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Complete Syllabus • Conceptual Flowcharts • Comparative Tables • Solved Practice Questions

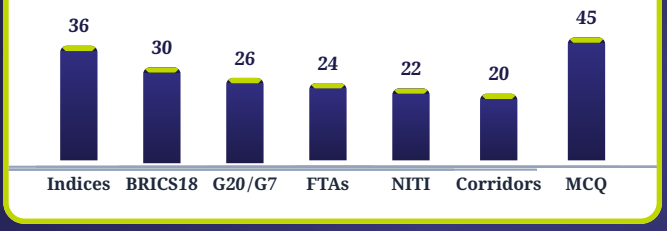
CURRENT AFFAIRS 2026 — INTERNATIONAL RELATIONS, GLOBAL SUMMITS & INDICES

18th BRICS Summit 2026 (New Delhi, India), 21st G20 (Miami), 52nd G7 (Évian, France), QUAD, SCO (Bishkek 2026), ASEAN (Manila 2026), India-EU FTA, India-UK CETA & India's Rank in 38 Global & National Indices 2026

Topic-Wise Exam Weightage Distribution (%)



Previous Years' Question Trend Analysis



Target Competitive, Entrance & Departmental Examinations

UPSC CSE Prelims & Mains GS-II • State PCS • SSC • Banking • Defence NDA/CDS/CAPF • UGC-NET

Core Syllabus Pillars & Exam Question Weightage (%)

- India's Verified Rank & Publishers Across 38 Global Indices 2026 (30%)
- 18th BRICS (New Delhi), G20, G7, QUAD, SCO & ASEAN Summits 2026 (26%)
- Bilateral Deals (India-EU FTA, India-UK CETA, IMEC & INSTC) (20%)
- NITI Aayog Reports (SDG India Index, MPI & Export Index) (14%)
- Highest Foreign Civilian Honours & Neighbourhood Diplomacy (10%)

Complete Theory
NCERT & Official Sources

Visual Flowcharts
Comparative Matrices

Memory Tricks
Exam Trap Alerts

75+ Solved MCQs
Rapid Revision Points

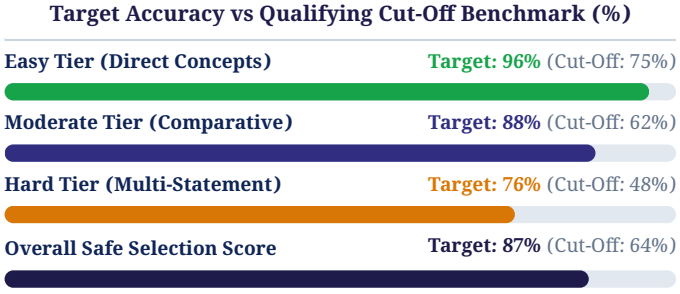
Preface, Exam Weightage Dashboard & Study Strategy — CURRENT AFFAIRS 2026 — INTERNATIONAL RELATIONS, GLOBAL SUMMITS & INDICES

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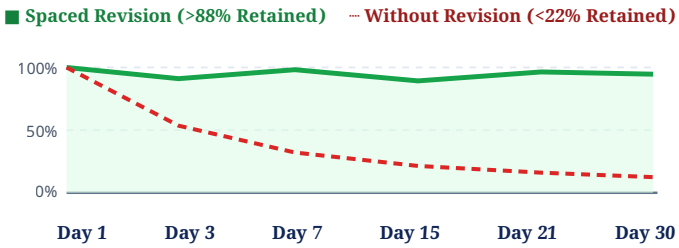
Dear Aspirants,

Modern competitive, entrance, and departmental promotion examinations demand a combination of deep conceptual clarity, statutory precision, and rapid revision tools. Prepared by **Inclusive Universal Careers Academy (IUC Academy — www.iucacademy.com)**, these comprehensive English-medium study notes integrate **structured chapter theory, 4-node conceptual process flowcharts, multi-column comparative tables, inline mathematical/scientific formulas, 'Did You Know?' boxes, 'Exam Trap Alert' callouts, 'Memory Trick' mnemonics, Chapter-End Analytical Synthesis Matrices, 75+ Step-by-Step Solved MCQs, and Rapid-Fire Revision Points**.

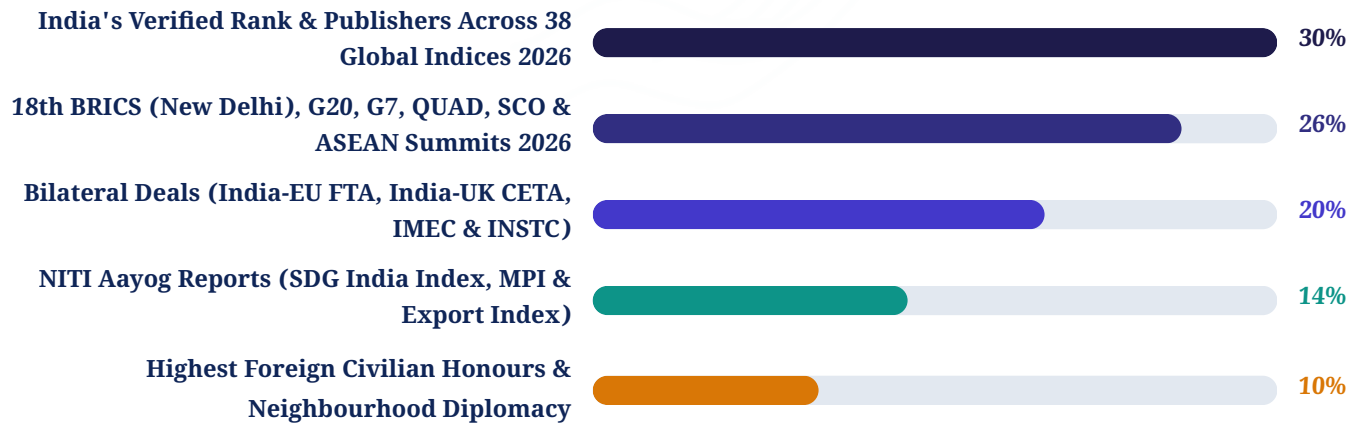
Target Accuracy vs Qualifying Cut-Off Benchmark (%)



Spaced Revision (1-3-7-21 Day Rule) & Retention Curve



Topic-Wise Exam Question Weightage Index (%)



Verified Official Curriculum & Statutory Reference Portals

- विदेश मंत्रालय (MEA) (https://www.mea.gov.in/)
- पत्र सूचना कार्यालय (PIB) (https://www.pib.gov.in/)
- नीति आयोग आधिकारिक पोर्टल (https://www.niti.gov.in/)
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Chapter 1: G20 Summits (India, Brazil & South Africa Troika), Global Biofuels Alliance & Voice of Global South

Chapter Key Study Pillars — Chapter 1: G20 Summits (India, Brazil & South Africa Troika), Global Biofuels Alliance & Voice of Global South

Key Study Pillar 1
Evolution of G20 Architecture, Troika Mechanism & India's Permanent Legacy

Key Study Pillar 2
Comparative Matrix of G20 Summits, Themes & Landmark Initiatives (2026 Compendium)

1.1 Evolution of G20 Architecture, Troika Mechanism & India's Permanent Legacy

• **G20 Institutional Structure (G21 Evolution):** Founded in 1999 after the Asian financial crisis as a forum for Finance Ministers and Central Bank Governors and elevated to the Heads of State/Government level in 2008 during the global financial crisis, the G20 now comprises **19 sovereign nations and 2 regional bodies**—the **European Union (EU)** and the **African Union (AU)**—representing approximately **85% of Global GDP**, over **75% of Global Trade**, and nearly **two-thirds of the World Population** as documented by the **Ministry of External Affairs (MEA)**.

• **G20 Troika & Rotational Presidency:** Since the G20 lacks a permanent secretariat, its continuity is managed by the **Troika**—comprising the immediate past, current, and incoming presidencies. During 2024, the all-developing-economy Troika comprised **India (2023), Brazil (2026 Compendium), and South Africa (2025)**, transitioning in 2025–2026 to **Brazil, South Africa, and the United States (2026)** per **Ministry of External Affairs (MEA)**.

• **18th G20 New Delhi Summit Legacy (September 9–10, 2023):** Held at Bharat Mandapam, New Delhi, under the theme "*Vasudhaiva Kutumbakam — One Earth, One Family, One Future*" (derived from the Maha Upanishad), India achieved 100% consensus on the **83-paragraph New Delhi Leaders' Declaration (NDLD)** as archived in the **MEA Annual Report**.

• **Permanent Inclusion of the African Union (AU):** At India's initiative, the **55-member African Union** (headquartered in Addis Ababa, Ethiopia; represented at the summit by Union of Comoros President Azali Assoumani) was admitted as a permanent member of the G20 on September 9, 2023, elevating the Global South's representation in international financial governance (**IUC Academy**).

• **Global Biofuels Alliance (GBA):** Launched on September 9, 2023, on the sidelines of the New Delhi G20 Summit by India alongside founding leaders from the **USA, Brazil, Argentina, Bangladesh, Italy, Mauritius, South Africa, and the UAE**, the GBA aims to accelerate global adoption of **E20 (20% ethanol blending in petrol)** and sustainable aviation fuels (SAF), expanding to over 24 member countries and 12 international organizations (**Press Information Bureau (PIB)**).

• **19th G20 Rio de Janeiro Summit, Brazil (2026 Assessment Cycle):** Hosted at the Museum of Modern Art in Rio de Janeiro under the Presidency of Brazilian President **Luiz Inácio Lula da Silva** with the theme "*Building a Just World and a Sustainable Planet*", the summit focused on three core pillars:

• **Pillar 1 (Social Inclusion & Fight Against Hunger and Poverty):** Official launch of the **Global Alliance Against Hunger and Poverty**, endorsed by **81 countries** (including India), the AU, the EU, 24 international organizations, and 9 international financial institutions to eradicate extreme poverty and malnutrition under SDG-1 and SDG-2 (**Ministry of External Affairs (MEA)**).

• **Pillar 2 (Energy Transitions & Sustainable Development):** Commitment to triple global renewable energy capacity by 2030 and mobilize climate finance from billions to trillions of dollars under the **Task Force for the Global Mobilization against Climate Change (TF-CLIMA)**.

• **Pillar 3 (Reform of Global Governance Institutions):** Call for comprehensive reform of the **UN Security Council (UNSC)**, **Bretton Woods Institutions (IMF and World Bank)**, and the **World Trade Organization (WTO)** to reflect 21st-century economic realities.

• **20th G20 Johannesburg Summit, South Africa (November 22–23, 2025):** Chaired by South African President **Cyril Ramaphosa** at the Johannesburg Expo Centre, South Africa became the **first African nation** to hold the G20 Presidency under the theme "*Solidarity*, *Equality*, *Sustainability*" (aligned with the African Union's Agenda 2063), prioritizing debt sustainability for low-income nations, just energy transition partnerships, and critical minerals value addition in developing countries (**Ministry of External Affairs (MEA)**).

• **21st G20 Miami Summit, United States (December 14–15, 2026):** The United States assumed the G20 Presidency in December 2025 and hosts the **21st G20 Leaders' Summit at Miami, Florida (December 14–15, 2026)**, completing the first full cycle of rotational presidencies among all G20 sovereign states. The 2026 US G20 agenda focuses on three core economic priorities: **(1) Reducing regulatory burdens to unleash economic prosperity**, **(2) Unlocking affordable and reliable energy security**, and **(3) Pioneering next-generation technologies (AI, quantum, and digital trade)**, with participation across sovereign members, regional unions, and 12 invited guest countries (**Ministry of External Affairs (MEA)**).

• **22nd G20 Presidency Handover to the United Kingdom (2027 — Manchester):** Following the December 2026 Miami Summit, the G20 Presidency transitions to the **United Kingdom for 2027**, with the British government confirming **Manchester (November 27–28, 2027)** as the host venue for the 22nd G20 Leaders' Summit (**IUC Academy**).

• **Voice of Global South Summits (VOGSS 1.0, 2.0 & 3.0):** India institutionalized the **Voice of Global South Summit** platform, hosting the **1st VOGSS (January 2023)**, **2nd VOGSS (November 2023)**, and **3rd VOGSS (India's Global South Voice Track (2026 Compendium))** under the overarching theme "*An Empowered Global South for a Sustainable Future*", bringing together over 123 developing nations and proposing the **Global Development Compact** centered on trade for development, capacity building, technology sharing, and concessional project finance (**Ministry of External Affairs (MEA)**).

1.2 G20 Multilateral Consensus & Global South Integration Flowchart

Step-by-Step Conceptual Process Flowchart

STEP 1
18th G20 New Delhi Summit Admits 55-Nation African Union & Launches GBA

STEP 2
3rd Voice of Global South Summit Proposes India's Global Development Compact

STEP 3
19th G20 Rio Summit Launches Global Alliance Against Hunger & Poverty

STEP 4
20th G20 South Africa & 2026 Track Advance MDB & UNSC Governance Reforms

1.3 Comparative Matrix of G20 Summits, Themes & Landmark Initiatives (2026 Compendium)

G20 Edition & Year	Host City & Country	Official Theme / Motto	Key Institutional Outcomes & India's Role	Official Source Portal
17th G20 Summit (2022)	Bali, Indonesia	*Recover Together, Recover Stronger*	Bali Declaration; handover of G20 Presidency gavel to India	MEA Annual Report
18th G20 Summit (Sept 9–10, 2023)	New Delhi, India	*Vasudhaiva Kutumbakam — One Earth, One Family, One Future*	Permanent inclusion of African Union; Global Biofuels Alliance (GBA); IMEC Corridor MoU; DPI Repository	MEA Annual Report
G20 Rio Summit & 21st G20 Miami Summit (2026)	Rio de Janeiro, Brazil	*Building a Just World and a Sustainable Planet*	Launch of Global Alliance Against Hunger and Poverty; Rio de Janeiro Leaders' Declaration; MDB Reform Roadmap	MEA Annual Report 2025
20th G20 Summit (Nov 2025)	Johannesburg, South Africa	*Solidarity, Equality, Sustainability*	First G20 Summit on African soil; Debt Sustainability & Critical Minerals Value-Addition Framework	MEA Annual Report 2025
21st G20 Summit (Dec 14–15, 2026)	Miami, Florida, USA	*Unleashing Economic Prosperity, Energy Security & Pioneering Technologies*	Completes first full rotational cycle of G20 presidencies; advances India–US trade and tech tracks	Ministry of External Affairs
22nd G20 Summit (Nov 27–28, 2027)	Manchester, United Kingdom	*Global Financial Stability & Sustainable Growth*	UK assumes presidency in Dec 2026 (first UK G20 summit since London 2009)	IUC Academy
3rd Voice of Global South Summit (2026 Compendium)	Virtual (Hosted by New Delhi, India)	*An Empowered Global South for a Sustainable Future*	Participation of 123 countries; announcement of USD 2.5 million trade promotion fund & USD 1 million capacity fund	MEA Annual Report 2025

Did You Know?: During India's G20 Presidency, India established the **Global Digital Public Infrastructure (DPI) Repository** and signed MoUs with multiple nations to share the **India Stack** (Aadhaar, UPI, DigiLocker, CoWIN, and Bhashini) as open-source digital building blocks for financial and social inclusion across the Global South (**Press Information Bureau (PIB)**).

Exam Trap Alert: Aspirants often assume the **G20 has a permanent headquarters** like the UN in New York or ASEAN in Jakarta. In reality, the **G20 has NO permanent secretariat or headquarters**; its agenda and logistics rotate annually through the **Troika** (past, current, and incoming hosts), and with the admission of the **African Union**, the grouping's informal composition is 19 countries + 2 regional unions (EU & AU) (**IUC Academy**).

★ **Memory Trick:** Remember the **2022–2026 G20 Host Sequence** using **"I-I-B-S-U"**: **I**ndonesia (2022) → **I**ndia (2023) → **B**razil (2026 Compendium) → **S**outh Africa (2025) → **U**SA (2026). Note that **I-B-S** (India, Brazil, South Africa) formed the historic **IBSA All-Global-South G20 Troika**!

Chapter *1* Comprehensive Analytical & Statutory Revision Matrix

Core Sub-Domain	Key Concept / Provision	Verified Analytical Parameters & Exam Distinctions (विदेश मंत्रालय (MEA))
Evolution of G20 Architecture, Troika Mechanism & India's Permanent Legacy	**G20 Institutional Structure (G21 Evolution)**	Founded in 1999 after the Asian financial crisis as a forum for Finance Ministers and Central Bank Governors and elevated to the Heads of State/Government level in 2008 during the global financial crisis, the G20 now comprises **19 sovereign nations and 2 regional bodies**—the **European Union (EU)** and the **African Union (AU)**—representing approximately **85% of Global GDP**, over **75% of Global Trade**, and nearly **two-thirds of the World Population** as documented by the **Ministry of External Affairs (MEA)**.
G20 Multilateral Consensus & Global South Integration Flowchart	**G20 Troika & Rotational Presidency**	Since the G20 lacks a permanent secretariat, its continuity is managed by the **Troika**—comprising the immediate past, current, and incoming presidencies. During 2024, the all-developing-economy Troika comprised **India (2023), Brazil (2026 Compendium), and South Africa (2025)**, transitioning in 2025–2026 to **Brazil, South Africa, and the United States (2026)** per **Ministry of External Affairs (MEA)**.
Comparative Matrix of G20 Summits, Themes & Landmark Initiatives (2026 Compendium)	**18th G20 New Delhi Summit Legacy (September 9–10, 2023)**	Held at Bharat Mandapam, New Delhi, under the theme "*Vasudhaiva Kutumbakam — One Earth, One Family, One Future*" (derived from the Maha Upanishad), India achieved 100% consensus on the **83-paragraph New Delhi Leaders' Declaration (NDLD)** as archived in the **MEA Annual Report**.
Evolution of G20 Architecture, Troika Mechanism & India's Permanent Legacy	**Permanent Inclusion of the African Union (AU)**	At India's initiative, the **55-member African Union** (headquartered in Addis Ababa, Ethiopia; represented at the summit by Union of Comoros President Azali Assoumani) was admitted as a permanent member of the G20 on September 9, 2023, elevating the Global South's representation in international financial governance (IUC Academy).
G20 Multilateral Consensus & Global South Integration Flowchart	**Global Biofuels Alliance (GBA)**	Launched on September 9, 2023, on the sidelines of the New Delhi G20 Summit by India alongside founding leaders from the **USA, Brazil, Argentina, Bangladesh, Italy, Mauritius, South Africa, and the UAE**, the GBA aims to accelerate global adoption of **E20 (20% ethanol blending in petrol)** and sustainable aviation fuels (SAF), expanding to over 24 member countries and 12 international organizations (Press Information Bureau (PIB)).

Core Sub-Domain	Key Concept / Provision	Verified Analytical Parameters & Exam Distinctions (विदेश मंत्रालय (MEA))
Comparative Matrix of G20 Summits, Themes & Landmark Initiatives (2026 Compendium)	**19th G20 Rio de Janeiro Summit, Brazil (2026 Assessment Cycle)**	Hosted at the Museum of Modern Art in Rio de Janeiro under the Presidency of Brazilian President **Luiz Inácio Lula da Silva** with the theme "*Building a Just World and a Sustainable Planet*", the summit focused on three core pillars
Evolution of G20 Architecture, Troika Mechanism & India's Permanent Legacy	**Pillar 1 (Social Inclusion & Fight Against Hunger and Poverty)**	Official launch of the **Global Alliance Against Hunger and Poverty**, endorsed by **81 countries** (including India), the AU, the EU, 24 international organizations, and 9 international financial institutions to eradicate extreme poverty and malnutrition under SDG-1 and SDG-2 (Ministry of External Affairs (MEA)).
G20 Multilateral Consensus & Global South Integration Flowchart	**Pillar 2 (Energy Transitions & Sustainable Development)**	Commitment to triple global renewable energy capacity by 2030 and mobilize climate finance from billions to trillions of dollars under the **Task Force for the Global Mobilization against Climate Change (TF-CLIMA)**.
Comparative Matrix of G20 Summits, Themes & Landmark Initiatives (2026 Compendium)	**Pillar 3 (Reform of Global Governance Institutions)**	Call for comprehensive reform of the **UN Security Council (UNSC)**, **Bretton Woods Institutions (IMF and World Bank)**, and the **World Trade Organization (WTO)** to reflect 21st-century economic realities.
Evolution of G20 Architecture, Troika Mechanism & India's Permanent Legacy	**20th G20 Johannesburg Summit, South Africa (November 22–23, 2025)**	Chaired by South African President **Cyril Ramaphosa** at the Johannesburg Expo Centre, South Africa became the **first African nation** to hold the G20 Presidency under the theme "*Solidarity, Equality, Sustainability*" (aligned with the African Union's Agenda 2063), prioritizing debt sustainability for low-income nations, just energy transition partnerships, and critical minerals value addition in developing countries (Ministry of External Affairs (MEA)).
G20 Multilateral Consensus & Global South Integration Flowchart	**21st G20 Miami Summit, United States (December 14–15, 2026)**	The United States assumed the G20 Presidency in December 2025 and hosts the **21st G20 Leaders' Summit at Miami, Florida (December 14–15, 2026)**, completing the first full cycle of rotational presidencies among all G20 sovereign states. The 2026 US G20 agenda focuses on three core economic priorities: **(1) Reducing regulatory burdens to unleash economic prosperity**, **(2) Unlocking affordable and reliable energy security**, and **(3) Pioneering next-generation technologies (AI, quantum, and digital trade)**, with participation across sovereign members, regional unions, and 12 invited guest countries (Ministry of External Affairs (MEA)).
Comparative Matrix of G20 Summits, Themes & Landmark Initiatives (2026 Compendium)	**22nd G20 Presidency Handover to the United Kingdom (2027 — Manchester)**	Following the December 2026 Miami Summit, the G20 Presidency transitions to the **United Kingdom for 2027**, with the British government confirming **Manchester (November 27–28, 2027)** as the host venue for the 22nd G20 Leaders' Summit (IUC Academy).

Core Sub-Domain	Key Concept / Provision	Verified Analytical Parameters & Exam Distinctions (विदेश मंत्रालय (MEA))
Evolution of G20 Architecture, Troika Mechanism & India's Permanent Legacy	**Voice of Global South Summits (VOGSS 1.0, 2.0 & 3.0)**	India institutionalized the **Voice of Global South Summit** platform, hosting the **1st VOGSS (January 2023)**, **2nd VOGSS (November 2023)**, and **3rd VOGSS (India's Global South Voice Track (2026 Compendium))** under the overarching theme "*An Empowered Global South for a Sustainable Future*", bringing together over 123 developing nations and proposing the **Global Development Compact** centered on trade for development, capacity building, technology sharing, and concessional project finance (Ministry of External Affairs (MEA)).

Chapter *1* Multi-Statement Exam Verification Drills

Chapter 1 Statement-Verification Drill #1 — Both Statements Verified Correct

Statement-I (G20 Institutional Structure (G21 Evolution)): Founded in 1999 after the Asian financial crisis as a forum for Finance Ministers and Central Bank Governors and elevated to the Heads of State/Government level in 2008 during the global financial crisis, the G20 now comprises **19 sovereign nations and 2 regional bodies**—the **European Union (EU)** and the **African Union (AU)**—representing approximately **85% of Global GDP**, over **75% of Global Trade**, and nearly **two-thirds of the World Population** as documented by the **Ministry of External Affairs (MEA)**.

Statement-II (G20 Troika & Rotational Presidency): Since the G20 lacks a permanent secretariat, its continuity is managed by the **Troika**—comprising the immediate past, current, and incoming presidencies. During 2024, the all-developing-economy Troika comprised **India (2023), Brazil (2026 Compendium), and South Africa (2025)**, transitioning in 2025–2026 to **Brazil, South Africa, and the United States (2026)** per **Ministry of External Affairs (MEA)**.

✓ **Exam Verification Key: Both Statement-I and Statement-II are factually accurate as per विदेश मंत्रालय (MEA) & IUC Academy.**

Chapter 1 Statement-Verification Drill #2 — Both Statements Verified Correct

Statement-I (18th G20 New Delhi Summit Legacy (September 9–10, 2023)): Held at Bharat Mandapam, New Delhi, under the theme "*Vasudhaiva Kutumbakam — One Earth, One Family, One Future*" (derived from the Maha Upanishad), India achieved 100% consensus on the **83-paragraph New Delhi Leaders' Declaration (NDLD)** as archived in the **MEA Annual Report**.

Statement-II (Permanent Inclusion of the African Union (AU)): At India's initiative, the **55-member African Union** (headquartered in Addis Ababa, Ethiopia; represented at the summit by Union of Comoros President Azali Assoumani) was admitted as a permanent member of the G20 on September 9, 2023, elevating the Global South's representation in international financial governance (IUC Academy).

✓ **Exam Verification Key: Both Statement-I and Statement-II are factually accurate as per विदेश मंत्रालय (MEA) & IUC Academy.**

Chapter 1 Statement-Verification Drill #3 — Both Statements Verified Correct

Statement-I (Global Biofuels Alliance (GBA)): Launched on September 9, 2023, on the sidelines of the New Delhi G20 Summit by India alongside founding leaders from the **USA, Brazil, Argentina, Bangladesh, Italy, Mauritius, South Africa, and the UAE**, the GBA aims to accelerate global adoption of **E20 (20% ethanol blending in petrol)** and sustainable aviation fuels (SAF), expanding to over 24 member countries and 12 international organizations (Press Information Bureau (PIB)).

Statement-II (19th G20 Rio de Janeiro Summit, Brazil (2026 Assessment Cycle)): Hosted at the Museum of Modern Art in Rio de Janeiro under the Presidency of Brazilian President **Luiz Inácio Lula da Silva** with the theme "*Building a Just World and a Sustainable Planet*", the summit focused on three core pillars

✓ **Exam Verification Key: Both Statement-I and Statement-II are factually accurate as per विदेश मंत्रालय (MEA) & IUC Academy.**

Chapter 1 Statement-Verification Drill #4 Both Statements Verified Correct

Statement-I (Pillar 1 (Social Inclusion & Fight Against Hunger and Poverty)): Official launch of the **Global Alliance Against Hunger and Poverty**, endorsed by **81 countries** (including India), the AU, the EU, 24 international organizations, and 9 international financial institutions to eradicate extreme poverty and malnutrition under SDG-1 and SDG-2 (Ministry of External Affairs (MEA)).

Statement-II (Pillar 2 (Energy Transitions & Sustainable Development)): Commitment to triple global renewable energy capacity by 2030 and mobilize climate finance from billions to trillions of dollars under the **Task Force for the Global Mobilization against Climate Change (TF-CLIMA)**.

✓ **Exam Verification Key: Both Statement-I and Statement-II are factually accurate as per विदेश मंत्रालय (MEA) & IUC Academy.**

Chapter 1 Statement-Verification Drill #5 Both Statements Verified Correct

Statement-I (Pillar 3 (Reform of Global Governance Institutions)): Call for comprehensive reform of the **UN Security Council (UNSC)**, **Bretton Woods Institutions (IMF and World Bank)**, and the **World Trade Organization (WTO)** to reflect 21st-century economic realities.

Statement-II (20th G20 Johannesburg Summit, South Africa (November 22–23, 2025)): Chaired by South African President **Cyril Ramaphosa** at the Johannesburg Expo Centre, South Africa became the **first African nation** to hold the G20 Presidency under the theme "*Solidarity*, *Equality*, *Sustainability*" (aligned with the African Union's Agenda 2063), prioritizing debt sustainability for low-income nations, just energy transition partnerships, and critical minerals value addition in developing countries (Ministry of External Affairs (MEA)).

✓ **Exam Verification Key: Both Statement-I and Statement-II are factually accurate as per विदेश मंत्रालय (MEA) & IUC Academy.**

Chapter 1 Statement-Verification Drill #6 Both Statements Verified Correct

Statement-I (21st G20 Miami Summit, United States (December 14–15, 2026)): The United States assumed the G20 Presidency in December 2025 and hosts the **21st G20 Leaders' Summit at Miami, Florida (December 14–15, 2026)**, completing the first full cycle of rotational presidencies among all G20 sovereign states. The 2026 US G20 agenda focuses on three core economic priorities: **(1) Reducing regulatory burdens to unleash economic prosperity**, **(2) Unlocking affordable and reliable energy security**, and **(3) Pioneering next-generation technologies (AI, quantum, and digital trade)**, with participation across sovereign members, regional unions, and 12 invited guest countries (Ministry of External Affairs (MEA)).

Statement-II (22nd G20 Presidency Handover to the United Kingdom (2027 — Manchester)): Following the December 2026 Miami Summit, the G20 Presidency transitions to the **United Kingdom for 2027**, with the British government confirming **Manchester (November 27–28, 2027)** as the host venue for the 22nd G20 Leaders' Summit (IUC Academy).

✓ **Exam Verification Key: Both Statement-I and Statement-II are factually accurate as per विदेश मंत्रालय (MEA) & IUC Academy.**

Chapter 2: 18th BRICS Summit 2026 (New Delhi, India), BRICS+ Expansion, Kazan Declaration & New Development Bank (NDB)

Chapter Key Study Pillars — Chapter 2: 18th BRICS Summit 2026 (New Delhi, India), BRICS+ Expansion, Kazan Declaration & New Development Bank (NDB)

Key Study Pillar 1
Origin, Historic Expansion (BRICS+) & 16th BRICS Summit in Kazan

Key Study Pillar 2
Comprehensive BRICS Summits, Institutions & Membership Matrix

2.1 Origin, Historic Expansion (BRICS+) & 16th BRICS Summit in Kazan

• **Evolution from BRIC to BRICS+:** Coined as "BRIC" by economist Jim O'Neill in 2001, the grouping held its **1st BRIC Summit in Yekaterinburg, Russia (June 2009)** with founding members **Brazil, Russia, India, and China**. **South Africa** joined in December 2010 (attending the 2011 Sanya Summit), making it **BRICS** (Ministry of External Affairs (MEA)).

• **Historic Expansion (2026):** Following the 15th BRICS Johannesburg Summit decision, **five new full members** officially joined on **the BRICS+ Expansion Cycle (2026 Compendium)**: **Egypt, Ethiopia, Iran, and the United Arab Emirates (UAE)**, followed by **Saudi Arabia** (invited; calibrating formal participation) and **Indonesia**, which formally became a **full member of BRICS in January 2025** under Brazil's presidency, bringing full active membership to **10+ major economies** representing nearly **45% of the world's population** and over **35% of Global GDP in Purchasing Power Parity (PPP)** terms (MEA Annual Report 2025).

• **Argentina's Withdrawal:** Although invited at the 2023 Johannesburg Summit, **Argentina** (under President Javier Milei) formally declined BRICS membership in December 2023.

• **16th BRICS Summit in Kazan, Russia (BRICS Expansion Track (2026 Compendium)):** Hosted by Russian President **Vladimir Putin** under the theme "*Strengthening Multilateralism for Just Global Development and Security*", the Kazan Summit adopted the **134-point Kazan Declaration** and established a new **"BRICS Partner Country" category** (admitting partner nations such as Belarus, Bolivia, Cuba, Kazakhstan, Malaysia, Nigeria, Thailand, Uganda, and Uzbekistan) to enable structured participation without immediate full membership expansion (Ministry of External Affairs (MEA)).

• **Key Kazan Summit Initiatives:**

• **BRICS Cross-Border Payment Initiative (BRICS Clear / Local Currency Settlement):** Voluntary framework to facilitate trade settlement in national currencies (such as INR, RUB, AED, CNY, BRL) and strengthen correspondent banking networks.

• **BRICS Grain Exchange:** Proposal initiated by Russia to establish a fair, transparent commodities trading platform for agricultural products among BRICS states.

• **International Big Cat Alliance (IBCA) Endorsement:** The Kazan Declaration explicitly welcomed India's **International Big Cat Alliance (IBCA)** to conserve the world's 7 major big cats (Tiger, Lion, Leopard, Snow Leopard, Puma, Jaguar, and Cheetah).

• **17th BRICS Summit in Rio de Janeiro, Brazil (July 6–7, 2025):** Hosted by Brazil under the motto "*Strengthening Global South Cooperation for More Inclusive and Sustainable Governance*", the summit welcomed **Indonesia** as the first Southeast Asian full member of BRICS and adopted declarations on Climate Finance, Artificial Intelligence Governance, and Health Equity (Ministry of External Affairs (MEA)).

• **18th BRICS Summit Hosted by India in New Delhi (September 12–13, 2026 — India's 2026 BRICS Chairmanship):**

• **Venue, Dates & 20th Anniversary Milestone:** Chaired by Prime Minister **Narendra Modi** at **Bharat Mandapam, New Delhi, on September 12–13, 2026**, the **18th BRICS Summit** marked the culmination of **India's 2026 BRICS Presidency** (which organized ~350 meetings across Indian cities, including 22 Ministerial

meetings) and celebrated **20 years of BRICS cooperation** (since the first BRIC Foreign Ministers' meeting in 2006) (**Ministry of External Affairs (MEA)**).

• **Official 2026 Theme & Acronym Redefinition:** India framed its 2026 BRICS Chairmanship nearly **"Building Resilience, Innovation, Cooperation and Sustainability"**, aligning the grouping's three foundational pillars—(1) *Political and Security*, (2) *Economic and Financial*, *and* (3) *Cultural and People-to-People Exchanges*—with practical Global South development priorities (**Ministry of External Affairs (MEA)**).

• **Expanded Participation (11 Members + 10 Partner Countries):** The New Delhi Summit brought together the **11 BRICS member economies** (Brazil, Russia, India, China, South Africa, Egypt, Ethiopia, Iran, UAE, Saudi Arabia, and Indonesia—whose combined GDP in PPP terms surpasses that of the G7) alongside **10 BRICS Partner Countries** (Belarus, Bolivia, Cuba, Kazakhstan, Malaysia, Nigeria, Thailand, Uganda, Uzbekistan, and Vietnam) (**Ministry of External Affairs (MEA)**).

• **Key Deliverables of the 18th BRICS New Delhi Summit (September 2026):**

1. **Digital Public Infrastructure (DPI), AI Governance & Cybersecurity:** Mainstreaming India Stack open-source DPI solutions, responsible Artificial Intelligence frameworks, and joint counter-ransomware resilience across BRICS economies.

2. **Trade, Local Currency Settlement & Financial Interoperability:** Expanding voluntary national-currency trade settlement mechanisms, fast payment systems linkage (UPI interoperability), and New Development Bank local-currency financing.

3. **BRICS Grain Exchange, Agriculture & Food Security:** Advancing food supply chain resilience, fertilizer security, and the BRICS Grain Exchange framework alongside support for smallholder farmers.

4. **Healthcare, Traditional Medicine & Pharmaceuticals:** Strengthening pandemic preparedness, vaccine R&D networks, and regulatory convergence for affordable generic medicines.

5. **Counter-Terrorism & Multilateral Reform:** Uncompromising stance against cross-border terrorism, terror financing, and comprehensive reform of the UN Security Council, WTO, and IMF, before handing over the **2027 BRICS Presidency to China** (**Ministry of External Affairs (MEA)**).

• **New Development Bank (NDB) & Contingent Reserve Arrangement (CRA):** Established by the **Fortaleza Declaration (6th BRICS Summit, 2014)** and headquartered in **Shanghai, China** (currently led by President **Dilma Rousseff**), the NDB has an initial subscribed capital of **USD 50 billion** equally shared among the 5 founding members (avoiding veto monopoly). Non-BRICS NDB members include **Bangladesh, UAE, Egypt, and Uruguay** (with Algeria approved for membership) (**Press Information Bureau (PIB)**).

