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IUC ACADEMY NOTES

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

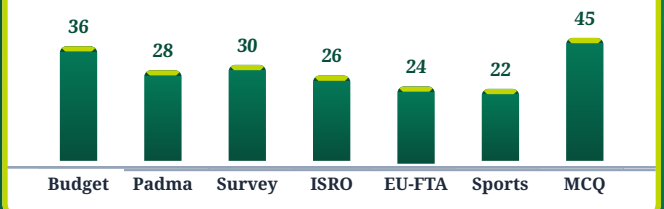
MONTHLY CURRENT AFFAIRS — JANUARY-2026 & FEBRUARY-2026 (REPUBLIC DAY, PADMA & BUDGET)

77th Republic Day 2026, Padma Awards 2026 (131 Honourees), Union Budget 2026-27 & Economic Survey 2025-26, India-EU FTA, India AI Impact Summit 2026, ISRO Missions & Winter Olympics 2026

Topic-Wise Exam Weightage Distribution (%)



Previous Years' Question Trend Analysis



Target Competitive, Entrance & Departmental Examinations

UPSC CSE • State PCS • SSC • Railway • Banking PO/Clerk • Defence NDA/CDS/CAPF • Police • EPFO

Core Syllabus Pillars & Exam Question Weightage (%)

- Union Budget 2026-27 & Economic Survey 2025-26 (28%)
- 77th Republic Day 2026 & 131 Padma Awards Roster (22%)
- ISRO Space Missions 2026 (NISAR, Gaganyaan, PSLV) (20%)
- India-EU Free Trade Deal & India AI Summit 2026 (16%)
- Winter Olympics 2026, Australian Open & Indices (14%)

Complete Theory
NCERT & Official Sources

Visual Flowcharts
Comparative Matrices

Memory Tricks
Exam Trap Alerts

75+ Solved MCQs
Rapid Revision Points

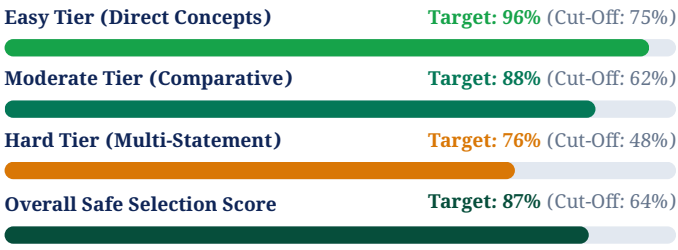
Preface, Exam Weightage Dashboard & Study Strategy — MONTHLY CURRENT AFFAIRS — JANUARY-2026 & FEBRUARY-2026 (REPUBLIC DAY, PADMA & BUDGET)

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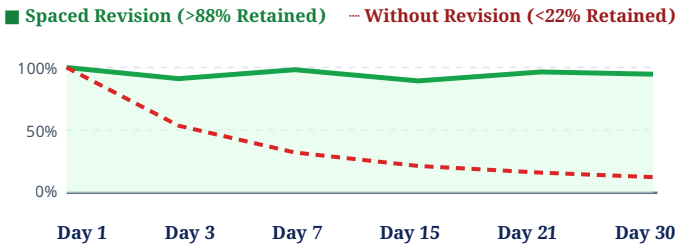
Dear Aspirants,

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**.

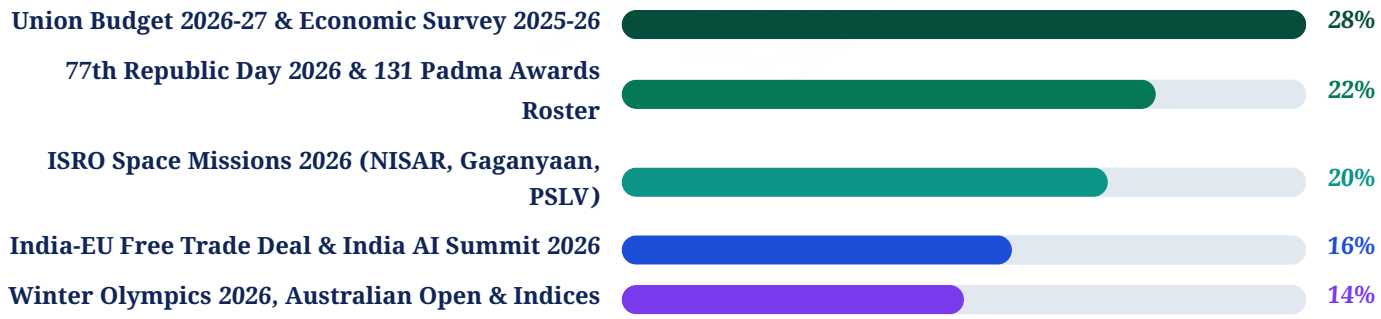
Target Accuracy vs Qualifying Cut-Off Benchmark (%)



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



Topic-Wise Exam Question Weightage Index (%)



Verified Official Curriculum & Statutory Reference Portals

- पत्र सूचना कार्यालय (PIB) (https://www.pib.gov.in/)
- केंद्रीय बजट एवं आर्थिक समीक्षा पोर्टल (https://www.indiabudget.gov.in/)
- इसरो आधिकारिक पोर्टल (https://www.isro.gov.in/)
- IUC अकादमी आधिकारिक पोर्टल (https://www.iucacademy.com)

Detailed Table of Contents & Chapter Architecture

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10. 45 Solved Multiple-Choice Questions (January-2026 & February-2026)

• Q1. Who served as the joint Chief Guests at India's 77th Republic Day Parade held at Kartavya Path on 26 January 2026?
• Q2. The invitation of European Union leaders as Chief Guests for Republic Day 2026 coincided with which milestone in India–EU diplomatic relations?
• Q3. What was the central commemoration theme of the 77th Republic Day Parade 2026?
• Q4. Which state won the 1st Prize for Best Tableau (Judges' Choice) at the Republic Day Parade 2026?
• Q5. Which state/UT won the 2nd and 3rd Prizes respectively in the Judges' Choice category for Best Tableau at Republic Day 2026?
• Q6. Which Armed Forces contingent was adjudged the Best Marching Contingent among the three Services by the Judges' Panel at Republic Day 2026?
• Q7. Which force won the Best Marching Contingent award among CAPFs and other auxiliary forces (Judges' Choice) at the 77th Republic Day Parade 2026?
• