
Ans: (b) Together We Can.

Q7. What is the tagline of India Post Payments Bank?
(a) Aapka Bank, Aapke Dwar (b) Har Ghar Bank (c) Desh Ka Bank (d) Banking for All (e) Aapki Seva Mein
Ans: (a) Aapka Bank, Aapke Dwar.

Q8. Who founded Zomato?
(a) Ritesh Agarwal (b) Deepinder Goyal (c) Bhavish Aggarwal (d) Vijay Shekhar Sharma (e) Deep Kalra
Ans: (b) Deepinder Goyal – with Pankaj Chaddah.

Q9. Pavel Durov is the founder of which app?
(a) Signal (b) Telegram (c) Viber (d) WeChat (e) Snapchat
Ans: (b) Telegram.

Q10. Grofers rebranded itself as:
(a) Zepto (b) Instamart (c) Blinkit (d) BigBasket (e) JioMart
Ans: (c) Blinkit – now owned by Zomato (Eternal).

Q11. Who owns the revived Campa Cola brand?
(a) Tata Consumer (b) Reliance Consumer Products (c) ITC (d) Parle Agro (e) Dabur
Ans: (b) Reliance Consumer Products.

Q12. MakeMyTrip was founded by:
(a) Deep Kalra (b) Falguni Nayar (c) Sachin Bansal (d) Kunal Shah (e) Ritesh Agarwal
Ans: (a) Deep Kalra.

Q13. Subhash Dandekar is associated with which brand?
(a) Camlin (b) Cello (c) Reynolds (d) Natraj (e) Classmate
Ans: (a) Camlin.

Q14. Who co-founded Apple with Steve Jobs?
(a) Bill Gates (b) Paul Allen (c) Steve Wozniak (d) Larry Page (e) Jack Dorsey
Ans: (c) Steve Wozniak.

Q15. Meta's text-based app launched in July 2023 is:
(a) Threads (b) Bluesky (c) Koo (d) Notes (e) Horizon
Ans: (a) Threads.

Q16. A Navratna CPSE can invest up to how much without government approval?
(a) ₹300 crore (b) ₹500 crore (c) ₹1,000 crore (d) ₹5,000 crore (e) ₹10,000 crore
Ans: (c) ₹1,000 crore – or 15% of net worth; the Maharatna limit is ₹5,000 crore.

Q17. "The Name You Can Bank Upon" is the tagline of:
(a) Bank of Baroda (b) Punjab National Bank (c) Bank of India (d) Indian Bank (e) UCO Bank
Ans: (b) Punjab National Bank.

Q18. Who became the 8th CEO of Apple in September 2026?
(a) Jeff Williams (b) John Ternus (c) Craig Federighi (d) Tim Cook (e) Luca Maestri
Ans: (b) John Ternus – Tim Cook became Executive Chairman.

Q19. Jawa motorcycles were revived in 2018 by which group?
(a) Bajaj (b) TVS (c) Mahindra (Classic Legends) (d) Hero (e) Eicher
Ans: (c) Mahindra – through Classic Legends.

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Q20. Volkswagen is a company from which country?

(a) Italy (b) France (c) Japan (d) Germany
(e) Sweden

Ans: (d) Germany.

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FIELD 19: INFRASTRUCTURE — AIRPORTS, PORTS, BRIDGES, TUNNELS, RAILWAYS, ROADS & POWER

Exam tip: *Asked as "X Airport is in which city?", "India's first vertical-lift sea bridge?", "Chabahar port is in?" or "India's first nuclear power plant?"; learn names, places and firsts, plus the 2026 updates.*

Airports

- **Donyi Polo Airport** (Hollongi, Itanagar) — first greenfield airport of **Arunachal Pradesh**, inaugurated Nov 2022.
- **Alluri Sitarama Raju International Airport — Bhogapuram, Vizianagaram (Andhra Pradesh)**; greenfield airport built by **GMR**, inaugurated by PM Modi (2026).
- **Noida International Airport (Jewar, UP)** is developed by **Yamuna International Airport Pvt Ltd** (Zurich Airport International AG); it began commercial operations in 2026.
- **Maharishi Valmiki International Airport — Ayodhya (UP)**, opened Dec 2023; **Kushinagar** (UP) international airport opened 2021.
- **Dholera (Gujarat)** greenfield airport was approved by the Cabinet in 2022.
- India's first offshore airport is planned near **Kori beach, Palghar (Maharashtra)** (NBCC 2026).
- **Cochin International Airport (Kerala)** is the world's first fully solar-powered airport (2015).
- **Chhatrapati Shivaji Maharaj International Airport, Mumbai** was the world's busiest single-runway airport (2018).
- **King Fahd International Airport, Dammam (Saudi Arabia)** is the world's largest airport by area.
- **DigiYatra** — facial-recognition based paperless entry at airports (launched Dec 2022).
- **AVSAR** scheme of the Airports Authority of India gives airport space to local artisans and SHGs.
- **UDAN** (Ude Desh ka Aam Nagrik) regional connectivity scheme launched **October 2016**; extended for 10 years (FY 2026-27 to 2035-36) with ₹28,840 crore — 100 new airports and 200 helipads.
- **Varanasi** airport has India's first active runway underpass; **SkyHopp Aviation** is India's first commercial seaplane operator (Lakshadweep).

Airport	City
Indira Gandhi International	New Delhi
Chhatrapati Shivaji Maharaj	Mumbai
Kempegowda International	Bengaluru
Rajiv Gandhi International	Hyderabad
Netaji Subhas Chandra Bose	Kolkata
Sardar Vallabhbhai Patel	Ahmedabad
Jay Prakash Narayan	Patna
Raja Bhoj	Bhopal
Devi Ahilyabai Holkar	Indore
Dr. Babasaheb Ambedkar	Nagpur
Chaudhary Charan Singh	Lucknow
Lal Bahadur Shastri	Varanasi
Sri Guru Ram Dass Jee	Amritsar
Shaheed Bhagat Singh	Chandigarh
Lokpriya Gopinath Bordoloi	Guwahati
Biju Patnaik	Bhubaneswar
Birsa Munda	Ranchi
Swami Vivekananda	Raipur
Maharaja Bir Bikram	Agartala
Bir Tikendrajit	Imphal
Veer Savarkar	Sri Vijaya Puram (Port Blair)
Manohar International (Mopa)	North Goa
Sheikh ul-Alam	Srinagar
Kushok Bakula Rimpochee	Leh
Tribhuvan International	Kathmandu (Nepal)

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Ports & Shipping

- India has **12 Major Ports** under the Ministry of Ports, Shipping and Waterways; **Vadhavan (Palghar, Maharashtra)** is being built as the 13th, a deep-draft port (approved June 2024).
- **India's first four Mega Ports** (notified under the **Indian Ports Act, 2025**): **Deendayal (Kandla), JNPA, Paradip and Mundra** — Mundra (Adani) is the only non-major port among them (as on Oct 2026).
- **Kandla Port** (Gujarat) was renamed **Deendayal Port** (2017); **Kolkata Port** was renamed **Syama Prasad Mookerjee Port** (2020) — India's only riverine major port.
- **Jawaharlal Nehru Port (JNPA, Nhava Sheva)** is near **Mumbai (Navi Mumbai)**; India's largest container port; first Indian port with IFC blue financing.
- **Paradip Port** is in **Odisha**; **Ennore** is **Kamarajar Port** (TN) and **Tuticorin** is **V.O. Chidambaranar Port** (TN).
- **Vizhinjam International Seaport (Thiruvananthapuram, Kerala)** — India's first deep-water container **transshipment port**, operated by **Adani Ports & SEZ**, commissioned 2025.
- **Mundra (Gujarat)** is India's largest private port (Adani).
- Sagar Aankalan (FY25) top ports: Paradip (dry bulk), Sikka (liquid bulk), Mundra (container), JNPA (total cargo).
- Kamarajar Port became the 2nd major port with 18 m draft after **Visakhapatnam**; V.O. Chidambaranar is the first port with an anti-drone system.
- **Chabahar Port** (Shahid Beheshti terminal) is in **Iran** (Gulf of Oman); India signed a 10-year operating contract in 2024 (IPGL); **EXIM Bank** lent for its development.
- **Sittwe Port** (Myanmar) is part of the Kaladan Multi-modal project; **Gwadar** (Pakistan) and **Hambantota** (Sri Lanka) are China-built ports.
- ISRO's second spaceport is being built at **Kulasekarapattinam (Thoothukudi, Tamil Nadu)**; the first is Sriharikota (AP).
- **Sagarmala Programme** (2015) is for port-led development; Bharat Maritime Insurance Pool ($1.5 billion) was set up in 2026.

Major Port	State
Deendayal (Kandla)	Gujarat
Mumbai, JNPA	Maharashtra
Mormugao	Goa
New Mangalore	Karnataka
Cochin	Kerala
V.O. Chidambaranar (Tuticorin)	Tamil Nadu
Chennai, Kamarajar (Ennore)	Tamil Nadu
Visakhapatnam	Andhra Pradesh
Paradip	Odisha
Syama Prasad Mookerjee (Kolkata, Haldia)	West Bengal

Bridges & Sea Links

- **New Pamban Bridge (Rameswaram, Tamil Nadu)** — **India's first vertical-lift sea bridge** (about 2.08 km), inaugurated April 2025; it replaced the 1914 Pamban bridge.
- **Atal Setu (Mumbai Trans Harbour Link, about 21.8 km)** — Sewri to Nhava Sheva; **India's longest sea bridge**, opened Jan 2024.
- **Atal Setu (Goa)** — cable-stayed bridge over the **Mandovi river**, Panaji.
- **Bogibeel Bridge (Dibrugarh, Assam)** — over the **Brahmaputra**; **India's longest rail-cum-road bridge** (about 4.94 km), opened Dec 2018.
- **Bhupen Hazarika Setu (Dhola–Sadiya, Assam)** — over the Lohit river, about 9.15 km, opened 2017.
- **Mahatma Gandhi Setu** — over the **Ganga**, Patna–Hajipur, **Bihar**; a new Ganga bridge in Bihar was funded by the **Asian Development Bank**.
- **Chenab Rail Bridge (Reasi, J&K)** — **world's highest railway (arch) bridge** (359 m above the river), on the Udhampur–Srinagar–Baramulla Rail Link; opened June 2025.
- **Anji Khad Bridge (J&K)** — India's first cable-stayed railway bridge, also on the USBRL.
- **Sudarshan Setu (Okha–Beyt Dwarka, Gujarat)** — India's longest cable-stayed bridge (2024).