2.2 BRICS Institutional Evolution & Financial Architecture Flowchart

Step-by-Step Conceptual Process Flowchart

STEP 1
2009 Yekaterinburg (BRIC) & 2010 South Africa Entry (BRICS)

STEP 2
2014 Fortaleza Declaration Creates NDB (Shanghai) & USD 100B CRA

STEP 3
2024–25 Expansion Adds Egypt, Ethiopia, Iran, UAE & Indonesia

STEP 4
16th Kazan Summit Creates Partner Category & 2026 Presidency Passes to India

2.3 Comprehensive BRICS Summits, Institutions & Membership Matrix

BRICS Feature / Institution	Founding / Landmark Event	Headquarters / Venue	Key Operational Mandate & Exam Facts	Official Source Portal
1st BRIC Summit (2009)	June 16, 2009	Yekaterinburg, Russia	Attended by Brazil, Russia, India, China	Ministry of External Affairs
6th BRICS Summit (2014)	Fortaleza Declaration (July 2014)	Fortaleza, Brazil	Created New Development Bank (NDB) & USD 100 Billion CRA	Ministry of External Affairs
15th BRICS Summit (2023)	August 22–24, 2023	Johannesburg, South Africa	Approved historic expansion of BRICS membership	MEA Annual Report
BRICS Expansion & 18th New Delhi Summit (2026)	BRICS Expansion Track (2026 Compendium)	Kazan, Russia	Kazan Declaration; created "BRICS Partner Country" category; first summit of expanded BRICS	MEA Rajya Sabha Statement
17th BRICS Summit (2025)	July 2025	Rio de Janeiro, Brazil	Indonesia participated as first Southeast Asian full BRICS member	MEA Annual Report 2025
18th BRICS Summit (2026)	Sept 12–13, 2026 (India Presidency)	Bharat Mandapam, New Delhi, India	Theme: *Building Resilience, Innovation, Cooperation and Sustainability*; 11 members + 10 partners; DPI, AI, Grain Exchange & local currency trade; 2027 Chair passes to China	Ministry of External Affairs
New Development Bank (NDB)	Operational since 2015	Shanghai, China (Regional Office in GIFT City, Gujarat)	Equal voting share among 5 founders; NDB India Regional Office opened at GIFT City	Press Information Bureau (PIB)

Did You Know?: Unlike the IMF or World Bank (where voting power is weighted by economic quotas and the USA holds an effective veto), the **New Development Bank (NDB)** assigns **equal voting power** to each of the 5 founding members (Brazil, Russia, India, China, South Africa), and no single country possesses veto power over project approvals (IUC Academy).

Exam Trap Alert: Do not confuse **NDB membership** with **BRICS full membership**! Countries like **Bangladesh and Uruguay** are members of the **New Development Bank (NDB)** (having joined in 2021), but they are **NOT** full members of the political BRICS grouping. Also remember that **Argentina declined** full BRICS membership in December 2023 (Ministry of External Affairs (MEA)).

★ **Memory Trick:** Remember the **2026 New Full BRICS Members** using **"EE-I-U-I" (Egypt, Ethiopia, Iran, UAE, Indonesia)**: Two from Africa (**E**gypt, **E**thiopia), two from West Asia (**I**ran, **U**AE), and one from Southeast Asia (**I**ndonesia).

Chapter 2 Comprehensive Analytical & Statutory Revision Matrix

Core Sub-Domain	Key Concept / Provision	Verified Analytical Parameters & Exam Distinctions (विदेश मंत्रालय (MEA))
Origin, Historic Expansion (BRICS+) & 16th BRICS Summit in Kazan	**Evolution from BRIC to BRICS+**	Coined as "BRIC" by economist Jim O'Neill in 2001, the grouping held its **1st BRIC Summit in Yekaterinburg, Russia (June 2009)** with founding members **Brazil, Russia, India, and China**. **South Africa** joined in December 2010 (attending the 2011 Sanya Summit), making it **BRICS** (Ministry of External Affairs (MEA)).
BRICS Institutional Evolution & Financial Architecture Flowchart	**Historic Expansion (2026)**	Following the 15th BRICS Johannesburg Summit decision, **five new full members** officially joined on **the BRICS+ Expansion Cycle (2026 Compendium): Egypt, Ethiopia, Iran, and the United Arab Emirates (UAE)**, followed by **Saudi Arabia** (invited; calibrating formal participation) and **Indonesia**, which formally became a **full member of BRICS in January 2025** under Brazil's presidency, bringing full active membership to **10+ major economies** representing nearly **45% of the world's population** and over **35% of Global GDP in Purchasing Power Parity (PPP)** terms (MEA Annual Report 2025).
Comprehensive BRICS Summits, Institutions & Membership Matrix	**Argentina's Withdrawal**	Although invited at the 2023 Johannesburg Summit, **Argentina** (under President Javier Milei) formally declined BRICS membership in December 2023.
Origin, Historic Expansion (BRICS+) & 16th BRICS Summit in Kazan	**16th BRICS Summit in Kazan, Russia (BRICS Expansion Track (2026 Compendium))**	Hosted by Russian President **Vladimir Putin** under the theme "*Strengthening Multilateralism for Just Global Development and Security*", the Kazan Summit adopted the **134-point Kazan Declaration** and established a new **"BRICS Partner Country" category** (admitting partner nations such as Belarus, Bolivia, Cuba, Kazakhstan, Malaysia, Nigeria, Thailand, Uganda, and Uzbekistan) to enable structured participation without immediate full membership expansion (Ministry of External Affairs (MEA)).
BRICS Institutional Evolution & Financial Architecture Flowchart	**BRICS Cross-Border Payment Initiative (BRICS Clear / Local Currency Settlement)**	Voluntary framework to facilitate trade settlement in national currencies (such as INR, RUB, AED, CNY, BRL) and strengthen correspondent banking networks.
Comprehensive BRICS Summits, Institutions & Membership Matrix	**BRICS Grain Exchange**	Proposal initiated by Russia to establish a fair, transparent commodities trading platform for agricultural products among BRICS states.
Origin, Historic Expansion (BRICS+) & 16th BRICS Summit in Kazan	**International Big Cat Alliance (IBCA) Endorsement**	The Kazan Declaration explicitly welcomed India's **International Big Cat Alliance (IBCA)** to conserve the world's 7 major big cats (Tiger, Lion, Leopard, Snow Leopard, Puma, Jaguar, and Cheetah).
BRICS Institutional Evolution & Financial Architecture Flowchart	**17th BRICS Summit in Rio de Janeiro, Brazil (July 6–7, 2025)**	Hosted by Brazil under the motto "*Strengthening Global South Cooperation for More Inclusive and Sustainable Governance*", the summit welcomed **Indonesia** as the first Southeast Asian full member of BRICS and adopted declarations on Climate Finance, Artificial Intelligence Governance, and Health Equity (Ministry of External Affairs (MEA)).

Core Sub-Domain	Key Concept / Provision	Verified Analytical Parameters & Exam Distinctions (विदेश मंत्रालय (MEA))
Comprehensive BRICS Summits, Institutions & Membership Matrix	**Venue, Dates & 20th Anniversary Milestone**	Chaired by Prime Minister **Narendra Modi** at **Bharat Mandapam, New Delhi, on September 12–13, 2026**, the **18th BRICS Summit** marked the culmination of **India's 2026 BRICS Presidency** (which organized ~350 meetings across Indian cities, including 22 Ministerial meetings) and celebrated **20 years of BRICS cooperation** (since the first BRIC Foreign Ministers' meeting in 2006) (Ministry of External Affairs (MEA)).
Origin, Historic Expansion (BRICS+) & 16th BRICS Summit in Kazan	**Official 2026 Theme & Acronym Redefinition**	India framed its 2026 BRICS Chairmanship nearly **"Building Resilience, Innovation, Cooperation and Sustainability"**, aligning the grouping's three foundational pillars—(1) *Political and Security*, (2) *Economic and Financial, and* (3) *Cultural and People-to-People Exchanges*—with practical Global South development priorities (Ministry of External Affairs (MEA)).
BRICS Institutional Evolution & Financial Architecture Flowchart	**Expanded Participation (11 Members + 10 Partner Countries)**	The New Delhi Summit brought together the **11 BRICS member economies** (Brazil, Russia, India, China, South Africa, Egypt, Ethiopia, Iran, UAE, Saudi Arabia, and Indonesia—whose combined GDP in PPP terms surpasses that of the G7) alongside **10 BRICS Partner Countries** (Belarus, Bolivia, Cuba, Kazakhstan, Malaysia, Nigeria, Thailand, Uganda, Uzbekistan, and Vietnam) (Ministry of External Affairs (MEA)).
Comprehensive BRICS Summits, Institutions & Membership Matrix	**Digital Public Infrastructure (DPI), AI Governance & Cybersecurity**	Mainstreaming India Stack open-source DPI solutions, responsible Artificial Intelligence frameworks, and joint counter-ransomware resilience across BRICS economies.
Origin, Historic Expansion (BRICS+) & 16th BRICS Summit in Kazan	**Trade, Local Currency Settlement & Financial Interoperability**	Expanding voluntary national-currency trade settlement mechanisms, fast payment systems linkage (UPI interoperability), and New Development Bank local-currency financing.
BRICS Institutional Evolution & Financial Architecture Flowchart	**BRICS Grain Exchange, Agriculture & Food Security**	Advancing food supply chain resilience, fertilizer security, and the BRICS Grain Exchange framework alongside support for smallholder farmers.

Chapter 2 Multi-Statement Exam Verification Drills

Chapter 2 Statement-Verification Drill #1 — **Both Statements Verified Correct**

Statement-I (Evolution from BRIC to BRICS+): Coined as "BRIC" by economist Jim O'Neill in 2001, the grouping held its **1st BRIC Summit in Yekaterinburg, Russia (June 2009)** with founding members **Brazil, Russia, India, and China**. **South Africa** joined in December 2010 (attending the 2011 Sanya Summit), making it **BRICS** (Ministry of External Affairs (MEA)).

Statement-II (Historic Expansion (2026)): Following the 15th BRICS Johannesburg Summit decision, **five new full members** officially joined on **the BRICS+ Expansion Cycle (2026 Compendium)**: **Egypt, Ethiopia, Iran, and the United Arab Emirates (UAE)**, followed by **Saudi Arabia** (invited; calibrating formal participation) and **Indonesia**, which formally became a **full member of BRICS in January 2025** under Brazil's presidency, bringing full active membership to **10+ major economies** representing nearly **45% of the world's population** and over **35% of Global GDP in Purchasing Power Parity (PPP)** terms (MEA Annual Report 2025).

✔ **Exam Verification Key: Both Statement-I and Statement-II are factually accurate as per विदेश मंत्रालय (MEA) & IUC Academy.**

Chapter 2 Statement-Verification Drill #2 — Both Statements Verified Correct

Statement-I (Argentina's Withdrawal): Although invited at the 2023 Johannesburg Summit, **Argentina** (under President Javier Milei) formally declined BRICS membership in December 2023.

Statement-II (16th BRICS Summit in Kazan, Russia (BRICS Expansion Track (2026 Compendium))): Hosted by Russian President **Vladimir Putin** under the theme "*Strengthening Multilateralism for Just Global Development and Security*", the Kazan Summit adopted the **134-point Kazan Declaration** and established a new **"BRICS Partner Country" category** (admitting partner nations such as Belarus, Bolivia, Cuba, Kazakhstan, Malaysia, Nigeria, Thailand, Uganda, and Uzbekistan) to enable structured participation without immediate full membership expansion (Ministry of External Affairs (MEA)).

✓ **Exam Verification Key: Both Statement-I and Statement-II are factually accurate as per विदेश मंत्रालय (MEA) & IUC Academy.**

Chapter 2 Statement-Verification Drill #3 — Both Statements Verified Correct

Statement-I (BRICS Cross-Border Payment Initiative (BRICS Clear / Local Currency Settlement)): Voluntary framework to facilitate trade settlement in national currencies (such as INR, RUB, AED, CNY, BRL) and strengthen correspondent banking networks.

Statement-II (BRICS Grain Exchange): Proposal initiated by Russia to establish a fair, transparent commodities trading platform for agricultural products among BRICS states.

✓ **Exam Verification Key: Both Statement-I and Statement-II are factually accurate as per विदेश मंत्रालय (MEA) & IUC Academy.**

Chapter 2 Statement-Verification Drill #4 — Both Statements Verified Correct

Statement-I (International Big Cat Alliance (IBCA) Endorsement): The Kazan Declaration explicitly welcomed India's **International Big Cat Alliance (IBCA)** to conserve the world's 7 major big cats (Tiger, Lion, Leopard, Snow Leopard, Puma, Jaguar, and Cheetah).

Statement-II (17th BRICS Summit in Rio de Janeiro, Brazil (July 6–7, 2025)): Hosted by Brazil under the motto "*Strengthening Global South Cooperation for More Inclusive and Sustainable Governance*", the summit welcomed **Indonesia** as the first Southeast Asian full member of BRICS and adopted declarations on Climate Finance, Artificial Intelligence Governance, and Health Equity (Ministry of External Affairs (MEA)).

✓ **Exam Verification Key: Both Statement-I and Statement-II are factually accurate as per विदेश मंत्रालय (MEA) & IUC Academy.**

Chapter 2 Statement-Verification Drill #5 — Both Statements Verified Correct

Statement-I (Venue, Dates & 20th Anniversary Milestone): Chaired by Prime Minister **Narendra Modi** at **Bharat Mandapam, New Delhi, on September 12–13, 2026**, the **18th BRICS Summit** marked the culmination of **India's 2026 BRICS Presidency** (which organized ~350 meetings across Indian cities, including 22 Ministerial meetings) and celebrated **20 years of BRICS cooperation** (since the first BRIC Foreign Ministers' meeting in 2006) (Ministry of External Affairs (MEA)).

Statement-II (Official 2026 Theme & Acronym Redefinition): India framed its 2026 BRICS Chairmanship nearly **"Building Resilience, Innovation, Cooperation and Sustainability"**, aligning the grouping's three foundational pillars—(1) *Political and Security*, (2) *Economic and Financial*, *and* (3) *Cultural and People-to-People Exchanges*—with practical Global South development priorities (Ministry of External Affairs (MEA)).

✓ **Exam Verification Key: Both Statement-I and Statement-II are factually accurate as per विदेश मंत्रालय (MEA) & IUC Academy.**

Chapter 2 Statement-Verification Drill #6 — Both Statements Verified Correct

Statement-I (Expanded Participation (11 Members + 10 Partner Countries)): The New Delhi Summit brought together the **11 BRICS member economies** (Brazil, Russia, India, China, South Africa, Egypt, Ethiopia, Iran, UAE, Saudi Arabia, and Indonesia—whose combined GDP in PPP terms surpasses that of the G7) alongside **10 BRICS Partner Countries** (Belarus, Bolivia, Cuba, Kazakhstan, Malaysia, Nigeria, Thailand, Uganda, Uzbekistan, and Vietnam) (Ministry of External Affairs (MEA)).

Statement-II (Digital Public Infrastructure (DPI), AI Governance & Cybersecurity): Mainstreaming India Stack open-source DPI solutions, responsible Artificial Intelligence frameworks, and joint counter-ransomware resilience across BRICS economies.

✓ **Exam Verification Key: Both Statement-I and Statement-II are factually accurate as per विदेश मंत्रालय (MEA) & IUC Academy.**

Chapter 3: QUAD Summits (Wilmington & 2026 India Track), 52nd G7 Summit 2026 (Évian, France) & Indo-Pacific Initiatives

Chapter Key Study Pillars — Chapter 3: QUAD Summits (Wilmington & 2026 India Track), 52nd G7 Summit 2026 (Évian, France) & Indo-Pacific Initiatives

Key Study Pillar 1
Evolution of QUAD & the 6th QUAD Leaders' Summit (Wilmington, Delaware)

Key Study Pillar 2
Summary Table of Key QUAD Initiatives & Indo-Pacific Frameworks

3.1 Evolution of QUAD & the 6th QUAD Leaders' Summit (Wilmington, Delaware)

• **Origins of the QUAD (2004 Tsunami to Leaders' Level):** The Quadrilateral cooperation among **India, the United States, Japan, and Australia** originated as the **Tsunami Core Group** following the December 2004 Indian Ocean earthquake and tsunami. Initiated conceptually by Japanese Prime Minister **Shinzo Abe** in 2007 ("Confluence of the Two Seas"), revived at the official level in Manila in November 2017, and elevated to the **Leaders' Summit level in March 2021**, the QUAD celebrated its **20th Anniversary of Cooperation in December 2024** (MEA Wilmington Declaration).

• **6th QUAD Leaders' Summit (the QUAD Leaders' Track (2026 Compendium) — Wilmington, Delaware, USA):** Hosted by US President **Joe Biden** and attended by Indian Prime Minister **Narendra Modi**, Australian Prime Minister **Anthony Albanese**, and Japanese Prime Minister **Fumio Kishida**, the summit issued the landmark **Wilmington Declaration** (MEA Press Release on 6th Quad Summit).

• **Major Announcements under the Wilmington Declaration & 2025–2026 Follow-Up:**

• **Quad Cancer Moonshot:** A flagship health security initiative focusing initially on eliminating **cervical cancer** in the Indo-Pacific region; **India committed USD 10 million** in HPV sampling kits, detection tools, and cervical cancer vaccines, alongside USD 7.5 million earlier committed for digital public infrastructure in cancer screening (MEA Quad Fact Sheet).

• **First-Ever "Quad-at-Sea Ship Observer Mission" (2025):** Coast Guards of the US, India, Japan, and Australia embarked personnel aboard each other's vessels in the Indo-Pacific to improve maritime interoperability and safety without militarization (MEA Press Release).

• **Maritime Initiative for Training in the Indo-Pacific (MAITRI):** Announced to enable Indo-Pacific partners to maximize tools provided through the **Indo-Pacific Partnership for Maritime Domain Awareness (IPMDA)**, with India hosting the inaugural **MAITRI workshop in 2025** (MEA Quad Fact Sheet).

• **Indo-Pacific Logistics Network (IPLN) & AJHE-26:** Shared logistics network for rapid civilian Humanitarian Assistance and Disaster Relief (HADR), advancing Standard Operating Procedures at the second IPLN Tabletop Exercise (September 2026) and sending observers to India's **Annual Joint Humanitarian Assistance and Disaster Relief Exercise (AJHE-26)** in November 2026 (MEA Quad Press Release Oct 2026).

• **Quad Ports of the Future Partnership:** Harnessing collective expertise to develop sustainable and resilient port infrastructure across the Indo-Pacific, with Mumbai hosting the regional ports conference (MEA Press Release).

• **Semiconductor Supply Chains Contingency Network Memorandum of Cooperation:** Early-warning and resilience mechanism for semiconductor supply chains among the four democracies.

• **Space-Based Web Portal for Mauritius & Quad STEM Fellowship:** India established an open-science space-based web portal for Mauritius to monitor extreme weather events and announced a new sub-category under the **Quad STEM Fellowship** offering **50 scholarships worth USD 500,000** for Indo-Pacific students to pursue a 4-year bachelor's engineering degree at Government of India-funded technical institutes (MEA Press Release).

• **MEA-ISA Solar Projects Agreement (2026 Compendium):** Under the Quad Climate Working Group, the Ministry of External Affairs signed a Project Implementation Agreement (PIA) worth **USD 2 million** with the **International Solar Alliance (ISA)** for solar projects (cold storage, health center solarization, solar water pumps) in **Fiji, Comoros, Madagascar, and Seychelles** (MEA Press Release 2026 Compendium).

• 51st G7 Summit (Kananaskis, Canada — June 2025) & 52nd G7 Summit (Évian-les-Bains, France — June 15–17, 2026):

• **G7 Composition & Outreach:** Founded in 1975, the **Group of Seven (G7)** comprises 7 **advanced democracies—USA, UK, France, Germany, Italy, Canada, and Japan—plus the European Union** (Russia joined in 1997 to form G8 but was suspended in 2014). Although India is **not a formal member of the G7**, India has been invited regularly as a premier Outreach Partner.

• **51st G7 Summit (June 2025 — Kananaskis, Alberta, Canada):** Adopted the **Kananaskis Wildfire Charter** and the **G7 Critical Minerals Action Plan** to secure resilient clean-energy supply chains (Ministry of External Affairs (MEA)).

• **52nd G7 Summit (June 15–17, 2026 — Évian-les-Bains, Haute-Savoie, France):** Hosted by French President **Emmanuel Macron** on the shores of Lake Geneva (the second time Évian hosted the G7 after 2003). With **France chairing the G7 in 2026** and **India chairing BRICS in 2026**, Prime Minister Narendra Modi's outreach engagement focused on **strategic autonomy, multipolar global governance, AI safety (building on the Paris AI Action Summit & India AI Impact Summit), climate finance, and Indo-Pacific maritime security** (Ministry of External Affairs (MEA)).

3.2 QUAD Indo-Pacific Security & Development Pillars Flowchart

Step-by-Step Conceptual Process Flowchart

STEP 1
Maritime Security via IPMDA, MAITRI & Quad-at-Sea Coast Guard Mission

STEP 2
Disaster Relief via Indo-Pacific Logistics Network (IPLN) & AJHE-26

STEP 3
Tech & Port Resilience via Semiconductor Network & Ports of the Future

STEP 4
Human Welfare via Quad Cancer Moonshot, ISA Solar & STEM Fellowships

3.3 Summary Table of Key QUAD Initiatives & Indo-Pacific Frameworks

QUAD Initiative / Mechanism	Core Domain	Specific Contribution / Operational Detail	Official Source Portal
Indo-Pacific Partnership for Maritime Domain Awareness (IPMDA)	Maritime Security & Dark-Shipping Tracking	Launched at 2022 Tokyo Summit; expanded to Indian Ocean Region via Information Fusion Centre — Indian Ocean Region (IFC-IOR, Gurugram)	MEA Wilmington Declaration
Maritime Initiative for Training in the Indo-Pacific (MAITRI)	Maritime Law Enforcement & IPMDA Training	Announced at QUAD Leaders' Summit (2026 Compendium); India hosted inaugural MAITRI workshop	MEA Quad Fact Sheet
Quad-at-Sea Ship Observer Mission	Coast Guard Interoperability	US Coast Guard, Indian Coast Guard, Japan Coast Guard & Australian Border Force cross-embarkation (2025)	MEA Press Release
Indo-Pacific Logistics Network (IPLN)	Humanitarian Assistance & Disaster Relief (HADR)	Second IPLN Tabletop Exercise hosted by Japan (Sept 2026); observers sent to India's AJHE-26 (Nov 2026)	MEA Quad Press Release Oct 2026
Quad Cancer Moonshot	Public Health Security	Targets cervical cancer elimination; India pledged USD 10M in HPV vaccines/kits & DPI screening support	MEA Quad Fact Sheet
Quad Ports of the Future Partnership	Quality Infrastructure	Sustainable port development across Indo-Pacific; regional conference hosted by India in Mumbai	MEA Press Release
Exercise Malabar	Naval Warfare Interoperability	Started in 1992 (India-US); Japan joined permanently in 2015, Australia rejoined in 2020	IUC Academy
51st G7 Summit (June 2025)	Advanced Economies Forum	Hosted at Kananaskis, Alberta, Canada; adopted Kananaskis Wildfire Charter & Critical Minerals Action Plan	Ministry of External Affairs
52nd G7 Summit (June 15–17, 2026)	Global Governance & AI / Climate Outreach	Hosted by France at **Évian-les-Bains**; synergy between France's 2026 G7 Presidency and India's 2026 BRICS Presidency	Ministry of External Affairs

Did You Know?: The Indian Navy's **Information Fusion Centre – Indian Ocean Region (IFC-IOR)**, inaugurated in December 2018 at **Gurugram, Haryana**, serves as the primary hub connecting the **QUAD's IPMDA** data stream to countries across the Indian Ocean Region to monitor illegal, unreported, and unregulated (IUU) fishing and "dark shipping" (**MEA Wilmington Declaration**).

Exam Trap Alert: Do not confuse **QUAD (India, USA, Japan, Australia)** with **I2U2 ("West Asian Quad" — India, Israel, UAE, USA)** or **AUKUS (Australia, UK, USA)**. India is a member of **QUAD** and **I2U2**, but India is **NOT** a member of **AUKUS** (which is a trilateral military submarine alliance) (IUC Academy).

★ **Memory Trick:** Remember the **6 Wilmington QUAD Flagships** using **"M-C-P-S-I-S"**: **M**AITRI (Maritime training), **C**ancer Moonshot, **P**orts of the Future, **S**emiconductor Contingency Network, **I**PLN (Logistics Network), and **S**pace Portal for Mauritius.

Chapter *3* Comprehensive Analytical & Statutory Revision Matrix

Core Sub-Domain	Key Concept / Provision	Verified Analytical Parameters & Exam Distinctions (विदेश मंत्रालय (MEA))
Evolution of QUAD & the 6th QUAD Leaders' Summit (Wilmington, Delaware)	**Origins of the QUAD (2004 Tsunami to Leaders' Level)**	The Quadrilateral cooperation among **India, the United States, Japan, and Australia** originated as the **Tsunami Core Group** following the December 2004 Indian Ocean earthquake and tsunami. Initiated conceptually by Japanese Prime Minister **Shinzo Abe** in 2007 ("Confluence of the Two Seas"), revived at the official level in Manila in November 2017, and elevated to the **Leaders' Summit level in March 2021**, the QUAD celebrated its **20th Anniversary of Cooperation in December 2024** (MEA Wilmington Declaration).
QUAD Indo-Pacific Security & Development Pillars Flowchart	**6th QUAD Leaders' Summit (the QUAD Leaders' Track (2026 Compendium) — Wilmington, Delaware, USA)**	Hosted by US President **Joe Biden** and attended by Indian Prime Minister **Narendra Modi**, Australian Prime Minister **Anthony Albanese**, and Japanese Prime Minister **Fumio Kishida**, the summit issued the landmark **Wilmington Declaration** (MEA Press Release on 6th Quad Summit).
Summary Table of Key QUAD Initiatives & Indo-Pacific Frameworks	**Quad Cancer Moonshot**	A flagship health security initiative focusing initially on eliminating **cervical cancer** in the Indo-Pacific region; **India committed USD 10 million** in HPV sampling kits, detection tools, and cervical cancer vaccines, alongside USD 7.5 million earlier committed for digital public infrastructure in cancer screening (MEA Quad Fact Sheet).
Evolution of QUAD & the 6th QUAD Leaders' Summit (Wilmington, Delaware)	**First-Ever "Quad-at-Sea Ship Observer Mission" (2025)**	Coast Guards of the US, India, Japan, and Australia embarked personnel aboard each other's vessels in the Indo-Pacific to improve maritime interoperability and safety without militarization (MEA Press Release).
QUAD Indo-Pacific Security & Development Pillars Flowchart	**Maritime Initiative for Training in the Indo-Pacific (MAITRI)**	Announced to enable Indo-Pacific partners to maximize tools provided through the **Indo-Pacific Partnership for Maritime Domain Awareness (IPMDA)**, with India hosting the inaugural **MAITRI workshop in 2025** (MEA Quad Fact Sheet).
Summary Table of Key QUAD Initiatives & Indo-Pacific Frameworks	**Indo-Pacific Logistics Network (IPLN) & AJHE-26**	Shared logistics network for rapid civilian Humanitarian Assistance and Disaster Relief (HADR), advancing Standard Operating Procedures at the second IPLN Tabletop Exercise (September 2026) and sending observers to India's **Annual Joint Humanitarian Assistance and Disaster Relief Exercise (AJHE-26)** in November 2026 (MEA Quad Press Release Oct 2026).

Core Sub-Domain	Key Concept / Provision	Verified Analytical Parameters & Exam Distinctions (विदेश मंत्रालय (MEA))
Evolution of QUAD & the 6th QUAD Leaders' Summit (Wilmington, Delaware)	**Quad Ports of the Future Partnership**	Harnessing collective expertise to develop sustainable and resilient port infrastructure across the Indo-Pacific, with Mumbai hosting the regional ports conference (MEA Press Release).
QUAD Indo-Pacific Security & Development Pillars Flowchart	**Semiconductor Supply Chains Contingency Network Memorandum of Cooperation**	Early-warning and resilience mechanism for semiconductor supply chains among the four democracies.
Summary Table of Key QUAD Initiatives & Indo-Pacific Frameworks	**Space-Based Web Portal for Mauritius & Quad STEM Fellowship**	India established an open-science space-based web portal for Mauritius to monitor extreme weather events and announced a new sub-category under the **Quad STEM Fellowship** offering ***50* scholarships worth USD *500,000*** for Indo-Pacific students to pursue a 4-year bachelor's engineering degree at Government of India-funded technical institutes (MEA Press Release).
Evolution of QUAD & the 6th QUAD Leaders' Summit (Wilmington, Delaware)	**MEA-ISA Solar Projects Agreement (2026 Compendium)**	Under the Quad Climate Working Group, the Ministry of External Affairs signed a Project Implementation Agreement (PIA) worth **USD 2 million** with the **International Solar Alliance (ISA)** for solar projects (cold storage, health center solarization, solar water pumps) in **Fiji, Comoros, Madagascar, and Seychelles** (MEA Press Release 2026 Compendium).
QUAD Indo-Pacific Security & Development Pillars Flowchart	**G7 Composition & Outreach**	Founded in 1975, the **Group of Seven (G7)** comprises 7 **advanced democracies—USA, UK, France, Germany, Italy, Canada, and Japan—plus the European Union** (Russia joined in 1997 to form G8 but was suspended in 2014). Although India is **not a formal member of the G7**, India has been invited regularly as a premier Outreach Partner.
Summary Table of Key QUAD Initiatives & Indo-Pacific Frameworks	**51st G7 Summit (June 2025 — Kananaskis, Alberta, Canada)**	Adopted the **Kananaskis Wildfire Charter** and the **G7 Critical Minerals Action Plan** to secure resilient clean-energy supply chains (Ministry of External Affairs (MEA)).
Evolution of QUAD & the 6th QUAD Leaders' Summit (Wilmington, Delaware)	**52nd G7 Summit (June 15–17, 2026 — Évian-les-Bains, Haute-Savoie, France)**	Hosted by French President **Emmanuel Macron** on the shores of Lake Geneva (the second time Évian hosted the G7 after 2003). With **France chairing the G7 in *2026*** and **India chairing BRICS in *2026***, Prime Minister Narendra Modi's outreach engagement focused on **strategic autonomy, multipolar global governance, AI safety (building on the Paris AI Action Summit & India AI Impact Summit), climate finance, and Indo-Pacific maritime security** (Ministry of External Affairs (MEA)).

Chapter 3 Multi-Statement Exam Verification Drills

Chapter 3 Statement-Verification Drill #1 — Both Statements Verified Correct

Statement-I (Origins of the QUAD (2004 Tsunami to Leaders' Level)): The Quadrilateral cooperation among **India, the United States, Japan, and Australia** originated as the **Tsunami Core Group** following the December 2004 Indian Ocean earthquake and tsunami. Initiated conceptually by Japanese Prime Minister **Shinzo Abe** in 2007 ("Confluence of the Two Seas"), revived at the official level in Manila in November 2017, and elevated to the **Leaders' Summit level in March 2021**, the QUAD celebrated its **20th Anniversary of Cooperation in December 2024** (MEA Wilmington Declaration).

Statement-II (6th QUAD Leaders' Summit (the QUAD Leaders' Track (2026 Compendium) — Wilmington, Delaware, USA)): Hosted by US President **Joe Biden** and attended by Indian Prime Minister **Narendra Modi**, Australian Prime Minister **Anthony Albanese**, and Japanese Prime Minister **Fumio Kishida**, the summit issued the landmark **Wilmington Declaration** (MEA Press Release on 6th Quad Summit).

✓ **Exam Verification Key: Both Statement-I and Statement-II are factually accurate as per विदेश मंत्रालय (MEA) & IUC Academy.**

Chapter 3 Statement-Verification Drill #2 — Both Statements Verified Correct

Statement-I (Quad Cancer Moonshot): A flagship health security initiative focusing initially on eliminating **cervical cancer** in the Indo-Pacific region; **India committed USD 10 million** in HPV sampling kits, detection tools, and cervical cancer vaccines, alongside USD 7.5 million earlier committed for digital public infrastructure in cancer screening (MEA Quad Fact Sheet).

Statement-II (First-Ever "Quad-at-Sea Ship Observer Mission" (2025)): Coast Guards of the US, India, Japan, and Australia embarked personnel aboard each other's vessels in the Indo-Pacific to improve maritime interoperability and safety without militarization (MEA Press Release).

✓ **Exam Verification Key: Both Statement-I and Statement-II are factually accurate as per विदेश मंत्रालय (MEA) & IUC Academy.**

Chapter 3 Statement-Verification Drill #3 — Both Statements Verified Correct

Statement-I (Maritime Initiative for Training in the Indo-Pacific (MAITRI)): Announced to enable Indo-Pacific partners to maximize tools provided through the **Indo-Pacific Partnership for Maritime Domain Awareness (IPMDA)**, with India hosting the inaugural **MAITRI workshop in 2025** (MEA Quad Fact Sheet).

Statement-II (Indo-Pacific Logistics Network (IPLN) & AJHE-26): Shared logistics network for rapid civilian Humanitarian Assistance and Disaster Relief (HADR), advancing Standard Operating Procedures at the second IPLN Tabletop Exercise (September 2026) and sending observers to India's **Annual Joint Humanitarian Assistance and Disaster Relief Exercise (AJHE-26)** in November 2026 (MEA Quad Press Release Oct 2026).

✓ **Exam Verification Key: Both Statement-I and Statement-II are factually accurate as per विदेश मंत्रालय (MEA) & IUC Academy.**

Chapter 3 Statement-Verification Drill #4 — Both Statements Verified Correct

Statement-I (Quad Ports of the Future Partnership): Harnessing collective expertise to develop sustainable and resilient port infrastructure across the Indo-Pacific, with Mumbai hosting the regional ports conference (MEA Press Release).

Statement-II (Semiconductor Supply Chains Contingency Network Memorandum of Cooperation): Early-warning and resilience mechanism for semiconductor supply chains among the four democracies.

✓ **Exam Verification Key: Both Statement-I and Statement-II are factually accurate as per विदेश मंत्रालय (MEA) & IUC Academy.**

Chapter 3 Statement-Verification Drill #5 — Both Statements Verified Correct

Statement-I (Space-Based Web Portal for Mauritius & Quad STEM Fellowship): India established an open-science space-based web portal for Mauritius to monitor extreme weather events and announced a new sub-category under the **Quad STEM Fellowship** offering **50 scholarships worth USD 500,000** for Indo-Pacific students to pursue a 4-year bachelor's engineering degree at Government of India-funded technical institutes (MEA Press Release).

Statement-II (MEA-ISA Solar Projects Agreement (2026 Compendium)): Under the Quad Climate Working Group, the Ministry of External Affairs signed a Project Implementation Agreement (PIA) worth **USD 2 million** with the **International Solar Alliance (ISA)** for solar projects (cold storage, health center solarization, solar water pumps) in **Fiji, Comoros, Madagascar, and Seychelles** (MEA Press Release 2026 Compendium).

✓ **Exam Verification Key: Both Statement-I and Statement-II are factually accurate as per विदेश मंत्रालय (MEA) & IUC Academy.**

Chapter 3 Statement-Verification Drill #6 — Both Statements Verified Correct

Statement-I (G7 Composition & Outreach): Founded in 1975, the **Group of Seven (G7)** comprises 7 **advanced democracies—USA, UK, France, Germany, Italy, Canada, and Japan—plus the European Union** (Russia joined in 1997 to form G8 but was suspended in 2014). Although India is **not a formal member of the G7**, India has been invited regularly as a premier Outreach Partner.

Statement-II (51st G7 Summit (June 2025 — Kananaskis, Alberta, Canada)): Adopted the **Kananaskis Wildfire Charter** and the **G7 Critical Minerals Action Plan** to secure resilient clean-energy supply chains (Ministry of External Affairs (MEA)).