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- **Bandra–Worli Sea Link (Rajiv Gandhi Sea Link)** — Mumbai; **Howrah Bridge (Rabindra Setu)** and **Vidyasagar Setu** — over the Hooghly, Kolkata.
- **Living root bridges** are found in **Meghalaya** (Khasi and Jaintia hills).

Tunnels

- **Atal Tunnel (Rohtang, HP)** — 9.02 km, Manali to Lahaul-Spiti; **world's longest highway tunnel above 10,000 ft** (opened Oct 2020).
- **Zojila Tunnel (NH-1, Kargil–Sonamarg, J&K/Ladakh)** — 14.15 km, under construction; on completion **India's longest road tunnel** (as on Oct 2026).
- **Dr. Syama Prasad Mookerjee Tunnel (Chenani–Nashri, J&K)** — 9.28 km, opened 2017; **Sonamarg (Z-Morh) tunnel** opened Jan 2025.
- **Sela Tunnel (Arunachal Pradesh)** — on the Tawang road, world's longest twin-lane tunnel above 13,000 ft (opened March 2024).
- **Shinku La Tunnel (HP–Ladakh)** — under construction; will be the world's highest tunnel.
- India's first **8-lane twin-tube tunnel** is under **Mukundra Hills Tiger Reserve (Rajasthan)** on the **Delhi–Mumbai Expressway** (2026).
- India's first **under-river metro tunnel** — under the **Hooghly**, linking **Kolkata and Howrah** (opened March 2024).
- **Pir Panjal rail tunnel** (Banihal–Qazigund, J&K) and **T-50** (USBRL) are among India's longest rail tunnels.

Roads & Expressways

- **Delhi–Mumbai Expressway** (about 1,386 km) — India's longest expressway; has India's **longest animal overpass corridor** (Ranthambore section).
- **Ganga Expressway (Meerut–Prayagraj, 594 km, 6-lane)** — inaugurated by PM Modi at Hardoi, UP (2026).
- **Mumbai–Pune Expressway** (2002) — India's first 6-lane access-controlled expressway; **Samruddhi Mahamarg** links Mumbai and Nagpur.
- Uttar Pradesh expressways: Yamuna (Greater Noida–Agra), Agra–Lucknow, Purvanchal (Lucknow–Ghazipur), Bundelkhand (Chitrakoot–Etawah).
- **NH-44 (Srinagar–Kanyakumari)** is India's longest National Highway.
- **Golden Quadrilateral** links Delhi–Mumbai–Chennai–Kolkata; **Bharatmala Pariyojana** (2017) is the highway programme.
- India's longest **cycle highway** (207 km, Etawah–Agra) is in **Uttar Pradesh**.
- **FASTag Annual Pass** (from 15 Aug 2025) — **₹3,000** for 1 year or 200 trips; now ₹3,075, crossed 1 crore users (as on Oct 2026).
- India's first **Multi-Lane Free Flow (barrier-less) toll** — Choryasi plaza, NH-48 (Surat–Bharuch), Gujarat (2026).
- **PMGSY** (2000) builds rural roads; Phase 4 launched nationally on 10 May 2026 at Sehore (MP).

Railways

- India's first passenger train ran on **16 April 1853** from **Bori Bunder (Mumbai) to Thane**.
- Indian Railways has **18 zones**; the newest is **South Coast Railway, HQ Visakhapatnam**, functional from **1 June 2026**.
- The separate **Railway Budget** was merged with the Union Budget in **2017**.
- **Integral Coach Factory (ICF), Perambur, Chennai** built the first **Vande Bharat Express** (Train 18; first run Delhi–Varanasi, Feb 2019) and India's first **hydrogen train**.
- India's first **hydrogen train**: **Jind–Sonipat (Haryana, 89 km)**, flagged off by PM Modi on 17 July 2026; India's first LNG train: Sabarmati–Mahesana.
- **Kavach** is an indigenous **Automatic Train Protection system** developed by **RDSO, Lucknow**.
- **Mumbai–Ahmedabad bullet train** (about 508 km) is built with Japanese (Shinkansen, JICA) support by NHSRCL.
- **Ahmedabad–Dholera** is India's first indigenous semi-high-speed corridor (220 km/h design).
- India's first **railway university** — **Gati Shakti Vishwavidyalaya (earlier NRTI), Vadodara**; the National Academy of Indian Railways is also at **Vadodara**.

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- **Delhi Metro** was the first metro to get power from a **waste-to-energy plant**; **Mumbai Metro** got loans from the **New Development Bank (NDB)**.
- India's first metro: **Kolkata (1984)**; India's first water metro: **Kochi (2023)**; **E. Sreedharan** is the "Metro Man".
- **Plan Bee** (buzzing bee sound to keep elephants off tracks) was started by **Northeast Frontier Railway**.
- Indian Railways is about 99.6% electrified on broad gauge; target net-zero carbon emitter by **2030**.

Production unit	Place
Integral Coach Factory	Chennai (Perambur), TN
Rail Coach Factory	Kapurthala, Punjab
Modern Coach Factory	Raebareli, UP
Chittaranjan Locomotive Works	Chittaranjan, West Bengal
Banaras Locomotive Works	Varanasi, UP
Patiala Locomotive Works	Patiala, Punjab
Rail Wheel Factory	Yelahanka, Bengaluru
Rail Wheel Plant	Bela, Bihar
Electric Loco Factory (Alstom)	Madhepura, Bihar
RDSO	Lucknow, UP

Power & Energy Projects

- **Tarapur (Maharashtra, 1969)** — **India's first nuclear power plant** (built with US help).
- **Kudankulam (Tamil Nadu)** — India's largest nuclear power plant (Russian VVER reactors).
- **Jaitapur (Maharashtra)** — proposed nuclear plant (with France).
- India's nuclear capacity is **8.78 GW**, target **100 GW by 2047** (as on Oct 2026).
- **Omkareshwar Floating Solar Project** — on the Narmada (Omkareshwar dam reservoir), **Madhya Pradesh**; among the world's largest floating solar projects.
- **PM Surya Sarovar Yojana** promotes **floating solar** on water bodies (₹5,070 crore, 5,000 MW) (2026).
- **Bhadla Solar Park (Jodhpur, Rajasthan)** — among the world's largest solar parks; **Pavagada (Karnataka)** and **Rewa (MP)** are other big solar parks.
- **Khavda Renewable Energy Park (Kutch, Gujarat)** — planned 30 GW, the world's largest renewable energy park.
- **Vindhyachal (Singrauli, MP)** — India's largest thermal power station (NTPC); **Patratu** thermal plant is in **Jharkhand**; **Lalitpur** thermal plant is in **Uttar Pradesh**.
- **Baglihar** hydro project is on the Chenab in **J&K**.
- **Arun-III (900 MW)** hydro project in **Nepal** is built by India's SJVN (deal 2014).
- **PM Surya Ghar Muft Bijli Yojana** (13 Feb 2024) — rooftop solar for 1 crore homes, up to 300 free units a month.
- **National Green Hydrogen Mission** (₹19,744 crore) — **5 MMT** green hydrogen by **2030**; linked to the **2070 net-zero** target.
- India's non-fossil capacity crossed **300 GW** (31 July 2026); target 500 GW by 2030.
- **Jamnagar (Gujarat, Reliance)** is the world's largest refinery complex; **Digboi (Assam)** is the oldest refinery; HPCL Rajasthan Refinery (Pachpadra, Balotra) is India's 24th (2026).

Nuclear plant	State
Tarapur	Maharashtra
Rawatbhata	Rajasthan
Kalpakkam	Tamil Nadu
Kudankulam	Tamil Nadu
Narora	Uttar Pradesh
Kakrapar	Gujarat
Kaiga	Karnataka
Gorakhpur (planned)	Haryana

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MCQs – Infrastructure — Airports, Ports, Bridges, Tunnels, Railways, Roads & Power

Q1. Alluri Sitarama Raju International Airport is located at:
(a) Visakhapatnam city (b) Bhogapuram, Vizianagaram (c) Tirupati (d) Rajahmundry (e) Kakinada
Ans: (b) Bhogapuram, Vizianagaram – Andhra Pradesh, built by GMR.

Q2. Donyi Polo Airport is in which state?
(a) Assam (b) Sikkim (c) Arunachal Pradesh (d) Nagaland (e) Mizoram
Ans: (c) Arunachal Pradesh – at Hollongi, Itanagar.

Q3. Noida International Airport at Jewar is being developed by:
(a) GMR Airports (b) Adani Airports (c) Yamuna International Airport Pvt Ltd (d) AAI (e) GVK
Ans: (c) Yamuna International Airport Pvt Ltd – a Zurich Airport company.

Q4. India's first vertical-lift sea bridge is:
(a) Atal Setu (b) Bogibeel (c) New Pamban Bridge (d) Sudarshan Setu (e) Chenab Bridge
Ans: (c) New Pamban Bridge – Rameswaram, Tamil Nadu.

Q5. Chabahar Port is located in which country?
(a) Oman (b) Pakistan (c) Iran (d) Afghanistan (e) UAE
Ans: (c) Iran – India operates its Shahid Beheshti terminal.

Q6. India's first nuclear power plant is:
(a) Kalpakkam (b) Narora (c) Tarapur (d) Rawatbhata (e) Kudankulam
Ans: (c) Tarapur – Maharashtra, 1969.

Q7. Omkareshwar Floating Solar Project is in which state?
(a) Gujarat (b) Rajasthan (c) Madhya Pradesh (d) Maharashtra (e) Telangana
Ans: (c) Madhya Pradesh – on the Narmada.

Q8. Which of the following places does NOT have a nuclear power plant?
(a) Narora (b) Rawatbhata (c) Silchar (d) Tarapur (e) Kalpakkam
Ans: (c) Silchar – a town in Assam with no nuclear plant.

Q9. Which of these was NOT among India's first four Mega Ports notified in 2026?
(a) Deendayal (b) JNPA (c) Paradip (d) Mundra (e) Visakhapatnam
Ans: (e) Visakhapatnam – the four are Deendayal, JNPA, Paradip and Mundra.

Q10. Kandla Port has been renamed as:
(a) Syama Prasad Mookerjee Port (b) Deendayal Port (c) Kamarajar Port (d) V.O. Chidambaranar Port (e) Sardar Patel Port
Ans: (b) Deendayal Port – Gujarat, renamed in 2017.

Q11. Vizhinjam port in Kerala is operated by:
(a) JNPA (b) DP World (c) Adani Ports & SEZ (d) Cochin Port Authority (e) JSW Infrastructure
Ans: (c) Adani Ports & SEZ – India's first deep-water transshipment port.

Q12. Bogibeel Bridge is built over which river?
(a) Ganga (b) Brahmaputra (c) Lohit (d) Teesta (e) Barak
Ans: (b) Brahmaputra – India's longest rail-cum-road bridge, Assam.

Q13. Atal Setu in Goa spans which river?
(a) Zuari (b) Mandovi (c) Chapora (d) Sal (e) Terekhol
Ans: (b) Mandovi – the Mumbai Atal Setu is the Trans Harbour Link.

Q14. India's newest railway zone, South Coast Railway, has its headquarters at:
(a) Vijayawada (b) Guntur (c) Visakhapatnam (d) Secunderabad (e) Bhubaneswar
Ans: (c) Visakhapatnam – functional from 1 June 2026; India's 18th zone.

Q15. Vande Bharat Express trains were first built at:
(a) RCF Kapurthala (b) MCF Raebareli (c) ICF Chennai (d) CLW Chittaranjan (e) BLW Varanasi
Ans: (c) ICF Chennai – Integral Coach Factory, Perambur.

Q16. India's longest animal overpass corridor is on which expressway?
(a) Ganga Expressway (b) Delhi–Mumbai Expressway (c) Purvanchal Expressway (d)

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Mumbai–Pune Expressway (e) Samruddhi Mahamarg

Ans: (b) Delhi–Mumbai Expressway – in the Ranthambore section.

Q17. India's first under-river metro tunnel links:

(a) Mumbai and Thane (b) Kolkata and Howrah (c) Kochi and Vypin (d) Patna and Hajipur (e) Chennai and Ennore

Ans: (b) Kolkata and Howrah – under the Hooghly.

Q18. Living root bridges are found in which state?

(a) Assam (b) Nagaland (c) Meghalaya (d) Sikkim (e) Mizoram

Ans: (c) Meghalaya.

Q19. Which of these is India's longest road tunnel being built on NH-1 (14.15 km)?

(a) Atal Tunnel (b) Sela Tunnel (c) Zojila Tunnel (d) Chenani–Nashri Tunnel (e) Banihal Tunnel

Ans: (c) Zojila Tunnel – Kargil–Sonamarg section.

Q20. Patratu Thermal Power Plant is in which state?

(a) Odisha (b) Jharkhand (c) Chhattisgarh (d) Bihar (e) West Bengal

Ans: (b) Jharkhand.

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FIELD 20: SPORTS STATIC

Exam tip: *Asked as "Irani Cup / Sultan of Johor Cup is associated with which sport", "which term belongs to cricket", "host of CWG 2030" and "HQ of FIH/ICC". These are easy marks if the trophy–sport and term–sport pairs are memorised.*

Trophies & Cups – Sport-wise

Trophy / Cup	Sport
Ranji Trophy	Cricket (national first-class)
Irani Cup	Cricket (Ranji champion vs Rest of India)
Duleep Trophy	Cricket (zonal)
Vijay Hazare Trophy	Cricket (one-day domestic)
Syed Mushtaq Ali Trophy	Cricket (T20 domestic)
Deodhar, C.K. Nayudu, Cooch Behar	Cricket
Border–Gavaskar Trophy	Cricket (India–Australia Tests)
Anderson–Tendulkar Trophy	Cricket (India–England Tests)
The Ashes	Cricket (England–Australia)
Santosh Trophy	Football (national, states)
Durand Cup	Football (Asia's oldest, 1888)
Subroto Cup	Football (inter-school)
IFA Shield, Federation Cup	Football
Sultan of Johor Cup	Hockey (junior men, Malaysia)
Sultan Azlan Shah Cup	Hockey (Malaysia)
Beighton Cup	Hockey (Kolkata, oldest)
Aga Khan Cup, Rangaswamy Cup	Hockey
Thomas Cup	Badminton (men's team)
Uber Cup	Badminton (women's team)
Sudirman Cup	Badminton (mixed team)
Davis Cup	Lawn tennis (men's team)
Billie Jean King Cup	Tennis (women's team)
Ryder Cup	Golf (USA vs Europe)
Swaythling Cup	Table tennis (men's team)
Webb Ellis Cup	Rugby World Cup

- More cups: **Corbillon Cup** – table tennis (women's team); **Walker Cup, Solheim Cup, Presidents Cup** – golf; **Bermuda Bowl** – bridge; **Stanley Cup** – ice hockey; **America's Cup** – yachting; **Calcutta Cup** – rugby; **Ezra Cup** – polo.
- **Nehru Trophy Boat Race**: Punnamada Lake, Alappuzha, **Kerala**.
- The **Irani Cup** is named after **Z. R. Irani**. The **Ranji Trophy** (1934) is named after **K. S. Ranjitsinhji**, and the **Duleep Trophy** after **K. S. Duleepsinhji**.
- The **Durand Cup** (first held at Shimla in 1888) is organised by the **Indian Army**. **East Bengal** won the 135th edition (2026), equalling the record of 17 titles.
- **Thomas Cup**: **India won its first title in 2022**, beating **Indonesia**. Indonesia holds the record (14 titles), and **China** won its 12th title in 2026.
- Domestic cricket results 2026: **Irani Cup – Rest of India** (vs J&K, Srinagar); **Duleep Trophy – East Zone**.
- The **Wimbledon** surface is **grass**, the **French Open** (Roland Garros) is on **clay**, and the **US Open** and **Australian Open** are on **hard courts**.

Sports Terms

Sport	Terms
Cricket	Duck, LBW, Silly point, Googly, Follow-on, Bouncer, Yorker
Football	Throw-in, Back pass, Back heel, Offside, Corner kick
Hockey	Bully, Penalty corner, Scoop, Push-in, Centre pass
Tennis	Deuce, Love, Ace, Volley, Let, Grand Slam
Badminton	Shuttlecock, Smash, Drop shot, Let, Service court
Chess	Checkmate, Stalemate, Castling, Gambit
Golf	Birdie, Bogey, Eagle, Par, Tee, Caddie
Boxing	Knockout, Uppercut, Jab, Hook, Southpaw, Kidney punch

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Sport	Terms
Kabaddi	Raid, Cant, Super tackle, Lona
Basketball	Dunk, Free throw, Rebound, Lay-up
Polo	Chukker, Mallet
Shooting	Bull's eye, Trap, Skeet
Weightlifting	Snatch, Clean and jerk
Bridge	Grand slam, Trump, Rubber
Baseball	Home run, Pitcher, Strike
American football	Touchdown

- Exam traps: **Follow-on** is a cricket term, so it is **not** used in hockey. **Throw-in** is football. **Bouncer and silly point** are cricket. **LBW** is cricket (also a "not a banking term" distractor).
- **"Bulls and Bears"** are **stock-market** terms, not sports terms.

Number of Players (per side on field)

Sport	Players
Cricket, Football, Hockey	11
Rugby union	15
Rugby league	13
Baseball, Kho-Kho	9
Kabaddi, Netball, Handball, Water polo	7
Volleyball, Ice hockey	6
Basketball, Futsal	5
Polo	4
Beach volleyball	2

Olympics

- The modern Olympics began in **1896 in Athens**, founded by **Pierre de Coubertin**. The **IOC** was founded in 1894 and has its HQ in **Lausanne, Switzerland**.
- **IOC President: Kirsty Coventry** (Zimbabwe), the first woman and first African in the post (as on Oct 2026).
- Olympic motto: **"Citius, Altius, Fortius – Communiter"** (Faster, Higher, Stronger – Together). The Olympic symbol has **5 rings**.

Olympic Games	Host
2016 Summer	Rio de Janeiro, Brazil
2020 Summer (held 2021)	Tokyo, Japan
2024 Summer	Paris, France
2026 Winter	Milan–Cortina, Italy
2028 Summer	Los Angeles, USA
2030 Winter	French Alps, France
2032 Summer	Brisbane, Australia
2034 Winter	Utah, USA

- **Cricket returns at LA 2028** (T20, 6 teams) for the first time since 1900. India's women's team has qualified directly.
- Indian Olympic firsts: **K. D. Jadhav** won the first individual medal (wrestling bronze, Helsinki **1952**). **Karnam Malleswari** was the first woman medallist (Sydney **2000**). **Abhinav Bindra** won the first individual gold (Beijing **2008**, 10 m air rifle).
- **Neeraj Chopra** won India's first athletics gold (javelin, **Tokyo 2020**). Tokyo 2020 is India's best Games, with **7 medals**.
- India won its first hockey gold at Amsterdam **1928** and has **8 hockey golds** in all. **Milkha Singh** finished 4th at **Rome 1960**.
- **Michael Phelps** (swimming) holds the record for **23 Olympic golds**. **Eliud Kipchoge** won the marathon at Rio 2016 and Tokyo 2020.

Asian Games & Commonwealth Games

- The **first Asian Games** were held in **New Delhi in 1951**. India hosted again in **1982** (Delhi; mascot **Appu**). The **OCA** has its HQ in **Kuwait City**.
- **Hangzhou 2022** (held in 2023): India's best haul, **107 medals**.
- **20th Asian Games 2026 – Aichi-Nagoya, Japan** (19 Sep–4 Oct): India finished **4th with 85 medals (21 G)**. The mascot was **Honohon**, and **MMA** made its debut.
- Next Asian Games hosts: **Doha (Qatar) in 2030** and **Riyadh (Saudi Arabia) in 2034**.
- The **first Commonwealth Games** were held at **Hamilton, Canada, in 1930** (as the British Empire Games). The **CGF** has its HQ in **London**.

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- India hosted the CWG at **Delhi in 2010** (mascot **Shera**). At **Birmingham 2022**, India won 61 medals.
- **23rd CWG 2026 – Glasgow, Scotland** (23 July–2 Aug): India finished **4th with 39 medals (13 G, 17 S, 9 B)**. The mascot was **Finnie (a unicorn)**, and **Mirabai Chanu** won India's first gold.
- **CWG 2030 – Ahmedabad, Gujarat**, the **centenary edition**. It will be India's 2nd CWG after Delhi 2010.
- **IOA President: P. T. Usha** (as on Oct 2026). The **Youth Olympic Games 2026** are in **Dakar, Senegal**, the first Olympic event held in Africa.