✓ **Exam Verification Key: Both Statement-I and Statement-II are factually accurate as per विदेश मंत्रालय (MEA) & IUC Academy.**

Chapter 4: SCO Summits (Astana, Tianjin & Bishkek 2026), ASEAN Summits (Vientiane & Manila 2026), BIMSTEC (Bangkok Vision 2030) & Regional Groupings

Chapter Key Study Pillars — Chapter 4: SCO Summits (Astana, Tianjin & Bishkek 2026), ASEAN Summits (Vientiane & Manila 2026), BIMSTEC (Bangkok Vision 2030) & Regional Groupings

Key Study Pillar 1
Shanghai Cooperation Organisation (SCO): 10 Members, Astana & Islamabad Summits

Key Study Pillar 2
ASEAN-India Comprehensive Strategic Partnership & 21st Summit in Vientiane, Laos

4.1 Shanghai Cooperation Organisation (SCO): 10 Members, Astana & Islamabad Summits

• **Evolution & Institutional Structure of SCO:** Preceded by the **"Shanghai Five" (1996 — China, Russia, Kazakhstan, Kyrgyzstan, Tajikistan)**, the **Shanghai Cooperation Organisation (SCO)** was formally founded on **June 15, 2001**, in Shanghai upon the inclusion of **Uzbekistan**.
It operates through two permanent bodies: the **SCO Secretariat in Beijing, China**, and the **Executive Committee of the Regional Anti-Terrorist Structure (RATS) in Tashkent, Uzbekistan** (Ministry of External Affairs (MEA)).

• **Expansion from 6 to 10 Full Members:**

• **India and Pakistan** became full members on **June 9, 2017**, at the **Astana Summit (Kazakhstan)**.

• **Iran** became the **9th full member** on **July 4, 2023**, at the **23rd SCO Summit hosted virtually by India** under the theme "*Towards a SECURE SCO*".

• **Belarus** became the **10th full member** on **the SCO Expansion Cycle (2026 Compendium)**, at the **24th SCO Council of Heads of State (CHS) Summit in Astana, Kazakhstan** (MEA Annual Report 2025).

• **PM Modi's "SECURE" SCO Doctrine:** Coined by Prime Minister Narendra Modi at the 2018 Qingdao Summit and used as the theme of India's 2023 Presidency: **S**ecurity of citizens, **E**conomic development, **C**onnectivity in the region, **U**nity, **R**espect for sovereignty and territorial integrity, and **E**nvironmental protection (**Ministry of External Affairs (MEA)**).

• **24th SCO Council of Heads of State Summit (the SCO Summit Track (2026 Compendium) — Astana, Kazakhstan):** Hosted under the theme "*Strengthening Multilateral Dialogue — Striving Towards a Sustainable Peace and Prosperity*", where External Affairs Minister **Dr. S. Jaishankar** represented India and reiterated zero tolerance for cross-border terrorism and respect for sovereignty in connectivity projects (referencing India's principled opposition to the China-Pakistan Economic Corridor passing through Pakistan-occupied Kashmir). **China assumed the rotating SCO Presidency for 2026 (25th SCO Summit in Tianjin, China, August–September 2025)** (MEA Media Briefing Aug 2025).

• **23rd SCO Council of Heads of Government (CHG) Meeting (the SCO CHG Track (2026 Compendium) — Islamabad, Pakistan):** Attended by EAM **Dr. S. Jaishankar** (marking the first visit by an Indian External Affairs Minister to Pakistan in nearly nine years strictly for a multilateral SCO meeting), where he underscored that "*good neighbourliness*" cannot coexist with cross-border terrorism, extremism, and separatism (**MEA Annual Report 2025**).

• **2025–2026 SCO Summits (Tianjin, Bishkek, Tajikistan & New Delhi Civilisational Dialogue):**

• **25th SCO Council of Heads of State Summit (2025 — Tianjin, China)** followed by **Kyrgyzstan's 2025–2026 Presidency**, which hosted the **26th SCO Council of Heads of State Summit in Bishkek, Kyrgyzstan (August 30 – September 3, 2026)** focusing on counter-terrorism under RATS, regional connectivity, and digital trade (**Ministry of External Affairs (MEA)**).

• **25th SCO Council of Heads of Government (CHG) Meeting (October 2026 — Hosted by Tajikistan):** Focused on regional economic cooperation, trade settlement, and transport corridors (**Ministry of External Affairs (MEA)**).

• **First SCO Civilisational Dialogue Forum (November 20–22, 2026 — Hosted by India in New Delhi):** Organized by India in New Delhi to highlight shared Buddhist heritage, cultural links, and people-to-people harmony across Eurasia (**Ministry of External Affairs (MEA)**).

4.2 ASEAN-India Comprehensive Strategic Partnership & *21*st Summit in Vientiane, Laos

• **ASEAN Architecture & Act East Policy Decade (2014–2024):** Founded on **August 8, 1967 (Bangkok Declaration)** and headquartered in **Jakarta, Indonesia**, ASEAN comprises **10 member states** (Brunei, Cambodia, Indonesia, Laos, Malaysia, Myanmar, Philippines, Singapore, Thailand, Vietnam; with **Timor-Leste** admitted in principle as the 11th member). India became a Sectoral Partner in 1992, Dialogue Partner in 1996, Summit-level Partner in 2002, Strategic Partner in 2012, and elevated ties to a **Comprehensive Strategic Partnership (CSP) in November 2022** (**Ministry of External Affairs (MEA)**).

• **21st ASEAN-India Summit & 19th East Asia Summit (the ASEAN-India Summit Track (2026 Compendium) — Vientiane, Lao PDR):** Hosted under Laos's Chairmanship theme "*ASEAN: Enhancing*

Connectivity and Resilience", marking a **decade of India's Act East Policy (announced by PM Modi at the 2014 Naypyidaw Summit)**. Prime Minister Narendra Modi unveiled a **10-Point Plan** including:

• Designating **2025 as the ASEAN-India Year of Tourism** (with India contributing **USD 5 million** for joint tourism promotion).

• Doubling the number of scholarships at **Nalanda University** for ASEAN students and offering new fellowships at Indian Agricultural Universities.

• Expediting the review of the **ASEAN-India Trade in Goods Agreement (AITIGA)** by 2025 to make trade more balanced and user-friendly.

• Contributing **USD 5 million** towards ASEAN-India Disaster Resilience and launching a new **ASEAN-India Women Scientists Conclave** under the ASEAN-India Science & Technology Development Fund (**MEA Annual Report 2025**).

• **46th–47th ASEAN Summits (Malaysia 2025) & 48th–49th ASEAN Summits in Manila, Philippines (November 14–16, 2026):** Following Malaysia's 2025 Chairmanship (which advanced **Timor-Leste's admission as the 11th member of ASEAN**), the **Philippines chaired ASEAN in 2026**, hosting the **49th ASEAN Summit, 23rd ASEAN-India Summit, and 21st East Asia Summit in Manila (November 14–16, 2026)**—including the **20th East Asia Summit Energy Ministers' Meeting in Metro Manila (October 2026)**. Discussions centered on finalizing the **South China Sea Code of Conduct**, maritime domain awareness, upgrading the **ASEAN-India Trade in Goods Agreement (AITIGA)**, and digital public infrastructure (**Ministry of External Affairs (MEA)**).

• **BIMSTEC Charter Enforcement (2026 Compendium), 6th Bangkok Summit (Bangkok Vision 2030) & 1st Home Ministers' Meeting (New Delhi, October 2026):** Founded on **June 6, 1997 (Bangkok Declaration)** with its Permanent Secretariat in **Dhaka, Bangladesh**, the **7-member BIMSTEC** (Bangladesh, Bhutan, India, Myanmar, Nepal, Sri Lanka, Thailand) acquired formal **legal personality on the BIMSTEC Charter Enforcement (2026 Compendium)**, when its **BIMSTEC Charter** entered into force. At the **6th BIMSTEC Summit held in Bangkok, Thailand (April 4, 2025)**, leaders adopted the landmark **'Bangkok Vision 2030'** (the grouping's first long-term strategic roadmap aligning with India's Act East Policy and Indo-Pacific Oceans Initiative) and the **BIMSTEC Master Plan on Transport Connectivity**. Subsequently, in **October 2026**, India's Ministry of Home Affairs hosted the **First-Ever BIMSTEC Home Ministers' Meeting in New Delhi**, adopting the **Delhi Declaration** on joint action against terrorism, narco-trafficking, cybercrime, and transnational organized crime (**Ministry of External Affairs (MEA)**).

• **Colombo Security Conclave (CSC) Charter (2026 Compendium):** In 2026 Compendium, **India, Mauritius, Maldives, and Sri Lanka** signed the Charter and MoU in Colombo to establish the **Colombo Security Conclave Secretariat**, with **Bangladesh** joining as the **5th full member** in 2026 Compendium (and Seychelles as observer) to bolster Indian Ocean maritime and cyber security (**MEA Annual Report 2025**).

4.3 SCO, ASEAN & BIMSTEC Regional Diplomacy Flowchart

Step-by-Step Conceptual Process Flowchart

STEP 1
SCO Expands to 10 Full Members (Belarus Joins at 24th Astana Summit)

STEP 2
21st ASEAN-India Vientiane Summit Marks 10 Years of Act East Policy

STEP 3
BIMSTEC Charter Enters into Force (2026 Compendium) Giving Legal Personality

STEP 4
Colombo Security Conclave Adds Bangladesh as 5th Member & Establishes Secretariat

4.4 Comparative Table of Regional Multilateral Organizations & India's Role

Organization	Founding Year & HQ	Total Members	Recent 2026 Milestone & India's Role	Official Source Portal
Shanghai Cooperation Organisation (SCO)	2001; Secretariat in Beijing & RATS in Tashkent	10 Full Members (Belarus became 10th in 2026 Compendium)	24th CHS Astana (2026 Compendium); 25th Tianjin (2025); **26th CHS Bishkek (Aug–Sept 2026)**; **25th CHG Tajikistan (Oct 2026)**; **1st SCO Civilisational Dialogue in New Delhi (Nov 2026)**	Ministry of External Affairs
Association of Southeast Asian Nations (ASEAN)	1967 (Bangkok Declaration); HQ in Jakarta, Indonesia	10 Members (+ Timor-Leste as 11th member track)	21st ASEAN-India Summit Vientiane (2026 Compendium); Malaysia Chair (2025); **48th–49th ASEAN Summits in Manila, Philippines (Nov 14–16, 2026)**	Ministry of External Affairs
BIMSTEC	1997 (Bangkok Declaration); HQ in Dhaka, Bangladesh	7 Members (5 South Asian + Myanmar & Thailand)	BIMSTEC Charter in force (2026 Compendium); **6th Summit in Bangkok (April 2025 — Bangkok Vision 2030)**; **1st BIMSTEC Home Ministers' Meet in New Delhi (Oct 2026)**	Ministry of External Affairs
Colombo Security Conclave (CSC)	Revived 2020; Secretariat in Colombo, Sri Lanka	5 Members (India, Sri Lanka, Maldives, Mauritius, Bangladesh)	Bangladesh became 5th full member in 2026 Compendium; CSC Secretariat Charter signed under India's Global South Initiative (2026 Compendium)	MEA Annual Report 2025
Indian Ocean Rim Association (IORA)	1997; HQ in Ebene, Mauritius	23 Member States & 12 Dialogue Partners	Sri Lanka held Chairmanship (2023–2025), followed by **India as Chair (2025–2027)**	Ministry of External Affairs

Did You Know?: Varanasi (Uttar Pradesh) was designated as the **first-ever SCO Tourist and Cultural Capital (2022–2023)**, followed by **Almaty (Kazakhstan, 2023–2024)** and **Qingdao (China, 2026)** to promote people-to-people heritage links across Eurasia (Ministry of External Affairs (MEA)).

Exam Trap Alert: Turkmenistan is **NOT** a member of the **Shanghai Cooperation Organisation (SCO)** because it follows a UN-recognized policy of "Permanent Neutrality." Aspirants often mistakenly include all five Central Asian "Stans" in the SCO—only **4 Central Asian Republics** (Kazakhstan, Kyrgyzstan, Tajikistan, Uzbekistan) are SCO members (IUC Academy).

★ **Memory Trick:** Remember the **10 Full Members of SCO** using **"TRUCK-II-PB-C"**: **T**ajikistan, **R**ussia, **U**zbekistan, **C**hina, **K**azakhstan, **I**ndia, **I**ran, **P**akistan, **B**elarus, and **K**yrgyzstan (with **Turkmenistan** absent!).

Chapter 4 Comprehensive Analytical & Statutory Revision Matrix

Core Sub-Domain	Key Concept / Provision	Verified Analytical Parameters & Exam Distinctions (विदेश मंत्रालय (MEA))
Shanghai Cooperation Organisation (SCO): 10 Members, Astana & Islamabad Summits	**Evolution & Institutional Structure of SCO**	Preceded by the **"Shanghai Five" (1996 — China, Russia, Kazakhstan, Kyrgyzstan, Tajikistan)**, the **Shanghai Cooperation Organisation (SCO)** was formally founded on **June 15, 2001**, in Shanghai upon the inclusion of **Uzbekistan**. It operates through two permanent bodies: the **SCO Secretariat in Beijing, China**, and the **Executive Committee of the Regional Anti-Terrorist Structure (RATS) in Tashkent, Uzbekistan** (Ministry of External Affairs (MEA)).
ASEAN-India Comprehensive Strategic Partnership & 21st Summit in Vientiane, Laos	**India and Pakistan**	became full members on **June 9, 2017**, at the **Astana Summit (Kazakhstan)**.
SCO, ASEAN & BIMSTEC Regional Diplomacy Flowchart	**Iran**	became the **9th full member** on **July 4, 2023**, at the **23rd SCO Summit hosted virtually by India** under the theme "*Towards a SECURE SCO*".
Comparative Table of Regional Multilateral Organizations & India's Role	**Belarus**	became the **10th full member** on **the SCO Expansion Cycle (2026 Compendium)**, at the **24th SCO Council of Heads of State (CHS) Summit in Astana, Kazakhstan** (MEA Annual Report 2025).
Shanghai Cooperation Organisation (SCO): 10 Members, Astana & Islamabad Summits	**PM Modi's "SECURE" SCO Doctrine**	Coined by Prime Minister Narendra Modi at the 2018 Qingdao Summit and used as the theme of India's 2023 Presidency: **S**ecurity of citizens, **E**conomic development, **C**onnectivity in the region, **U**nity, **R**espect for sovereignty and territorial integrity, and **E**nvironmental protection (Ministry of External Affairs (MEA)).
ASEAN-India Comprehensive Strategic Partnership & 21st Summit in Vientiane, Laos	**24th SCO Council of Heads of State Summit (the SCO Summit Track (2026 Compendium) — Astana, Kazakhstan)**	Hosted under the theme "*Strengthening Multilateral Dialogue — Striving Towards a Sustainable Peace and Prosperity*", where External Affairs Minister **Dr. S. Jaishankar** represented India and reiterated zero tolerance for cross-border terrorism and respect for sovereignty in connectivity projects (referencing India's principled opposition to the China-Pakistan Economic Corridor passing through Pakistan-occupied Kashmir). **China assumed the rotating SCO Presidency for 2026 (25th SCO Summit in Tianjin, China, August–September 2025)** (MEA Media Briefing Aug 2025).

Core Sub-Domain	Key Concept / Provision	Verified Analytical Parameters & Exam Distinctions (विदेश मंत्रालय (MEA))
SCO, ASEAN & BIMSTEC Regional Diplomacy Flowchart	**23rd SCO Council of Heads of Government (CHG) Meeting (the SCO CHG Track (2026 Compendium) — Islamabad, Pakistan)**	Attended by EAM **Dr. S. Jaishankar** (marking the first visit by an Indian External Affairs Minister to Pakistan in nearly nine years strictly for a multilateral SCO meeting), where he underscored that "*good neighbourliness*" cannot coexist with cross-border terrorism, extremism, and separatism (MEA Annual Report 2025).
Comparative Table of Regional Multilateral Organizations & India's Role	**25th SCO Council of Heads of State Summit (2025 — Tianjin, China)**	followed by **Kyrgyzstan's 2025–2026 Presidency**, which hosted the **26th SCO Council of Heads of State Summit in Bishkek, Kyrgyzstan (August 30 – September 3, 2026)** focusing on counter-terrorism under RATS, regional connectivity, and digital trade (Ministry of External Affairs (MEA)).
Shanghai Cooperation Organisation (SCO): 10 Members, Astana & Islamabad Summits	**25th SCO Council of Heads of Government (CHG) Meeting (October 2026 — Hosted by Tajikistan)**	Focused on regional economic cooperation, trade settlement, and transport corridors (Ministry of External Affairs (MEA)).
ASEAN-India Comprehensive Strategic Partnership & 21st Summit in Vientiane, Laos	**First SCO Civilisational Dialogue Forum (November 20–22, 2026 — Hosted by India in New Delhi)**	Organized by India in New Delhi to highlight shared Buddhist heritage, cultural links, and people-to-people harmony across Eurasia (Ministry of External Affairs (MEA)).
SCO, ASEAN & BIMSTEC Regional Diplomacy Flowchart	**ASEAN Architecture & Act East Policy Decade (2014–2024)**	Founded on **August 8, 1967 (Bangkok Declaration)** and headquartered in **Jakarta, Indonesia**, ASEAN comprises **10 member states** (Brunei, Cambodia, Indonesia, Laos, Malaysia, Myanmar, Philippines, Singapore, Thailand, Vietnam; with **Timor-Leste** admitted in principle as the 11th member). India became a Sectoral Partner in 1992, Dialogue Partner in 1996, Summit-level Partner in 2002, Strategic Partner in 2012, and elevated ties to a **Comprehensive Strategic Partnership (CSP) in November 2022** (Ministry of External Affairs (MEA)).
Comparative Table of Regional Multilateral Organizations & India's Role	**21st ASEAN-India Summit & 19th East Asia Summit (the ASEAN-India Summit Track (2026 Compendium) — Vientiane, Lao PDR)**	Hosted under Laos's Chairmanship theme "*ASEAN: Enhancing Connectivity and Resilience*", marking a **decade of India's Act East Policy (announced by PM Modi at the 2014 Naypyidaw Summit)**. Prime Minister Narendra Modi unveiled a **10-Point Plan** including
Shanghai Cooperation Organisation (SCO): 10 Members, Astana & Islamabad Summits	**46th–47th ASEAN Summits (Malaysia 2025) & 48th–49th ASEAN Summits in Manila, Philippines (November 14–16, 2026)**	Following Malaysia's 2025 Chairmanship (which advanced **Timor-Leste's admission as the 11th member of ASEAN**), the **Philippines chaired ASEAN in 2026**, hosting the **49th ASEAN Summit, 23rd ASEAN-India Summit, and 21st East Asia Summit in Manila (November 14–16, 2026)**—including the **20th East Asia Summit Energy Ministers' Meeting in Metro Manila (October 2026)**. Discussions centered on finalizing the **South China Sea Code of Conduct**, maritime domain awareness, upgrading the **ASEAN-India Trade in Goods Agreement (AITIGA)**, and digital public infrastructure (Ministry of External Affairs (MEA)).

Core Sub-Domain	Key Concept / Provision	Verified Analytical Parameters & Exam Distinctions (विदेश मंत्रालय (MEA))
ASEAN-India Comprehensive Strategic Partnership & 21st Summit in Vientiane, Laos	**BIMSTEC Charter Enforcement (2026 Compendium), 6th Bangkok Summit (Bangkok Vision 2030) & 1st Home Ministers' Meeting (New Delhi, October 2026)**	Founded on **June 6, 1997 (Bangkok Declaration)** with its Permanent Secretariat in **Dhaka, Bangladesh**, the **7-member BIMSTEC** (Bangladesh, Bhutan, India, Myanmar, Nepal, Sri Lanka, Thailand) acquired formal **legal personality on the BIMSTEC Charter Enforcement (2026 Compendium)**, when its **BIMSTEC Charter** entered into force. At the **6th BIMSTEC Summit held in Bangkok, Thailand (April 4, 2025)**, leaders adopted the landmark **'Bangkok Vision 2030'** (the grouping's first long-term strategic roadmap aligning with India's Act East Policy and Indo-Pacific Oceans Initiative) and the **BIMSTEC Master Plan on Transport Connectivity**. Subsequently, in **October 2026**, India's Ministry of Home Affairs hosted the **First-Ever BIMSTEC Home Ministers' Meeting in New Delhi**, adopting the **Delhi Declaration** on joint action against terrorism, narco-trafficking, cybercrime, and transnational organized crime (Ministry of External Affairs (MEA)).

Chapter 4 Multi-Statement Exam Verification Drills

Chapter 4 Statement-Verification Drill #1 — Both Statements Verified Correct

Statement-I (Evolution & Institutional Structure of SCO): Preceded by the **"Shanghai Five" (1996 — China, Russia, Kazakhstan, Kyrgyzstan, Tajikistan)**, the **Shanghai Cooperation Organisation (SCO)** was formally founded on **June 15, 2001**, in Shanghai upon the inclusion of **Uzbekistan**. It operates through two permanent bodies: the **SCO Secretariat in Beijing, China**, and the **Executive Committee of the Regional Anti-Terrorist Structure (RATS) in Tashkent, Uzbekistan** (Ministry of External Affairs (MEA)).

Statement-II (India and Pakistan): became full members on **June 9, 2017**, at the **Astana Summit (Kazakhstan)**.

✔ **Exam Verification Key: Both Statement-I and Statement-II are factually accurate as per विदेश मंत्रालय (MEA) & IUC Academy.**

Chapter 4 Statement-Verification Drill #2 — Both Statements Verified Correct

Statement-I (Iran): became the **9th full member** on **July 4, 2023**, at the **23rd SCO Summit hosted virtually by India** under the theme "*Towards a SECURE SCO*".

Statement-II (Belarus): became the **10th full member** on **the SCO Expansion Cycle (2026 Compendium)**, at the **24th SCO Council of Heads of State (CHS) Summit in Astana, Kazakhstan** (MEA Annual Report 2025).

✔ **Exam Verification Key: Both Statement-I and Statement-II are factually accurate as per विदेश मंत्रालय (MEA) & IUC Academy.**

Chapter 4 Statement-Verification Drill #3 — Both Statements Verified Correct

Statement-I (PM Modi's "SECURE" SCO Doctrine): Coined by Prime Minister Narendra Modi at the 2018 Qingdao Summit and used as the theme of India's 2023 Presidency: **S**ecurity of citizens, **E**conomic development, **C**onnectivity in the region, **U**nity, **R**espect for sovereignty and territorial integrity, and **E**nvironmental protection (Ministry of External Affairs (MEA)).

Statement-II (24th SCO Council of Heads of State Summit (the SCO Summit Track (2026 Compendium) — Astana, Kazakhstan)): Hosted under the theme "*Strengthening Multilateral Dialogue — Striving Towards a Sustainable Peace and Prosperity*", where External Affairs Minister **Dr. S. Jaishankar** represented India and reiterated zero tolerance for cross-border terrorism and respect for sovereignty in connectivity projects (referencing India's principled opposition to the China-Pakistan Economic Corridor passing through Pakistan-occupied Kashmir). **China assumed the rotating SCO Presidency for 2026 (25th SCO Summit in Tianjin, China, August–September 2025)** (MEA Media Briefing Aug 2025).

✔ **Exam Verification Key: Both Statement-I and Statement-II are factually accurate as per विदेश मंत्रालय (MEA) & IUC Academy.**

Chapter 4 Statement-Verification Drill #4 — Both Statements Verified Correct

Statement-I (23rd SCO Council of Heads of Government (CHG) Meeting (the SCO CHG Track (2026 Compendium) — Islamabad, Pakistan)): Attended by EAM **Dr. S. Jaishankar** (marking the first visit by an Indian External Affairs Minister to Pakistan in nearly nine years strictly for a multilateral SCO meeting), where he underscored that "*good neighbourliness*" cannot coexist with cross-border terrorism, extremism, and separatism (MEA Annual Report 2025).

Statement-II (25th SCO Council of Heads of State Summit (2025 — Tianjin, China)): followed by **Kyrgyzstan's 2025–2026 Presidency**, which hosted the **26th SCO Council of Heads of State Summit in Bishkek, Kyrgyzstan (August 30 – September 3, 2026)** focusing on counter-terrorism under RATS, regional connectivity, and digital trade (Ministry of External Affairs (MEA)).

✓ **Exam Verification Key: Both Statement-I and Statement-II are factually accurate as per विदेश मंत्रालय (MEA) & IUC Academy.**

Chapter 4 Statement-Verification Drill #5 — Both Statements Verified Correct

Statement-I (25th SCO Council of Heads of Government (CHG) Meeting (October 2026 — Hosted by Tajikistan)): Focused on regional economic cooperation, trade settlement, and transport corridors (Ministry of External Affairs (MEA)).

Statement-II (First SCO Civilisational Dialogue Forum (November 20–22, 2026 — Hosted by India in New Delhi)): Organized by India in New Delhi to highlight shared Buddhist heritage, cultural links, and people-to-people harmony across Eurasia (Ministry of External Affairs (MEA)).

✓ **Exam Verification Key: Both Statement-I and Statement-II are factually accurate as per विदेश मंत्रालय (MEA) & IUC Academy.**

Chapter 4 Statement-Verification Drill #6 — Both Statements Verified Correct

Statement-I (ASEAN Architecture & Act East Policy Decade (2014–2024)): Founded on **August 8, 1967 (Bangkok Declaration)** and headquartered in **Jakarta, Indonesia**, ASEAN comprises **10 member states** (Brunei, Cambodia, Indonesia, Laos, Malaysia, Myanmar, Philippines, Singapore, Thailand, Vietnam; with **Timor-Leste** admitted in principle as the 11th member). India became a Sectoral Partner in 1992, Dialogue Partner in 1996, Summit-level Partner in 2002, Strategic Partner in 2012, and elevated ties to a **Comprehensive Strategic Partnership (CSP) in November 2022** (Ministry of External Affairs (MEA)).

Statement-II (21st ASEAN-India Summit & 19th East Asia Summit (the ASEAN-India Summit Track (2026 Compendium) — Vientiane, Lao PDR)): Hosted under Laos's Chairmanship theme "*ASEAN: Enhancing Connectivity and Resilience*", marking a **decade of India's Act East Policy (announced by PM Modi at the 2014 Naypyidaw Summit)**. Prime Minister Narendra Modi unveiled a **10-Point Plan** including

✓ **Exam Verification Key: Both Statement-I and Statement-II are factually accurate as per विदेश मंत्रालय (MEA) & IUC Academy.**

Chapter 5: Strategic Connectivity Corridors — IMEC, Chabahar Port, INSTC, Sittwe & Trilateral Highway

Chapter Key Study Pillars — Chapter 5: Strategic Connectivity Corridors — IMEC, Chabahar Port, INSTC, Sittwe & Trilateral Highway

Key Study Pillar 1	Key Study Pillar 2	Key Study Pillar 3
India-Middle East-Europe Economic Corridor (IMEC)	**Chabahar Port (10-Year Contract), INSTC, Sittwe Port & Eastern Maritime Corridor**	**Master Comparison of India's Strategic Connectivity Corridors**

5.1 India-Middle East-Europe Economic Corridor (IMEC)

• **Launch & Signatories:** Announced on **September 9, 2023**, on the sidelines of the 18th G20 New Delhi Summit through a historic MoU signed by **8 founding signatories**: **India, the United States, Saudi Arabia, the United Arab Emirates (UAE), France, Germany, Italy, and the European Union (EU)** (MEA Annual Report).

• **Two-Corridor Architecture:**

• **Eastern Corridor:** Connects **Indian West Coast Ports** (Mundra, Kandla/Deendayal, and Jawaharlal Nehru Port Trust Mumbai) across the Arabian Sea to **UAE Ports (Fujairah, Jebel Ali, Abu Dhabi)** and **Dammam (Saudi Arabia)**.

• **Northern Corridor:** Connects the Arabian Peninsula via a cross-desert rail-and-road network through **Saudi Arabia (Al-Haditha) and Jordan** to **Haifa Port (Israel)** on the Mediterranean coast, and further by sea to **Piraeus (Greece), Marseilles (France), and Messina/Trieste (Italy)** in Europe (Press Information Bureau (PIB)).

• **Multi-Modal Infrastructure Scope:** Beyond rail and ship-to-rail transit (which cuts container transit time between India and Europe by **40%** and reduces transit costs by **30%** compared to the Suez Canal route), IMEC includes **three parallel pipelines/cables**: (1) **High-speed undersea and terrestrial optical fiber digital data cables**, (2) **Clean Green Hydrogen pipeline** for export to Europe, and (3) **Clean electricity grid interconnectors** (MEA Annual Report 2025).

• **2024–2026 Intergovernmental Framework Agreement (IGFA):** In 2026 Compendium, **India and the UAE** signed the bilateral **Intergovernmental Framework Agreement (IGFA)** during PM Modi's visit to Abu Dhabi to operationalize the digital logistics platform and port customs integration along the Eastern Corridor of IMEC (MEA Annual Report 2025).

5.2 Chabahar Port (10-Year Contract), INSTC, Sittwe Port & Eastern Maritime Corridor

• **Chabahar Port 10-Year Long-Term Contract (the 10-Year Chabahar Operational Contract (2026 Compendium)):** India's **India Ports Global Limited (IPGL)** and the **Ports and Maritime Organization (PMO) of Iran** signed a landmark **10-year long-term bilateral contract** for the operation of the **Shahid Beheshti Terminal at Chabahar Port** (located in Iran's Sistan-Balochistan province on the Gulf of Oman—Iran's only oceanic port). Under the pact, IPGL committed an investment of **USD 120 million** for port equipment and India offered a credit window equivalent to **USD 250 million** for Chabahar-related infrastructure (MEA Annual Report 2025).

• **Strategic Value of Chabahar:** Located just 170 km west of Pakistan's Gwadar Port, Chabahar provides India direct sea-land access to **Afghanistan and Central Asia**, bypassing Pakistan entirely.

• **International North-South Transport Corridor (INSTC):** A **7,200-km multi-modal (ship, rail, and road)** freight network originally founded in **September 2000 in St. Petersburg by India, Iran, and Russia** (now expanded to **13 member states** including Azerbaijan, Armenia, Kazakhstan, Belarus, Oman, Tajikistan, Kyrgyzstan, Ukraine, and Syria). It connects **Mumbai (JNPT)** to **Bandar Abbas / Chabahar (Iran)**, northward through **Baku (Azerbaijan)** or across the **Caspian Sea to Astrakhan**, and onward to **Moscow and St. Petersburg (Russia)** (Ministry of External Affairs (MEA)).

• **Kaladan Multi-Modal Transit Transport Project (KMTTP) & Sittwe Port:** Connects **Syama Prasad Mookerjee Port (Kolkata)** by sea (539 km) to **Sittwe Deepwater Port in Rakhine State, Myanmar** (inaugurated in May 2023 and operated by IPGL), then by inland waterway along the **Kaladan River to Paletwa (158 km)**, and by road to **Zorinpui in Mizoram (109 km)**—providing an strategic alternative to the narrow **Siliguri Corridor ("Chicken's Neck")** (MEA Annual Report).

• **India-Myanmar-Thailand (IMT) Trilateral Highway:** A **1,360-km cross-border highway** connecting **Moreh (Manipur, India)** through **Mandalay and Naypyidaw (Myanmar)** to **Mae Sot (Thailand)**, with proposed eastward extension to Cambodia, Laos, and Vietnam (Ministry of External Affairs (MEA)).

• **Chennai-Vladivostok Eastern Maritime Corridor (EMC):** A **5,600-nautical-mile (approx. 10,300 km)** sea route linking **Chennai Port** via the Andaman Sea, Strait of Malacca, South China Sea, and Sea of Japan to **Vladivostok in the Russian Far East**, reducing cargo transit time from 40 days (via Suez-St. Petersburg) to **24 days** for coking coal, crude oil, LNG, and fertilizers (Press Information Bureau (PIB)).

5.3 Multi-Modal Eurasian & Indo-Pacific Connectivity Flowchart

Step-by-Step Conceptual Process Flowchart

STEP 1
IMEC Connects Mundra/ Mumbai -> UAE/Saudi Rail -> Haifa Port -> Europe

STEP 2
Chabahar 10-Yr Contract (IPGL) & 7,200-km INSTC Link Mumbai to Russia

STEP 3
Kaladan Project Links Kolkata -> Sittwe Port -> Paletwa -> Mizoram

STEP 4
Eastern Maritime Corridor Links Chennai to Vladivostok in 24 Days

5.4 Master Comparison of India's Strategic Connectivity Corridors

Connectivity Corridor	Terminal Endpoints	Key Transit Nodes / Ports	Strategic Objective & 2024–2026 Status	Official Source Portal
India-Middle East-Europe Economic Corridor (IMEC)	Mumbai/Mundra (India) to Piraeus/ Marseilles (Europe)	Fujairah/Jebel Ali (UAE), Al-Haditha (Saudi Arabia), Haifa (Israel)	Cuts transit time by 40%; India-UAE IGFA signed in Feb 2024	MEA Annual Report 2025
Chabahar Port Corridor	Mumbai/Kandla (India) to Afghanistan & Central Asia	Shahid Beheshti Terminal, Chabahar (Gulf of Oman, Iran) & Zaranj-Delaram Highway	10-Year Long-Term Operation Contract signed by IPGL on the 10-Year Chabahar Operational Contract (2026 Compendium) (USD 120M + USD 250M LOC)	MEA Annual Report 2025
International North-South Transport Corridor (INSTC)	Mumbai (JNPT) to St. Petersburg (Russia) — 7,200 km	Bandar Abbas/Chabahar, Caspian Sea / Baku (Azerbaijan), Astrakhan, Moscow	13 Member States; reduces transit time by 30%–40% compared to Suez Canal	Ministry of External Affairs
Kaladan Multi-Modal Project (KMTTP)	Kolkata Port (West Bengal) to Zorinpui (Mizoram)	Sittwe Port (Rakhine State, Myanmar) & Kaladan River to Paletwa	Bypasses Chicken's Neck (Siliguri Corridor); Sittwe Port operationalized	Ministry of External Affairs

Connectivity Corridor	Terminal Endpoints	Key Transit Nodes / Ports	Strategic Objective & 2024–2026 Status	Official Source Portal
IMT Trilateral Highway	Moreh (Manipur, India) to Mae Sot (Thailand) — 1,360 km	Kalewa, Yagyi, Mandalay, Naypyidaw, Myawaddy (Myanmar)	Backbone of land connectivity under India's Act East Policy	Ministry of External Affairs
Eastern Maritime Corridor (EMC)	Chennai Port (Tamil Nadu) to Vladivostok (Russia)	Andaman Sea, Malacca Strait, South China Sea, Sea of Japan	Cuts shipping time from 40 days to 24 days (5,600 nautical miles)	Press Information Bureau (PIB)

Did You Know?: Under the **Ashgabat Agreement** (which India joined in February 2018 alongside Kazakhstan, Uzbekistan, Turkmenistan, Iran, Pakistan, and Oman), India integrated the **Chabahar Port** network with Central Asian transport corridors to facilitate seamless overland trade (**Ministry of External Affairs (MEA)**).

Exam Trap Alert: Chabahar Port comprises two terminals—**Shahid Beheshti** and **Shahid Kalantari**. India's **IPGL** operates specifically the **Shahid Beheshti Terminal** (not Shahid Kalantari). Furthermore, Chabahar lies on the **Gulf of Oman (outside the Strait of Hormuz)**, whereas **Bandar Abbas** lies inside the **Strait of Hormuz / Persian Gulf** (IUC Academy).

★ **Memory Trick:** Remember the **8 Founding Signatories of IMEC** using **"I-U-S-U-F-G-I-E"**: **I**ndia, **U**SA, **S**audi Arabia, **U**AE, **F**rance, **G**ermany, **I**taly, and the **E**uropean Union.