Football & Cricket World Cups

- The **first FIFA World Cup** was held in **Uruguay in 1930**. **Brazil** has the most titles (5). **Qatar 2022** was won by **Argentina**.
- **FIFA World Cup 2026**: hosted by **USA, Canada and Mexico**, the first with **48 teams**. **Spain won**, beating Argentina 1–0.
- Future FIFA World Cup hosts: **2030 – Morocco, Spain and Portugal**; **2034 – Saudi Arabia**.
- The **first Cricket World Cup** was held in **1975 in England** and won by the **West Indies**.
- India won the Cricket World Cup in **1983 (Kapil Dev)** and **2011 (M.S. Dhoni)**, and the inaugural T20 World Cup in **2007** (M.S. Dhoni). India hosted the 2023 ODI World Cup, which **Australia won**.
- India's women won the **2025 Women's ODI World Cup**, beating **South Africa** in the final.
- The **2027 Men's ODI World Cup** will be hosted by **South Africa, Zimbabwe and Namibia**.
- **World Football Day: 25 May**. The football team nicknamed **"Azzurri"** is **Italy**.

Governing Bodies & Headquarters

Body	HQ
IOC (1894)	Lausanne, Switzerland
FIFA (1904)	Zurich, Switzerland
ICC (1909)	Dubai, UAE
FIH – hockey (1924)	Lausanne
FIDE – chess (1924)	Lausanne
BWF – badminton	Kuala Lumpur
AFC – Asian football	Kuala Lumpur
World Athletics	Monaco
WADA	Montreal, Canada
OCA	Kuwait City
Commonwealth Games Federation	London
BCCI (1928)	Mumbai
AIFF, IOA, NADA, SAI	New Delhi

- **ICC Chairman: Jay Shah**. **FIFA President: Gianni Infantino**.
- **National Sports University: Imphal, Manipur**. **National Cricket Academy: Bengaluru**. **NIS Patiala** is the Netaji Subhas National Institute of Sports.

National Sports Day, Awards & Stadiums

- **National Sports Day: 29 August**, the birthday of hockey wizard **Major Dhyan Chand**.
- India's highest sports award is the **Major Dhyan Chand Khel Ratna** (renamed in 2021). The **Arjuna Award** is for sports excellence, and the **Dronacharya Award** is for **coaches**.
- India has **no officially declared national game**. Hockey is popularly called the national game.
- The **Fit India Movement** was launched on 29 Aug 2019. The **National Sports Governance Act** was passed in 2025, and its Rules were notified in 2026.

Stadium	City
Narendra Modi Stadium (Motera)	Ahmedabad
Eden Gardens	Kolkata
Wankhede, Brabourne	Mumbai
M. A. Chidambaram (Chepauk)	Chennai
M. Chinnaswamy	Bengaluru
Arun Jaitley (Feroz Shah Kotla)	Delhi
Barabati	Cuttack
Kalinga (hockey)	Bhubaneswar
Birsa Munda Hockey Stadium	Rourkela
Salt Lake (Yuva Bharati)	Kolkata

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Stadium	City
Gachibowli Indoor Stadium	Hyderabad
HPCA Stadium	Dharamshala
Madhavrao Scindia Ground	Rajkot
Lord's ("Home of Cricket")	London

- The **Narendra Modi Stadium** is the **world's largest cricket stadium**.

Players & Their Sports (past exam favourites)

- **Pankaj Advani – billiards and snooker**; **Dipika Pallikal – squash**; **Anirban Lahiri, Jeev Milkha Singh – golf**.
- **Manav Thakkar, Ayhika Mukherjee – table tennis**; **Abhijeet Gupta, Viswanathan Anand – chess**.
- **Ajay Thakur, Anup Kumar – kabaddi**; **Pooja Kadian – wushu**; **Tintu Luka – athletics (800 m)**.
- **Heena Sidhu, Jitu Rai, Rahi Sarnobat – shooting**. **Manavjit Singh Sandhu** is a trap shooter.
- **Mary Kom, Sonia Lather – boxing**; **Bajrang Punia – freestyle wrestling**.
- **Saina Nehwal, Kidambi Srikanth, H.S. Prannoy, Parupalli Kashyap, B. Sai Praneeth – badminton**.
- **Leander Paes, Ankita Raina – tennis**. **Michael Phelps** is a swimmer.
- **Viswanathan Anand** was India's **first Grandmaster (1988)** and the first Khel Ratna awardee. He was made **Interim President of FIDE** in 2026.
- **Prakash Padukone** (1980) and **Pullela Gopichand** (2001) won the **All England** title. **P. V. Sindhu** was the first Indian world badminton champion (2019).
- India won its only **Men's Hockey World Cup in 1975** (Kuala Lumpur). India won **both golds** at the **Chess Olympiad 2024** (Budapest).
- At **Paris 2024**, India won **6 medals** (1 silver, 5 bronze). **Manu Bhaker** won 2 bronzes at the same Games.
- The four tennis Grand Slams in order: **Australian Open (Melbourne), French Open (Paris), Wimbledon (London), US Open (New York)**.

Upcoming Hosts & Events (as on Oct 2026)

- The **BWF World Championships 2026** were held in **New Delhi** (mascot "Peacko").
- The **9th Men's Asian Champions Trophy** (hockey) is in **Punjab** (Jalandhar & Mohali).
- **Pune** will host the **2032 UCI Road World Championships**, the first in India.
- **World Athletics Championships**: **2027 Beijing**, **2029 Nairobi** (the first in Africa).
- The **8th Khelo India Youth Games** are in **Telangana**, and the **39th National Games** are in **Meghalaya**.
- **ICC Hall of Fame 2026**: **Sourav Ganguly, Anjum Chopra, Kevin Pietersen**.

Famous Records

- **Cristiano Ronaldo** holds the record for **most international football goals** and became the first to score in **6 World Cups**. **Lionel Messi** is the **all-time top World Cup scorer**.
- **Sachin Tendulkar** scored **100 international centuries**, played **200 Tests** and made the **first ODI double century** (2010).
- **Rohit Sharma** holds the **highest ODI score, 264**. **Brian Lara** holds the **highest Test score, 400***.
- **Garfield Sobers** was the first to hit **six sixes in an over** (1968). **Yuvraj Singh** did it in a T20I (2007).
- **Anil Kumble** took **10 wickets in an innings** (1999, vs Pakistan). **Muttiah Muralitharan** has the most Test wickets (**800**).
- **Curtis Campher** (Ireland) took **5 wickets in 5 balls**. **Mithali Raj** was the first woman to play **200 ODIs**.
- **Harmanpreet Kaur** was the first cricketer to play **200 T20Is**. **Deepti Sharma** has the most wickets in women's internationals (356).
- **Vaibhav Suryavanshi** is India's **youngest international cricketer**, debuting at 15 years 99 days.
- Tennis: **Novak Djokovic** has **24 Grand Slam** singles titles. **Serena Williams** (23) passed **Steffi Graf** (22).

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- Athletics: **Usain Bolt** holds the 100 m world record (**9.58 s**).
- Chess: **D. Gukesh** became the youngest undisputed World Champion (2024). **Abhimanyu Mishra** is the youngest-ever Grandmaster (2021). **Magnus Carlsen** won the 2021 world title.
- **Neeru Dhanda** (trap) won India's first individual gold at the 2026 Asian Games.

MCQs – Sports Static

Q1. Which pair of sport and term is correctly matched?
(a) Cricket – Duck (b) Football – Deuce (c) Tennis – Penalty corner (d) Hockey – Checkmate (e) Golf – Smash
Ans: (a) Cricket – Duck – a batter dismissed for zero; Deuce is tennis, penalty corner is hockey and checkmate is chess.

Q2. The Irani Cup is associated with which sport?
(a) Football (b) Hockey (c) Cricket (d) Badminton (e) Tennis
Ans: (c) Cricket – the Ranji champion plays the Rest of India.

Q3. The Sultan of Johor Cup is associated with which sport?
(a) Football (b) Hockey (c) Badminton (d) Polo (e) Golf
Ans: (b) Hockey – a junior men's tournament in Malaysia.

Q4. Which city will host the 2030 (centenary) Commonwealth Games?
(a) New Delhi (b) Glasgow (c) Ahmedabad (d) Hamilton (e) Birmingham
Ans: (c) Ahmedabad, Gujarat.

Q5. Where were the 23rd Commonwealth Games 2026 held?
(a) Birmingham (b) Victoria (c) Glasgow (d) Gold Coast (e) Edinburgh
Ans: (c) Glasgow, Scotland – India finished 4th with 39 medals.

Q6. Which city will host the 2032 Summer Olympics?
(a) Los Angeles (b) Paris (c) Brisbane (d) Doha (e) Ahmedabad
Ans: (c) Brisbane, Australia – LA hosts in 2028.

Q7. The Santosh Trophy is associated with:
(a) Hockey (b) Football (c) Volleyball (d) Cricket (e) Kabaddi
Ans: (b) Football – the national championship for states.

Q8. The Davis Cup is associated with:
(a) Golf (b) Badminton (c) Lawn tennis (d) Table tennis (e) Polo
Ans: (c) Lawn tennis – the men's team competition.

Q9. Which term is NOT used in hockey?
(a) Bully (b) Follow-on (c) Penalty corner (d) Centre pass (e) Scoop
Ans: (b) Follow-on – it is a cricket term.

Q10. Which of the following is a football term?
(a) LBW (b) Throw-in (c) Touchdown (d) Bully (e) Kidney punch
Ans: (b) Throw-in.

Q11. National Sports Day is celebrated on 29 August, the birthday of:
(a) Milkha Singh (b) Major Dhyan Chand (c) P.T. Usha (d) K.D. Jadhav (e) Balbir Singh
Ans: (b) Major Dhyan Chand.

Q12. The Ryder Cup is associated with which sport?
(a) Polo (b) Golf (c) Tennis (d) Rowing (e) Bridge
Ans: (b) Golf – USA vs Europe.

Q13. Where is the headquarters of the International Hockey Federation (FIH)?
(a) London (b) Kuala Lumpur (c) Lausanne (d) Zurich (e) Monaco
Ans: (c) Lausanne – FIDE and the IOC are also based there.

Q14. The Thomas Cup and Uber Cup are associated with:
(a) Tennis (b) Table tennis (c) Badminton (d) Squash (e) Hockey
Ans: (c) Badminton – men's and women's team championships.

Q15. Who holds the record for the most international football goals?
(a) Lionel Messi (b) Pelé (c) Cristiano Ronaldo (d) Sunil Chhetri (e) Ali Daei
Ans: (c) Cristiano Ronaldo.

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Q16. How many players does a Kabaddi team have on court?

(a) 5 (b) 6 (c) 7 (d) 9 (e) 11

Ans: (c) 7.

Q17. The Dronacharya Award is given for excellence in:

(a) Sports journalism (b) Sports coaching (c) Lifetime achievement (d) Para sports (e) Sports administration

Ans: (b) Sports coaching.

Q18. Where is India's first National Sports University?

(a) Patiala (b) Gandhinagar (c) Imphal, Manipur (d) Bengaluru (e) Ranchi

Ans: (c) Imphal, Manipur.

Q19. Which city will host the 21st Asian Games in 2030?

(a) Riyadh (b) Doha (c) Ahmedabad (d) Jakarta (e) Bangkok

Ans: (b) Doha, Qatar – the 2026 Games were held in Aichi-Nagoya.

Q20. The Duleep Trophy relates to which sport?

(a) Hockey (b) Football (c) Cricket (d) Golf (e) Billiards

Ans: (c) Cricket – a zonal first-class competition.

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FIELD 21: INDIAN FIRSTS & SUPERLATIVES

Exam tip: *Asked as "India's first X", "first woman to...", "largest producer of...", "longest/highest in India". Past papers repeat Tarapur, Ahmedabad World Heritage City, Airtel Payments Bank, Bogibeel, Umling La and Kerala/UP Census superlatives.*

First in India – Banking, Finance & Economy

- **First bank** in India: **Bank of Hindustan (1770, Calcutta)**. The **first bank fully owned and managed by Indians** was **Punjab National Bank (1894, Lahore)**.
- **SBI** is the oldest surviving bank. It began as the **Bank of Calcutta (1806)**, which was renamed the Bank of Bengal.
- **Asia's first stock exchange: BSE (1875)**. The **oldest mutual fund is UTI (1963)**, which was under the **RBI from 1963 to 1978**.
- **First payments bank: Airtel Payments Bank** (Jan 2017, launched in **Rajasthan**). **First small finance bank: Capital Small Finance Bank**.
- **Bandhan Bank** was the first microfinance company to become a universal bank. **Shivalik Mercantile Co-op Bank** was the first urban co-operative bank to become an SFB.
- **First white-label ATM: Indicash** (Tata Communications Payment Solutions, 2013). **First IFSC: GIFT City, Gujarat**.
- **SBI and ICICI Bank** were the first banks named **D-SIBs** (2015). **First Indian Governor of RBI: C. D. Deshmukh**.
- **Kerala** was the first state to issue **masala bonds**. **Sikkim** was the first state to propose a **Universal Basic Income**.

First in India – Science, Infrastructure & Places

- **First nuclear power plant: Tarapur (Maharashtra), 1969**. **First research reactor: Apsara (1956, Trombay)**, which was also Asia's first.
- **First satellite: Aryabhata (1975)**. **First Indian in space: Rakesh Sharma (1984)**.
- **Shubhanshu Shukla** was the **first Indian on the ISS** (2025). **Vikram-1 (Skyroot, July 2026)** was the **first privately built orbital rocket**.
- **First GI product: Darjeeling Tea (2004)**. The GI Registry is in **Chennai**, and **Uttar Pradesh** has the most GI tags (as on Oct 2026).
- **First UNESCO World Heritage City: Ahmedabad (2017)**. **First dark sky reserve: Hanle, Ladakh**.
- **First railway: Bombay (Bori Bunder) – Thane, 16 April 1853**. **First metro: Kolkata (1984)**. **First under-river metro tunnel: Kolkata–Howrah** (under the Hooghly).
- **First Vande Bharat Express (2019)** was built by **ICF Chennai**. **First hydrogen train: Jind–Sonipat, Haryana (2026)**, also built by ICF Chennai.
- **First vertical-lift sea bridge: New Pamban Bridge** (Tamil Nadu). **First railway university: Gati Shakti Vishwavidyalaya, Vadodara**.
- **First 3D-printed post office: Bengaluru**, built by **L&T** (2023). **First book village: Bhilar, Maharashtra**.
- **First "Blockchain District": Hyderabad**. **First passenger drone: Varuna** (2022). **First indigenous aircraft carrier: INS Vikrant**.
- **First manned ocean mission: Samudrayaan**, using the **Matsya 6000** three-person submersible.
- **First National Park: Jim Corbett** (1936, as Hailey National Park). **First Ramsar sites** (1981): **Chilika** and **Keoladeo**.
- **First fully organic state: Sikkim**. **First state formed on a linguistic basis: Andhra State (1953)**. **First state to implement a Uniform Civil Code: Uttarakhand** (2025).
- **First feature film: Raja Harishchandra (1913, Dadasaheb Phalke)**. **First talkie: Alam Ara (1931)**. **First film museum: Mumbai**.
- **First newspaper: Hicky's Bengal Gazette (1780)**. **Oldest newspaper still in print: Bombay Samachar (1822)**.
- **First solar-powered airport: Cochin** (the world's first fully solar airport). **First functional PM MITRA park: Warangal**. **First digital language museum: Shabdalok, Kolkata** (2026).

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First Persons – Women

First woman	Name
President of India	Pratibha Patil (2007)
Prime Minister	Indira Gandhi (1966)
Governor	Sarojini Naidu (UP, 1947)
Chief Minister	Sucheta Kriplani (UP, 1963)
Lok Sabha Speaker	Meira Kumar (2009)
Supreme Court judge	M. Fathima Beevi (1989)
IPS officer	Kiran Bedi (1972)
IAS officer	Anna Rajam Malhotra
Chief Election Commissioner	V. S. Ramadevi
Chief Information Commissioner	Deepak Sandhu
Indian on Everest	Bachendri Pal (1984)
World – on Everest	Junko Tabei (Japan, 1975)
Indian-born woman in space	Kalpana Chawla (1997)
Olympic medallist (India)	Karnam Malleswari (2000)
Booker Prize (Indian woman)	Arundhati Roy (1997)
International Booker (Indian)	Geetanjali Shree (2022)
SBI Chairperson	Arundhati Bhattacharya
SAIL Chairperson	Soma Mondal
Indian IOC member	Nita Ambani
ICC match referee	G. S. Lakshmi
Army Aviation combat aviator	Capt. Abhilasha Barak
HUL CEO	Priya Nair

- **Sumitra Mahajan** was the **second woman Lok Sabha Speaker** (2014–19), after Meira Kumar.
- **Gagandeep Kang** was the first Indian woman scientist elected FRS. **Claire Polosak** (Australia) was the first woman to umpire a men's ODI.
- **Mithali Raj** was the first woman cricketer to play 200 ODIs. **Sudha Balakrishnan** was RBI's first Chief Financial Officer.
- More women firsts: **Annie Besant** was the first woman President of the INC (1917), and **Sarojini Naidu** the first Indian woman President (1925).
- **Reita Faria** was India's first **Miss World** (1966), and **Sushmita Sen** the first **Miss Universe** (1994). **Ashapoorna Devi** was the first woman to win the **Jnanpith** (1976).
- **Bhanu Athaiya** was the first Indian to win an **Oscar** (1983, costume design). **Nina Davuluri** was the first Indian-origin Miss America (2013).
- The first women fighter pilots (2016) were **Avani Chaturvedi, Bhawana Kanth and Mohana Singh**. **Bhawana Kanth** became the IAF's first woman Fighter Combat Leader (2026).
- **Banu Mushtaq** (*Heart Lamp*, 2025) wrote the first Kannada work and the first short-story collection to win the **International Booker**.

First Persons – Men & Honours

- **First President: Rajendra Prasad**. **First Vice-President: S. Radhakrishnan**. **First PM: Jawaharlal Nehru**. **First Deputy PM: Sardar Vallabhbhai Patel**.
- **First (and last) Indian Governor-General: C. Rajagopalachari**. **First CEC: Sukumar Sen**. **First Lokpal: Justice Pinaki Chandra Ghose**.
- **First CDS: Gen. Bipin Rawat**. **First Field Marshal: Sam Manekshaw**. **First Indian C-in-C: K. M. Cariappa** (1949).
- **First Bharat Ratna (1954)**: **C. Rajagopalachari, S. Radhakrishnan, C. V. Raman**. **First posthumous Bharat Ratna**: **Lal Bahadur Shastri (1966)**.
- **First Indian Nobel laureate: Rabindranath Tagore (1913)**. **C. V. Raman (1930)** was the first Asian Nobel winner in science.
- **First Indian to address the UN General Assembly in Hindi**: **Atal Bihari Vajpayee (1977)**.
- **First recipient of the Dadasaheb Phalke Award: Devika Rani (1969)**. **K. L. Rahul** was the first Indian to score a century on ODI debut.
- **First Indian heptathlete to win Asian Games gold: Swapna Barman**. **First Indian to win Norway Chess: R. Praggnanandhaa** (2026).
- **First Asian country to reach Mars orbit: India** (Mangalyaan, 2014).

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Largest, Longest, Highest – India

Superlative (India)	Answer
Largest state (area)	Rajasthan
Smallest state (area)	Goa
Most populous state	Uttar Pradesh
Largest UT (area)	Ladakh
Highest literacy / sex ratio	Kerala (sex ratio 1084)
Largest urban population	Maharashtra
Largest rural population	Uttar Pradesh
Largest slum population (city)	Greater Mumbai
Most National Parks	Madhya Pradesh
State with no National Park	Punjab
Longest river	Ganga
Longest peninsular river	Godavari
Highest peak (India)	K2 (claimed); Kangchenjunga (Sikkim)
Highest peak, South India	Anamudi (Kerala)
Highest peak, Arunachal	Kangto
Largest freshwater lake	Wular (J&K)
Largest brackish lagoon	Chilika (Odisha)
Largest river island	Majuli (Assam)
Largest Ramsar site	Sundarban Wetland (WB)
Second largest Ramsar site	Vembanad-Kol (Kerala)
Wettest place	Mawsynram (Meghalaya)
State with most wetland area	Gujarat

Structure (India)	Answer
Highest motorable road	Umling La (Ladakh)
Highest railway bridge	Chenab Bridge (J&K)
Longest sea bridge	Atal Setu (Mumbai)
Longest rail-cum-road bridge	Bogibeel (Assam)
Longest river bridge	Bhupen Hazarika Setu (Assam)
Longest road tunnel (on completion)	Zojila (14.15 km)
Longest platform	Hubballi (Karnataka)
Longest national highway	NH-44
Longest cycle highway	Uttar Pradesh (207 km)
Longest animal overpass corridor	Delhi–Mumbai Expressway
Highest dam	Tehri (Bhagirathi)
Longest dam	Hirakud (Mahanadi)
Oldest dam	Kallanai / Grand Anicut (Kaveri)
Tallest statue (world)	Statue of Unity (182 m)
Largest cricket stadium (world)	Narendra Modi Stadium
Oldest and largest museum	Indian Museum, Kolkata
Oldest oil refinery	Digboi (Assam)

- **Umling La** (about **19,024 ft**, Ladakh, built by **BRO** under Project Himank) is recognised as the **world's highest motorable road**. In 2025, BRO's road over **Mig La** (Ladakh) was announced as the new highest.
- **Atal Tunnel** (Rohtang, HP) is the world's longest highway tunnel above 10,000 ft. **Siachen** is the world's highest battlefield.
- Asia's largest residential university is **Banaras Hindu University**. The **Durand Cup** (1888) is Asia's oldest football tournament.
- More India superlatives: the **oldest mountain range** is the **Aravalli**; the **highest airport** is **Leh** (Kushok Bakula Rimpochee); the **longest coastline** is in **Gujarat**.
- **Census 2011**: the **highest population density** is in **Bihar** and the lowest in **Arunachal Pradesh**. **Haryana** has the lowest sex ratio.
- **Loktak Lake** (Manipur) is the largest freshwater lake in the North-East. It has floating **phumdis**, and **Keibul Lamjao** is the only floating National Park.