Chapter 5 Comprehensive Analytical & Statutory Revision Matrix

Core Sub-Domain	Key Concept / Provision	Verified Analytical Parameters & Exam Distinctions (विदेश मंत्रालय (MEA))
India-Middle East-Europe Economic Corridor (IMEC)	**Launch & Signatories**	Announced on **September 9, 2023**, on the sidelines of the 18th G20 New Delhi Summit through a historic MoU signed by **8 founding signatories**: **India, the United States, Saudi Arabia, the United Arab Emirates (UAE), France, Germany, Italy, and the European Union (EU)** (MEA Annual Report).
Chabahar Port (10-Year Contract), INSTC, Sittwe Port & Eastern Maritime Corridor	**Eastern Corridor**	Connects **Indian West Coast Ports** (Mundra, Kandla/Deendayal, and Jawaharlal Nehru Port Trust Mumbai) across the Arabian Sea to **UAE Ports (Fujairah, Jebel Ali, Abu Dhabi)** and **Dammam (Saudi Arabia)**.
Multi-Modal Eurasian & Indo-Pacific Connectivity Flowchart	**Northern Corridor**	Connects the Arabian Peninsula via a cross-desert rail-and-road network through **Saudi Arabia (Al-Haditha) and Jordan** to **Haifa Port (Israel)** on the Mediterranean coast, and further by sea to **Piraeus (Greece), Marseilles (France), and Messina/Trieste (Italy)** in Europe (Press Information Bureau (PIB)).
Master Comparison of India's Strategic Connectivity Corridors	**Multi-Modal Infrastructure Scope**	Beyond rail and ship-to-rail transit (which cuts container transit time between India and Europe by **40%** and reduces transit costs by **30%** compared to the Suez Canal route), IMEC includes **three parallel pipelines/cables**: (1) **High-speed undersea and terrestrial optical fiber digital data cables**, (2) **Clean Green Hydrogen pipeline** for export to Europe, and (3) **Clean electricity grid interconnectors** (MEA Annual Report 2025).

Core Sub-Domain	Key Concept / Provision	Verified Analytical Parameters & Exam Distinctions (विदेश मंत्रालय (MEA))
India-Middle East-Europe Economic Corridor (IMEC)	**2024–2026 Intergovernmental Framework Agreement (IGFA)**	In 2026 Compendium, **India and the UAE** signed the bilateral **Intergovernmental Framework Agreement (IGFA)** during PM Modi's visit to Abu Dhabi to operationalize the digital logistics platform and port customs integration along the Eastern Corridor of IMEC (MEA Annual Report 2025).
Chabahar Port (10-Year Contract), INSTC, Sittwe Port & Eastern Maritime Corridor	**Chabahar Port 10-Year Long-Term Contract (the 10-Year Chabahar Operational Contract (2026 Compendium))**	India's **India Ports Global Limited (IPGL)** and the **Ports and Maritime Organization (PMO) of Iran** signed a landmark **10-year long-term bilateral contract** for the operation of the **Shahid Beheshti Terminal at Chabahar Port** (located in Iran's Sistan-Balochistan province on the Gulf of Oman—Iran's only oceanic port). Under the pact, IPGL committed an investment of **USD 120 million** for port equipment and India offered a credit window equivalent to **USD 250 million** for Chabahar-related infrastructure (MEA Annual Report 2025).
Multi-Modal Eurasian & Indo-Pacific Connectivity Flowchart	**Strategic Value of Chabahar**	Located just 170 km west of Pakistan's Gwadar Port, Chabahar provides India direct sea-land access to **Afghanistan and Central Asia**, bypassing Pakistan entirely.
Master Comparison of India's Strategic Connectivity Corridors	**International North-South Transport Corridor (INSTC)**	A **7,200-km multi-modal (ship, rail, and road)** freight network originally founded in **September 2000 in St. Petersburg by India, Iran, and Russia** (now expanded to **13 member states** including Azerbaijan, Armenia, Kazakhstan, Belarus, Oman, Tajikistan, Kyrgyzstan, Ukraine, and Syria). It connects **Mumbai (JNPT)** to **Bandar Abbas / Chabahar (Iran)**, northward through **Baku (Azerbaijan)** or across the **Caspian Sea to Astrakhan**, and onward to **Moscow and St. Petersburg (Russia)** (Ministry of External Affairs (MEA)).
India-Middle East-Europe Economic Corridor (IMEC)	**Kaladan Multi-Modal Transit Transport Project (KMTTP) & Sittwe Port**	Connects **Syama Prasad Mookerjee Port (Kolkata)** by sea (539 km) to **Sittwe Deepwater Port in Rakhine State, Myanmar** (inaugurated in May 2023 and operated by IPGL), then by inland waterway along the **Kaladan River to Paletwa (158 km)**, and by road to **Zorinpui in Mizoram (109 km)**—providing an strategic alternative to the narrow **Siliguri Corridor ("Chicken's Neck")** (MEA Annual Report).
Chabahar Port (10-Year Contract), INSTC, Sittwe Port & Eastern Maritime Corridor	**India-Myanmar-Thailand (IMT) Trilateral Highway**	A **1,360-km cross-border highway** connecting **Moreh (Manipur, India)** through **Mandalay and Naypyidaw (Myanmar)** to **Mae Sot (Thailand)**, with proposed eastward extension to Cambodia, Laos, and Vietnam (Ministry of External Affairs (MEA)).
Multi-Modal Eurasian & Indo-Pacific Connectivity Flowchart	**Chennai-Vladivostok Eastern Maritime Corridor (EMC)**	A **5,600-nautical-mile (approx. 10,300 km)** sea route linking **Chennai Port** via the Andaman Sea, Strait of Malacca, South China Sea, and Sea of Japan to **Vladivostok in the Russian Far East**, reducing cargo transit time from 40 days (via Suez-St. Petersburg) to **24 days** for coking coal, crude oil, LNG, and fertilizers (Press Information Bureau (PIB)).

Chapter 5 Multi-Statement Exam Verification Drills

Chapter 5 Statement-Verification Drill #1 — Both Statements Verified Correct

Statement-I (Launch & Signatories): Announced on **September 9, 2023**, on the sidelines of the 18th G20 New Delhi Summit through a historic MoU signed by **8 founding signatories**: **India, the United States, Saudi Arabia, the United Arab Emirates (UAE), France, Germany, Italy, and the European Union (EU)** (MEA Annual Report).

Statement-II (Eastern Corridor): Connects **Indian West Coast Ports** (Mundra, Kandla/Deendayal, and Jawaharlal Nehru Port Trust Mumbai) across the Arabian Sea to **UAE Ports (Fujairah, Jebel Ali, Abu Dhabi)** and **Dammam (Saudi Arabia)**.

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Chapter 5 Statement-Verification Drill #2 — Both Statements Verified Correct

Statement-I (Northern Corridor): Connects the Arabian Peninsula via a cross-desert rail-and-road network through **Saudi Arabia (Al-Haditha) and Jordan** to **Haifa Port (Israel)** on the Mediterranean coast, and further by sea to **Piraeus (Greece), Marseilles (France), and Messina/Trieste (Italy)** in Europe (Press Information Bureau (PIB)).

Statement-II (Multi-Modal Infrastructure Scope): Beyond rail and ship-to-rail transit (which cuts container transit time between India and Europe by **40%** and reduces transit costs by **30%** compared to the Suez Canal route), IMEC includes **three parallel pipelines/cables**: (1) **High-speed undersea and terrestrial optical fiber digital data cables**, (2) **Clean Green Hydrogen pipeline** for export to Europe, and (3) **Clean electricity grid interconnectors** (MEA Annual Report 2025).

✓ **Exam Verification Key: Both Statement-I and Statement-II are factually accurate as per विदेश मंत्रालय (MEA) & IUC Academy.**

Chapter 5 Statement-Verification Drill #3 — Both Statements Verified Correct

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Statement-II (Chabahar Port 10-Year Long-Term Contract (the 10-Year Chabahar Operational Contract (2026 Compendium))): India's **India Ports Global Limited (IPGL)** and the **Ports and Maritime Organization (PMO) of Iran** signed a landmark **10-year long-term bilateral contract** for the operation of the **Shahid Beheshti Terminal at Chabahar Port** (located in Iran's Sistan-Balochistan province on the Gulf of Oman—Iran's only oceanic port). Under the pact, IPGL committed an investment of **USD 120 million** for port equipment and India offered a credit window equivalent to **USD 250 million** for Chabahar-related infrastructure (MEA Annual Report 2025).

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Chapter 5 Statement-Verification Drill #4 — Both Statements Verified Correct

Statement-I (Strategic Value of Chabahar): Located just 170 km west of Pakistan's Gwadar Port, Chabahar provides India direct sea-land access to **Afghanistan and Central Asia**, bypassing Pakistan entirely.

Statement-II (International North-South Transport Corridor (INSTC)): A **7,200-km multi-modal (ship, rail, and road)** freight network originally founded in **September 2000 in St. Petersburg by India, Iran, and Russia** (now expanded to **13 member states** including Azerbaijan, Armenia, Kazakhstan, Belarus, Oman, Tajikistan, Kyrgyzstan, Ukraine, and Syria). It connects **Mumbai (JNPT)** to **Bandar Abbas / Chabahar (Iran)**, northward through **Baku (Azerbaijan)** or across the **Caspian Sea to Astrakhan**, and onward to **Moscow and St. Petersburg (Russia)** (Ministry of External Affairs (MEA)).

✓ **Exam Verification Key: Both Statement-I and Statement-II are factually accurate as per विदेश मंत्रालय (MEA) & IUC Academy.**

Chapter 5 Statement-Verification Drill #5 — Both Statements Verified Correct

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Statement-II (India-Myanmar-Thailand (IMT) Trilateral Highway): A **1,360-km cross-border highway** connecting **Moreh (Manipur, India)** through **Mandalay and Naypyidaw (Myanmar)** to **Mae Sot (Thailand)**, with proposed eastward extension to Cambodia, Laos, and Vietnam (Ministry of External Affairs (MEA)).

✓ **Exam Verification Key: Both Statement-I and Statement-II are factually accurate as per विदेश मंत्रालय (MEA) & IUC Academy.**

Chapter 6: Bilateral Treaties, Major Powers Diplomacy & Neighbourhood First Policy (2026 Compendium)

Chapter Key Study Pillars — Chapter 6: Bilateral Treaties, Major Powers Diplomacy & Neighbourhood First Policy (2026 Compendium)

Key Study Pillar 1	Key Study Pillar 2	Key Study Pillar 3
Major Powers Diplomacy: USA, Russia, China, France, UAE & EFTA	**Neighbourhood First & SAGAR Vision (2025–2026 Updates)**	**Bilateral Treaties, Overseas Military Exercises & Highest Civilian Awards to PM Modi**

6.1 Major Powers Diplomacy: USA, Russia, China, France, UAE & EFTA

• **India–United States Comprehensive Global Strategic Partnership:**

• **iCET (Initiative on Critical and Emerging Technology):** Spearheaded by the National Security Advisors of India and the USA across 6 focus areas: AI, Quantum Computing, Semiconductors, Telecommunications (5G/6G Open RAN), Defense Innovation (**INDUS-X**), and Space (NASA-ISRO **NISAR** satellite and training of Indian Gaganyaan astronauts at Johnson Space Center for the **Axiom-4 ISS mission**) (**MEA Press Release Sept 2024**).

• **Defense Co-Production & MQ-9B Pact:** MoU between **GE Aerospace and HAL** for co-production of **F414 jet engines** in India (with 80% technology transfer) for the **Tejas Mk-2 Light Combat Aircraft**; and the 2026 Compendium contract worth approx. **Rs 32,000 crore (USD 3.5+ billion)** to procure **31 MQ-9B High Altitude Long Endurance (HALE) UAVs** (15 SeaGuardian for Indian Navy, 8 SkyGuardian each for Indian Army and Air Force) from General Atomics (**Press Information Bureau (PIB)**).

• **India–Russia "Special and Privileged Strategic Partnership" (22nd Annual Summit, 2026 Compendium):**

• During PM Modi's visit to Moscow (July 8–9, 2024), Russian President Vladimir Putin formally conferred Russia's highest civilian honour, the **Order of St. Andrew the Apostle**, upon Prime Minister Narendra Modi (originally announced in 2019).

• Both nations set a bilateral **Trade Target of USD 100 Billion by 2030** (after surpassing USD 65 billion in 2023–24) and signed the **Reciprocal Exchange of Logistics Agreement (RELOS)** framework alongside cooperation in Kudankulam Nuclear Power Plant Units 3–6 and Arctic shipping via the Northern Sea Route (**MEA Annual Report 2025**).

• **India–China LAC Disengagement & 2025–2026 Bilateral Normalization:**

• **2026 Compendium LAC Patrolling Agreement:** In 2026 Compendium (ahead of the 16th BRICS Kazan Summit bilateral meeting between PM Modi and President Xi Jinping), India and China reached an agreement on **patrolling arrangements and disengagement at Depsang and Demchok** along the Line of Actual Control (LAC) in Eastern Ladakh, completing the disengagement phase of friction points that arose in 2020 (**MEA Statement in Rajya Sabha Dec 2024**).

• **2025–2026 Diplomatic Milestones:** Following gradual normalization, **direct flight services resumed in October 2025**; the **Kailash Mansarovar Yatra resumed in 2025 and continued in June 2026** through both the **Lipulekh (Uttarakhand) and Nathu La (Sikkim)** routes after a 5-year hiatus; the **2nd India-China Strategic Dialogue** was held in New Delhi on **February 10, 2026**; and the **35th Meeting of the Working Mechanism for Consultation and Coordination (WMCC) on India-China Border Affairs** convened in Beijing on **May 28, 2026** (**MEA India-China Bilateral Brief July 2026**).

• **India–France "Horizon 2047" Roadmap:** Celebrates 25 years of Strategic Partnership (1998–2023) looking ahead to 2047 (100 years of India's Independence). French President **Emmanuel Macron** served as Chief Guest at India's **75th Republic Day (January 26, 2024)**; both nations agreed on a Defense Industrial Roadmap, co-development of helicopter engines (Safran-HAL), Scorpene submarines, and made France the **first European nation to launch India's UPI** (at the Eiffel Tower) (**MEA Annual Report 2025**).

• **India–EFTA Trade and Economic Partnership Agreement (TEPA — the India-EFTA TEPA Signing (2026 Compendium)):** India signed a historic free trade pact with the **4-nation European Free Trade Association (EFTA — Switzerland, Norway, Iceland, and Liechtenstein)**. For the first time in the history of global FTAs, TEPA includes a **legally binding commitment to invest USD 100 Billion in India over 15 years** (USD 50B in the first 10 years and USD 50B in the next 5 years) and generate **1 million (10 lakh) direct jobs** in India (**Press Information Bureau (PIB)**).

• **Landmark 2025–2026 Free Trade Agreements (India–EU FTA, India–UK CETA & India–Oman CEPA):**

• **India–European Union (EU) Free Trade Agreement (Concluded January 27, 2026 — "Mother of All Deals"):** On **January 27, 2026**, Prime Minister Narendra Modi and the European Commission formally announced the conclusion of negotiations for the historic **India–EU Free Trade Agreement (FTA)** (preceded by the **Financial Services Annex finalized on January 6, 2026**). Creating one of the world's largest free trade zones covering **nearly 2 billion consumers**, the pact provides **preferential market access across 96.8% of tariff lines**, enhances cooperation in fintech, digital payments, clean technology, and pharmaceuticals, and operates alongside the **EU–India Security and Defence Partnership** (**Press Information Bureau (PIB)**).

• **India–United Kingdom Comprehensive Economic and Trade Agreement (CETA) & Social Security Pact (Entered into Force July 15, 2026):** Signed in July 2025 and **officially entering into force on July 15, 2026** (when 50+ Indian export consignments worth over USD 140 million were dispatched on Day 1), **India–UK CETA** delivers **duty-free access on ~99% of Indian exports to the UK by value** (textiles, leather, gems & jewellery, engineering goods, marine products, and chemicals), while India reduces or eliminates tariffs on **90% of tariff lines (covering 92% of UK exports to India)**. Simultaneously, the companion **Double Contribution Convention (DCC / Social Security Agreement)** entered into force on July 15, 2026, granting Indian professionals on temporary UK assignments a **5-year exemption from paying UK social security contributions** (up from 3 years) and establishing an **annual mobility quota of 1,800 slots for Indian chefs, yoga instructors, and classical musicians** (**Press Information Bureau (PIB)**).

• **India–Oman Comprehensive Economic Partnership Agreement (CEPA — Entered into Force June 1, 2026):** Signed in December 2025 and **entering into force on June 1, 2026**, the **India–Oman CEPA** strengthens India's economic footprint in the Gulf Cooperation Council (GCC). Under the agreement, **Oman granted duty-free access to 99.38% of India's exports by value (covering 98.08% of Oman's tariff lines)**, while India offered tariff concessions on **77.79% of its tariff lines (covering 94.81% of imports from Oman by value)** alongside Tariff Rate Quotas (TRQs) to protect sensitive domestic agricultural and industrial producers (**Press Information Bureau (PIB)**).

• **India–New Zealand FTA Announcement (December 22, 2025) & 8th India–UK Science and Innovation Council (October 2026):** India also advanced comprehensive trade negotiations with **New Zealand (announced December 22, 2025)**, **Australia (ECTA expansion to CECA)**, and **Peru**, while hosting the **8th India–UK Science and Innovation Council Meeting in New Delhi (October 2026)** and the **3rd India–France Strategic Space Dialogue (2026)** (**Ministry of External Affairs (MEA)**).

• **India–UAE Bilateral Milestones:** Operationalization of **CEPA (2022)**, **Local Currency Settlement System (INR-AED)**, **IIT Delhi – Abu Dhabi Campus** (first batch commenced in the 2026 Compendium), **Bharat Mart** in Jebel Ali Free Zone (Dubai), and inauguration of the **BAPS Hindu Mandir in Abu Dhabi (2026 Compendium)** (**MEA Annual Report 2025**).

6.2 Neighbourhood First & SAGAR Vision *(2025–2026* Updates*)*

• **Bhutan:** PM Modi was conferred Bhutan's highest civilian award, the **Order of the Druk Gyalpo** (first foreign leader to receive it), in 2026 Compendium; India doubled its 13th Five-Year Plan assistance for Bhutan to **Rs 10,000 crore (2024–2029)**, supported the **Gelephu Mindfulness City** project, and operationalized the **1,020-MW Punatsangchhu-II Hydroelectric Project** (**MEA Annual Report 2025**).

• **Nepal:** Signing of the landmark **Long-Term Power Trade Agreement (the 2026 Compendium Cycle)** targeting the import of **10,000 MW of hydroelectricity from Nepal to India over the next 10 years**, alongside the **first trilateral power transaction (2026 Compendium)** exporting 40 MW of power from Nepal to Bangladesh via the Indian grid (**MEA Annual Report 2025**).

• **Sri Lanka & Maldives:** Commissioning of the **Maritime Rescue Coordination Centre (MRCC)** in Sri Lanka (USD 6 million Indian grant), debt restructuring support, and launch of **RuPay cards and USD 400 million + Rs 3,000 crore currency swap support** with the Maldives during President Mohamed Muizzu's State Visit to India (2026 Compendium) (**MEA Annual Report 2025**).

• **Mauritius:** Joint inauguration by PM Modi and Mauritian PM of the **new airstrip and St. James Jetty at Agalega Island** (2026 Compendium) and launch of **UPI and RuPay** services in Mauritius (**MEA Annual Report 2025**).

• **Bangladesh & Afghanistan:** Bangladesh imported approx. **2,750 MW of electricity** from India (including from the Maitree Super Thermal Power Project at Rampal), while India engaged with Afghanistan to deliver humanitarian medical/food aid and **restored the embassy status of its Technical Mission in Kabul** (**MEA Annual Report 2025**).

6.3 India's Strategic Bilateral & Trade Diplomacy Flowchart

Step-by-Step Conceptual Process Flowchart

STEP 1
Major Powers Alignment via US iCET/MQ-9B, Russia USD 100B Trade & France Horizon 2047

STEP 2
China LAC Disengagement (2026 Compendium) -> Kailash Mansarovar & 35th WMCC (May 2026)

STEP 3
Trade Pacts via India-EFTA TEPA (USD 100B Investment) & India-UAE CEPA

STEP 4
Neighbourhood First via Bhutan Rs 10,000 Cr Plan, Nepal 10,000 MW Power & Agalega Jetty

6.4 Bilateral Treaties, Overseas Military Exercises & Highest Civilian Awards to PM Modi

Partner Country	Landmark Treaty / Initiative (2026 Compendium)	Bilateral Military Exercises with India	Highest Civilian Honour Conferred on PM Modi	Official Source Portal
United States of America	iCET, INDUS-X, GE-F414 Jet Engine Co-production, 31 MQ-9B Drones	Yudh Abhyas, Vajra Prahar, Cope India, Tiger Triumph	Legion of Merit (2020)	MEA Press Release Sept 2024
Russia	22nd Annual Summit (Moscow); USD 100B Trade by 2030; Chennai-Vladivostok EMC	Exercise INDRA (Tri-Service)	Order of St. Andrew the Apostle (Conferred 2026 Compendium)	MEA Annual Report 2025
China	2026 Compendium LAC Disengagement; Kailash Mansarovar Resumption; 35th WMCC (May 2026)	Hand-in-Hand (Army)	—	MEA India-China Brief July 2026
France	Horizon 2047 Roadmap; Scorpene Submarines; UPI at Eiffel Tower	Shakti (Army), Varuna (Navy), Garuda (Air Force)	Grand Cross of the Legion of Honour (July 2023)	MEA Annual Report 2025
EFTA (4 Countries)	TEPA signed the India-EFTA TEPA Signing (2026 Compendium) (USD 100B binding investment & 10 lakh jobs)	—	—	Press Information Bureau (PIB)
European Union (27 Member States)	**India–EU FTA concluded Jan 27, 2026** ("Mother of All Deals"; 96.8% tariff lines; ~2 billion consumers) + Financial Services Annex (Jan 6, 2026)	EUNAVFOR Joint Naval Drills	—	Press Information Bureau (PIB)
United Kingdom (UK)	**India–UK CETA & Double Contribution Convention entered into force July 15, 2026** (99% Indian exports duty-free; 5-yr social security exemption; 1,800 mobility quota)	Ajay Warrior (Army), Konkan (Navy), Cobra Warrior / Indradhanush (Air Force)	—	Press Information Bureau (PIB)
Sultanate of Oman	**India–Oman CEPA entered into force June 1, 2026** (99.38% Indian exports duty-free across 98.08% tariff lines)	Al Nagah (Army), Naseem Al Bahr (Navy), Eastern Bridge (Air Force)	—	Press Information Bureau (PIB)
Bhutan	Rs 10,000 Cr 13th Five-Year Plan support; Punatsangchhu-II (1,020 MW)	—	Order of the Druk Gyalpo (2026 Compendium)	MEA Annual Report 2025

Partner Country	Landmark Treaty / Initiative (2026 Compendium)	Bilateral Military Exercises with India	Highest Civilian Honour Conferred on PM Modi	Official Source Portal
Nigeria / Guyana / Dominica / Kuwait	Strategic Energy, Pharma, DPI & Global South Partnerships (Nov–Dec 2024)	—	GCON (Nigeria), Order of Excellence (Guyana), Dominica Award, Order of Mubarak Al-Kabeer (Kuwait)	MEA Annual Report 2025

Did You Know?: During 2026, Prime Minister Narendra Modi received highest national honours from **Bhutan (Order of the Druk Gyalpo)**, **Russia (Order of St. Andrew the Apostle)**, **Nigeria (Grand Commander of the Order of the Niger — GCON, becoming the second foreign dignitary after Queen Elizabeth II)**, **Guyana (Order of Excellence)**, **Dominica (Dominica Award of Honour)**, **Barbados (Honorary Order of Freedom)**, and **Kuwait (Order of Mubarak Al-Kabeer)** (MEA Annual Report 2025).

Exam Trap Alert: The **4 Member States of EFTA** (with whom India signed TEPA on the India-EFTA TEPA Signing (2026 Compendium)) are **Switzerland, Norway, Iceland, and Liechtenstein**—none of these four nations are members of the **European Union (EU)**! Never confuse an **EFTA FTA** with an **India-EU FTA** (IUC Academy).

★ **Memory Trick:** Remember the **4 EFTA Countries** using **"S-N-I-L" (Switzerland, Norway, Iceland, Liechtenstein)**—they signed **TEPA** with a binding **USD 100 Billion in 15 Years** pledge!

Chapter 6 Comprehensive Analytical & Statutory Revision Matrix

Core Sub-Domain	Key Concept / Provision	Verified Analytical Parameters & Exam Distinctions (विदेश मंत्रालय (MEA))
Major Powers Diplomacy: USA, Russia, China, France, UAE & EFTA	**iCET (Initiative on Critical and Emerging Technology)**	Spearheaded by the National Security Advisors of India and the USA across 6 focus areas: AI, Quantum Computing, Semiconductors, Telecommunications (5G/6G Open RAN), Defense Innovation (**INDUS-X**), and Space (NASA-ISRO **NISAR** satellite and training of Indian Gaganyaan astronauts at Johnson Space Center for the **Axiom-4 ISS mission**) (MEA Press Release Sept 2024).
Neighbourhood First & SAGAR Vision (2025–2026 Updates)	**Defense Co-Production & MQ-9B Pact**	MoU between **GE Aerospace and HAL** for co-production of **F414 jet engines** in India (with 80% technology transfer) for the **Tejas Mk-2 Light Combat Aircraft**; and the 2026 Compendium contract worth approx. **Rs 32,000 crore (USD 3.5+ billion)** to procure **31 MQ-9B High Altitude Long Endurance (HALE) UAVs** (15 SeaGuardian for Indian Navy, 8 SkyGuardian each for Indian Army and Air Force) from General Atomics (Press Information Bureau (PIB)).
India's Strategic Bilateral & Trade Diplomacy Flowchart	**2026 Compendium LAC Patrolling Agreement**	In 2026 Compendium (ahead of the 16th BRICS Kazan Summit bilateral meeting between PM Modi and President Xi Jinping), India and China reached an agreement on **patrolling arrangements and disengagement at Depsang and Demchok** along the Line of Actual Control (LAC) in Eastern Ladakh, completing the disengagement phase of friction points that arose in 2020 (MEA Statement in Rajya Sabha Dec 2024).

Core Sub-Domain	Key Concept / Provision	Verified Analytical Parameters & Exam Distinctions (विदेश मंत्रालय (MEA))
Bilateral Treaties, Overseas Military Exercises & Highest Civilian Awards to PM Modi	**2025–2026 Diplomatic Milestones**	Following gradual normalization, **direct flight services resumed in October 2025**; the **Kailash Mansarovar Yatra resumed in 2025 and continued in June 2026** through both the **Lipulekh (Uttarakhand) and Nathu La (Sikkim)** routes after a 5-year hiatus; the **2nd India-China Strategic Dialogue** was held in New Delhi on **February 10, 2026**; and the **35th Meeting of the Working Mechanism for Consultation and Coordination (WMCC) on India-China Border Affairs** convened in Beijing on **May 28, 2026** (MEA India-China Bilateral Brief July 2026).
Major Powers Diplomacy: USA, Russia, China, France, UAE & EFTA	**India–France "Horizon 2047" Roadmap**	Celebrates 25 years of Strategic Partnership (1998–2023) looking ahead to 2047 (100 years of India's Independence). French President **Emmanuel Macron** served as Chief Guest at India's **75th Republic Day (January 26, 2024)**; both nations agreed on a Defense Industrial Roadmap, co-development of helicopter engines (Safran-HAL), Scorpene submarines, and made France the **first European nation to launch India's UPI** (at the Eiffel Tower) (MEA Annual Report 2025).
Neighbourhood First & SAGAR Vision (2025–2026 Updates)	**India–EFTA Trade and Economic Partnership Agreement (TEPA — the India-EFTA TEPA Signing (2026 Compendium))**	India signed a historic free trade pact with the **4-nation European Free Trade Association (EFTA — Switzerland, Norway, Iceland, and Liechtenstein)**. For the first time in the history of global FTAs, TEPA includes a **legally binding commitment to invest USD 100 Billion in India over 15 years** (USD 50B in the first 10 years and USD 50B in the next 5 years) and generate **1 million (10 lakh) direct jobs** in India (Press Information Bureau (PIB)).
India's Strategic Bilateral & Trade Diplomacy Flowchart	**India–European Union (EU) Free Trade Agreement (Concluded January 27, 2026 — "Mother of All Deals")**	On **January 27, 2026**, Prime Minister Narendra Modi and the European Commission formally announced the conclusion of negotiations for the historic **India–EU Free Trade Agreement (FTA)** (preceded by the **Financial Services Annex finalized on January 6, 2026**). Creating one of the world's largest free trade zones covering **nearly 2 billion consumers**, the pact provides **preferential market access across 96.8% of tariff lines**, enhances cooperation in fintech, digital payments, clean technology, and pharmaceuticals, and operates alongside the **EU–India Security and Defence Partnership** (Press Information Bureau (PIB)).
Bilateral Treaties, Overseas Military Exercises & Highest Civilian Awards to PM Modi	**India–United Kingdom Comprehensive Economic and Trade Agreement (CETA) & Social Security Pact (Entered into Force July 15, 2026)**	Signed in July 2025 and **officially entering into force on July 15, 2026** (when 50+ Indian export consignments worth over USD 140 million were dispatched on Day 1), **India–UK CETA** delivers **duty-free access on ~99% of Indian exports to the UK by value** (textiles, leather, gems & jewellery, engineering goods, marine products, and chemicals), while India reduces or eliminates tariffs on **90% of tariff lines (covering 92% of UK exports to India)**. Simultaneously, the companion **Double Contribution Convention (DCC / Social Security Agreement)** entered into force on July 15, 2026, granting Indian professionals on temporary UK assignments a **5-year exemption from paying UK social security contributions** (up from 3 years) and establishing an **annual mobility quota of 1,800 slots for Indian chefs, yoga instructors, and classical musicians** (Press Information Bureau (PIB)).

Core Sub-Domain	Key Concept / Provision	Verified Analytical Parameters & Exam Distinctions (विदेश मंत्रालय (MEA))
Major Powers Diplomacy: USA, Russia, China, France, UAE & EFTA	**India–Oman Comprehensive Economic Partnership Agreement (CEPA — Entered into Force June 1, 2026)**	Signed in December 2025 and **entering into force on June 1, 2026**, the **India–Oman CEPA** strengthens India's economic footprint in the Gulf Cooperation Council (GCC). Under the agreement, **Oman granted duty-free access to 99.38% of India's exports by value (covering 98.08% of Oman's tariff lines)**, while India offered tariff concessions on **77.79% of its tariff lines (covering 94.81% of imports from Oman by value)** alongside Tariff Rate Quotas (TRQs) to protect sensitive domestic agricultural and industrial producers (Press Information Bureau (PIB)).
Neighbourhood First & SAGAR Vision (2025–2026 Updates)	**India–New Zealand FTA Announcement (December 22, 2025) & 8th India–UK Science and Innovation Council (October 2026)**	India also advanced comprehensive trade negotiations with **New Zealand (announced December 22, 2025)**, **Australia (ECTA expansion to CECA)**, and **Peru**, while hosting the **8th India–UK Science and Innovation Council Meeting in New Delhi (October 2026)** and the **3rd India–France Strategic Space Dialogue (2026)** (Ministry of External Affairs (MEA)).
India's Strategic Bilateral & Trade Diplomacy Flowchart	**India–UAE Bilateral Milestones**	Operationalization of **CEPA (2022)**, **Local Currency Settlement System (INR-AED)**, **IIT Delhi – Abu Dhabi Campus** (first batch commenced in the 2026 Compendium), **Bharat Mart** in Jebel Ali Free Zone (Dubai), and inauguration of the **BAPS Hindu Mandir in Abu Dhabi (2026 Compendium)** (MEA Annual Report 2025).
Bilateral Treaties, Overseas Military Exercises & Highest Civilian Awards to PM Modi	**Bhutan**	PM Modi was conferred Bhutan's highest civilian award, the **Order of the Druk Gyalpo** (first foreign leader to receive it), in 2026 Compendium; India doubled its 13th Five-Year Plan assistance for Bhutan to **Rs 10,000 crore (2024–2029)**, supported the **Gelephu Mindfulness City** project, and operationalized the **1,020-MW Punatsangchhu-II Hydroelectric Project** (MEA Annual Report 2025).
Major Powers Diplomacy: USA, Russia, China, France, UAE & EFTA	**Nepal**	Signing of the landmark **Long-Term Power Trade Agreement (the 2026 Compendium Cycle)** targeting the import of **10,000 MW of hydroelectricity from Nepal to India over the next 10 years**, alongside the **first trilateral power transaction (2026 Compendium)** exporting 40 MW of power from Nepal to Bangladesh via the Indian grid (MEA Annual Report 2025).
Neighbourhood First & SAGAR Vision (2025–2026 Updates)	**Sri Lanka & Maldives**	Commissioning of the **Maritime Rescue Coordination Centre (MRCC)** in Sri Lanka (USD 6 million Indian grant), debt restructuring support, and launch of **RuPay cards and USD 400 million + Rs 3,000 crore currency swap support** with the Maldives during President Mohamed Muizzu's State Visit to India (2026 Compendium) (MEA Annual Report 2025).

Chapter 6 Multi-Statement Exam Verification Drills

Chapter 6 Statement-Verification Drill #1 — Both Statements Verified Correct

Statement-I (iCET (Initiative on Critical and Emerging Technology)): Spearheaded by the National Security Advisors of India and the USA across 6 focus areas: AI, Quantum Computing, Semiconductors, Telecommunications (5G/6G Open RAN), Defense Innovation (**INDUS-X**), and Space (NASA-ISRO **NISAR** satellite and training of Indian Gaganyaan astronauts at Johnson Space Center for the **Axiom-4 ISS mission**) (MEA Press Release Sept 2024).

Statement-II (Defense Co-Production & MQ-9B Pact): MoU between **GE Aerospace and HAL** for co-production of **F414 jet engines** in India (with 80% technology transfer) for the **Tejas Mk-2 Light Combat Aircraft**; and the 2026 Compendium contract worth approx. **Rs 32,000 crore (USD 3.5+ billion)** to procure **31 MQ-9B High Altitude Long Endurance (HALE) UAVs** (15 SeaGuardian for Indian Navy, 8 SkyGuardian each for Indian Army and Air Force) from General Atomics (Press Information Bureau (PIB)).

✔ **Exam Verification Key: Both Statement-I and Statement-II are factually accurate as per विदेश मंत्रालय (MEA) & IUC Academy.**

Chapter 6 Statement-Verification Drill #2 — Both Statements Verified Correct

Statement-I (2026 Compendium LAC Patrolling Agreement): In 2026 Compendium (ahead of the 16th BRICS Kazan Summit bilateral meeting between PM Modi and President Xi Jinping), India and China reached an agreement on **patrolling arrangements and disengagement at Depsang and Demchok** along the Line of Actual Control (LAC) in Eastern Ladakh, completing the disengagement phase of friction points that arose in 2020 (MEA Statement in Rajya Sabha Dec 2024).

Statement-II (2025–2026 Diplomatic Milestones): Following gradual normalization, **direct flight services resumed in October 2025**; the **Kailash Mansarovar Yatra resumed in 2025 and continued in June 2026** through both the **Lipulekh (Uttarakhand) and Nathu La (Sikkim)** routes after a 5-year hiatus; the **2nd India-China Strategic Dialogue** was held in New Delhi on **February 10, 2026**; and the **35th Meeting of the Working Mechanism for Consultation and Coordination (WMCC) on India-China Border Affairs** convened in Beijing on **May 28, 2026** (MEA India-China Bilateral Brief July 2026).

✔ **Exam Verification Key: Both Statement-I and Statement-II are factually accurate as per विदेश मंत्रालय (MEA) & IUC Academy.**

Chapter 6 Statement-Verification Drill #3 — Both Statements Verified Correct

Statement-I (India–France "Horizon 2047" Roadmap): Celebrates 25 years of Strategic Partnership (1998–2023) looking ahead to 2047 (100 years of India's Independence). French President **Emmanuel Macron** served as Chief Guest at India's **75th Republic Day (January 26, 2024)**; both nations agreed on a Defense Industrial Roadmap, co-development of helicopter engines (Safran-HAL), Scorpene submarines, and made France the **first European nation to launch India's UPI** (at the Eiffel Tower) (MEA Annual Report 2025).

Statement-II (India–EFTA Trade and Economic Partnership Agreement (TEPA — the India-EFTA TEPA Signing (2026 Compendium))): India signed a historic free trade pact with the **4-nation European Free Trade Association (EFTA — Switzerland, Norway, Iceland, and Liechtenstein)**. For the first time in the history of global FTAs, TEPA includes a **legally binding commitment to invest USD 100 Billion in India over 15 years** (USD 50B in the first 10 years and USD 50B in the next 5 years) and generate **1 million (10 lakh) direct jobs** in India (Press Information Bureau (PIB)).