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- The **Sundarbans** form the **world's largest delta** and mangrove forest. **Kanwar Lake** (Begusarai, Bihar) is Asia's largest freshwater oxbow lake.
- Wildlife (as on Oct 2026): India has **58 tiger reserves**, and **Madhya Pradesh** has the most tigers and reserves. The largest reserve is **Nagarjunasagar-Srisailam (AP)**, and **Tamil Nadu** has the most Ramsar sites (20).
- India's **longest land border** is with **Bangladesh (4,096 km)**. **Nilgiri** (1986) was India's first Biosphere Reserve.
- **IIT Kharagpur (1951)** was the first IIT, and **AIIMS New Delhi (1956)** the first AIIMS.
- 2026 firsts: **SkyHopp Aviation** became the first commercial seaplane operator (Lakshadweep), and the first **barrier-less (MLFF) toll** opened at Choryasi, Gujarat.
- Also in 2026: the **first Telecom Manufacturing Zone** at **Gwalior**, the **first deep geothermal well** in **Puga Valley (Ladakh)**, and **AssamSat**, the first state-owned satellite (under development).
- The **first four Mega Ports** (2026) are **Deendayal (Kandla), JNPA, Paradip and Mundra**. **V.O. Chidambaranar Port** was the first port with an anti-drone system.
- **ULLAS fully literate states** (as on Oct 2026): **Mizoram (first)**, Goa, Tripura, Himachal Pradesh, Sikkim and **Uttarakhand (6th)**. Lakshadweep has been declared a fully literate UT.
- **Project Cheetah** (17 Sep 2022) released the first cheetahs at **Kuno National Park, MP**. The cheetah had been declared extinct in India in 1952.
- Other 2026 railway firsts: the first **LNG train** (Sabarmati–Mahesana) and the first **Rail Tech Park** (Khordha, Odisha). **South Coast Railway** (HQ Visakhapatnam) is the 18th zone.

Largest Producers – India & World

Crop / Item	Top state (India)
Milk, wheat, sugarcane, potato	Uttar Pradesh
Tea	Assam
Coffee	Karnataka
Natural rubber	Kerala
Jute	West Bengal
Cotton, groundnut	Gujarat
Soybean, pulses	Madhya Pradesh
Mustard, bajra	Rajasthan
Saffron, apple	Jammu & Kashmir
Silk (mulberry)	Karnataka
Iron ore, bauxite	Odisha
Coal	Odisha / Chhattisgarh / Jharkhand
Diamond (Panna)	Madhya Pradesh
Gold (Hutti)	Karnataka

- India is the **world's largest producer** of **milk, pulses, jute, banana, mango** and **turmeric/spices**. India is also the **largest rice exporter**.
- India is the **2nd-largest producer** of **wheat, sugarcane, tea, steel, cement, mobile phones** and **coal**, with **China 1st** in most of these (Brazil leads in sugarcane).
- India **overtook Japan** as the **2nd-largest steel producer** (2018) and to become the **3rd-largest auto market**.
- World: largest **crude oil producer – USA**; largest **cement producer – China**; largest **wheat producer – China**. **Bangladesh** is the 2nd-largest jute producer, after India.
- **Crude oil** is India's largest import item. **Qatar** is India's largest LNG supplier, and the **USA** is India's largest export destination.
- **India is the most populous country** (it overtook China in 2023). **Uttar Pradesh** is the most populous state.
- In renewables, India ranks **3rd in solar, 4th in wind and 3rd in total renewable capacity** (as on Oct 2026).
- India ranks **1st in Asia and 3rd in the world** for Ramsar sites (103), and **2nd in Asia-Pacific** (after China) for World Heritage Sites.

World Superlatives (asked in bank exams)

- **Largest hot desert: Sahara**. **Longest river: Nile**. **Largest ocean: Pacific**. **Highest peak: Everest**.
- **Largest continent: Asia**. **Third-largest continent: North America**.

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- **Largest airport by area: King Fahd International Airport, Dammam** (Saudi Arabia). **Tallest building: Burj Khalifa** (Dubai).
- **Most World Heritage Sites: Italy (61)**. **Most Ramsar sites: UK**.
- The **USA** is the **largest shareholder of the World Bank**. **China** has the largest forex reserves.
- **Youngest Nobel laureate: Malala Yousafzai**. **Youngest batter to score a Test century: Mohammad Ashraful** (Bangladesh).

MCQs – Indian Firsts & Superlatives

Q1. Which was India's first nuclear power plant?
(a) Kalpakkam (b) Narora (c) Tarapur (d) Kaiga (e) Kudankulam
Ans: (c) Tarapur – Maharashtra, 1969.

Q2. Which state has the highest number of National Parks in India?
(a) Assam (b) Madhya Pradesh (c) Karnataka (d) Uttarakhand (e) Rajasthan
Ans: (b) Madhya Pradesh.

Q3. Which state has no National Park?
(a) Haryana (b) Goa (c) Punjab (d) Bihar (e) Tripura
Ans: (c) Punjab.

Q4. The world's highest motorable road, Umling La, built by BRO, is in which country?
(a) Nepal (b) China (c) Bhutan (d) India (e) Pakistan
Ans: (d) India – Ladakh.

Q5. Which was India's first UNESCO World Heritage City?
(a) Jaipur (b) Varanasi (c) Ahmedabad (d) Hyderabad (e) Mumbai
Ans: (c) Ahmedabad – 2017.

Q6. Which was India's first GI-tagged product?
(a) Mysore Silk (b) Darjeeling Tea (c) Basmati Rice (d) Nagpur Orange (e) Kancheepuram Silk
Ans: (b) Darjeeling Tea – 2004.

Q7. Who was the second woman Speaker of the Lok Sabha?
(a) Meira Kumar (b) Sumitra Mahajan (c) Najma Heptulla (d) Margaret Alva (e) Sushma Swaraj
Ans: (b) Sumitra Mahajan – 2014–19; Meira Kumar was the first.

Q8. India's oldest mutual fund, set up in 1963, is:
(a) SBI MF (b) LIC MF (c) Unit Trust of India (d) HDFC MF (e) Canara Robeco
Ans: (c) Unit Trust of India – under the RBI from 1963 to 1978.

Q9. India's longest rail-cum-road bridge, Bogibeel, is in which state?
(a) Bihar (b) Assam (c) West Bengal (d) Odisha (e) Arunachal Pradesh
Ans: (b) Assam – over the Brahmaputra.

Q10. Which was the first payments bank to start operations in India?
(a) India Post Payments Bank (b) Paytm Payments Bank (c) Airtel Payments Bank (d) Fino Payments Bank (e) Jio Payments Bank
Ans: (c) Airtel Payments Bank.

Q11. Which is the largest Ramsar site in India by area?
(a) Chilika Lake (b) Vembanad-Kol (c) Sundarban Wetland (d) Wular Lake (e) Loktak Lake
Ans: (c) Sundarban Wetland – West Bengal.

Q12. Where is India's first dark sky reserve?
(a) Spiti (b) Hanle, Ladakh (c) Mount Abu (d) Nainital (e) Coorg
Ans: (b) Hanle, Ladakh.

Q13. Who was the first woman to climb Mount Everest?
(a) Bachendri Pal (b) Junko Tabei (c) Arunima Sinha (d) Santosh Yadav (e) Premlata Agarwal
Ans: (b) Junko Tabei – Japan, 1975; Bachendri Pal was the first Indian woman (1984).

Q14. Which state is the largest producer of natural rubber in India?
(a) Karnataka (b) Tamil Nadu (c) Kerala (d) Tripura (e) Assam
Ans: (c) Kerala.

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Q15. Which was India's first talkie film?
(a) Raja Harishchandra (b) Alam Ara (c) Kisan Kanya (d) Mother India (e) Devdas
Ans: (b) Alam Ara – 1931.

Q16. Which is the world's largest hot desert?
(a) Thar (b) Gobi (c) Kalahari (d) Sahara (e) Arabian
Ans: (d) Sahara.

Q17. Where was India's first 3D-printed post office built?
(a) Hyderabad (b) Chennai (c) Bengaluru (d) Pune (e) Ahmedabad
Ans: (c) Bengaluru – built by L&T.

Q18. Which state had the highest literacy rate and sex ratio in Census 2011?
(a) Mizoram (b) Goa (c) Kerala (d) Tamil Nadu (e) Himachal Pradesh
Ans: (c) Kerala – sex ratio 1084.

Q19. Who were the first recipients of the Bharat Ratna (1954)?
(a) Nehru, Patel, Azad (b) Rajagopalachari, Radhakrishnan, C.V. Raman (c) Gandhi, Nehru, Tagore (d) Rajendra Prasad, Nehru, Radhakrishnan (e) Tilak, Gokhale, Raman
Ans: (b) C. Rajagopalachari, S. Radhakrishnan and C. V. Raman.

Q20. Which is the world's largest crude oil producer?
(a) Saudi Arabia (b) Russia (c) USA (d) Iraq (e) Canada
Ans: (c) USA.

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FIELD 22: HISTORY & NATIONAL SYMBOLS

Exam tip: *Bank exams ask about adoption dates of national symbols, founders of reform bodies, Governors-General/Viceroys and landmark events. Questions are short and direct, so learn exact dates and names.*

National Symbols

- **National Flag** adopted by the Constituent Assembly on **22 July 1947**; designed by **Pingali Venkayya**; ratio **3:2** (length to width = 3:2).
- Flag colours: **saffron** (top), white, **green**; navy-blue **Ashoka Chakra** with **24 spokes** in the white band.
- Flag Code of India **2002**; amended (2021–22) to allow polyester/machine-made flags and flying day and night. Flying the flag is part of free expression under Art 19(1)(a) (Naveen Jindal case, SC 2004).
- In the Indian Navy's ensign (2022), the national flag is in the **upper canton** (next to the staff).
- **State Emblem** adopted on **26 January 1950**; taken from the **Lion Capital of Ashoka at Sarnath**; four lions (three visible), with a **bull** and a **horse** on the abacus.
- Emblem motto **"Satyameva Jayate"** (Truth alone triumphs) comes from the **Mundaka Upanishad**, written in Devanagari.
- **National Anthem "Jana Gana Mana"** by **Rabindranath Tagore**; adopted **24 January 1950**; first sung on **27 December 1911** at the **Calcutta INC session**; full version takes about **52 seconds**, short version about 20 seconds.
- **National Song "Vande Mataram"** by **Bankim Chandra Chattopadhyay** (written 1875; part of the novel **Anandamath**, 1882); adopted 24 Jan 1950 with status equal to the anthem; first sung at the **1896 INC session** by Tagore; 150th anniversary in 2025.
- The **Prevention of Insults to National Honour (Amendment) Act, 2026** gives Vande Mataram the same legal protection as the National Anthem (as on Oct 2026).
- **National Calendar**: **Saka calendar**, adopted **22 March 1957**; first month **Chaitra**; Saka era begins **78 AD** (Kanishka).
- **National Animal**: **Tiger** (Royal Bengal Tiger), declared in **1973**, replacing the lion; **Project Tiger** began 1 April 1973.
- **National Heritage Animal**: **Elephant** (2010). **National Aquatic Animal**: **Ganges River Dolphin** (2009). **National River**: **Ganga** (2008).
- **National Bird**: Indian **Peacock** (1963); **National Flower**: **Lotus**; **National Tree**: **Banyan**; **National Fruit**: **Mango**.
- India has **no officially declared national game**; hockey is only popularly called so.
- Rupee symbol ₹ adopted **15 July 2010**, designed by **D. Udaya Kumar**.
- **Cheetah** was declared **extinct in India in 1952**; it was reintroduced at **Kuno National Park (MP)** in September 2022.

Symbol	Item / Year
National Flag	Tricolour – 22 July 1947
State Emblem	Lion Capital, Sarnath – 26 Jan 1950
National Anthem	Jana Gana Mana – 24 Jan 1950
National Song	Vande Mataram – 24 Jan 1950
National Calendar	Saka – 22 March 1957
National Animal	Tiger – 1973
National Bird	Peacock – 1963
National Aquatic Animal	Ganges River Dolphin – 2009
National Heritage Animal	Elephant – 2010
National River	Ganga – 2008
National Flower / Tree	Lotus / Banyan
National Fruit	Mango
Currency Symbol	₹ – 15 July 2010

Ancient India

- **Indus Valley (Harappan) Civilisation**: Harappa excavated by **Daya Ram Sahni (1921)**, Mohenjo-daro by **R.D. Banerji (1922)**; **Lothal** (Gujarat) had a dockyard; **Dholavira** became a UNESCO site in 2021.
- **Gautama Buddha**: born at **Lumbini**, enlightenment at **Bodh Gaya**, first sermon at

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Sarnath, died at **Kushinagar**. **Mahavira** was the **24th Jain Tirthankara**.

- **Sarnath** (with the **Dhamek Stupa**) became India's **45th UNESCO World Heritage Site** (as on Oct 2026).
- **Maurya Empire**: founded by **Chandragupta Maurya** (c. 322 BC) with **Chanakya (Kautilya)**, author of the **Arthashastra**; capital **Pataliputra**; Greek envoy **Megasthenes** wrote **Indica**.
- **Ashoka** turned to Buddhism after the **Kalinga War (261 BC)**; his edicts are in Prakrit (mainly Brahmi script).
- **Kushans**: **Kanishka** started the **Saka era (78 AD)** and held the Fourth Buddhist Council in Kashmir.
- **Gupta Empire** (founded by Sri Gupta; Gupta era began with Chandragupta I, 320 AD) is called the **Golden Age**; **Samudragupta** is called the "**Napoleon of India**"; Chinese pilgrim **Fa-Hien** visited under **Chandragupta II (Vikramaditya)**; poet **Kalidasa** lived in this period.
- **Harshavardhana** (capital **Kannauj**) was visited by **Hiuen Tsang**; he was defeated by Chalukya king **Pulakeshin II**.
- **Cholas**: **Rajaraja I** built the **Brihadeeswara temple, Thanjavur**; **Rajendra I** built Gangaikondacholapuram and led naval expeditions to South-East Asia.
- **Pallavas** built the shore temples of **Mahabalipuram**; the **Rashtrakutas** (Krishna I) built the **Kailasa temple at Ellora**.

Medieval India

- **Delhi Sultanate (1206–1526)**: five dynasties in order – **Slave (Mamluk), Khilji, Tughlaq, Sayyid, Lodi**.
- **Qutb-ud-din Aibak** founded the Slave dynasty and began the **Qutub Minar** (completed by **Iltutmish**); **Razia Sultan** was the first woman ruler of Delhi.
- **Alauddin Khilji** introduced market-price control; **Muhammad bin Tughlaq** issued token currency and shifted the capital to **Daulatabad**.
- **Sikandar Lodi** founded **Agra (1504)**; **Ibrahim Lodi**, the last Sultan, lost the First Battle of Panipat (1526).
- **Vijayanagara Empire** founded in **1336** by **Harihara and Bukka**; greatest ruler **Krishnadevaraya**; capital **Hampi**; it declined after the **Battle of Talikota (1565)**.
- **Mughal Empire**: founded by **Babur (1526)**; **Akbar** started **Din-i-Ilahi** and built **Fatehpur Sikri** (Buland Darwaza); **Shah Jahan** built the **Taj Mahal** and the Red Fort; the last Mughal was **Bahadur Shah Zafar** (exiled after 1857).
- **Shivaji** was crowned **Chhatrapati at Raigad in 1674**; **Maharaja Ranjit Singh** founded the Sikh empire at Lahore.

Battle	Year – Result
First Tarain	1191 – Prithviraj Chauhan beat Muhammad Ghori
Second Tarain	1192 – Ghori beat Prithviraj
First Panipat	1526 – Babur beat Ibrahim Lodi
Khanwa	1527 – Babur beat Rana Sanga
Second Panipat	1556 – Akbar (Bairam Khan) beat Hemu
Talikota	1565 – Deccan Sultanates beat Vijayanagara
Haldighati	1576 – Akbar's army beat Maharana Pratap
Plassey	1757 – Clive beat Siraj-ud-Daulah
Wandiwash	1760 – British beat French
Third Panipat	1761 – Ahmad Shah Abdali beat Marathas
Buxar	1764 – British beat Mir Qasim, Shuja-ud-Daulah, Shah Alam II
Fourth Anglo-Mysore	1799 – Tipu Sultan killed at Srirangapatna

Governors-General & Viceroys

- **Warren Hastings** was the **first Governor-General of Bengal** (Regulating Act, 1773).
- **Lord William Bentinck** was the **first Governor-General of India** (Charter Act 1833); he **abolished Sati (1829)**.
- **Lord Canning** was the **last Governor-General and first Viceroy** (Government of India Act 1858, after the 1857 Revolt).

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- **Lord Mountbatten** was the **last Viceroy and first Governor-General** of independent India; **C. Rajagopalachari** was the **only Indian and last Governor-General**.
- **A.O. Hume** was **never** a Governor-General; he was a retired civil servant who **founded the INC (1885)**.

Governor-General / Viceroy	Remembered for
Cornwallis	Permanent Settlement 1793
Wellesley	Subsidiary Alliance 1798
William Bentinck	Abolition of Sati 1829
Dalhousie	Doctrine of Lapse; first railway 1853
Canning	Revolt of 1857; first Viceroy
Lytton	Vernacular Press Act 1878
Ripon	Local self-government 1882; Ilbert Bill
Dufferin	INC founded 1885
Curzon	Partition of Bengal 1905
Minto II	Morley–Minto Reforms 1909
Hardinge II	Capital shifted to Delhi 1911
Chelmsford	Montford Reforms; Jallianwala 1919
Irwin	Dandi March; Gandhi–Irwin Pact 1931
Willingdon	Communal Award; Poona Pact 1932
Linlithgow	Cripps Mission; Quit India 1942
Wavell	Shimla Conference 1945
Mountbatten	3 June Plan 1947

Socio-Religious Reform Movements

- **Raja Ram Mohan Roy** founded the **Atmiya Sabha (1815)** and the **Brahmo Sabha / Brahmo Samaj (1828, Calcutta)**; he campaigned against **Sati**.
- **Tattvabodhini Sabha (1839)** was founded by **Debendranath Tagore** (father of Rabindranath).
- **Keshab Chandra Sen** formed the **Brahmo Samaj of India (1866)**; the **Sadharan Brahmo Samaj** followed in 1878.
- **Arya Samaj** was founded by **Swami Dayanand Saraswati** in **1875 at Bombay**; slogan "**Go back to the Vedas**"; book **Satyarth Prakash**; started the Shuddhi movement.
- **Prarthana Samaj (1867, Bombay)** was founded by **Atmaram Pandurang**, with **M.G. Ranade**.
- **Ramakrishna Mission** was founded by **Swami Vivekananda** in **1897** (Belur Math); his birthday **12 January** is **National Youth Day**.
- **Theosophical Society**: founded in **New York (1875)** by **Madame Blavatsky and Col. H.S. Olcott**; HQ moved to **Adyar (Chennai)**; later led by **Annie Besant**.
- **Satyashodhak Samaj (1873)** was founded by **Jyotiba Phule** (book *Gulamgiri*).
- **Ishwar Chandra Vidyasagar** led the campaign for the **Hindu Widow Remarriage Act, 1856**.
- **Sir Syed Ahmad Khan** led the **Aligarh Movement** (MAO College, 1875); **Henry Vivian Derozio** led the **Young Bengal** movement.
- **Sree Narayana Guru** founded the **SNDP Yogam (1903)**; **E.V. Ramasamy Periyar** started the **Self-Respect Movement (1925)**.
- **Gopal Krishna Gokhale** founded the **Servants of India Society (1905)**; he was Gandhi's political guru.
- **Madan Mohan Malaviya** founded **Banaras Hindu University (1916)**.
- **Bal Gangadhar Tilak** made **Ganesh Utsav** a public festival (1893) and started the Shivaji festival; edited **Kesari** and **Maratha**.