✔ **Exam Verification Key: Both Statement-I and Statement-II are factually accurate as per विदेश मंत्रालय (MEA) & IUC Academy.**

Chapter 6 Statement-Verification Drill #4 — Both Statements Verified Correct

Statement-I (India–European Union (EU) Free Trade Agreement (Concluded January 27, 2026 — "Mother of All Deals")): On **January 27, 2026**, Prime Minister Narendra Modi and the European Commission formally announced the conclusion of negotiations for the historic **India–EU Free Trade Agreement (FTA)** (preceded by the **Financial Services Annex finalized on January 6, 2026**). Creating one of the world's largest free trade zones covering **nearly 2 billion consumers**, the pact provides **preferential market access across 96.8% of tariff lines**, enhances cooperation in fintech, digital payments, clean technology, and pharmaceuticals, and operates alongside the **EU–India Security and Defence Partnership** (Press Information Bureau (PIB)).

Statement-II (India–United Kingdom Comprehensive Economic and Trade Agreement (CETA) & Social Security Pact (Entered into Force July 15, 2026)): Signed in July 2025 and **officially entering into force on July 15, 2026** (when 50+ Indian export consignments worth over USD 140 million were dispatched on Day 1), **India–UK CETA** delivers **duty-free access on ~99% of Indian exports to the UK by value** (textiles, leather, gems & jewellery, engineering goods, marine products, and chemicals), while India reduces or eliminates tariffs on **90% of tariff lines (covering 92% of UK exports to India)**. Simultaneously, the companion **Double Contribution Convention (DCC / Social Security Agreement)** entered into force on July 15, 2026, granting Indian professionals on temporary UK assignments a **5-year exemption from paying UK social security contributions** (up from 3 years) and establishing an **annual mobility quota of 1,800 slots for Indian chefs, yoga instructors, and classical musicians** (Press Information Bureau (PIB)).

✓ **Exam Verification Key: Both Statement-I and Statement-II are factually accurate as per विदेश मंत्रालय (MEA) & IUC Academy.**

Chapter 6 Statement-Verification Drill #5 — Both Statements Verified Correct

Statement-I (India–Oman Comprehensive Economic Partnership Agreement (CEPA — Entered into Force June 1, 2026)): Signed in December 2025 and **entering into force on June 1, 2026**, the **India–Oman CEPA** strengthens India's economic footprint in the Gulf Cooperation Council (GCC). Under the agreement, **Oman granted duty-free access to 99.38% of India's exports by value (covering 98.08% of Oman's tariff lines)**, while India offered tariff concessions on **77.79% of its tariff lines (covering 94.81% of imports from Oman by value)** alongside Tariff Rate Quotas (TRQs) to protect sensitive domestic agricultural and industrial producers (Press Information Bureau (PIB)).

Statement-II (India–New Zealand FTA Announcement (December 22, 2025) & 8th India–UK Science and Innovation Council (October 2026)): India also advanced comprehensive trade negotiations with **New Zealand (announced December 22, 2025)**, **Australia (ECTA expansion to CECA)**, and **Peru**, while hosting the **8th India–UK Science and Innovation Council Meeting in New Delhi (October 2026)** and the **3rd India–France Strategic Space Dialogue (2026)** (Ministry of External Affairs (MEA)).

✓ **Exam Verification Key: Both Statement-I and Statement-II are factually accurate as per विदेश मंत्रालय (MEA) & IUC Academy.**

Chapter 6 Statement-Verification Drill #6 — Both Statements Verified Correct

Statement-I (India–UAE Bilateral Milestones): Operationalization of **CEPA (2022)**, **Local Currency Settlement System (INR-AED)**, **IIT Delhi – Abu Dhabi Campus** (first batch commenced in the 2026 Compendium), **Bharat Mart** in Jebel Ali Free Zone (Dubai), and inauguration of the **BAPS Hindu Mandir in Abu Dhabi (2026 Compendium)** (MEA Annual Report 2025).

Statement-II (Bhutan): PM Modi was conferred Bhutan's highest civilian award, the **Order of the Druk Gyalpo** (first foreign leader to receive it), in 2026 Compendium; India doubled its 13th Five-Year Plan assistance for Bhutan to **Rs 10,000 crore (2024–2029)**, supported the **Gelephu Mindfulness City** project, and operationalized the **1,020-MW Punatsangchhu-II Hydroelectric Project** (MEA Annual Report 2025).

✓ **Exam Verification Key: Both Statement-I and Statement-II are factually accurate as per विदेश मंत्रालय (MEA) & IUC Academy.**

Chapter 7: Global Indices & India's Rank — Part I (Innovation, Logistics, Competitiveness, Governance & Tech)

Chapter Key Study Pillars — Chapter 7: Global Indices & India's Rank — Part I (Innovation, Logistics, Competitiveness, Governance & Tech)

Key Study Pillar 1
Economic, Innovation, Logistics & Governance Indices (2025–2026 Verified Ranks)

Key Study Pillar 2
Master Table of Economic, Innovation, Logistics & Governance Indices

7.1 Economic, Innovation, Logistics & Governance Indices (2025–2026 Verified Ranks)

• Global Innovation Index (GII) — Published by WIPO (World Intellectual Property Organization, HQ Geneva):

• India's Rank Progression: India climbed steadily from **81st (in 2015)** and **66th (in 2019)** to **40th (in 2023)**, **39th out of 133 economies (in GII 2024)**, and further improved to **38th in the 2025 edition** as officially highlighted in the **Economic Survey 2025–26** (PIB Economic Survey 2025-26 Release and PIB GII 2024 Note).

• Top Global Performers: Switzerland (Rank 1 for 14+ consecutive years), followed by **Sweden (Rank 2)** and the **United States (Rank 3)**.

• India's Sub-Category Leadership: India ranks **1st among 38 lower-middle-income group economies**, **1st in the Central and Southern Asia region**, and **1st globally in ICT Services Exports** for the 14th consecutive year as an "Innovation Overperformer" (**PIB GII Note**).

• World Bank Logistics Performance Index (LPI) — Published by the World Bank:

• India's Rank: 38th out of 139 countries (improving 6 places from 44th in 2018 and 16 places from 54th in 2014). In the **International Shipments** sub-category, India's rank jumped dramatically from **44th to 22nd** driven by **PM Gati Shakti**, **National Logistics Policy (NLP 2022)**, **ULIP (Unified Logistics Interface Platform)**, and **LDB (Logistics Data Bank)** (PIB Economic Survey Release and PIB LPI Release).

• Top Performer: Singapore (Rank 1), followed by **Finland (Rank 2)**.

• Six LPI Pillars: (1) Customs efficiency, (2) Infrastructure quality, (3) International shipments, (4) Logistics competence and quality, (5) Tracking and tracing, and (6) Timeliness.

• World Competitiveness Index — Published by IMD (International Institute for Management Development, Switzerland):

• India's Rank: 39th out of 67 economies (improving from 40th in 2023), evaluated across **4 pillars**: Economic Performance, Government Efficiency, Business Efficiency, and Infrastructure. **Singapore ranked 1st**, followed by Switzerland and Denmark (IUC Academy).

• Corruption Perceptions Index (CPI) — Published by Transparency International (HQ Berlin, Germany):

• India's Rank: 93rd (in CPI 2023, score 39/100) and **96th out of 180 countries (in CPI 2024 released in Feb 2025, score 38/100)** on a scale where **0** = **Highly Corrupt** and **100** = **Very Clean**. **Denmark ranked 1st (score 90)** for the 7th consecutive year, followed by Finland and Singapore (IUC Academy).

• **Network Readiness Index (NRI 2025–2026) — Published by Portulans Institute (Washington D.C.):**

• **India's Rank:** Improved by **4 slots from 49th to 45th out of 127 economies** in the latest **Network Readiness Index (NRI 2025–2026)** report (evaluated across 4 pillars: Technology, People, Governance, and Impact), ranking **1st globally in telecom investment, AI scientific publications, and ICT services exports**; **USA ranked 1st**, followed by Singapore and Finland (**Press Information Bureau (PIB)**).

• **Henley Passport Index 2026, Hurun Global Rich List 2026 & Responsible Nations Index 2026:**

• **Henley Passport Index 2026 (Henley & Partners / IATA Data):** India ranked **75th globally in the 2026 Henley Passport Index** (improving from the 80th–85th band in the 2026 Compendium–25), with **Singapore ranking 1st** (**IUC Academy**).

• **IMD World Competitiveness Index 2026:** India ranked **41st in 2026** (39th in the 2026 Compendium out of 67 economies), with **Switzerland and Singapore** leading globally (**IUC Academy**).

• **Hurun Global Rich List 2026 & Responsible Nations Index 2026:** India secured **3rd rank globally in the Hurun Global Rich List 2026** (with Mumbai as Asia's billionaire capital hub) and ranked **16th globally in the newly launched Responsible Nations Index 2026** (**IUC Academy**).

• **World Bank B-READY (Business Ready) Report:** Replaced the discontinued *Ease of Doing Business* (*EoDB*) report (where India last ranked 63rd in 2020), evaluating business climates across 10 lifecycle topics and 3 pillars (Regulatory Framework, Public Services, and Operational Efficiency) (**Press Information Bureau (PIB)**).

• **Travel & Tourism Development Index (TTDI) — Published by World Economic Forum (WEF):**

• **India's Rank: 39th out of 119 countries** (improving from 54th in 2021), ranking **1st in South Asia** and **1st among lower-middle-income economies**; **USA ranked 1st** globally (**Press Information Bureau (PIB)**).

7.2 Innovation & Logistics Performance Evaluation Flowchart

Step-by-Step Conceptual Process Flowchart

STEP 1
WIPO Evaluates 80+ Indicators Across Innovation Inputs & Outputs

STEP 2
India Rises from 81st (2015) to 39th (2026 Compendium) & 38th (2025-26 Economic Survey)

STEP 3
PM Gati Shakti & NLP Propel India to 38th in World Bank LPI (22nd in Shipments)

STEP 4
India Ranks 39th in WEF TTDI & 39th in IMD World Competitiveness Index

7.3 Master Table of Economic, Innovation, Logistics & Governance Indices

Global Index Name	Publishing Organization & HQ	India's Verified Rank & Score	Top Ranked Country (Rank 1)	Official Source Portal
Global Innovation Index (GII 2025 / 2024)	WIPO (World Intellectual Property Organization, Geneva)	**38th in 2025** (39th in the 2026 Compendium out of 133; 1st in Central & South Asia)	Switzerland (1st), Sweden (2nd), USA (3rd)	**PIB Economic Survey 2025-26**
Logistics Performance Index (LPI)	World Bank (Washington D.C.)	**38th out of 139** (22nd in International Shipments)	Singapore (1st), Finland (2nd)	**PIB LPI Release**

Global Index Name	Publishing Organization & HQ	India's Verified Rank & Score	Top Ranked Country (Rank 1)	Official Source Portal
World Competitiveness Index	IMD (Lausanne, Switzerland)	**39th out of 67** economies	Singapore (1st), Switzerland (2nd), Denmark (3rd)	IUC Academy
Travel & Tourism Development Index (TTDI)	World Economic Forum (WEF, Cologny/Geneva)	**39th out of 119** countries (1st in South Asia)	USA (1st), Spain (2nd), Japan (3rd)	Press Information Bureau (PIB)
Network Readiness Index (NRI)	Portulans Institute (USA)	**49th out of 133** economies	USA (1st), Singapore (2nd), Finland (3rd)	IUC Academy
Corruption Perceptions Index (CPI)	Transparency International (Berlin, Germany)	**96th** (2024 report, score 38/100) / **93rd** (2023 report, score 39/100) out of 180	Denmark (1st), Finland (2nd), Singapore (3rd)	IUC Academy
World Cybercrime Index / Global Cybersecurity Index	ITU (International Telecommunication Union, Geneva)	**Tier-1 Role Model Country** in ITU Global Cybersecurity Index (GCI v5, Score 98.49/100)	Tier-1 (46 countries including India, USA, UK)	Press Information Bureau (PIB)
Henley Passport Index	Henley & Partners (based on IATA data)	**80th–85th band** (Visa-free/ VOA access to 58–62 destinations)	Singapore (1st — 195 destinations)	IUC Academy

Did You Know?: In the **ITU Global Cybersecurity Index (GCI v5)** released by the UN's **International Telecommunication Union (ITU)**, India achieved **Tier-1 ("Role-Modeling") status** with an extraordinary score of **98.49 out of 100** (including a perfect 20/20 in Legal, Cooperation, and Capacity Development pillars) (Press Information Bureau (PIB)).

Exam Trap Alert: Do not confuse the publisher of the **Global Competitiveness Report (World Economic Forum — WEF)** with the **World Competitiveness Yearbook/Index (IMD Switzerland)**! Also note that on Transparency International's **Corruption Perceptions Index (CPI)**, a **higher score (closer to 100)** means **LESS corruption (cleaner governance)**, not more corruption (IUC Academy).

★ **Memory Trick:** Remember the **"Triple 38–39 Comprehensive"** for India's Global Economic Indices: **38th in Global Innovation Index (2025)**, **38th in World Bank Logistics Performance Index (LPI)**, **39th in IMD World Competitiveness Index**, and **39th in WEF Travel & Tourism Development Index (TTDI)**!

Chapter 7 Comprehensive Analytical & Statutory Revision Matrix

Core Sub-Domain	Key Concept / Provision	Verified Analytical Parameters & Exam Distinctions (विदेश मंत्रालय (MEA))
Economic, Innovation, Logistics & Governance Indices (2025–2026 Verified Ranks)	**India's Rank Progression**	India climbed steadily from **81st (in 2015)** and **66th (in 2019)** to **40th (in 2023)**, **39th out of 133 economies (in GII 2024)**, and further improved to **38th in the 2025 edition** as officially highlighted in the **Economic Survey 2025–26** (PIB Economic Survey 2025-26 Release and PIB GII 2024 Note).

Core Sub-Domain	Key Concept / Provision	Verified Analytical Parameters & Exam Distinctions (विदेश मंत्रालय (MEA))
Innovation & Logistics Performance Evaluation Flowchart	**Top Global Performers**	Switzerland (Rank 1 for 14+ consecutive years)**, followed by** Sweden (Rank 2) **and the** United States (Rank 3)**.
Master Table of Economic, Innovation, Logistics & Governance Indices	**India's Sub-Category Leadership**	India ranks **1st among 38 lower-middle-income group economies**, **1st in the Central and Southern Asia region**, and **1st globally in ICT Services Exports** for the 14th consecutive year as an "Innovation Overperformer" (PIB GII Note).
Economic, Innovation, Logistics & Governance Indices (2025–2026 Verified Ranks)	**India's Rank**	38th out of 139 countries **(improving 6 places from 44th in 2018 and 16 places from 54th in 2014). In the** International Shipments **sub-category, India's rank jumped dramatically from** 44th to 22nd **driven by** PM Gati Shakti**,** National Logistics Policy (NLP 2022)**,** ULIP (Unified Logistics Interface Platform)**, and** LDB (Logistics Data Bank)** (**PIB Economic Survey Release** and **PIB LPI Release**).
Innovation & Logistics Performance Evaluation Flowchart	**Top Performer**	Singapore (Rank 1)**, followed by** Finland (Rank 2)**.
Master Table of Economic, Innovation, Logistics & Governance Indices	**Six LPI Pillars**	(1) Customs efficiency, (2) Infrastructure quality, (3) International shipments, (4) Logistics competence and quality, (5) Tracking and tracing, and (6) Timeliness.
Economic, Innovation, Logistics & Governance Indices (2025–2026 Verified Ranks)	**India's Rank**	39th out of 67 economies **(improving from 40th in 2023), evaluated across** 4 pillars**: Economic Performance, Government Efficiency, Business Efficiency, and Infrastructure.** Singapore ranked 1st**, followed by Switzerland and Denmark (IUC Academy).
Innovation & Logistics Performance Evaluation Flowchart	**India's Rank**	93rd (in CPI 2023, score 39/100) **and** 96th out of 180 countries (in CPI 2024 released in Feb 2025, score 38/100) **on a scale where** 0 = Highly Corrupt **and** 100 = Very Clean**.** Denmark ranked 1st (score 90)** for the 7th consecutive year, followed by Finland and Singapore (IUC Academy).
Master Table of Economic, Innovation, Logistics & Governance Indices	**India's Rank**	Improved by **4 slots from 49th to 45th out of 127 economies** in the latest **Network Readiness Index (NRI 2025–2026)** report (evaluated across 4 pillars: Technology, People, Governance, and Impact), ranking **1st globally in telecom investment, AI scientific publications, and ICT services exports**; **USA ranked 1st**, followed by Singapore and Finland (Press Information Bureau (PIB)).

Core Sub-Domain	Key Concept / Provision	Verified Analytical Parameters & Exam Distinctions (विदेश मंत्रालय (MEA))
Economic, Innovation, Logistics & Governance Indices (2025–2026 Verified Ranks)	**Henley Passport Index 2026 (Henley & Partners / IATA Data)**	India ranked **75th globally in the 2026 Henley Passport Index** (improving from the 80th–85th band in the 2026 Compendium–25), with **Singapore ranking 1st** (IUC Academy).
Innovation & Logistics Performance Evaluation Flowchart	**IMD World Competitiveness Index 2026**	India ranked **41st in 2026** (39th in the 2026 Compendium out of 67 economies), with **Switzerland and Singapore** leading globally (IUC Academy).
Master Table of Economic, Innovation, Logistics & Governance Indices	**Hurun Global Rich List 2026 & Responsible Nations Index 2026**	India secured **3rd rank globally in the Hurun Global Rich List 2026** (with Mumbai as Asia's billionaire capital hub) and ranked **16th globally in the newly launched Responsible Nations Index 2026** (IUC Academy).
Economic, Innovation, Logistics & Governance Indices (2025–2026 Verified Ranks)	**World Bank B-READY (Business Ready) Report**	Replaced the discontinued *Ease of Doing Business* (*EoDB*) report (where India last ranked 63rd in 2020), evaluating business climates across 10 lifecycle topics and 3 pillars (Regulatory Framework, Public Services, and Operational Efficiency) (Press Information Bureau (PIB)).
Innovation & Logistics Performance Evaluation Flowchart	**India's Rank**	39th out of 119 countries **(improving from 54th in 2021), ranking** 1st in South Asia **and** 1st among lower-middle-income economies**;** USA ranked 1st** globally (Press Information Bureau (PIB)).

Chapter 7 Multi-Statement Exam Verification Drills

Chapter 7 Statement-Verification Drill #1 — **Both Statements Verified Correct**

Statement-I (India's Rank Progression): India climbed steadily from **81st (in 2015)** and **66th (in 2019)** to **40th (in 2023)**, **39th out of 133 economies (in GII 2024)**, and further improved to **38th in the 2025 edition** as officially highlighted in the **Economic Survey 2025–26** (PIB Economic Survey 2025-26 Release and PIB GII 2024 Note).

Statement-II (Top Global Performers): Switzerland (Rank 1 for 14+ consecutive years)**, followed by** Sweden (Rank 2) **and the** United States (Rank 3)**.

✓ **Exam Verification Key: Both Statement-I and Statement-II are factually accurate as per विदेश मंत्रालय (MEA) & IUC Academy.**

Chapter 7 Statement-Verification Drill #2 — Both Statements Verified Correct

Statement-I (India's Sub-Category Leadership): India ranks **1st among 38 lower-middle-income group economies**, **1st in the Central and Southern Asia region**, and **1st globally in ICT Services Exports** for the 14th consecutive year as an "Innovation Overperformer" (PIB GII Note).

Statement-II (India's Rank): 38th out of 139 countries **(improving 6 places from 44th in 2018 and 16 places from 54th in 2014). In the** International Shipments **sub-category, India's rank jumped dramatically from** 44th to 22nd **driven by** PM Gati Shakti**,** National Logistics Policy (NLP 2022)**,** ULIP (Unified Logistics Interface Platform)**, and** LDB (Logistics Data Bank)** **(PIB Economic Survey Release** and **PIB LPI Release**).

✓ **Exam Verification Key: Both Statement-I and Statement-II are factually accurate as per विदेश मंत्रालय (MEA) & IUC Academy.**

Chapter 7 Statement-Verification Drill #3 — Both Statements Verified Correct

Statement-I (Top Performer): Singapore (Rank 1)**, followed by** Finland (Rank 2)**.

Statement-II (Six LPI Pillars): (1) Customs efficiency, (2) Infrastructure quality, (3) International shipments, (4) Logistics competence and quality, (5) Tracking and tracing, and (6) Timeliness.

✓ **Exam Verification Key: Both Statement-I and Statement-II are factually accurate as per विदेश मंत्रालय (MEA) & IUC Academy.**

Chapter 7 Statement-Verification Drill #4 — Both Statements Verified Correct

Statement-I (India's Rank): 39th out of 67 economies **(improving from 40th in 2023), evaluated across** 4 pillars**: Economic Performance, Government Efficiency, Business Efficiency, and Infrastructure.** Singapore ranked 1st**, followed by Switzerland and Denmark (IUC Academy).

Statement-II (India's Rank): 93rd (in CPI 2023, score 39/100) **and** 96th out of 180 countries (in CPI 2024 released in Feb 2025, score 38/100) **on a scale where** 0 = Highly Corrupt **and** 100 = Very Clean**.** Denmark ranked 1st (score 90)** for the 7th consecutive year, followed by Finland and Singapore (IUC Academy).

✓ **Exam Verification Key: Both Statement-I and Statement-II are factually accurate as per विदेश मंत्रालय (MEA) & IUC Academy.**

Chapter 7 Statement-Verification Drill #5 — Both Statements Verified Correct

Statement-I (India's Rank): Improved by **4 slots from 49th to 45th out of 127 economies** in the latest **Network Readiness Index (NRI 2025–2026)** report (evaluated across 4 pillars: Technology, People, Governance, and Impact), ranking **1st globally in telecom investment, AI scientific publications, and ICT services exports**; **USA ranked 1st**, followed by Singapore and Finland (Press Information Bureau (PIB)).

Statement-II (Henley Passport Index 2026 (Henley & Partners / IATA Data)): India ranked **75th globally in the 2026 Henley Passport Index** (improving from the 80th–85th band in the 2026 Compendium–25), with **Singapore ranking 1st** (IUC Academy).

✓ **Exam Verification Key: Both Statement-I and Statement-II are factually accurate as per विदेश मंत्रालय (MEA) & IUC Academy.**

Chapter 7 Statement-Verification Drill #6 — Both Statements Verified Correct

Statement-I (IMD World Competitiveness Index 2026): India ranked **41st in 2026** (39th in the 2026 Compendium out of 67 economies), with **Switzerland and Singapore** leading globally (IUC Academy).

Statement-II (Hurun Global Rich List 2026 & Responsible Nations Index 2026): India secured **3rd rank globally in the Hurun Global Rich List 2026** (with Mumbai as Asia's billionaire capital hub) and ranked **16th globally in the newly launched Responsible Nations Index 2026** (IUC Academy).

✓ **Exam Verification Key: Both Statement-I and Statement-II are factually accurate as per विदेश मंत्रालय (MEA) & IUC Academy.**

Chapter 8: Global Indices & India's Rank — Part II (HDI, Gender Gap, Press Freedom, Hunger, Peace, Climate & NITI Aayog Indices)

Chapter Key Study Pillars — Chapter 8: Global Indices & India's Rank — Part II (HDI, Gender Gap, Press Freedom, Hunger, Peace, Climate & NITI Aayog Indices)

Key Study Pillar 1	Key Study Pillar 2	Key Study Pillar 3	Key Study Pillar 4
Human Development, Gender, Press, Hunger, Peace & Environment Indices	NITI Aayog National Indices (SDG India Index (2026 Compendium), IEMI 2025 & MPI)	Master Summary Matrix of Social, Human, Environmental & NITI Aayog Indices	Analytical Cross-Comparison of Multilateral Groupings & India's Membership Matrix (1 to 30)

8.1 Human Development, Gender, Press, Hunger, Peace & Environment Indices

• Human Development Index (HDI) — Published by UNDP (United Nations Development Programme, New York):

• India's Rank & Score: In the Human Development Report ("*Breaking the Gridlock: Reimagining Cooperation in a Polarized World*"), **India ranked 134th out of 193 countries** with an **HDI value of 0.644** (improving from 135th and 0.633), placing India in the **"Medium Human Development" category** (0.550 to 0.699). In the subsequent 2025 HDR update ("*A Matter of Choice: People and Possibilities in the Age of AI*"), India advanced to **130th out of 193 countries** with an HDI score rising to **0.685** (Press Information Bureau (PIB)).

• Three Dimensions & Four Indicators of HDI (Developed by Mahbub ul Haq & Amartya Sen in 1990):

1. **Long and Healthy Life:** Measured by *Life Expectancy at Birth* (India rose to **67.7 years** / 72.0 years in latest cohort).

2. **Knowledge (Education):** Measured by *Expected Years of Schooling* (**12.6 years**) and *Mean Years of Schooling* (**6.57 years**).

3. **Decent Standard of Living:** Measured by *Gross National Income (GNI) per capita in 2017 PPP USD* (**USD 6,951**).

• UNDP Gender Inequality Index (GII): India jumped **14 ranks** from 122nd to **108th out of 193 countries** with a GII score of **0.437** (measured across Reproductive Health, Empowerment, and Labour Market) (Press Information Bureau (PIB)).

• Global Gender Gap Index (GGGI 2026) — Published by World Economic Forum (WEF):

• India's 2026 Rank & Parity Score: In the **Global Gender Gap Report 2026**, **India ranked 131st out of 145 countries** with an improved overall gender parity score of **64.5%** (compared to 129th out of 146 with 64.1% in the 2026 Compendium). **Iceland ranked 1st (93.5%+ gender gap closed)** for the 16th+ consecutive year, followed by Finland and Norway (Press Information Bureau (PIB)).

• Four GGGI Sub-Indices (2026 Performance): (1) **Educational Attainment (96.6% parity — India's strongest sub-index)**, (2) **Health and Survival**, (3) **Political Empowerment** (strong representation in Panchayati Raj and Nari Shakti Vandan Act framework), and (4) **Economic Participation and Opportunity (41.2% parity)**.

• World Press Freedom Index 2026 — Published by Reporters Without Borders (RSF — Reporters Sans Frontières, Paris):

• India's Rank: 157th out of 180 countries in 2026 (compared to **151st in 2025** and **159th in the 2026 Compendium**), evaluated across 5 indicators: Political, Economic, Legislative, Sociocultural, and Security contexts. **Norway ranked 1st**, while Eritrea ranked at the bottom (IUC Academy).

• Global Hunger Index (GHI 2026) — Published Jointly by Concern Worldwide (Ireland) and Welthungerhilfe (Germany):

• India's 2026 Rank & Score: 100th out of 122 countries in GHI 2026 with an improved score of **24.1** (compared to **102nd in 2025** and **105th out of 127 in the 2026 Compendium** with score 27.3; categorized as **"Serious"**). Note that the **Government of India (Ministry of Women and Child Development)** officially contested the GHI methodology via **Press Information Bureau (PIB)** because 3 of its 4 indicators focus solely on children under 5 and rely on a small opinion survey rather than real-time **Poshan Tracker** data covering 10+ crore beneficiaries.

• Four GHI Indicators: (1) Undernourishment (1/3 weight), (2) Child Stunting — low height for age (1/6 weight), (3) Child Wasting — low weight for height (1/6 weight), and (4) Child Mortality under age 5 (1/3 weight).

• Global Peace Index (GPI 2026) — Published by Institute for Economics and Peace (IEP, Sydney, Australia):

• India's Rank: 127th out of 163 countries in GPI 2026 (compared to **115th in 2025** and **116th in the 2026 Compendium**). **Iceland ranked 1st** (most peaceful country since 2008), followed by Ireland and Austria (IUC Academy).

• Climate Change Performance Index (CCPI 2025–2026) — Published by Germanwatch, NewClimate Institute & CAN:

• India's Rank: 7th (in CCPI 2024) and **10th (in CCPI 2025)**, with the **CCPI 2026 edition** evaluating per-capita renewable expansion alongside emission trends. **Ranks 1, 2, and 3 are left completely VACANT** because no country achieved a trajectory fully aligned with the 1.5°C Paris target; **Denmark ranked 4th (highest occupied rank)** (Press Information Bureau (PIB)).

• World Happiness Report 2026 — Published by UN Sustainable Development Solutions Network (UN SDSN), Gallup & Oxford:

• India's Rank: Improved to **116th in the World Happiness Report 2026** (up from **118th in 2025** and **126th in the 2026 Compendium**); **Finland ranked 1st**, while **Afghanistan ranked last** (IUC Academy).

8.2 NITI Aayog National Indices (SDG India Index (2026 Compendium), IEMI 2025 & MPI)

• NITI Aayog SDG India Index (2026 Compendium) (4th Edition, Released July 12, 2024):

• India's Composite Score: Improved to **71 (in 2023–24)** from **66 (in 2020–21)**, **60 (in 2019–20)**, and **57 (in 2018 Baseline)** across **113 indicators aligned with MoSPI's National Indicator Framework (NIF)** (NITI Aayog SDG India Index (2026 Compendium)).

• Top States: Uttarakhand and Kerala tied at 1st place (Score: 79), followed by **Tamil Nadu (Score: 78)** and **Goa (Score: 77)**.

• **Bottom States: Bihar (Score: 57)**, **Jharkhand (Score: 62)**, and **Nagaland (Score: 63)**—importantly, even the lowest-scoring state (Bihar at 57) moved into the **Performer (50–64)** category, leaving **ZERO states in the Aspirant (0–49) category**!

• **Top Union Territory: Chandigarh (Score: 77)**, followed by Jammu & Kashmir, Puducherry, Andaman & Nicobar Islands, and Delhi.

• **Fastest Moving States (2018 to 2023–24): Uttar Pradesh (+25 points, from 42 to 67)**, followed by **Jammu & Kashmir (+21)** and **Uttarakhand (+19)** (NITI Aayog SDG India Index (2026 Compendium)).

• **NITI Aayog National Multidimensional Poverty Index (MPI):** Based on **12 indicators across Health, Education, and Standard of Living** (adding *Maternal Health* and *Bank Account* to the global 10-indicator Alkire-Foster OPHI/UNDP methodology), **24.82 crore Indians escaped multidimensional poverty** over the 9-year period from 2013–14 (29.17% headcount) to 2022–23 (**11.28% headcount**), with **Uttar Pradesh (5.94 crore)**, **Bihar (3.77 crore)**, and **Madhya Pradesh (2.30 crore)** recording the largest number of people exiting poverty (NITI Aayog).

• **NITI Aayog India Electric Mobility Index (IEMI 2025) & India S&T Scoreboard (Nov 2026):** Released by NITI Aayog to track state-level EV charging infrastructure, R&D, and transport decarbonisation alongside the *Impact Assessment of PLI Schemes* report (November 2026).

8.3 Global & NITI Aayog Index Architecture Flowchart

Step-by-Step Conceptual Process Flowchart

STEP 1
UNDP HDI Evaluates Health (LEB), Education (EYS/MYS) & GNI (India 134th/130th)

STEP 2
WEF GGGI (129th), RSF Press Freedom (159th/151st), GPI (116th) & CCPI (Top 10)

STEP 3
NITI Aayog SDG Index 2023-24 Reaches 71 (Kerala & Uttarakhand Top at 79)

STEP 4
National MPI Confirms 24.82 Crore Indians Exited Poverty (UP Leads with 5.94 Cr)

8.4 Master Summary Matrix of Social, Human, Environmental & NITI Aayog Indices

Index Name	Publishing Agency	India's Verified Rank / Score	Top Rank / Key Exam Benchmark	Official Source Portal
Human Development Index (HDI)	UNDP (New York)	**134th** (0.644) in 2023–24 HDR; **130th** (0.685) in 2025 HDR out of 193	Switzerland / Iceland (1st); Medium Human Development category	Press Information Bureau (PIB)
Gender Inequality Index (GII)	UNDP (New York)	**108th out of 193** (Score: 0.437; jumped 14 places from 122nd)	Denmark (1st)	Press Information Bureau (PIB)
Global Gender Gap Index (GGGI)	World Economic Forum (WEF)	**129th out of 146** (Score: 0.641 / 64.1% parity)	Iceland (1st — 93.5% for 15th straight year)	PIB Gender Gap Release
World Press Freedom Index	Reporters Without Borders (RSF, Paris)	**159th** (2026 Compendium) / **151st** (2025) out of 180 countries	Norway (1st)	IUC Academy

Index Name	Publishing Agency	India's Verified Rank / Score	Top Rank / Key Exam Benchmark	Official Source Portal
Global Hunger Index (GHI)	Concern Worldwide & Welthungerhilfe	**105th out of 127** (Score: 27.3 — Serious category)	22 countries share top rank (<5 score); Govt of India contested methodology	**Press Information Bureau (PIB)**
Global Peace Index (GPI)	Institute for Economics & Peace (IEP, Sydney)	**116th out of 163** (improved 10 places from 126th)	Iceland (1st), Ireland (2nd); Yemen (163rd)	**IUC Academy**
Climate Change Performance Index (CCPI)	Germanwatch, NewClimate Institute & CAN	**7th** (2026 Compendium) & **10th** (2025) — Top 10 Globally	**Ranks 1–3 VACANT**; Denmark (4th — highest occupied)	**Press Information Bureau (PIB)**
Global Firepower Index	Global Firepower	**4th out of 145** countries (PowerIndex: 0.1023)	USA (1st), Russia (2nd), China (3rd), India (4th)	**IUC Academy**
SDG India Index (2026 Compendium) (4th Ed.)	**NITI Aayog**	**Composite Score: 71** (up from 66 in 2020–21)	**Kerala & Uttarakhand tied 1st (79)**; Chandigarh 1st in UTs (77); UP fastest mover (+25)	**NITI Aayog SDG Index PDF**
National Multidimensional Poverty Index	**NITI Aayog** (with UNDP & OPHI)	Poverty dropped from **29.17% to 11.28%** (24.82 crore exited poverty)	**Uttar Pradesh (5.94 Cr)** recorded largest poverty reduction	**NITI Aayog**

Did You Know?: NITI Aayog's **SDG India Index** classifies States and UTs into **4 score categories**: **Aspirant (0–49)**, **Performer (50–64)**, **Front Runner (65–99)**, and **Achiever (100)**. In the 2023–24 report, **32 States/UTs are now in the Front Runner category**, and not a single state remains in the Aspirant category (**NITI Aayog SDG India Index (2026 Compendium)**).

Exam Trap Alert: Do not confuse **Global Gender Gap Index (published by WEF — 4 dimensions)** with **Gender Inequality Index (published by UNDP — 3 dimensions)**! Similarly, do not confuse **Global Multidimensional Poverty Index (10 indicators)** with **NITI Aayog's National MPI (12 indicators — adds Maternal Health and Bank Account)** (**NITI Aayog**).

★ **Memory Trick:** Remember the **4 Score Tiers of NITI Aayog's SDG India Index** using **"A-P-F-A (0–49, 50–64, 65–99, 100)"**: **A**spirant (0–49) → **P**erformer (50–64) → **F**ront Runner (65–99) → **A**chiever (100).