Organisation	Founder – Year
Brahmo Samaj	Raja Ram Mohan Roy – 1828
Tattvabodhini Sabha	Debendranath Tagore – 1839
Satyashodhak Samaj	Jyotiba Phule – 1873
Arya Samaj	Dayanand Saraswati – 1875
Theosophical Society	Blavatsky & Olcott – 1875
Prarthana Samaj	Atmaram Pandurang – 1867
Ramakrishna Mission	Vivekananda – 1897

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Organisation	Founder – Year
Servants of India Society	G.K. Gokhale – 1905

Indian National Congress Sessions

- The INC was founded on **28 December 1885** at **Bombay** by **A.O. Hume**; first President **W.C. Bonnerjee**; **72 delegates** attended.
- **Annie Besant** was the **first woman President** (1917, Calcutta); **Sarojini Naidu** was the **first Indian woman President** (1925, Kanpur).
- **Mahatma Gandhi** presided over only one session – **Belgaum (1924)**.
- **Surendranath Banerjee** founded the Indian Association (1876) and wrote **"A Nation in Making"**.

Session	President – Highlight
1885 Bombay	W.C. Bonnerjee – first session
1886 Calcutta	Dadabhai Naoroji
1887 Madras	Badruddin Tyabji – first Muslim President
1896 Calcutta	Rahimtullah Sayani – Vande Mataram first sung
1906 Calcutta	Dadabhai Naoroji – "Swaraj" demand
1907 Surat	Rash Behari Ghosh – Moderate–Extremist split
1911 Calcutta	B.N. Dhar – Jana Gana Mana first sung
1916 Lucknow	A.C. Mazumdar – Lucknow Pact
1917 Calcutta	Annie Besant – first woman President
1920 Nagpur	C. Vijayaraghavachariar – Non-Cooperation approved
1924 Belgaum	Mahatma Gandhi
1925 Kanpur	Sarojini Naidu
1929 Lahore	Jawaharlal Nehru – Purna Swaraj
1931 Karachi	Vallabhbhai Patel – Fundamental Rights resolution
1938 Haripura	Subhas Chandra Bose
1946 Meerut	J.B. Kripalani – President at Independence

Freedom Struggle Milestones

- **Revolt of 1857** began at **Meerut on 10 May 1857**; **Mangal Pandey** (Barrackpore) was an early rebel.
- **Partition of Bengal (1905)** by **Curzon** led to the **Swadeshi Movement**; the partition was annulled in **1911** and the capital moved from Calcutta to **Delhi**.
- **Muslim League** was founded in **1906 at Dhaka**; **Home Rule Leagues** were started by **Tilak** and **Annie Besant** in **1916**.
- Gandhi returned from South Africa on **9 January 1915** (now **Pravasi Bharatiya Divas**); his first satyagraha in India was **Champaran (1917)**, followed by Kheda and Ahmedabad (1918).
- **Jallianwala Bagh massacre**: **13 April 1919**, Amritsar, ordered by **General Dyer**, after protests against the **Rowlatt Act**.
- **Non-Cooperation Movement (1920)** was withdrawn after **Chauri Chaura (5 February 1922)**.
- **Simon Commission (1928)** protests: **Lala Lajpat Rai** was fatally injured in a lathi charge at Lahore.
- **Lahore Session (1929)** declared **Purna Swaraj**; **26 January 1930** was celebrated as Independence Day.
- **Dandi March (Salt Satyagraha)**: **12 March – 6 April 1930**, Sabarmati to Dandi; the **National Salt Satyagraha Memorial** is at **Dandi** (Gujarat).
- **Gandhi–Irwin Pact**: 5 March 1931; Gandhi attended the **Second Round Table Conference** (1931).
- **Bhagat Singh, Rajguru and Sukhdev** were hanged on **23 March 1931** (Shaheed Diwas).
- **Poona Pact (1932)** between **Gandhi and B.R. Ambedkar**, after the Communal Award.
- **Quit India Movement**: **8 August 1942**, Bombay (Gowalia Tank); slogan "**Do or Die**".
- **Subhas Chandra Bose** led the **INA (Azad Hind Fauj)** and formed the Azad Hind government

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(Singapore, 21 Oct 1943); a Bose museum opened at the **Red Fort** in 2019.

- **Mountbatten Plan**: **3 June 1947**; **Indian Independence Act**: 18 July 1947; Independence on **15 August 1947**.
- Gandhi was assassinated on **30 January 1948** (Martyrs' Day); his birthday, **2 October**, is the **International Day of Non-Violence**.
- **Sardar Vallabhbhai Patel** was India's **first Deputy PM** and Home Minister; his birthday, **31 October**, is **Rashtriya Ekta Diwas**, and **Vigilance Awareness Week** is held in the week that includes it.
- **Chipko Movement (1973)** – tree-hugging movement in Uttarakhand (Chandi Prasad Bhatt, Sunderlal Bahuguna, Gaura Devi).
- **Nehru Memorial Museum & Library** is at **Teen Murti Bhavan, New Delhi** (now the PM Museum & Library).

MCQs – History & National Symbols

Q1. On which date did the Constituent Assembly adopt the National Flag?
(a) 15 August 1947 (b) 22 July 1947 (c) 26 November 1949 (d) 24 January 1950 (e) 26 January 1950
Ans: (b) 22 July 1947 – the flag was designed by Pingali Venkayya.

Q2. In which year was the tiger declared India's National Animal?
(a) 1950 (b) 1963 (c) 1972 (d) 1973 (e) 2010
Ans: (d) 1973 – replacing the lion; Project Tiger also began in 1973.

Q3. Who founded the Tattvabodhini Sabha?
(a) Raja Ram Mohan Roy (b) Keshab Chandra Sen (c) Debendranath Tagore (d) Dayanand Saraswati (e) Ishwar Chandra Vidyasagar
Ans: (c) Debendranath Tagore – in 1839.

Q4. Which of these persons was never a Governor-General of India?
(a) Lord Canning (b) Lord Dalhousie (c) A.O. Hume (d) Lord William Bentinck (e) Lord Mountbatten
Ans: (c) A.O. Hume – he founded the INC in 1885.

Q5. In which year was the cheetah declared extinct in India?
(a) 1947 (b) 1952 (c) 1962 (d) 1972 (e) 1982
Ans: (b) 1952 – reintroduced at Kuno National Park in 2022.

Q6. Which animal is India's National Heritage Animal?
(a) Tiger (b) Lion (c) Elephant (d) Gangetic Dolphin (e) One-horned Rhinoceros
Ans: (c) Elephant – declared in 2010.

Q7. The Saka calendar was adopted as the National Calendar on:
(a) 26 January 1950 (b) 15 August 1955 (c) 22 March 1957 (d) 1 April 1957 (e) 2 October 1960
Ans: (c) 22 March 1957 – its first month is Chaitra.

Q8. "Satyameva Jayate" on the State Emblem is taken from which text?
(a) Rig Veda (b) Bhagavad Gita (c) Mundaka Upanishad (d) Arthashastra (e) Isha Upanishad
Ans: (c) Mundaka Upanishad – the emblem comes from Ashoka's Lion Capital at Sarnath.

Q9. Arya Samaj was founded by:
(a) Swami Vivekananda (b) Dayanand Saraswati (c) Atmaram Pandurang (d) Jyotiba Phule (e) Keshab Chandra Sen
Ans: (b) Dayanand Saraswati – at Bombay in 1875.

Q10. Who was the first Viceroy of India?
(a) Warren Hastings (b) Lord Dalhousie (c) Lord Canning (d) Lord Curzon (e) Lord Ripon
Ans: (c) Lord Canning – he was also the last Governor-General (1858).

Q11. At which INC session was "Jana Gana Mana" first sung?
(a) Bombay 1885 (b) Calcutta 1896 (c) Surat 1907 (d) Calcutta 1911 (e) Lahore 1929
Ans: (d) Calcutta 1911 – on 27 December 1911.

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Q12. "A Nation in Making" is the autobiography of:
(a) Dadabhai Naoroji (b) Surendranath Banerjee (c) G.K. Gokhale (d) Bal Gangadhar Tilak (e) Lala Lajpat Rai
Ans: (b) Surendranath Banerjee – founder of the Indian Association (1876).

Q13. Who made Ganesh Utsav a public festival?
(a) M.G. Ranade (b) G.K. Gokhale (c) Bal Gangadhar Tilak (d) Jyotiba Phule (e) V.D. Savarkar
Ans: (c) Bal Gangadhar Tilak – in 1893.

Q14. Who was India's first Deputy Prime Minister?
(a) Morarji Desai (b) Vallabhbhai Patel (c) C. Rajagopalachari (d) Charan Singh (e) Jagjivan Ram
Ans: (b) Vallabhbhai Patel – his birthday (31 Oct) is Rashtriya Ekta Diwas.

Q15. The First Battle of Panipat (1526) was fought between:
(a) Akbar and Hemu (b) Babur and Ibrahim Lodi (c) Babur and Rana Sanga (d) Abdali and Marathas (e) Ghori and Prithviraj
Ans: (b) Babur and Ibrahim Lodi – it founded the Mughal Empire.

Q16. Who was the only Indian Governor-General of independent India?
(a) Rajendra Prasad (b) C. Rajagopalachari (c) Vallabhbhai Patel (d) Jawaharlal Nehru (e) S. Radhakrishnan
Ans: (b) C. Rajagopalachari – he was also the last Governor-General.

Q17. The National Salt Satyagraha Memorial is located at:
(a) Sabarmati (b) Porbandar (c) Dandi (d) Wardha (e) Champaran
Ans: (c) Dandi – the Dandi March ran from 12 March to 6 April 1930.

Q18. Who wrote "Vande Mataram"?
(a) Rabindranath Tagore (b) Bankim Chandra Chattopadhyay (c) Sarojini Naidu (d) Muhammad Iqbal (e) Subramania Bharati
Ans: (b) Bankim Chandra Chattopadhyay – it is from his novel Anandamath.

Q19. The Partition of Bengal (1905) was carried out under which Viceroy?
(a) Lord Ripon (b) Lord Lytton (c) Lord Curzon (d) Lord Minto (e) Lord Hardinge
Ans: (c) Lord Curzon – it was annulled in 1911.

Q20. Who presided over the first session of the Indian National Congress (1885)?
(a) A.O. Hume (b) Dadabhai Naoroji (c) W.C. Bonnerjee (d) Surendranath Banerjee (e) Badruddin Tyabji
Ans: (c) W.C. Bonnerjee – the session was held at Bombay with 72 delegates.

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