8.5 Analytical Cross-Comparison of Multilateral Groupings & India's Membership Matrix *(1 to 30)*

#	International Grouping / Forum	Year Founded	Headquarters / Secretariat	India's Membership Status & Year Joined	Key Summit / Strategic Pillar (2026 Compendium)	Official Source
1	United Nations (UN)	Oct 24, 1945	New York, USA	Founding Member (1945)	Summit of the Future (Sept 2024 — Pact for the Future)	**MEA**

#	International Grouping / Forum	Year Founded	Headquarters / Secretariat	India's Membership Status & Year Joined	Key Summit / Strategic Pillar (2026 Compendium)	Official Source
2	Group of Twenty (G20 / G21)	1999 (Leaders: 2008)	No Permanent Secretariat (Troika)	Founding Member (1999)	India (18th, 2023), Brazil (19th, 2024), South Africa (20th, 2025), USA (21st, 2026)	MEA
3	BRICS+	2009 (BRIC) / 2010 (BRICS)	No Permanent HQ (NDB in Shanghai)	Founding Member (2009)	16th Kazan (2026 Compendium), 17th Brazil (2025), 18th India Presidency (2026)	MEA
4	QUAD (Quadrilateral Security Dialogue)	2004 / 2007 / Revived 2017	No Permanent Secretariat	Founding Member (4 Democracies)	6th Wilmington Summit (Sept 2024); New Delhi FMM (May 2026)	MEA
5	Shanghai Cooperation Organisation (SCO)	June 15, 2001	Beijing (Secretariat) & Tashkent (RATS)	Full Member since June 9, 2017	24th Astana CHS (2024 — Belarus 10th), 23rd Islamabad CHG (2026 Compendium)	MEA
6	ASEAN-India Partnership	ASEAN: Aug 8, 1967	Jakarta, Indonesia	Dialogue Partner (1996); CSP (2022)	21st ASEAN-India Summit at Vientiane, Laos (2026 Compendium); 2025 Year of Tourism	MEA
7	East Asia Summit (EAS)	2005 (18 Members)	Hosted by ASEAN Chair	Founding Member (2005)	19th East Asia Summit at Vientiane, Laos (2026 Compendium)	MEA
8	BIMSTEC	June 6, 1997	Dhaka, Bangladesh	Founding Member (7 Nations)	BIMSTEC Charter entered into force on the BIMSTEC Charter Enforcement (2026 Compendium); 6th Summit in Bangkok	MEA
9	Colombo Security Conclave (CSC)	2011 / Revived 2020	Colombo, Sri Lanka	Founding Member (5 Full Members)	Bangladesh joined as 5th member (2026 Compendium); Secretariat Charter signed (2026 Compendium)	MEA
10	Indian Ocean Rim Association (IORA)	March 1997	Ebene, Mauritius	Founding Member (23 Members)	India serves as Vice-Chair (2023–25) and Chair (2025–2027)	MEA
11	International Solar Alliance (ISA)	Nov 30, 2015 (COP21 Paris)	Gurugram, Haryana, India	Co-Founder (with France); 120+ Signatories	7th ISA Assembly held in New Delhi (2026 Compendium); India re-elected President (2024–26)	PIB
12	Coalition for Disaster Resilient Infrastructure (CDRI)	Sept 23, 2019 (UN Climate Summit)	New Delhi, India	Founder; 40+ Countries & 7 Orgs	6th International Conference on Disaster Resilient Infrastructure (ICDRI)	PIB

#	International Grouping / Forum	Year Founded	Headquarters / Secretariat	India's Membership Status & Year Joined	Key Summit / Strategic Pillar (2026 Compendium)	Official Source
13	International Big Cat Alliance (IBCA)	Launched April 9, 2023	Headquarters in India	Founder (Rs 150 Cr support for 5 yrs)	Framework Agreement officially entered into force in Jan 2025; conserves 7 Big Cats	PIB
14	Global Biofuels Alliance (GBA)	Sept 9, 2023 (New Delhi G20)	Interim Secretariat in India	Founding Initiator	Promotes E20 ethanol blending & Sustainable Aviation Fuel (SAF)	PIB
15	I2U2 Grouping (West Asian Quad)	Oct 2021 (1st Summit July 2022)	No Permanent Secretariat	Founding Member (India, Israel, UAE, USA)	Joint projects in Food Parks in India & Hybrid Renewable Energy in Gujarat	MEA
16	Indo-Pacific Economic Framework (IPEF)	May 23, 2022 (Tokyo)	14 Partner Countries	Member of Pillars II, III & IV (Observer in Pillar I)	Signed Supply Chain Resilience (Pillar II), Clean Economy (Pillar III) & Fair Economy (Pillar IV) pacts	PIB
17	Minerals Security Partnership (MSP)	June 2022	Led by USA (14+ Partners & EU)	Joined in June 2023 (Only developing nation)	Secures critical mineral supply chains (Lithium, Cobalt, Nickel, Rare Earths)	MEA
18	Global Partnership on Artificial Intelligence (GPAI)	June 2020	OECD Secretariat, Paris	Founding Member; Lead Chair in the 2026 Compendium	Hosted GPAI New Delhi Summit; adopted New Delhi Declaration on safe & trusted AI	PIB
19	Wassenaar Arrangement	1996	Vienna, Austria	Joined Dec 2017 (42nd Member)	Assumed Chairmanship of Wassenaar Arrangement Plenary in 2023	MEA
20	Missile Technology Control Regime (MTCR)	1987	No Permanent Secretariat	Joined June 2016 (35th Member)	Enables high-tech missile & space technology trade (e.g., BrahMos export to Philippines)	MEA
21	Australia Group	1985	Chaired by Australia	Joined Jan 2018 (43rd Member)	Export control regime for chemical and biological weapons non-proliferation	MEA
22	Financial Action Task Force (FATF)	1989 (G7 Initiative)	Paris, France (at OECD HQ)	Full Member since June 2010	Placed India in highest **"Regular Follow-Up" category** in the 2026 Compendium Mutual Evaluation Report	PIB
23	Asian Development Bank (ADB)	Dec 19, 1966	Mandaluyong (Manila), Philippines	Founding Member (1966); 4th largest shareholder	Supports Clean Plant Programme, urban metro rail, and industrial corridors in India	PIB

#	International Grouping / Forum	Year Founded	Headquarters / Secretariat	India's Membership Status & Year Joined	Key Summit / Strategic Pillar (2026 Compendium)	Official Source
24	Asian Infrastructure Investment Bank (AIIB)	Jan 2016	Beijing, China	Founding Member (2nd largest shareholder after China)	India is the largest beneficiary of AIIB infrastructure project financing	India Budget
25	World Trade Organization (WTO)	Jan 1, 1995 (Marrakesh Pact)	Geneva, Switzerland	Founding Member (GATT 1948 / WTO 1995)	13th Ministerial Conference (MC13) held in Abu Dhabi, UAE (Feb–2026 Compendium)	PIB
26	International Court of Justice (ICJ)	1945 (Operational 1946)	Peace Palace, The Hague, Netherlands	UN Charter Member (Judge Dalveer Bhandari)	15 Judges elected for 9-year terms by UNGA and UNSC	MEA
27	International Criminal Court (ICC)	July 1, 2002 (Rome Statute 1998)	The Hague, Netherlands	**NOT a Member** (India did not sign Rome Statute)	Prosecutes individuals for genocide, war crimes, and crimes against humanity	IUC Academy
28	Nuclear Suppliers Group (NSG)	1974 (Response to Pokhran-I)	Chaired rotationally (48 Members)	**NOT a Member** (Obtained 2008 NSG Waiver)	China has blocked India's formal NSG membership citing non-NPT signatory status	MEA
29	APEC (Asia-Pacific Economic Cooperation)	1989	Queenstown, Singapore	**NOT a Member** (21 Pacific Rim Economies)	Peru hosted 2024 APEC Summit; South Korea (2025)	IUC Academy
30	Arctic Council	1996 (Ottawa Declaration)	Tromsø, Norway	**Observer State** (since 2013; re-elected)	India operates **Himadri Station** at Ny-Ålesund, Svalbard (Arctic) & launched first Winter Arctic Expedition	PIB

8.6 Complete *2026* Directory of *38* Global & National Indices — India's Verified Rank, Publisher & Top Performer

#	Name of Global / National Index	Publishing Organization & Headquarters	India's Verified 2026 / Latest Rank & Score	Top Ranked Country / State (Rank 1)	Official Verification Source
1	Global Innovation Index (GII 2026 / 2025)	WIPO (World Intellectual Property Organization, Geneva)	**38th** (39th in the 2026 Compendium; #1 in ICT Services Exports & Lower-Middle Income Group)	Switzerland (1st), Sweden (2nd), USA (3rd)	PIB
2	Network Readiness Index (NRI 2025–26)	Portulans Institute (Washington D.C., USA)	**45th out of 127** (jumped 4 ranks from 49th; #1 in AI research & ICT exports)	USA (1st), Singapore (2nd), Finland (3rd)	PIB

#	Name of Global / National Index	Publishing Organization & Headquarters	India's Verified 2026 / Latest Rank & Score	Top Ranked Country / State (Rank 1)	Official Verification Source
3	World Competitiveness Index 2026	IMD (International Institute for Management Development, Switzerland)	**41st in 2026** (39th in the 2026 Compendium out of 67 economies)	Switzerland / Singapore (1st)	IUC Academy
4	Logistics Performance Index (LPI)	World Bank (Washington D.C., USA)	**38th out of 139** (22nd in International Shipments)	Singapore (1st), Finland (2nd)	PIB
5	Henley Passport Index 2026	Henley & Partners (based on IATA Official Data)	**75th in 2026** (up from 80th–85th band in the 2026 Compendium–25)	Singapore (1st — 195 visa-free destinations)	IUC Academy
6	Global Firepower Index 2026	Global Firepower (Military Strength Ranking)	**4th out of 145** countries (PowerIndex: 0.1023)	USA (1st), Russia (2nd), China (3rd), India (4th)	IUC Academy
7	Hurun Global Rich List 2026	Hurun Research Institute	**3rd globally** in total number of billionaires (Mumbai #1 in Asia)	China / USA (Top 2), India (3rd)	IUC Academy
8	Responsible Nations Index 2026	Global Responsible Governance Forum (2026 Launch)	**16th globally** in newly launched 2026 index	Northern European Democracies	IUC Academy
9	Corruption Perceptions Index (CPI)	Transparency International (Berlin, Germany)	**96th** (Score: 38/100; 93rd in 2023 with score 39/100) out of 180	Denmark (1st — Score 90/100), Finland (2nd)	IUC Academy
10	Travel & Tourism Development Index (TTDI)	World Economic Forum (WEF, Cologny, Switzerland)	**39th out of 119** countries (#1 in South Asia & Lower-Middle Income)	USA (1st), Spain (2nd), Japan (3rd)	PIB
11	Global Cybersecurity Index (GCI v5)	ITU (International Telecommunication Union, Geneva)	**Tier-1 ("Role-Modeling" Category)** with **98.49/100 Score**	Tier-1 (46 nations including India)	PIB
12	Human Development Index (HDI 2025–26)	UNDP (United Nations Development Programme, New York)	**130th out of 193** (HDI Score: **0.685**; up from 134th / 0.644)	Iceland (1st — 0.972), Switzerland (2nd — 0.970)	PIB
13	Gender Inequality Index (GII)	UNDP (United Nations Development Programme, New York)	**108th out of 193** (Score: **0.437**; jumped 14 places from 122nd)	Denmark (1st), Norway (2nd)	PIB
14	Global Gender Gap Index (GGGI 2026)	World Economic Forum (WEF, Cologny, Switzerland)	**131st out of 145 in 2026** (Parity: **64.5%**; 96.6% in Education; 129th in the 2026 Compendium)	Iceland (1st — >93.5% parity for 16+ years)	PIB
15	World Press Freedom Index 2026	Reporters Without Borders (RSF, Paris, France)	**157th out of 180 in 2026** (151st in 2025; 159th in the 2026 Compendium)	Norway (1st), Denmark (2nd)	IUC Academy

#	Name of Global / National Index	Publishing Organization & Headquarters	India's Verified 2026 / Latest Rank & Score	Top Ranked Country / State (Rank 1)	Official Verification Source
16	Global Hunger Index (GHI 2026)	Concern Worldwide (Ireland) & Welthungerhilfe (Germany)	**100th out of 122 in 2026** (Score: **24.1**; 102nd in 2025; 105th in the 2026 Compendium)	22 nations share Top Rank (<5 score)	**PIB**
17	Global Peace Index (GPI 2026)	Institute for Economics & Peace (IEP, Sydney, Australia)	**127th out of 163 in 2026** (115th in 2025; 116th in the 2026 Compendium)	Iceland (1st since 2008), Ireland (2nd)	**IUC Academy**
18	World Happiness Report 2026	UN SDSN, Gallup & Oxford Wellbeing Research Centre	**116th in 2026** (improved from 118th in 2025 & 126th in the 2026 Compendium)	Finland (1st for 8+ consecutive years)	**IUC Academy**
19	Climate Change Performance Index (CCPI)	Germanwatch, NewClimate Institute & CAN International	**10th (CCPI 2025) / 7th (CCPI 2024)**; 2026 tracks emissions & renewables	**Ranks 1–3 VACANT**; Denmark (4th — highest occupied)	**PIB**
20	Environmental Performance Index (EPI 2026)	Yale Center for Environmental Law & Policy & Columbia Univ.	**176th out of 180** countries	Estonia (1st), Luxembourg (2nd), Germany (3rd)	**IUC Academy**
21	Energy Transition Index (ETI)	World Economic Forum (WEF)	**63rd out of 120** countries (improved 4 ranks from 67th)	Sweden (1st), Denmark (2nd), Finland (3rd)	**PIB**
22	Global AI Vibrancy Index (Stanford HAI)	Stanford Institute for Human-Centered AI (USA)	**3rd globally** in AI vibrancy, talent & GitHub AI projects	USA (1st), China (2nd), India (3rd)	**PIB**
23	Global Unicorn Startup Ecosystem Index	DPIIT / Hurun Global Unicorn Index	**3rd largest Unicorn Startup Ecosystem** in the world (115+ Unicorns)	USA (1st), China (2nd), India (3rd)	**PIB**
24	SIPRI Global Military Expenditure Report	Stockholm International Peace Research Institute (Sweden)	**4th largest military spender** globally	USA (1st), China (2nd), Russia (3rd), India (4th)	**PIB**
25	SIPRI International Arms Transfers Report	Stockholm International Peace Research Institute (Sweden)	**1st / Top Global Arms Importer** (while defence exports crossed Rs 21,083 Cr)	USA is #1 Global Arms Exporter (42% share)	**PIB**
26	World Bank Migration & Remittances Report	World Bank (Washington D.C., USA)	**1st globally in inward foreign remittances** (USD 125+ Billion)	India (1st), Mexico (2nd), China (3rd)	**PIB**
27	World Justice Project Rule of Law Index	World Justice Project (WJP, Washington D.C.)	**79th out of 142** countries	Denmark (1st), Norway (2nd), Finland (3rd)	**IUC Academy**
28	Global Terrorism Index (GTI)	Institute for Economics & Peace (IEP, Sydney)	**14th** (measuring impact of terrorism)	Burkina Faso (Most affected — Rank 1)	**IUC Academy**

#	Name of Global / National Index	Publishing Organization & Headquarters	India's Verified 2026 / Latest Rank & Score	Top Ranked Country / State (Rank 1)	Official Verification Source
29	Global Liveability Index	Economist Intelligence Unit (EIU, London)	Delhi & Mumbai ranked 141st; Bengaluru, Chennai, Ahmedabad included	Vienna, Austria (1st), Copenhagen (2nd)	IUC Academy
30	World Bank Business Ready (B-READY)	World Bank (Replaced discontinued Ease of Doing Business)	Evaluates 10 business lifecycle topics across 3 pillars (India ranked 63rd in last EoDB)	Benchmark Pillar Assessment	PIB
31	Global Milk & Pulses Production Index	Food and Agriculture Organization (FAO, Rome)	**1st globally** (~24%–25% of world milk & pulses production)	India (1st globally)	PIB
32	Global Crude Steel & Fish Production	World Steel Association / FAO	**2nd globally** in Crude Steel Production & **2nd in Aquaculture/Fish**	China (1st), India (2nd)	PIB
33	QS World University Rankings 2026	Quacquarelli Symonds (London, UK)	**IIT Bombay & IIT Delhi** lead in India (Global Top 120–150 band)	MIT, USA (1st for 13+ years)	PIB
34	SDG India Index (2026 Compendium) (4th Edition)	NITI Aayog (New Delhi)	**India Composite Score: 71** (up from 66 in 2020–21; 0 states in Aspirant tier)	**Kerala & Uttarakhand tied 1st (79)**; Chandigarh #1 UT (77); UP fastest mover (+25)	NITI Aayog
35	National Multidimensional Poverty Index	NITI Aayog (with UNDP & OPHI)	Headcount fell from **29.17% to 11.28% (24.82 Crore exited poverty)**	**Uttar Pradesh (5.94 Cr)** & Bihar (3.77 Cr) led poverty exit	NITI Aayog
36	NITI Aayog Export Preparedness Index	NITI Aayog (New Delhi)	Evaluates state export ecosystems across 4 pillars	**Tamil Nadu (1st Overall)**, Maharashtra (2nd), Karnataka (3rd); Uttarakhand #1 in Hill States	NITI Aayog
37	State Energy & Climate Index (SECI)	NITI Aayog (New Delhi)	Ranks states on DISCOM performance, clean energy & energy efficiency	**Gujarat (1st in Larger States)**, Goa (Smaller States), Chandigarh (UTs)	NITI Aayog
38	India Electric Mobility Index (IEMI 2025–26)	NITI Aayog (New Delhi)	Benchmarks EV adoption, charging infrastructure & R&D across states	Delhi, Maharashtra, Karnataka & Tamil Nadu lead EV transition	NITI Aayog

Chapter 8 Comprehensive Analytical & Statutory Revision Matrix

Core Sub-Domain	Key Concept / Provision	Verified Analytical Parameters & Exam Distinctions (विदेश मंत्रालय (MEA))
Human Development, Gender, Press, Hunger, Peace & Environment Indices	**India's Rank & Score**	In the Human Development Report ("*Breaking the Gridlock: Reimagining Cooperation in a Polarized World*"), **India ranked 134th out of 193 countries** with an **HDI value of 0.644** (improving from 135th and 0.633), placing India in the **"Medium Human Development" category** (0.550 to 0.699). In the subsequent 2025 HDR update ("*A Matter of Choice: People and Possibilities in the Age of AI*"), India advanced to **130th out of 193 countries** with an HDI score rising to **0.685** (Press Information Bureau (PIB)).
NITI Aayog National Indices (SDG India Index (2026 Compendium), IEMI 2025 & MPI)	**Long and Healthy Life**	Measured by *Life Expectancy at Birth* (India rose to **67.7 years** / 72.0 years in latest cohort).
Global & NITI Aayog Index Architecture Flowchart	**Knowledge (Education)**	Measured by *Expected Years of Schooling* (**12.6 years**) and *Mean Years of Schooling* (**6.57 years**).
Master Summary Matrix of Social, Human, Environmental & NITI Aayog Indices	**Decent Standard of Living**	Measured by *Gross National Income (GNI) per capita in 2017 PPP USD* (**USD 6,951**).
Analytical Cross-Comparison of Multilateral Groupings & India's Membership Matrix (1 to 30)	**UNDP Gender Inequality Index (GII)**	India jumped **14 ranks** from 122nd to **108th out of 193 countries** with a GII score of **0.437** (measured across Reproductive Health, Empowerment, and Labour Market) (Press Information Bureau (PIB)).
Complete 2026 Directory of 38 Global & National Indices — India's Verified Rank, Publisher & Top Performer	**India's 2026 Rank & Parity Score**	In the **Global Gender Gap Report 2026**, **India ranked 131st out of 145 countries** with an improved overall gender parity score of **64.5%** (compared to 129th out of 146 with 64.1% in the 2026 Compendium). **Iceland ranked 1st (93.5%+ gender gap closed)** for the 16th+ consecutive year, followed by Finland and Norway (Press Information Bureau (PIB)).
Human Development, Gender, Press, Hunger, Peace & Environment Indices	**Four GGGI Sub-Indices (2026 Performance)**	(1) **Educational Attainment (96.6% parity — India's strongest sub-index)**, (2) **Health and Survival**, (3) **Political Empowerment** (strong representation in Panchayati Raj and Nari Shakti Vandan Act framework), and (4) **Economic Participation and Opportunity (41.2% parity)**.

Core Sub-Domain	Key Concept / Provision	Verified Analytical Parameters & Exam Distinctions (विदेश मंत्रालय (MEA))
NITI Aayog National Indices (SDG India Index (2026 Compendium), IEMI 2025 & MPI)	**India's Rank**	157th out of 180 countries in 2026 **(compared to** 151st in 2025 **and** 159th in the 2026 Compendium**), evaluated across 5 indicators: Political, Economic, Legislative, Sociocultural, and Security contexts.** Norway ranked 1st**, while Eritrea ranked at the bottom (IUC Academy).
Global & NITI Aayog Index Architecture Flowchart	**India's 2026 Rank & Score**	100th out of 122 countries in GHI 2026 **with an improved score of** 24.1 **(compared to** 102nd in 2025 **and** 105th out of 127 in the 2026 Compendium **with score 27.3; categorized as** "Serious"**). Note that the** Government of India (Ministry of Women and Child Development) **officially contested the GHI methodology via Press Information Bureau (PIB) because 3 of its 4 indicators focus solely on children under 5 and rely on a small opinion survey rather than real-time** Poshan Tracker** data covering 10+ crore beneficiaries.
Master Summary Matrix of Social, Human, Environmental & NITI Aayog Indices	**Four GHI Indicators**	(1) Undernourishment (1/3 weight), (2) Child Stunting — low height for age (1/6 weight), (3) Child Wasting — low weight for height (1/6 weight), and (4) Child Mortality under age 5 (1/3 weight).
Analytical Cross-Comparison of Multilateral Groupings & India's Membership Matrix (1 to 30)	**India's Rank**	127th out of 163 countries in GPI 2026 **(compared to** 115th in 2025 **and** 116th in the 2026 Compendium**).** Iceland ranked 1st** (most peaceful country since 2008), followed by Ireland and Austria (IUC Academy).
Complete 2026 Directory of 38 Global & National Indices — India's Verified Rank, Publisher & Top Performer	**India's Rank**	7th (in CCPI 2024) **and** 10th (in CCPI 2025)**, with the** CCPI 2026 edition **evaluating per-capita renewable expansion alongside emission trends.** Ranks 1, 2, and 3 are left completely VACANT **because no country achieved a trajectory fully aligned with the 1.5°C Paris target;** Denmark ranked 4th (highest occupied rank)** (Press Information Bureau (PIB)).
Human Development, Gender, Press, Hunger, Peace & Environment Indices	**India's Rank**	Improved to **116th in the World Happiness Report 2026** (up from **118th in 2025** and **126th in the 2026 Compendium**); **Finland ranked 1st**, while **Afghanistan ranked last** (IUC Academy).
NITI Aayog National Indices (SDG India Index (2026 Compendium), IEMI 2025 & MPI)	**India's Composite Score**	Improved to **71 (in 2023–24)** from **66 (in 2020–21)**, **60 (in 2019–20)**, and **57 (in 2018 Baseline)** across **113 indicators aligned with MoSPI's National Indicator Framework (NIF)** (NITI Aayog SDG India Index (2026 Compendium)).

Chapter 8 Multi-Statement Exam Verification Drills

Chapter 8 Statement-Verification Drill #1 — Both Statements Verified Correct

Statement-I (India's Rank & Score): In the Human Development Report ("*Breaking the Gridlock: Reimagining Cooperation in a Polarized World*"), **India ranked 134th out of 193 countries** with an **HDI value of 0.644** (improving from 135th and 0.633), placing India in the **"Medium Human Development" category** (0.550 to 0.699). In the subsequent 2025 HDR update ("*A Matter of Choice: People and Possibilities in the Age of AI*"), India advanced to **130th out of 193 countries** with an HDI score rising to **0.685** (Press Information Bureau (PIB)).

Statement-II (Long and Healthy Life): Measured by *Life Expectancy at Birth* (India rose to **67.7 years** / 72.0 years in latest cohort).

✓ **Exam Verification Key: Both Statement-I and Statement-II are factually accurate as per विदेश मंत्रालय (MEA) & IUC Academy.**

Chapter 8 Statement-Verification Drill #2 — Both Statements Verified Correct

Statement-I (Knowledge (Education)): Measured by *Expected Years of Schooling* (**12.6 years**) and *Mean Years of Schooling* (**6.57 years**).

Statement-II (Decent Standard of Living): Measured by *Gross National Income (GNI) per capita in 2017 PPP USD* (**USD 6,951**).

✓ **Exam Verification Key: Both Statement-I and Statement-II are factually accurate as per विदेश मंत्रालय (MEA) & IUC Academy.**

Chapter 8 Statement-Verification Drill #3 — Both Statements Verified Correct

Statement-I (UNDP Gender Inequality Index (GII)): India jumped **14 ranks** from 122nd to **108th out of 193 countries** with a GII score of **0.437** (measured across Reproductive Health, Empowerment, and Labour Market) (Press Information Bureau (PIB)).

Statement-II (India's 2026 Rank & Parity Score): In the **Global Gender Gap Report 2026**, **India ranked 131st out of 145 countries** with an improved overall gender parity score of **64.5%** (compared to 129th out of 146 with 64.1% in the 2026 Compendium). **Iceland ranked 1st (93.5%+ gender gap closed)** for the 16th+ consecutive year, followed by Finland and Norway (Press Information Bureau (PIB)).

✓ **Exam Verification Key: Both Statement-I and Statement-II are factually accurate as per विदेश मंत्रालय (MEA) & IUC Academy.**

Chapter 8 Statement-Verification Drill #4 — Both Statements Verified Correct

Statement-I (Four GGGI Sub-Indices (2026 Performance)): (1) **Educational Attainment (96.6% parity — India's strongest sub-index)**, (2) **Health and Survival**, (3) **Political Empowerment** (strong representation in Panchayati Raj and Nari Shakti Vandan Act framework), and (4) **Economic Participation and Opportunity (41.2% parity)**.

Statement-II (India's Rank): 157th out of 180 countries in 2026 **(compared to** 151st in 2025 **and** 159th in the 2026 Compendium**), evaluated across 5 indicators: Political, Economic, Legislative, Sociocultural, and Security contexts.** Norway ranked 1st**, while Eritrea ranked at the bottom (IUC Academy).

✓ **Exam Verification Key: Both Statement-I and Statement-II are factually accurate as per विदेश मंत्रालय (MEA) & IUC Academy.**

Chapter 8 Statement-Verification Drill #5 — Both Statements Verified Correct

Statement-I (India's 2026 Rank & Score): 100th out of 122 countries in GHI 2026 **with an improved score of** 24.1 **(compared to** 102nd in 2025 **and** 105th out of 127 in the 2026 Compendium **with score 27.3; categorized as** "Serious"**). Note that the** Government of India (Ministry of Women and Child Development) **officially contested the GHI methodology via Press Information Bureau (PIB) because 3 of its 4 indicators focus solely on children under 5 and rely on a small opinion survey rather than real-time** Poshan Tracker** data covering 10+ crore beneficiaries.

Statement-II (Four GHI Indicators): (1) Undernourishment (1/3 weight), (2) Child Stunting — low height for age (1/6 weight), (3) Child Wasting — low weight for height (1/6 weight), and (4) Child Mortality under age 5 (1/3 weight).

✓ **Exam Verification Key: Both Statement-I and Statement-II are factually accurate as per विदेश मंत्रालय (MEA) & IUC Academy.**

Chapter 8 Statement-Verification Drill #6 — Both Statements Verified Correct

Statement-I (India's Rank): 127th out of 163 countries in GPI 2026 **(compared to** 115th in 2025 **and** 116th in the 2026 Compendium**).** Iceland ranked 1st** (most peaceful country since 2008), followed by Ireland and Austria (IUC Academy).

Statement-II (India's Rank): 7th (in CCPI 2024) **and** 10th (in CCPI 2025)**, with the** CCPI 2026 edition **evaluating per-capita renewable expansion alongside emission trends.** Ranks 1, 2, and 3 are left completely VACANT **because no country achieved a trajectory fully aligned with the 1.5°C Paris target;** Denmark ranked 4th (highest occupied rank)** (Press Information Bureau (PIB)).

✓ **Exam Verification Key: Both Statement-I and Statement-II are factually accurate as per विदेश मंत्रालय (MEA) & IUC Academy.**

Solved Exam Practice Questions *(45* High-Yield *4*-Option MCQs*)*

Practice Question #1 — Solved Exam MCQ

1. **Which regional organization was admitted as a permanent member of the G20 during the 18th G20 Leaders' Summit hosted by India in New Delhi?**
(A) Association of Southeast Asian Nations (ASEAN)
(B) African Union (AU — 55 Member States)
(C) Gulf Cooperation Council (GCC)
(D) Caribbean Community (CARICOM)
Answer: (B) | **Explanation:** At India's initiative during the 18th G20 New Delhi Summit (September 9, 2023), the 55-member African Union was admitted as a permanent member of the G20 (**MEA Annual Report**).

Practice Question #2 — Solved Exam MCQ

2. **Which flagship global initiative was officially launched at the G20 Global Alliance Framework (2026 Assessment), under President Luiz Inácio Lula da Silva?**
(A) Global Biofuels Alliance (GBA)
(B) Global Alliance Against Hunger and Poverty
(C) Coalition for Disaster Resilient Infrastructure (CDRI)
(D) International Solar Alliance (ISA)
Answer: (B) | **Explanation:** Brazil's G20 Presidency launched the Global Alliance Against Hunger and Poverty at the G20 Global Alliance Framework (2026 Compendium) with 81 founding countries including India (**MEA Annual Report 2025**).

Practice Question #3 — Solved Exam MCQ

3. **Which three nations constituted the historic all-developing-economy (IBSA) G20 Troika prior to the 2026 US G20 Presidency?**
(A) Indonesia, India, and Brazil
(B) India (2023), Brazil (2026 Compendium), and South Africa (2025)
(C) Brazil, South Africa, and the United States
(D) India, South Africa, and Saudi Arabia
Answer: (B) | **Explanation:** The 2024 G20 Troika comprised India (immediate past president, 2023), Brazil (current president, 2024), and South Africa (incoming president, 2025) (**Ministry of External Affairs**).

Practice Question #4 Solved Exam MCQ

4. **Which African country became the first nation on the African continent to assume the G20 Presidency and host the 20th G20 Leaders' Summit in November 2025?**
(A) Egypt
(B) Nigeria
(C) South Africa (Johannesburg)
(D) Ethiopia
Answer: (C) | **Explanation:** South Africa held the 2025 G20 Presidency under the theme 'Solidarity, Equality, Sustainability', hosting the 20th G20 Summit in Johannesburg (**MEA Annual Report 2025**).

Practice Question #5 Solved Exam MCQ

5. **What was the overarching theme of the 3rd Voice of Global South Summit (VOGSS) hosted virtually by India under India's Global South Initiative (2026 Compendium)?**
(A) Unity of Voice, Unity of Purpose
(B) An Empowered Global South for a Sustainable Future
(C) Recover Together, Recover Stronger
(D) Shared Future for a New Era
Answer: (B) | **Explanation:** India hosted the 3rd Voice of Global South Summit on India's Global South Voice Track (2026 Compendium), under the theme 'An Empowered Global South for a Sustainable Future' (**MEA Annual Report 2025**).

Practice Question #6 Solved Exam MCQ

6. **Where was the BRICS Kazan Framework preceding the 18th BRICS New Delhi Summit 2026 under the theme 'Strengthening Multilateralism for Just Global Development and Security'?**
(A) Johannesburg, South Africa
(B) Kazan, Russia
(C) Rio de Janeiro, Brazil
(D) St. Petersburg, Russia
Answer: (B) | **Explanation:** The 16th BRICS Summit was hosted by Russia in Kazan from BRICS Expansion Track (2026 Compendium), adopting the Kazan Declaration (**MEA Rajya Sabha Statement**).

Practice Question #7 Solved Exam MCQ

7. **Which four countries formally joined BRICS as new full members on the BRICS+ Expansion Cycle (2026 Compendium), prior to the 16th BRICS Kazan Summit, followed by Indonesia in January 2025?**
(A) Egypt, Ethiopia, Iran, and the United Arab Emirates (UAE)
(B) Argentina, Nigeria, Turkey, and Belarus
(C) Bangladesh, Uruguay, Algeria, and Kazakhstan
(D) Vietnam, Thailand, Malaysia, and Cuba
Answer: (A) | **Explanation:** Egypt, Ethiopia, Iran, and the UAE became full BRICS members on the BRICS+ Expansion Cycle (2026 Compendium), while Indonesia formally joined as the first Southeast Asian full BRICS member in January 2025 (**MEA Annual Report 2025**).

Practice Question #8 Solved Exam MCQ

8. **Which South American country was invited at the 2023 Johannesburg BRICS Summit to become a full member from the 2026 Compendium Cycle but formally declined membership in December 2023?**
(A) Uruguay
(B) Chile
(C) Argentina
(D) Colombia
Answer: (C) | **Explanation:** Following the election of President Javier Milei, Argentina formally withdrew its application and declined full BRICS membership in December 2023 (**IUC Academy**).

Practice Question #9 Solved Exam MCQ

9. **Through which BRICS Summit Declaration was the New Development Bank (NDB, headquartered in Shanghai) established in July 2014?**
(A) Yekaterinburg Declaration (1st Summit, 2009)
(B) Sanya Declaration (3rd Summit, 2011)
(C) Fortaleza Declaration (6th Summit, 2014)
(D) Ufa Declaration (7th Summit, 2015)
Answer: (C) | **Explanation:** The 6th BRICS Summit held in Fortaleza, Brazil (July 2014) signed the agreement establishing the New Development Bank (NDB) and the USD 100 billion Contingent Reserve Arrangement (**Ministry of External Affairs**).

Practice Question #10 Solved Exam MCQ

10. **Where did the New Development Bank (NDB) establish its Indian Regional Office (IRO) to finance infrastructure and sustainable development projects in South Asia?**
(A) Mumbai (BKC)
(B) New Delhi
(C) GIFT City (Gandhinagar, Gujarat)
(D) Bengaluru
Answer: (C) | **Explanation:** The New Development Bank established its Indian Regional Office (IRO) at Gujarat International Finance Tec-City (GIFT City), Gandhinagar (**Press Information Bureau (PIB)**).

Practice Question #11 Solved Exam MCQ

11. **Where was the 6th QUAD Leaders' Summit held on the QUAD Leaders' Track (2026 Compendium), resulting in the Wilmington Declaration?**
(A) Hiroshima, Japan
(B) Tokyo, Japan
(C) Wilmington, Delaware, United States
(D) Sydney, Australia
Answer: (C) | **Explanation:** US President Joe Biden hosted the 6th QUAD Leaders' Summit in Wilmington, Delaware, on the QUAD Leaders' Track (2026 Compendium) (**MEA Wilmington Declaration**).

Practice Question #12 Solved Exam MCQ

12. **Under the Quad Cancer Moonshot announced at the QUAD Leaders' Summit (2026 Compendium), which specific type of cancer was prioritized for initial elimination across the Indo-Pacific, with India committing USD 10 million in HPV vaccines and kits?**
(A) Lung Cancer
(B) Cervical Cancer
(C) Liver Cancer
(D) Leukemia
Answer: (B) | **Explanation:** The Quad Cancer Moonshot initially targets eliminating cervical cancer across the Indo-Pacific through HPV vaccination and screening (**MEA Quad Fact Sheet**).

Practice Question #13 Solved Exam MCQ

13. **What is the name of the training initiative launched at the QUAD Indo-Pacific Track (2026 Compendium) to help Indo-Pacific partners utilize tools under the Indo-Pacific Partnership for Maritime Domain Awareness (IPMDA)?**
(A) SAGAR-X
(B) MAITRI (Maritime Initiative for Training in the Indo-Pacific)
(C) VARUNA-MDA
(D) MILAN-NET
Answer: (B) | **Explanation:** The QUAD Leaders launched MAITRI (Maritime Initiative for Training in the Indo-Pacific), with India hosting the inaugural MAITRI workshop (**MEA Quad Fact Sheet**).

Practice Question #14 Solved Exam MCQ

14. **According to the October 2026 QUAD Joint Press Release on Economic Prosperity and Security, which shared disaster-relief logistics mechanism advanced its Standard Operating Procedures during a Tabletop Exercise hosted by Japan?**
(A) Indo-Pacific Logistics Network (IPLN)
(B) Quad Supply Chain Council
(C) Blue Dot Network
(D) Asia-Africa Growth Corridor
Answer: (A) | **Explanation:** The QUAD countries advanced the Indo-Pacific Logistics Network (IPLN) SOPs during the second IPLN Tabletop Exercise in September 2026 and sent observers to India's AJHE-26 in November 2026 (**MEA Quad Press Release Oct 2026**).

Practice Question #15 Solved Exam MCQ

15. **For which Indian Ocean island nation did India establish a space-based web portal under the QUAD framework to monitor extreme weather events and climate impact?**
(A) Maldives
(B) Sri Lanka
(C) Mauritius
(D) Madagascar
Answer: (C) | **Explanation:** Under the Wilmington Declaration, India established an open-science space-based web portal for Mauritius to monitor extreme weather events (**MEA Press Release**).

Practice Question #16 Solved Exam MCQ

16. **Which country formally became the 10th full member of the Shanghai Cooperation Organisation (SCO) at the 24th SCO Council of Heads of State Summit in Astana (2026 Compendium)?**
(A) Iran
(B) Belarus
(C) Mongolia
(D) Turkmenistan
Answer: (B) | **Explanation:** Iran became the 9th full member at the 2023 New Delhi Summit, and Belarus became the 10th full member at the 24th SCO Summit in Astana on the SCO Expansion Cycle (2026 Compendium) (**MEA Annual Report 2025**).

Practice Question #17 Solved Exam MCQ

17. **Where is the Executive Committee of the Regional Anti-Terrorist Structure (RATS) of the Shanghai Cooperation Organisation (SCO) headquartered?**
(A) Beijing, China
(B) Astana, Kazakhstan
(C) Tashkent, Uzbekistan
(D) Bishkek, Kyrgyzstan
Answer: (C) | **Explanation:** While the SCO Secretariat is located in Beijing (China), the Executive Committee of SCO-RATS is headquartered in Tashkent, Uzbekistan (**Ministry of External Affairs**).

Practice Question #18 Solved Exam MCQ

18. **Which Central Asian republic is NOT a member of the Shanghai Cooperation Organisation (SCO) due to its UN-recognized policy of permanent neutrality?**
(A) Kazakhstan
(B) Uzbekistan
(C) Tajikistan
(D) Turkmenistan
Answer: (D) | **Explanation:** Kazakhstan, Kyrgyzstan, Tajikistan, and Uzbekistan are SCO members, whereas Turkmenistan is not an SCO member (**IUC Academy**).

Practice Question #19 Solved Exam MCQ

19. **Where was the 21st ASEAN-India Summit held in 2026 Compendium, marking 10 years of India's Act East Policy, where PM Modi announced 2025 as the ASEAN-India Year of Tourism?**
(A) Jakarta, Indonesia
(B) Vientiane, Lao PDR (Laos)
(C) Phnom Penh, Cambodia
(D) Bangkok, Thailand
Answer: (B) | **Explanation:** The 21st ASEAN-India Summit and 19th East Asia Summit were held in Vientiane, Lao PDR, on the ASEAN-India Summit Track (2026 Compendium) (**MEA Annual Report 2025**).

Practice Question #20 Solved Exam MCQ

20. **Which regional organization's Charter officially entered into force on the BIMSTEC Charter Enforcement (2026 Compendium), granting it formal international legal personality with its Permanent Secretariat in Dhaka?**
(A) SAARC
(B) BIMSTEC (Bay of Bengal Initiative for Multi-Sectoral Technical and Economic Cooperation)
(C) IORA
(D) Mekong-Ganga Cooperation
Answer: (B) | **Explanation:** The BIMSTEC Charter (signed at the 5th Colombo Summit in 2022) entered into force on the BIMSTEC Charter Enforcement (2026 Compendium), after ratification by all 7 member states (**MEA Annual Report 2025**).

Practice Question #21 Solved Exam MCQ

21. **Which country became the 5th full member of the Colombo Security Conclave (CSC) in 2026 Compendium alongside India, Sri Lanka, Maldives, and Mauritius?**
(A) Seychelles
(B) Bangladesh
(C) Myanmar
(D) Madagascar
Answer: (B) | **Explanation:** Bangladesh joined the Colombo Security Conclave as its 5th full member in 2026 Compendium, ahead of the signing of the CSC Secretariat Charter in Colombo under India's Global South Initiative (2026 Compendium) (**MEA Annual Report 2025**).

Practice Question #22 Solved Exam MCQ

22. **Which of the following Mediterranean ports in Israel serves as the primary maritime transit hub linking the Northern Corridor of the India-Middle East-Europe Economic Corridor (IMEC) to Europe?**
(A) Eilat Port
(B) Haifa Port
(C) Ashkelon Port
(D) Bandar Abbas Port
Answer: (B) | **Explanation:** Under IMEC, the rail link across the UAE, Saudi Arabia, and Jordan connects to Haifa Port in Israel on the Mediterranean Sea, from where goods are shipped to Piraeus (Greece) and Europe (**Press Information Bureau (PIB)**).

Practice Question #23 Solved Exam MCQ

23. **On the 10-Year Chabahar Operational Contract (2026 Compendium), India Ports Global Limited (IPGL) signed a 10-year long-term contract with Iran's Ports and Maritime Organization to operate which specific terminal at Chabahar Port?**
(A) Shahid Kalantari Terminal
(B) Shahid Beheshti Terminal
(C) Bandar-e-Jask Terminal
(D) Bandar Anzali Terminal
Answer: (B) | **Explanation:** IPGL signed a 10-year bilateral contract (with USD 120M equipment investment + USD 250M credit line) to equip and operate the Shahid Beheshti Terminal at Chabahar Port (**MEA Annual Report 2025**).

Practice Question #24 Solved Exam MCQ

24. **Under the Kaladan Multi-Modal Transit Transport Project (KMTTP), Kolkata Port is connected by sea to which deepwater port in Rakhine State, Myanmar?**
(A) Kyaukpyu Port
(B) Sittwe Port
(C) Yangon Port
(D) Dawei Port
Answer: (B) | **Explanation:** The Kaladan project links Syama Prasad Mookerjee Port (Kolkata) across the Bay of Bengal (539 km) to Sittwe Port in Myanmar, then along the Kaladan River to Paletwa and by road to Zorinpui in Mizoram (**Ministry of External Affairs**).

Practice Question #25 Solved Exam MCQ

25. **Which Russian Far East port is connected to Chennai Port via the 5,600-nautical-mile Eastern Maritime Corridor (EMC), cutting shipping transit time from 40 days to 24 days?**
(A) Murmansk
(B) St. Petersburg
(C) Vladivostok
(D) Novorossiysk
Answer: (C) | **Explanation:** The Chennai–Vladivostok Eastern Maritime Corridor (EMC) links India's east coast directly to the Russian Far East via the Malacca Strait and Sea of Japan (**Press Information Bureau (PIB)**).

Practice Question #26 Solved Exam MCQ

26. **According to the MEA India-China Bilateral Brief (July 2026), which two Himalayan passes were used for the resumption of the Kailash Mansarovar Yatra in 2025 and 2026 after a five-year hiatus?**
(A) Shipki La and Rohtang Pass
(B) Lipulekh Pass (Uttarakhand) and Nathu La Pass (Sikkim)
(C) Jelep La and Bomdi La
(D) Karakoram Pass and Zoji La
Answer: (B) | **Explanation:** Following the 2026 Compendium LAC disengagement and bilateral normalization, the Kailash Mansarovar Yatra resumed in 2025 and continued in June 2026 via both the Lipulekh and Nathu La routes (**MEA India-China Brief July 2026**).

Practice Question #27 Solved Exam MCQ

27. **On the India-EFTA TEPA Signing (2026 Compendium), India signed the Trade and Economic Partnership Agreement (TEPA) involving a legally binding commitment of USD 100 billion investment over 15 years with which 4-nation European bloc?**
(A) European Union (EU)
(B) EFTA (Switzerland, Norway, Iceland, and Liechtenstein)
(C) Benelux Union
(D) Nordic Council
Answer: (B) | **Explanation:** India signed TEPA with the 4-member European Free Trade Association (EFTA: Switzerland, Norway, Iceland, Liechtenstein), pledging USD 100 billion in investment and 1 million jobs in India (**Press Information Bureau (PIB)**).

Practice Question #28 Solved Exam MCQ

28. **Which highest civilian honour of Bhutan was conferred upon Prime Minister Narendra Modi in 2026 Compendium, making him the first foreign head of government to receive it?**
(A) Order of St. Andrew the Apostle
(B) Order of the Druk Gyalpo
(C) Grand Cross of the Legion of Honour
(D) Order of the Nile
Answer: (B) | **Explanation:** The King of Bhutan Jigme Khesar Namgyel Wangchuck conferred the Order of the Druk Gyalpo upon PM Narendra Modi in Thimphu in 2026 Compendium (**MEA Annual Report 2025**).

Practice Question #29 Solved Exam MCQ

29. **In the 2026 Compendium Cycle, India signed a Long-Term Power Trade Agreement with which neighbouring country to import 10,000 MW of hydroelectricity over the next 10 years?**
(A) Bhutan
(B) Nepal
(C) Myanmar
(D) Bangladesh
Answer: (B) | **Explanation:** India and Nepal signed the Long-Term Power Trade Agreement targeting 10,000 MW of hydropower exports from Nepal to India over 10 years, alongside the first trilateral power export of 40 MW from Nepal to Bangladesh via the Indian grid (**MEA Annual Report 2025**).

Practice Question #30 Solved Exam MCQ

30. **In 2026 Compendium, India and Mauritius jointly inaugurated a new airstrip and St. James Jetty on which strategically located Mauritian island in the Western Indian Ocean?**
(A) Diego Garcia
(B) Agalega Island
(C) Socotra Island
(D) Assumption Island
Answer: (B) | **Explanation:** India and Mauritius jointly inaugurated the new airstrip, St. James Jetty, and six community development projects at Agalega Island in 2026 Compendium (**MEA Annual Report 2025**).

Practice Question #31 Solved Exam MCQ

31. **According to the Economic Survey 2025–26 released by PIB, what is India's latest rank in the Global Innovation Index (GII) published by WIPO, improving from 66th in 2019 and 39th in the 2026 Compendium?**
(A) 42nd
(B) 38th
(C) 35th
(D) 46th
Answer: (B) | **Explanation:** As officially highlighted in the Economic Survey 2025–26, India's rank in WIPO's Global Innovation Index improved to 38th in 2025 (from 39th in the 2026 Compendium and 66th in 2019) (**PIB Economic Survey 2025-26 Release**).

Practice Question #32 Solved Exam MCQ

32. **What is India's overall rank in the World Bank's Logistics Performance Index (LPI), and what is its rank specifically in the 'International Shipments' sub-category?**
(A) 44th overall and 38th in International Shipments
(B) 38th overall (out of 139) and 22nd in International Shipments
(C) 30th overall and 15th in International Shipments
(D) 54th overall and 44th in International Shipments
Answer: (B) | **Explanation:** India ranks 38th out of 139 countries overall in the World Bank Logistics Performance Index (LPI), and improved to 22nd in the International Shipments category (**PIB Economic Survey Release**).

Practice Question #33 Solved Exam MCQ

33. **What is India's rank in the World Economic Forum's (WEF) Travel & Tourism Development Index (TTDI (2026 Compendium)) among 119 countries, where India ranked 1st in South Asia?**
(A) 54th
(B) 39th
(C) 45th
(D) 28th
Answer: (B) | **Explanation:** India jumped from 54th (in 2021) to 39th out of 119 countries in the WEF Travel & Tourism Development Index (2026 Compendium), while the USA ranked 1st (**Press Information Bureau (PIB)**).

Practice Question #34 Solved Exam MCQ

34. **Which three dimensions and four indicators are used by the United Nations Development Programme (UNDP) to compute the Human Development Index (HDI)?**
(A) Health (Infant Mortality), Education (Literacy Rate), and GDP per capita
(B) Long & Healthy Life (Life Expectancy at Birth), Knowledge (Expected Years of Schooling & Mean Years of Schooling), and Standard of Living (GNI per capita in PPP USD)
(C) Nutrition, Child Mortality, Electricity, and Sanitation
(D) Economic Participation, Education, Health, and Political Empowerment
Answer: (B) | **Explanation:** UNDP's HDI uses 3 dimensions and 4 indicators: Life Expectancy at Birth, Expected Years of Schooling, Mean Years of Schooling, and GNI per capita (PPP USD) (**Press Information Bureau (PIB)**).

Practice Question #35 Solved Exam MCQ

35. **Which organization publishes the Global Gender Gap Index (GGGI), in which Iceland has ranked 1st for 15 consecutive years and India ranked 129th in the 2026 Compendium?**
(A) United Nations Development Programme (UNDP)
(B) World Economic Forum (WEF)
(C) UN Women
(D) World Bank
Answer: (B) | **Explanation:** The Global Gender Gap Index (GGGI) is published annually by the World Economic Forum (WEF) across 4 dimensions, whereas the Gender Inequality Index (GII) is published by UNDP (**PIB Gender Gap Release**).

Practice Question #36 Solved Exam MCQ

36. **Which two European non-governmental organizations jointly publish the annual Global Hunger Index (GHI), in which India was placed 105th out of 127 countries in the 2026 Compendium?**
(A) Oxfam and Amnesty International
(B) Concern Worldwide (Ireland) and Welthungerhilfe (Germany)
(C) Reporters Without Borders and Germanwatch
(D) Transparency International and Portulans Institute
Answer: (B) | **Explanation:** The Global Hunger Index (GHI) is jointly published by Concern Worldwide (Ireland) and Welthungerhilfe (Germany) across 4 indicators (**IUC Academy**).

Practice Question #37 Solved Exam MCQ

37. **In the Climate Change Performance Index (CCPI) published by Germanwatch, NewClimate Institute, and CAN, why is Denmark ranked 4th despite being the highest-performing country in the world?**
(A) Because the USA, China, and India occupy the top three ranks
(B) Because Ranks 1, 2, and 3 are left completely vacant as no country has met all criteria for the 1.5°C Paris climate pathway
(C) Because only non-EU nations are eligible for the top three positions
(D) Because the top three ranks are reserved for small island developing states
Answer: (B) | **Explanation:** In the CCPI, the first three ranks (1st, 2nd, and 3rd) are kept vacant because no country performs well enough across all index categories to achieve an overall 'very high' rating; India ranks in the Top 10 (7th in the 2026 Compendium / 10th in 2025) (**Press Information Bureau (PIB)**).

Practice Question #38 Solved Exam MCQ

38. **According to NITI Aayog's SDG India Index (2026 Compendium) (4th Edition), what is India's overall national composite score, and which two states jointly topped the rankings with a score of 79?**
(A) Score 66; Kerala and Tamil Nadu
(B) Score 71; Uttarakhand and Kerala (Score 79 each)
(C) Score 75; Himachal Pradesh and Goa
(D) Score 71; Gujarat and Maharashtra
Answer: (B) | **Explanation:** India's composite score on NITI Aayog's SDG India Index (2026 Compendium) improved to 71 (from 66 in 2020–21), with Uttarakhand and Kerala jointly ranking 1st at 79 (**NITI Aayog SDG India Index (2026 Compendium)**).

Practice Question #39 Solved Exam MCQ

39. **In NITI Aayog's SDG India Index (2026 Compendium), which state recorded the fastest improvement (+25 points increase from 42 in 2018 to 67 in 2023–24), moving into the Front Runner category?**
(A) Bihar
(B) Uttar Pradesh
(C) Assam
(D) Odisha
Answer: (B) | **Explanation:** Uttar Pradesh was the fastest-moving state between 2018 and 2023–24, increasing its composite score by 25 points (from 42 to 67) to enter the Front Runner (65–99) category (**NITI Aayog SDG India Index (2026 Compendium)**).

Practice Question #40 Solved Exam MCQ

40. **According to NITI Aayog's National Multidimensional Poverty Index (MPI) Discussion Paper, how many crore people escaped multidimensional poverty in India over the 9-year period from 2013–14 to 2022–23, and which state led this reduction?**
(A) 13.50 crore; Bihar led
(B) 24.82 crore; Uttar Pradesh led (with 5.94 crore exiting poverty)
(C) 18.20 crore; Madhya Pradesh led
(D) 31.40 crore; Maharashtra led
Answer: (B) | **Explanation:** A total of 24.82 crore Indians escaped multidimensional poverty as the headcount ratio fell from 29.17% (2013–14) to 11.28% (2022–23), with Uttar Pradesh recording the steepest decline of 5.94 crore people (**NITI Aayog**).

Practice Question #41 Solved Exam MCQ

41. **Where was the 18th BRICS Summit hosted by India on September 12–13, 2026, marking 20 years of BRICS cooperation under the theme 'Building Resilience, Innovation, Cooperation and Sustainability'?**
(A) Yashobhoomi Convention Centre, Dwarka
(B) Bharat Mandapam, New Delhi (bringing together 11 full members and 10 partner countries)
(C) Mahatma Mandir, Gandhinagar
(D) Hyderabad International Convention Centre
Answer: (B) | **Explanation:** India hosted the 18th BRICS Summit at Bharat Mandapam, New Delhi, on September 12–13, 2026, focusing on DPI, AI governance, local currency settlement, and the BRICS Grain Exchange before handing the 2027 presidency to China (**Ministry of External Affairs**).

Practice Question #42 Solved Exam MCQ

42. **Which two cities host the 52nd G7 Leaders' Summit (June 15–17, 2026) and the 21st G20 Leaders' Summit (December 14–15, 2026), respectively?**
(A) Kananaskis (Canada) and Johannesburg (South Africa)
(B) Évian-les-Bains (France) and Miami, Florida (United States)
(C) Hiroshima (Japan) and Rio de Janeiro (Brazil)
(D) Apulia (Italy) and Manchester (United Kingdom)
Answer: (B) | **Explanation:** France hosted the 52nd G7 Summit at Évian-les-Bains on June 15–17, 2026, while the United States hosts the 21st G20 Leaders' Summit at Miami, Florida, on December 14–15, 2026 (**Ministry of External Affairs**).

Practice Question #43 Solved Exam MCQ

43. **In 2026, India concluded negotiations for the historic 'Mother of All Deals' Free Trade Agreement (on January 27, 2026) and operationalized the Comprehensive Economic and Trade Agreement (CETA) alongside a Double Contribution Convention (on July 15, 2026) with which two partners, respectively?**
(A) EFTA and Australia
(B) European Union (EU — concluded Jan 27, 2026) and United Kingdom (UK — entered into force July 15, 2026)
(C) GCC and Canada
(D) ASEAN and New Zealand
Answer: (B) | **Explanation:** India concluded the landmark India–EU FTA negotiations on January 27, 2026 (covering 96.8% tariff lines and ~2 billion people), while the India–UK CETA and Social Security Agreement entered into force on July 15, 2026 (99% Indian exports duty-free and 5-year social security exemption), alongside the India–Oman CEPA entering into force on June 1, 2026 (**Press Information Bureau (PIB)**).

Practice Question #44 Solved Exam MCQ

44. **Which Southeast Asian nation chaired ASEAN in 2026 and hosted the 48th and 49th ASEAN Summits in Manila (November 14–16, 2026), while Kyrgyzstan hosted the 26th SCO Summit in August–September 2026?**
(A) Lao PDR (Vientiane)
(B) The Philippines (Manila — 2026 ASEAN Chair)
(C) Indonesia (Jakarta)
(D) Thailand (Bangkok)
Answer: (B) | **Explanation:** The Philippines held the 2026 ASEAN Chairmanship and hosted the 48th–49th ASEAN Summits in Manila in November 2026, while Bishkek (Kyrgyzstan) hosted the 26th SCO Summit in August–September 2026 and New Delhi hosted the 1st SCO Civilisational Dialogue Forum in November 2026 (**Ministry of External Affairs**).

Practice Question #45 Solved Exam MCQ

45. **According to the verified 2026 Global Index releases, what are India's exact positions in the Network Readiness Index (NRI 2025–26), Henley Passport Index 2026, Global Gender Gap Index 2026, and Global Hunger Index 2026?**
(A) 49th (NRI), 85th (Henley), 129th (Gender Gap), and 105th (Hunger)
(B) 45th (NRI), 75th (Henley Passport 2026), 131st (Global Gender Gap 2026 — 64.5% parity), and 100th (Global Hunger Index 2026 — score 24.1)
(C) 38th (NRI), 70th (Henley), 108th (Gender Gap), and 96th (Hunger)
(D) 41st (NRI), 80th (Henley), 134th (Gender Gap), and 116th (Hunger)
Answer: (B) | **Explanation:** In the 2026 rankings, India improved to 45th in the Network Readiness Index, ranked 75th in the Henley Passport Index 2026, 131st out of 145 (64.5% parity) in the WEF Global Gender Gap Index 2026, and 100th out of 122 (score 24.1) in the Global Hunger Index 2026 (**Press Information Bureau (PIB)**).

Extended Comparative & Analytical Practice Set (Questions *46* to *85*)

Practice Question #46 High-Yield Comparative MCQ

Q46. With reference to G20 Edition & Year and Host City & Country, which of the following is accurately matched with "17th G20 Summit (2022)"?

(A) Bali, Indonesia
(B) New Delhi, India
(C) Rio de Janeiro, Brazil
(D) Johannesburg, South Africa

Correct Answer: (A) | **Explanation:** For **17th G20 Summit (2022)** (G20 Edition & Year), the verified Host City & Country is **Bali, Indonesia**. Furthermore, *Recover Together, Recover Stronger*. (Source: विदेश मंत्रालय (MEA) & IUC Academy).

Practice Question #47 High-Yield Comparative MCQ

Q47. With reference to G20 Edition & Year and Host City & Country, which of the following is accurately matched with "18th G20 Summit (Sept 9–10, 2023)"?

(A) Rio de Janeiro, Brazil
(B) New Delhi, India
(C) Johannesburg, South Africa
(D) Miami, Florida, USA

Correct Answer: (B) | **Explanation:** For **18th G20 Summit (Sept 9–10, 2023)** (G20 Edition & Year), the verified Host City & Country is **New Delhi, India**. Furthermore, *Vasudhaiva Kutumbakam — One Earth, One Family, One Future*. (Source: विदेश मंत्रालय (MEA) & IUC Academy).

Practice Question #48 High-Yield Comparative MCQ

Q48. With reference to G20 Edition & Year and Host City & Country, which of the following is accurately matched with "G20 Rio Summit & 21st G20 Miami Summit (2026)"?

(A) Johannesburg, South Africa
(B) Miami, Florida, USA
(C) Rio de Janeiro, Brazil
(D) Manchester, United Kingdom

Correct Answer: (C) | **Explanation:** For **G20 Rio Summit & 21st G20 Miami Summit (2026)** (G20 Edition & Year), the verified Host City & Country is **Rio de Janeiro, Brazil**. Furthermore, *Building a Just World and a Sustainable Planet*. (Source: विदेश मंत्रालय (MEA) & IUC Academy).

Practice Question #49 High-Yield Comparative MCQ

Q49. With reference to G20 Edition & Year and Host City & Country, which of the following is accurately matched with "20th G20 Summit (Nov 2025)"?

(A) Miami, Florida, USA
(B) Manchester, United Kingdom
(C) Virtual (Hosted by New Delhi, India)
(D) Johannesburg, South Africa

Correct Answer: (D) | **Explanation:** For **20th G20 Summit (Nov 2025)** (G20 Edition & Year), the verified Host City & Country is **Johannesburg, South Africa**. Furthermore, *Solidarity*, *Equality*, *Sustainability*. (Source: विदेश मंत्रालय (MEA) & IUC Academy).

Practice Question #50 High-Yield Comparative MCQ

Q50. With reference to G20 Edition & Year and Host City & Country, which of the following is accurately matched with "21st G20 Summit (Dec 14–15, 2026)"?

(A) Miami, Florida, USA
(B) Manchester, United Kingdom
(C) Virtual (Hosted by New Delhi, India)
(D) June 16, 2009

Correct Answer: (A) | **Explanation:** For **21st G20 Summit (Dec 14–15, 2026)** (G20 Edition & Year), the verified Host City & Country is **Miami, Florida, USA**. Furthermore, *Unleashing Economic Prosperity*, *Energy Security & Pioneering Technologies*. (Source: विदेश मंत्रालय (MEA) & IUC Academy).

Practice Question #51 High-Yield Comparative MCQ

Q51. With reference to G20 Edition & Year and Host City & Country, which of the following is accurately matched with "22nd G20 Summit (Nov 27–28, 2027)"?

(A) Virtual (Hosted by New Delhi, India)
(B) Manchester, United Kingdom
(C) June 16, 2009
(D) Fortaleza Declaration (July 2014)

Correct Answer: (B) | **Explanation:** For **22nd G20 Summit (Nov 27–28, 2027)** (G20 Edition & Year), the verified Host City & Country is **Manchester, United Kingdom**. Furthermore, *Global Financial Stability & Sustainable Growth*. (Source: विदेश मंत्रालय (MEA) & IUC Academy).

Practice Question #52 High-Yield Comparative MCQ

Q52. With reference to G20 Edition & Year and Host City & Country, which of the following is accurately matched with "3rd Voice of Global South Summit (2026 Compendium)"?

(A) June 16, 2009
(B) Fortaleza Declaration (July 2014)
(C) Virtual (Hosted by New Delhi, India)
(D) August 22–24, 2023

Correct Answer: (C) | **Explanation:** For **3rd Voice of Global South Summit (2026 Compendium)** (G20 Edition & Year), the verified Host City & Country is **Virtual (Hosted by New Delhi, India)**. Furthermore, *An Empowered Global South for a Sustainable Future*. (Source: विदेश मंत्रालय (MEA) & IUC Academy).

Practice Question #53 High-Yield Comparative MCQ

Q53. With reference to BRICS Feature / Institution and Founding / Landmark Event, which of the following is accurately matched with "1st BRIC Summit (2009)"?

(A) Fortaleza Declaration (July 2014)
(B) August 22–24, 2023
(C) BRICS Expansion Track (2026 Compendium)
(D) June 16, 2009

Correct Answer: (D) | **Explanation:** For **1st BRIC Summit (2009)** (BRICS Feature / Institution), the verified Founding / Landmark Event is **June 16, 2009**. Furthermore, Yekaterinburg, Russia. (Source: विदेश मंत्रालय (MEA) & IUC Academy).

Practice Question #54 High-Yield Comparative MCQ

Q54. With reference to BRICS Feature / Institution and Founding / Landmark Event, which of the following is accurately matched with "6th BRICS Summit (2014)"?

(A) Fortaleza Declaration (July 2014)
(B) August 22–24, 2023
(C) BRICS Expansion Track (2026 Compendium)
(D) July 2025

Correct Answer: (A) | **Explanation:** For **6th BRICS Summit (2014)** (BRICS Feature / Institution), the verified Founding / Landmark Event is **Fortaleza Declaration (July 2014)**. Furthermore, Fortaleza, Brazil. (Source: विदेश मंत्रालय (MEA) & IUC Academy).

Practice Question #55 High-Yield Comparative MCQ

Q55. With reference to BRICS Feature / Institution and Founding / Landmark Event, which of the following is accurately matched with "15th BRICS Summit (2023)"?

(A) BRICS Expansion Track (2026 Compendium)
(B) August 22–24, 2023
(C) July 2025
(D) Sept 12–13, 2026 (India Presidency)

Correct Answer: (B) | **Explanation:** For **15th BRICS Summit (2023)** (BRICS Feature / Institution), the verified Founding / Landmark Event is **August 22–24, 2023**. Furthermore, Johannesburg, South Africa. (Source: विदेश मंत्रालय (MEA) & IUC Academy).

Practice Question #56 High-Yield Comparative MCQ

Q56. With reference to BRICS Feature / Institution and Founding / Landmark Event, which of the following is accurately matched with "BRICS Expansion & 18th New Delhi Summit (2026)"?

(A) July 2025
(B) Sept 12–13, 2026 (India Presidency)
(C) BRICS Expansion Track (2026 Compendium)
(D) Operational since 2015

Correct Answer: (C) | **Explanation:** For **BRICS Expansion & 18th New Delhi Summit (2026)** (BRICS Feature / Institution), the verified Founding / Landmark Event is **BRICS Expansion Track (2026 Compendium)**. Furthermore, Kazan, Russia. (Source: विदेश मंत्रालय (MEA) & IUC Academy).

Practice Question #57 High-Yield Comparative MCQ

Q57. With reference to BRICS Feature / Institution and Founding / Landmark Event, which of the following is accurately matched with "17th BRICS Summit (2025)"?

(A) Sept 12–13, 2026 (India Presidency)
(B) Operational since 2015
(C) Maritime Security & Dark-Shipping Tracking
(D) July 2025

Correct Answer: (D) | **Explanation:** For **17th BRICS Summit (2025)** (BRICS Feature / Institution), the verified Founding / Landmark Event is **July 2025**. Furthermore, Rio de Janeiro, Brazil. (Source: विदेश मंत्रालय (MEA) & IUC Academy).

Practice Question #58 High-Yield Comparative MCQ

Q58. With reference to BRICS Feature / Institution and Founding / Landmark Event, which of the following is accurately matched with "18th BRICS Summit (2026)"?

(A) Sept 12–13, 2026 (India Presidency)
(B) Operational since 2015
(C) Maritime Security & Dark-Shipping Tracking
(D) Maritime Law Enforcement & IPMDA Training

Correct Answer: (A) | **Explanation:** For **18th BRICS Summit (2026)** (BRICS Feature / Institution), the verified Founding / Landmark Event is **Sept 12–13, 2026 (India Presidency)**. Furthermore, Bharat Mandapam, New Delhi, India. (Source: विदेश मंत्रालय (MEA) & IUC Academy).

Practice Question #59 High-Yield Comparative MCQ

Q59. With reference to BRICS Feature / Institution and Founding / Landmark Event, which of the following is accurately matched with "New Development Bank (NDB)"?

(A) Maritime Security & Dark-Shipping Tracking
(B) Operational since 2015
(C) Maritime Law Enforcement & IPMDA Training
(D) Coast Guard Interoperability

Correct Answer: (B) | **Explanation:** For **New Development Bank (NDB)** (BRICS Feature / Institution), the verified Founding / Landmark Event is **Operational since 2015**. Furthermore, Shanghai, China (Regional Office in GIFT City, Gujarat). (Source: विदेश मंत्रालय (MEA) & IUC Academy).

Practice Question #60 High-Yield Comparative MCQ

Q60. With reference to QUAD Initiative / Mechanism and Core Domain, which of the following is accurately matched with "Indo-Pacific Partnership for Maritime Domain Awareness (IPMDA)"?

(A) Maritime Law Enforcement & IPMDA Training
(B) Coast Guard Interoperability
(C) Maritime Security & Dark-Shipping Tracking
(D) Humanitarian Assistance & Disaster Relief (HADR)

Correct Answer: (C) | **Explanation:** For **Indo-Pacific Partnership for Maritime Domain Awareness (IPMDA)** (QUAD Initiative / Mechanism), the verified Core Domain is **Maritime Security & Dark-Shipping Tracking**. Furthermore, Launched at 2022 Tokyo Summit; expanded to Indian Ocean Region via Information Fusion Centre — Indian Ocean Region (IFC-IOR, Gurugram). (Source: विदेश मंत्रालय (MEA) & IUC Academy).

Practice Question #61 High-Yield Comparative MCQ

Q61. With reference to QUAD Initiative / Mechanism and Core Domain, which of the following is accurately matched with "Maritime Initiative for Training in the Indo-Pacific (MAITRI)"?

(A) Coast Guard Interoperability
(B) Humanitarian Assistance & Disaster Relief (HADR)
(C) Public Health Security
(D) Maritime Law Enforcement & IPMDA Training

Correct Answer: (D) | **Explanation:** For **Maritime Initiative for Training in the Indo-Pacific (MAITRI)** (QUAD Initiative / Mechanism), the verified Core Domain is **Maritime Law Enforcement & IPMDA Training**. Furthermore, Announced at QUAD Leaders' Summit (2026 Compendium); India hosted inaugural MAITRI workshop. (Source: विदेश मंत्रालय (MEA) & IUC Academy).

Practice Question #62 High-Yield Comparative MCQ

Q62. With reference to QUAD Initiative / Mechanism and Core Domain, which of the following is accurately matched with "Quad-at-Sea Ship Observer Mission"?

(A) Coast Guard Interoperability
(B) Humanitarian Assistance & Disaster Relief (HADR)
(C) Public Health Security
(D) Quality Infrastructure

Correct Answer: (A) | **Explanation:** For **Quad-at-Sea Ship Observer Mission** (QUAD Initiative / Mechanism), the verified Core Domain is **Coast Guard Interoperability**. Furthermore, US Coast Guard, Indian Coast Guard, Japan Coast Guard & Australian Border Force cross-embarkation (2025). (Source: विदेश मंत्रालय (MEA) & IUC Academy).

Practice Question #63 High-Yield Comparative MCQ

Q63. With reference to QUAD Initiative / Mechanism and Core Domain, which of the following is accurately matched with "Indo-Pacific Logistics Network (IPLN)"?

(A) Public Health Security
(B) Humanitarian Assistance & Disaster Relief (HADR)
(C) Quality Infrastructure
(D) Naval Warfare Interoperability

Correct Answer: (B) | **Explanation:** For **Indo-Pacific Logistics Network (IPLN)** (QUAD Initiative / Mechanism), the verified Core Domain is **Humanitarian Assistance & Disaster Relief (HADR)**. Furthermore, Second IPLN Tabletop Exercise hosted by Japan (Sept 2026); observers sent to India's AJHE-26 (Nov 2026). (Source: विदेश मंत्रालय (MEA) & IUC Academy).

Practice Question #64 High-Yield Comparative MCQ

Q64. With reference to QUAD Initiative / Mechanism and Core Domain, which of the following is accurately matched with "Quad Cancer Moonshot"?

(A) Quality Infrastructure
(B) Naval Warfare Interoperability
(C) Public Health Security
(D) Advanced Economies Forum

Correct Answer: (C) | **Explanation:** For **Quad Cancer Moonshot** (QUAD Initiative / Mechanism), the verified Core Domain is **Public Health Security**. Furthermore, Targets cervical cancer elimination; India pledged USD 10M in HPV vaccines/kits & DPI screening support. (Source: विदेश मंत्रालय (MEA) & IUC Academy).

Practice Question #65 High-Yield Comparative MCQ

Q65. With reference to QUAD Initiative / Mechanism and Core Domain, which of the following is accurately matched with "Quad Ports of the Future Partnership"?

(A) Naval Warfare Interoperability
(B) Advanced Economies Forum
(C) Global Governance & AI / Climate Outreach
(D) Quality Infrastructure

Correct Answer: (D) | **Explanation:** For **Quad Ports of the Future Partnership** (QUAD Initiative / Mechanism), the verified Core Domain is **Quality Infrastructure**. Furthermore, Sustainable port development across Indo-Pacific; regional conference hosted by India in Mumbai. (Source: विदेश मंत्रालय (MEA) & IUC Academy).

Practice Question #66 High-Yield Comparative MCQ

Q66. With reference to QUAD Initiative / Mechanism and Core Domain, which of the following is accurately matched with "Exercise Malabar"?

(A) Naval Warfare Interoperability
(B) Advanced Economies Forum
(C) Global Governance & AI / Climate Outreach
(D) 2001; Secretariat in Beijing & RATS in Tashkent

Correct Answer: (A) | **Explanation:** For **Exercise Malabar** (QUAD Initiative / Mechanism), the verified Core Domain is **Naval Warfare Interoperability**. Furthermore, Started in 1992 (India-US); Japan joined permanently in 2015, Australia rejoined in 2020. (Source: विदेश मंत्रालय (MEA) & IUC Academy).

Practice Question #67 High-Yield Comparative MCQ

Q67. With reference to QUAD Initiative / Mechanism and Core Domain, which of the following is accurately matched with "51st G7 Summit (June 2025)"?

(A) Global Governance & AI / Climate Outreach
(B) Advanced Economies Forum
(C) 2001; Secretariat in Beijing & RATS in Tashkent
(D) 1967 (Bangkok Declaration); HQ in Jakarta, Indonesia

Correct Answer: (B) | **Explanation:** For **51st G7 Summit (June 2025)** (QUAD Initiative / Mechanism), the verified Core Domain is **Advanced Economies Forum**. Furthermore, Hosted at Kananaskis, Alberta, Canada; adopted Kananaskis Wildfire Charter & Critical Minerals Action Plan. (Source: विदेश मंत्रालय (MEA) & IUC Academy).

Practice Question #68 High-Yield Comparative MCQ

Q68. With reference to QUAD Initiative / Mechanism and Core Domain, which of the following is accurately matched with "52nd G7 Summit (June 15–17, 2026)"?

(A) 2001; Secretariat in Beijing & RATS in Tashkent
(B) 1967 (Bangkok Declaration); HQ in Jakarta, Indonesia
(C) Global Governance & AI / Climate Outreach
(D) 1997 (Bangkok Declaration); HQ in Dhaka, Bangladesh

Correct Answer: (C) | **Explanation:** For **52nd G7 Summit (June 15–17, 2026)** (QUAD Initiative / Mechanism), the verified Core Domain is **Global Governance & AI / Climate Outreach**. Furthermore, Hosted by France at Évian-les-Bains; synergy between France's 2026 G7 Presidency and India's 2026 BRICS Presidency. (Source: विदेश मंत्रालय (MEA) & IUC Academy).

Practice Question #69 High-Yield Comparative MCQ

Q69. With reference to Organization and Founding Year & HQ, which of the following is accurately matched with "Shanghai Cooperation Organisation (SCO)"?

(A) 1967 (Bangkok Declaration); HQ in Jakarta, Indonesia
(B) 1997 (Bangkok Declaration); HQ in Dhaka, Bangladesh
(C) Revived 2020; Secretariat in Colombo, Sri Lanka
(D) 2001; Secretariat in Beijing & RATS in Tashkent

Correct Answer: (D) | **Explanation:** For **Shanghai Cooperation Organisation (SCO)** (Organization), the verified Founding Year & HQ is **2001; Secretariat in Beijing & RATS in Tashkent**. Furthermore, 10 Full Members (Belarus became 10th in 2026 Compendium). (Source: विदेश मंत्रालय (MEA) & IUC Academy).

Practice Question #70 High-Yield Comparative MCQ

Q70. With reference to Organization and Founding Year & HQ, which of the following is accurately matched with "Association of Southeast Asian Nations (ASEAN)"?

(A) 1967 (Bangkok Declaration); HQ in Jakarta, Indonesia
(B) 1997 (Bangkok Declaration); HQ in Dhaka, Bangladesh
(C) Revived 2020; Secretariat in Colombo, Sri Lanka
(D) 1997; HQ in Ebene, Mauritius

Correct Answer: (A) | **Explanation:** For **Association of Southeast Asian Nations (ASEAN)** (Organization), the verified Founding Year & HQ is **1967 (Bangkok Declaration); HQ in Jakarta, Indonesia**. Furthermore, 10 Members (+ Timor-Leste as 11th member track). (Source: विदेश मंत्रालय (MEA) & IUC Academy).

Practice Question #71 High-Yield Comparative MCQ

Q71. With reference to Organization and Founding Year & HQ, which of the following is accurately matched with "BIMSTEC"?

(A) Revived 2020; Secretariat in Colombo, Sri Lanka
(B) 1997 (Bangkok Declaration); HQ in Dhaka, Bangladesh
(C) 1997; HQ in Ebene, Mauritius
(D) Mumbai/Mundra (India) to Piraeus/Marseilles (Europe)

Correct Answer: (B) | **Explanation:** For **BIMSTEC** (Organization), the verified Founding Year & HQ is **1997 (Bangkok Declaration); HQ in Dhaka, Bangladesh**. Furthermore, 7 Members (5 South Asian + Myanmar & Thailand). (Source: विदेश मंत्रालय (MEA) & IUC Academy).

Practice Question #72 High-Yield Comparative MCQ

Q72. With reference to Organization and Founding Year & HQ, which of the following is accurately matched with "Colombo Security Conclave (CSC)"?

(A) 1997; HQ in Ebene, Mauritius
(B) Mumbai/Mundra (India) to Piraeus/Marseilles (Europe)
(C) Revived 2020; Secretariat in Colombo, Sri Lanka
(D) Mumbai/Kandla (India) to Afghanistan & Central Asia

Correct Answer: (C) | **Explanation:** For **Colombo Security Conclave (CSC)** (Organization), the verified Founding Year & HQ is **Revived 2020; Secretariat in Colombo, Sri Lanka**. Furthermore, 5 Members (India, Sri Lanka, Maldives, Mauritius, Bangladesh). (Source: विदेश मंत्रालय (MEA) & IUC Academy).

Practice Question #73 High-Yield Comparative MCQ

Q73. With reference to Organization and Founding Year & HQ, which of the following is accurately matched with "Indian Ocean Rim Association (IORA)"?

(A) Mumbai/Mundra (India) to Piraeus/Marseilles (Europe)
(B) Mumbai/Kandla (India) to Afghanistan & Central Asia
(C) Mumbai (JNPT) to St. Petersburg (Russia) — 7,200 km
(D) 1997; HQ in Ebene, Mauritius

Correct Answer: (D) | **Explanation:** For **Indian Ocean Rim Association (IORA)** (Organization), the verified Founding Year & HQ is **1997; HQ in Ebene, Mauritius**. Furthermore, 23 Member States & 12 Dialogue Partners. (Source: विदेश मंत्रालय (MEA) & IUC Academy).

Practice Question #74 High-Yield Comparative MCQ

Q74. With reference to Connectivity Corridor and Terminal Endpoints, which of the following is accurately matched with "India-Middle East-Europe Economic Corridor (IMEC)"?

(A) Mumbai/Mundra (India) to Piraeus/Marseilles (Europe)
(B) Mumbai/Kandla (India) to Afghanistan & Central Asia
(C) Mumbai (JNPT) to St. Petersburg (Russia) — 7,200 km
(D) Kolkata Port (West Bengal) to Zorinpui (Mizoram)

Correct Answer: (A) | **Explanation:** For **India-Middle East-Europe Economic Corridor (IMEC)** (Connectivity Corridor), the verified Terminal Endpoints is **Mumbai/Mundra (India) to Piraeus/Marseilles (Europe)**. Furthermore, Fujairah/Jebel Ali (UAE), Al-Haditha (Saudi Arabia), Haifa (Israel). (Source: विदेश मंत्रालय (MEA) & IUC Academy).

Practice Question #75 High-Yield Comparative MCQ

Q75. With reference to Connectivity Corridor and Terminal Endpoints, which of the following is accurately matched with "Chabahar Port Corridor"?

(A) Mumbai (JNPT) to St. Petersburg (Russia) — 7,200 km
(B) Mumbai/Kandla (India) to Afghanistan & Central Asia
(C) Kolkata Port (West Bengal) to Zorinpui (Mizoram)
(D) Moreh (Manipur, India) to Mae Sot (Thailand) — 1,360 km

Correct Answer: (B) | **Explanation:** For **Chabahar Port Corridor** (Connectivity Corridor), the verified Terminal Endpoints is **Mumbai/Kandla (India) to Afghanistan & Central Asia**. Furthermore, Shahid Beheshti Terminal, Chabahar (Gulf of Oman, Iran) & Zaranj-Delaram Highway. (Source: विदेश मंत्रालय (MEA) & IUC Academy).

Practice Question #76 High-Yield Comparative MCQ

Q76. With reference to Connectivity Corridor and Terminal Endpoints, which of the following is accurately matched with "International North-South Transport Corridor (INSTC)"?

(A) Kolkata Port (West Bengal) to Zorinpui (Mizoram)
(B) Moreh (Manipur, India) to Mae Sot (Thailand) — 1,360 km
(C) Mumbai (JNPT) to St. Petersburg (Russia) — 7,200 km
(D) Chennai Port (Tamil Nadu) to Vladivostok (Russia)

Correct Answer: (C) | **Explanation:** For **International North-South Transport Corridor (INSTC)** (Connectivity Corridor), the verified Terminal Endpoints is **Mumbai (JNPT) to St. Petersburg (Russia) — 7,200 km**. Furthermore, Bandar Abbas/Chabahar, Caspian Sea / Baku (Azerbaijan), Astrakhan, Moscow. (Source: विदेश मंत्रालय (MEA) & IUC Academy).

Practice Question #77 High-Yield Comparative MCQ

Q77. With reference to Connectivity Corridor and Terminal Endpoints, which of the following is accurately matched with "Kaladan Multi-Modal Project (KMTTP)"?

(A) Moreh (Manipur, India) to Mae Sot (Thailand) — 1,360 km
(B) Chennai Port (Tamil Nadu) to Vladivostok (Russia)
(C) iCET, INDUS-X, GE-F414 Jet Engine Co-production, 31 MQ-9B Drones
(D) Kolkata Port (West Bengal) to Zorinpui (Mizoram)

Correct Answer: (D) | **Explanation:** For **Kaladan Multi-Modal Project (KMTTP)** (Connectivity Corridor), the verified Terminal Endpoints is **Kolkata Port (West Bengal) to Zorinpui (Mizoram)**. Furthermore, Sittwe Port (Rakhine State, Myanmar) & Kaladan River to Paletwa. (Source: विदेश मंत्रालय (MEA) & IUC Academy).

Practice Question #78 High-Yield Comparative MCQ

Q78. With reference to Connectivity Corridor and Terminal Endpoints, which of the following is accurately matched with "IMT Trilateral Highway"?

(A) Moreh (Manipur, India) to Mae Sot (Thailand) — 1,360 km
(B) Chennai Port (Tamil Nadu) to Vladivostok (Russia)
(C) iCET, INDUS-X, GE-F414 Jet Engine Co-production, 31 MQ-9B Drones
(D) 22nd Annual Summit (Moscow); USD 100B Trade by 2030; Chennai-Vladivostok EMC

Correct Answer: (A) | **Explanation:** For **IMT Trilateral Highway** (Connectivity Corridor), the verified Terminal Endpoints is **Moreh (Manipur, India) to Mae Sot (Thailand) — 1,360 km**. Furthermore, Kalewa, Yagyi, Mandalay, Naypyidaw, Myawaddy (Myanmar). (Source: विदेश मंत्रालय (MEA) & IUC Academy).

Practice Question #79 High-Yield Comparative MCQ

Q79. With reference to Connectivity Corridor and Terminal Endpoints, which of the following is accurately matched with "Eastern Maritime Corridor (EMC)"?

(A) iCET, INDUS-X, GE-F414 Jet Engine Co-production, 31 MQ-9B Drones
(B) Chennai Port (Tamil Nadu) to Vladivostok (Russia)
(C) 22nd Annual Summit (Moscow); USD 100B Trade by 2030; Chennai-Vladivostok EMC
(D) 2026 Compendium LAC Disengagement; Kailash Mansarovar Resumption; 35th WMCC (May 2026)

Correct Answer: (B) | **Explanation:** For **Eastern Maritime Corridor (EMC)** (Connectivity Corridor), the verified Terminal Endpoints is **Chennai Port (Tamil Nadu) to Vladivostok (Russia)**. Furthermore, Andaman Sea, Malacca Strait, South China Sea, Sea of Japan. (Source: विदेश मंत्रालय (MEA) & IUC Academy).

Practice Question #80 High-Yield Comparative MCQ

Q80. With reference to Partner Country and Landmark Treaty / Initiative (2026 Compendium), which of the following is accurately matched with "United States of America"?

(A) 22nd Annual Summit (Moscow); USD 100B Trade by 2030; Chennai-Vladivostok EMC
(B) 2026 Compendium LAC Disengagement; Kailash Mansarovar Resumption; 35th WMCC (May 2026)
(C) iCET, INDUS-X, GE-F414 Jet Engine Co-production, 31 MQ-9B Drones
(D) Horizon 2047 Roadmap; Scorpene Submarines; UPI at Eiffel Tower

Correct Answer: (C) | **Explanation:** For **United States of America** (Partner Country), the verified Landmark Treaty / Initiative (2026 Compendium) is **iCET, INDUS-X, GE-F414 Jet Engine Co-production, 31 MQ-9B Drones**. Furthermore, Yudh Abhyas, Vajra Prahar, Cope India, Tiger Triumph. (Source: विदेश मंत्रालय (MEA) & IUC Academy).

Practice Question #81 High-Yield Comparative MCQ

Q81. With reference to Partner Country and Landmark Treaty / Initiative (2026 Compendium), which of the following is accurately matched with "Russia"?

(A) 2026 Compendium LAC Disengagement; Kailash Mansarovar Resumption; 35th WMCC (May 2026)
(B) Horizon 2047 Roadmap; Scorpene Submarines; UPI at Eiffel Tower
(C) TEPA signed the India-EFTA TEPA Signing (2026 Compendium) (USD 100B binding investment & 10 lakh jobs)
(D) 22nd Annual Summit (Moscow); USD 100B Trade by 2030; Chennai-Vladivostok EMC

Correct Answer: (D) | **Explanation:** For **Russia** (Partner Country), the verified Landmark Treaty / Initiative (2026 Compendium) is **22nd Annual Summit (Moscow); USD 100B Trade by 2030; Chennai-Vladivostok EMC**. Furthermore, Exercise INDRA (Tri-Service). (Source: विदेश मंत्रालय (MEA) & IUC Academy).

Practice Question #82 High-Yield Comparative MCQ

Q82. With reference to Partner Country and Landmark Treaty / Initiative (2026 Compendium), which of the following is accurately matched with "China"?

(A) 2026 Compendium LAC Disengagement; Kailash Mansarovar Resumption; 35th WMCC (May 2026)
(B) Horizon 2047 Roadmap; Scorpene Submarines; UPI at Eiffel Tower
(C) TEPA signed the India-EFTA TEPA Signing (2026 Compendium) (USD 100B binding investment & 10 lakh jobs)
(D) India–Oman CEPA entered into force June 1, 2026 (99.38% Indian exports duty-free across 98.08% tariff lines)

Correct Answer: (A) | **Explanation:** For **China** (Partner Country), the verified Landmark Treaty / Initiative (2026 Compendium) is **2026 Compendium LAC Disengagement; Kailash Mansarovar Resumption; 35th WMCC (May 2026)**. Furthermore, Hand-in-Hand (Army). (Source: विदेश मंत्रालय (MEA) & IUC Academy).

Practice Question #83 High-Yield Comparative MCQ

Q83. With reference to Partner Country and Landmark Treaty / Initiative (2026 Compendium), which of the following is accurately matched with "France"?

(A) TEPA signed the India-EFTA TEPA Signing (2026 Compendium) (USD 100B binding investment & 10 lakh jobs)
(B) Horizon 2047 Roadmap; Scorpene Submarines; UPI at Eiffel Tower
(C) India–Oman CEPA entered into force June 1, 2026 (99.38% Indian exports duty-free across 98.08% tariff lines)
(D) Rs 10,000 Cr 13th Five-Year Plan support; Punatsangchhu-II (1,020 MW)

Correct Answer: (B) | **Explanation:** For **France** (Partner Country), the verified Landmark Treaty / Initiative (2026 Compendium) is **Horizon 2047 Roadmap; Scorpene Submarines; UPI at Eiffel Tower**. Furthermore, Shakti (Army), Varuna (Navy), Garuda (Air Force). (Source: विदेश मंत्रालय (MEA) & IUC Academy).

Practice Question #84 High-Yield Comparative MCQ

Q84. With reference to Partner Country and Landmark Treaty / Initiative (2026 Compendium), which of the following is accurately matched with "EFTA (4 Countries)"?

(A) India–Oman CEPA entered into force June 1, 2026 (99.38% Indian exports duty-free across 98.08% tariff lines)
(B) Rs 10,000 Cr 13th Five-Year Plan support; Punatsangchhu-II (1,020 MW)
(C) TEPA signed the India-EFTA TEPA Signing (2026 Compendium) (USD 100B binding investment & 10 lakh jobs)
(D) Strategic Energy, Pharma, DPI & Global South Partnerships (Nov–Dec 2024)

Correct Answer: (C) | **Explanation:** For **EFTA (4 Countries)** (Partner Country), the verified Landmark Treaty / Initiative (2026 Compendium) is **TEPA signed the India-EFTA TEPA Signing (2026 Compendium) (USD 100B binding investment & 10 lakh jobs)**. Furthermore, —. (Source: विदेश मंत्रालय (MEA) & IUC Academy).

Practice Question #85 High-Yield Comparative MCQ

Q85. With reference to Partner Country and Landmark Treaty / Initiative (2026 Compendium), which of the following is accurately matched with "Sultanate of Oman"?

(A) Rs 10,000 Cr 13th Five-Year Plan support; Punatsangchhu-II (1,020 MW)

(B) Strategic Energy, Pharma, DPI & Global South Partnerships (Nov–Dec 2024)

(C) WIPO (World Intellectual Property Organization, Geneva)

(D) India–Oman CEPA entered into force June 1, 2026 (99.38% Indian exports duty-free across 98.08% tariff lines)

Correct Answer: (D) | **Explanation:** For **Sultanate of Oman** (Partner Country), the verified Landmark Treaty / Initiative (2026 Compendium) is **India–Oman CEPA entered into force June 1, 2026 (99.38% Indian exports duty-free across 98.08% tariff lines)**. Furthermore, Al Nagah (Army), Naseem Al Bahr (Navy), Eastern Bridge (Air Force). (Source: विदेश मंत्रालय (MEA) & IUC Academy).

Rapid-Fire Revision Points *(65* Verified *2026* International Relations, Summits, Treaties & Global Indices Points*)*

1. The **G20** comprises **19 countries and 2 regional bodies** (**European Union** and **African Union**), representing **85% of global GDP** and **75% of global trade** (**Ministry of External Affairs**).

2. The **55-member African Union (AU)** (HQ: **Addis Ababa, Ethiopia**) became a permanent member of the G20 on **September 9, 2023**, at the **18th G20 New Delhi Summit** (**MEA Annual Report**).

3. India's 18th G20 Presidency theme was **'*Vasudhaiva Kutumbakam — One Earth, One Family, One Future*'**, taken from the **Maha Upanishad** (**MEA Annual Report**).

4. The **Global Biofuels Alliance (GBA)** was launched at the New Delhi G20 Summit to accelerate global **E20 (20% ethanol blending)** and sustainable aviation fuel adoption (**Press Information Bureau (PIB)**).

5. The **G20 Rio Summit & 21st G20 Miami Summit (2026)** was hosted in **Rio de Janeiro, Brazil**, under the theme **'*Building a Just World and a Sustainable Planet*'** (**MEA Annual Report 2025**).

6. Brazil's G20 Presidency launched the **Global Alliance Against Hunger and Poverty**, endorsed by **81 countries** including India (**MEA Annual Report 2025**).

7. **South Africa** hosted the **20th G20 Summit (Nov 2025)** in **Johannesburg** under the theme **'*Solidarity, Equality, Sustainability*'**—the first G20 Summit on African soil (**MEA Annual Report 2025**).

8. India hosted the **3rd Voice of Global South Summit (VOGSS)** on **India's Global South Voice Track (2026 Compendium)**, with **123 participating countries** and proposed the **Global Development Compact** (**MEA Annual Report 2025**).

9. The **1st BRIC Summit** was held on **June 16, 2009**, in **Yekaterinburg, Russia**, and **South Africa** joined in **December 2010** (**Ministry of External Affairs**).

10. On **the BRICS+ Expansion Cycle (2026 Compendium)**, **Egypt, Ethiopia, Iran, and the UAE** became full members of **BRICS**, followed by **Indonesia** in **January 2025** (**MEA Annual Report 2025**).

11. The **16th BRICS Summit** was held in **Kazan, Russia (BRICS Expansion Track (2026 Compendium))**, which created a new **'BRICS Partner Country' category** (**MEA Rajya Sabha Statement**).

12. The **17th BRICS Summit (2025)** was hosted by **Brazil in Rio de Janeiro**, and **India** holds the **BRICS Presidency for 2026 (18th BRICS Summit)** (**MEA Annual Report 2025**).

13. The **New Development Bank (NDB)** (HQ: **Shanghai, China**; Indian Regional Office: **GIFT City, Gujarat**) was established by the **2014 Fortaleza Declaration** (Press Information Bureau (PIB)).

14. The **6th QUAD Leaders' Summit** was held on **the QUAD Leaders' Track (2026 Compendium)**, in **Wilmington, Delaware (USA)**, issuing the **Wilmington Declaration** (MEA Wilmington Declaration).

15. Under the **Quad Cancer Moonshot**, India committed **USD 10 million** in HPV sampling kits and vaccines to combat **cervical cancer** in the Indo-Pacific (MEA Quad Fact Sheet).

16. **MAITRI** (*Maritime Initiative for Training in the Indo-Pacific*) was launched at the 2024 Wilmington QUAD Summit to operationalize **IPMDA** maritime domain tools (MEA Quad Fact Sheet).

17. The first-ever **Quad-at-Sea Ship Observer Mission** embarked Coast Guard personnel from **India, the USA, Japan, and Australia** onto shared vessels (MEA Press Release).

18. The **Indo-Pacific Logistics Network (IPLN)** coordinates QUAD disaster relief (HADR) and sent observers to India's **AJHE-26 exercise in November 2026** (MEA Quad Press Release Oct 2026).

19. The **Indian Navy's IFC-IOR (Information Fusion Centre – Indian Ocean Region)** at **Gurugram, Haryana**, anchors dark-shipping monitoring under **IPMDA** (MEA Wilmington Declaration).

20. Under the QUAD Climate Working Group, **MEA and the International Solar Alliance (ISA)** signed a **USD 2 million PIA** for solar projects in **Fiji, Comoros, Madagascar, and Seychelles** (MEA Press Release 2026 Compendium).

21. The **Shanghai Cooperation Organisation (SCO)** was founded on **June 15, 2001**, with its Secretariat in **Beijing** and **RATS in Tashkent** (Ministry of External Affairs).

22. **India and Pakistan** joined the SCO in **2017 (Astana)**, **Iran** became the **9th member in 2023 (New Delhi)**, and **Belarus** became the **10th member in 2026 Compendium (Astana)** (MEA Annual Report 2025).

23. The **23rd SCO Council of Heads of Government (CHG)** meeting was held in **Islamabad, Pakistan (2026 Compendium)**, attended by EAM **Dr. S. Jaishankar** (MEA Annual Report 2025).

24. The **21st ASEAN-India Summit** was held in **Vientiane, Lao PDR (2026 Compendium)**, marking **10 years of India's Act East Policy** and designating **2025 as the ASEAN-India Year of Tourism** (MEA Annual Report 2025).

25. The **BIMSTEC Charter** entered into force on **the BIMSTEC Charter Enforcement (2026 Compendium)**, conferring legal personality on the 7-nation grouping headquartered in **Dhaka, Bangladesh** (MEA Annual Report 2025).

26. **Bangladesh** became the **5th full member of the Colombo Security Conclave (CSC)** in 2026 Compendium alongside **India, Sri Lanka, Maldives, and Mauritius** (MEA Annual Report 2025).

27. The **India-Middle East-Europe Economic Corridor (IMEC)** MoU was signed on **September 9, 2023**, by **India, USA, Saudi Arabia, UAE, France, Germany, Italy, and the EU** (MEA Annual Report).

28. **IMEC** connects Indian West Coast ports (**Mundra/Kandla/JNPT**) to **UAE/Saudi Arabia** (Eastern Corridor) and by rail via **Jordan to Haifa Port (Israel)** and **Piraeus (Greece)** (Northern Corridor) (Press Information Bureau (PIB)).

29. On **the 10-Year Chabahar Operational Contract (2026 Compendium)**, **India Ports Global Limited (IPGL)** signed a **10-year contract** with Iran to operate the **Shahid Beheshti Terminal at Chabahar Port** with USD 120M investment + USD 250M credit window (MEA Annual Report 2025).

30. The **International North-South Transport Corridor (INSTC)** is a **7,200-km multi-modal network** connecting **Mumbai to St. Petersburg (Russia)** via Iran and the Caspian Sea across **13 member states** (Ministry of External Affairs).

31. The **Kaladan Multi-Modal Transit Transport Project (KMTTP)** connects **Kolkata Port** to **Sittwe Port (Myanmar)**, **Paletwa**, and **Zorinpui (Mizoram)** (Ministry of External Affairs).

32. The **India-Myanmar-Thailand (IMT) Trilateral Highway** spans **1,360 km** from **Moreh (Manipur)** via Mandalay to **Mae Sot (Thailand)** (Ministry of External Affairs).

33. The **Chennai–Vladivostok Eastern Maritime Corridor (EMC)** spans **5,600 nautical miles**, reducing sea transit time between India and the Russian Far East from 40 days to **24 days** (Press Information Bureau (PIB)).

34. Under the **India-US defence partnership**, India signed a deal for **31 MQ-9B Predator (SeaGuardian/SkyGuardian) drones** and **GE-F414 jet engine co-production with HAL** (Press Information Bureau (PIB)).

35. During the **22nd India-Russia Annual Summit in Moscow (2026 Compendium)**, PM Modi was conferred Russia's highest civilian honour, the **Order of St. Andrew the Apostle**, and both nations set a **USD 100 billion trade target by 2030** (MEA Annual Report 2025).

36. In **2026 Compendium**, **India and China** reached an agreement on **LAC patrolling and disengagement at Depsang and Demchok** in Eastern Ladakh (MEA Statement in Rajya Sabha).

37. Following India-China normalization, **direct flights resumed in October 2025**, the **Kailash Mansarovar Yatra resumed via Lipulekh and Nathu La (2025 & June 2026)**, and the **35th WMCC** met in Beijing on **May 28, 2026** (MEA India-China Brief July 2026).

38. On **the India-EFTA TEPA Signing (2026 Compendium)**, India signed the **Trade and Economic Partnership Agreement (TEPA)** with **EFTA (Switzerland, Norway, Iceland, Liechtenstein)** with a binding **USD 100 billion investment pledge over 15 years** (Press Information Bureau (PIB)).

39. In **2026 Compendium**, Bhutan conferred its highest civilian honour, the **Order of the Druk Gyalpo**, on PM Modi, and India committed **Rs 10,000 crore** for Bhutan's 13th Five-Year Plan (MEA Annual Report 2025).

40. In **the 2026 Compendium Cycle**, **India and Nepal** signed a **Long-Term Power Trade Agreement** to import **10,000 MW of hydropower** over 10 years, and started **40 MW trilateral power export from Nepal to Bangladesh** via India (MEA Annual Report 2025).

41. In **2026 Compendium**, **India and Mauritius** jointly inaugurated a new airstrip and **St. James Jetty at Agalega Island** (MEA Annual Report 2025).

42. According to the **Economic Survey 2025–26**, India's rank in WIPO's **Global Innovation Index (GII)** improved to **38th in 2025** (from 39th in the 2026 Compendium and 81st in 2015), while **Switzerland ranked 1st** (PIB Economic Survey 2025-26 Release).

43. In the **World Bank Logistics Performance Index (LPI)**, India ranked **38th out of 139 countries overall** and **22nd in International Shipments**, while **Singapore ranked 1st** (PIB LPI Release).

44. In the **IMD World Competitiveness Index**, India ranked **39th out of 67 economies**, while **Singapore ranked 1st** (IUC Academy).

45. In the **WEF Travel & Tourism Development Index (TTDI)**, India ranked **39th out of 119 countries** (1st in South Asia), while the **USA ranked 1st** (Press Information Bureau (PIB)).

46. In the **Network Readiness Index (NRI)** published by Portulans Institute, India improved to **49th out of 133 economies** (IUC Academy).

47. In the **ITU Global Cybersecurity Index (GCI v5)**, India achieved **Tier-1 ('Role-Modeling') status** with a score of **98.49 out of 100** (Press Information Bureau (PIB)).

48. In **Transparency International's Corruption Perceptions Index (CPI)**, India ranked **96th (2024, score 38)** / **93rd (2023, score 39)** out of 180 countries, while **Denmark ranked 1st** (IUC Academy).

49. The **World Bank** replaced the discontinued *Ease of Doing Business* index with the new **B-READY (Business Ready)** assessment framework (Press Information Bureau (PIB)).

50. In **UNDP's Human Development Index (HDI)**, India ranked **134th out of 193 countries (score 0.644)** in the 2023–24 HDR and improved to **130th (score 0.685)** in the 2025 HDR (Press Information Bureau (PIB)).

51. In **UNDP's Gender Inequality Index (GII)**, India jumped **14 places** from 122nd to **108th out of 193 countries (score 0.437)** (Press Information Bureau (PIB)).

52. In the **World Economic Forum's Global Gender Gap Index (GGGI)**, India ranked **129th out of 146 countries (score 0.641)**, while **Iceland ranked 1st** for the 15th consecutive year (PIB Gender Gap Release).

53. In the **World Press Freedom Index** published by **Reporters Without Borders (RSF, Paris)**, India ranked **159th (2026 Compendium)** and **151st (2025)** out of 180 countries, with **Norway ranking 1st** (IUC Academy).

54. In the **Global Hunger Index (GHI)** published by **Concern Worldwide and Welthungerhilfe**, India was placed **105th out of 127 countries (score 27.3)** (Press Information Bureau (PIB)).

55. In the **Global Peace Index (GPI)** published by the **Institute for Economics and Peace (IEP)**, India improved 10 ranks to **116th out of 163 countries**, while **Iceland ranked 1st** (IUC Academy).

56. In the **Climate Change Performance Index (CCPI)**, **Ranks 1 to 3 are vacant**, **Denmark ranked 4th**, and **India ranked in the Top 10 (7th in the 2026 Compendium / 10th in 2025)** (Press Information Bureau (PIB)).

57. In the **Global Firepower Index**, the **Indian Armed Forces** rank **4th globally** after the **USA (1st), Russia (2nd), and China (3rd)** (IUC Academy).

58. In **NITI Aayog's SDG India Index (2026 Compendium) (4th Edition)**, India's composite score reached **71**, with **Uttarakhand and Kerala tied at 1st place (Score: 79)** and **Chandigarh topping UTs (77)** (NITI Aayog SDG India Index (2026 Compendium)).

59. In **NITI Aayog's SDG India Index (2026 Compendium)**, **Uttar Pradesh** recorded the **fastest improvement (+25 points from 42 to 67)**, and **zero states** remain in the Aspirant (0–49) category (NITI Aayog SDG India Index (2026 Compendium)).

60. According to **NITI Aayog's National Multidimensional Poverty Index (MPI)**, **24.82 crore Indians** escaped multidimensional poverty between 2013–14 and 2022–23, led by **Uttar Pradesh (5.94 crore)** and **Bihar (3.77 crore)** (NITI Aayog).

61. **India hosted the 18th BRICS Summit at Bharat Mandapam, New Delhi (September 12–13, 2026)** under the theme '***Building Resilience, Innovation, Cooperation and Sustainability***', bringing together **11 full members and 10 partner countries** on the 20th anniversary of BRICS cooperation (Ministry of External Affairs).

62. **The 21st G20 Leaders' Summit (December 14–15, 2026)** is hosted by the **United States in Miami, Florida**, while **France hosted the 52nd G7 Summit at Évian-les-Bains (June 15–17, 2026)** and the **United Kingdom will host the 22nd G20 Summit in Manchester (November 2027)** (Ministry of External Affairs).

63. **The 48th–49th ASEAN Summits (November 14–16, 2026)** were hosted by **the Philippines in Manila**, the **26th SCO Summit (Aug–Sept 2026)** was held in **Bishkek, Kyrgyzstan**, the **6th BIMSTEC Summit (April 2025)** in Bangkok adopted **Bangkok Vision 2030**, and **New Delhi hosted the 1st BIMSTEC Home Ministers' Meeting (Oct 2026)** and **1st SCO Civilisational Dialogue Forum (Nov 2026)** (Ministry of External Affairs).

64. In **2026 trade diplomacy**, **India and the European Union (EU) concluded their landmark FTA on January 27, 2026** (96.8% tariff lines, ~2B consumers), the **India–Oman CEPA entered into force on June 1, 2026** (99.38% Indian exports duty-free), and the **India–UK CETA & Double Contribution Convention entered into force on July 15, 2026** (99% Indian exports duty-free, 5-year social security exemption, 1,800 mobility quota) (**Press Information Bureau (PIB)**).

65. In **2026 Global Indices**, India ranked **38th in Global Innovation Index**, **45th in Network Readiness Index**, **41st in World Competitiveness Index 2026**, **75th in Henley Passport Index 2026**, **130th in UNDP HDI (0.685)**, **131st in Global Gender Gap Index 2026 (64.5%)**, **100th in Global Hunger Index 2026 (24.1)**, **116th in World Happiness Report 2026**, **127th in Global Peace Index 2026**, **157th in World Press Freedom Index 2026**, **3rd in Hurun Global Rich List 2026**, and **16th in Responsible Nations Index 2026** (**Press Information Bureau (PIB)**).

IUC Academy *1-3-7-21* Day Spaced-Revision & Self-Assessment Tracker (www.iucacademy.com)

Chapter / Study Section	Day 1 (First Read)	Day 3 (Active Recall)	Day 7 (MCQ Drill)	Day 21 (Exam Ready)
1. Chapter 1: G20 Summits (India, Brazil & South Africa Troika), Global Biofuels Alliance & Voice of Global South	☐ Completed (100% Concept Clarity)	☐ Flowchart & Tables Revised	☐ 75+ MCQs Solved (>85% Accuracy)	☐ **Final Rapid Recall Ready**
2. Chapter 2: 18th BRICS Summit 2026 (New Delhi, India), BRICS+ Expansion, Kazan Declaration & New Development Bank (NDB)	☐ Completed (100% Concept Clarity)	☐ Flowchart & Tables Revised	☐ 75+ MCQs Solved (>85% Accuracy)	☐ **Final Rapid Recall Ready**
3. Chapter 3: QUAD Summits (Wilmington & 2026 India Track), 52nd G7 Summit 2026 (Évian, France) & Indo-Pacific Initiatives	☐ Completed (100% Concept Clarity)	☐ Flowchart & Tables Revised	☐ 75+ MCQs Solved (>85% Accuracy)	☐ **Final Rapid Recall Ready**
4. Chapter 4: SCO Summits (Astana, Tianjin & Bishkek 2026), ASEAN Summits (Vientiane & Manila 2026), BIMSTEC (Bangkok Vision 2030) & Regional Groupings	☐ Completed (100% Concept Clarity)	☐ Flowchart & Tables Revised	☐ 75+ MCQs Solved (>85% Accuracy)	☐ **Final Rapid Recall Ready**
5. Chapter 5: Strategic Connectivity Corridors — IMEC, Chabahar Port, INSTC, Sittwe & Trilateral Highway	☐ Completed (100% Concept Clarity)	☐ Flowchart & Tables Revised	☐ 75+ MCQs Solved (>85% Accuracy)	☐ **Final Rapid Recall Ready**
6. Chapter 6: Bilateral Treaties, Major Powers Diplomacy & Neighbourhood First Policy (2026 Compendium)	☐ Completed (100% Concept Clarity)	☐ Flowchart & Tables Revised	☐ 75+ MCQs Solved (>85% Accuracy)	☐ **Final Rapid Recall Ready**
7. Chapter 7: Global Indices & India's Rank — Part I (Innovation, Logistics, Competitiveness, Governance & Tech)	☐ Completed (100% Concept Clarity)	☐ Flowchart & Tables Revised	☐ 75+ MCQs Solved (>85% Accuracy)	☐ **Final Rapid Recall Ready**
8. Chapter 8: Global Indices & India's Rank — Part II (HDI, Gender Gap, Press Freedom, Hunger, Peace, Climate & NITI Aayog Indices)	☐ Completed (100% Concept Clarity)	☐ Flowchart & Tables Revised	☐ 75+ MCQs Solved (>85% Accuracy)	☐ **Final Rapid Recall Ready**
9. Solved Exam Practice Questions (45 High-Yield 4-Option MCQs)	☐ Completed (100% Concept Clarity)	☐ Flowchart & Tables Revised	☐ 75+ MCQs Solved (>85% Accuracy)	☐ **Final Rapid Recall Ready**
10. Extended Comparative & Analytical Practice Set (Questions 46–85)	☐ Completed (100% Concept Clarity)	☐ Flowchart & Tables Revised	☐ 75+ MCQs Solved (>85% Accuracy)	☐ **Final Rapid Recall Ready**
11. Rapid-Fire Revision Points (65 Verified 2026 International Relations, Summits, Treaties & Global Indices Points)	☐ Completed (100% Concept Clarity)	☐ Flowchart & Tables Revised	☐ 75+ MCQs Solved (>85% Accuracy)	☐ **Final Rapid Recall Ready**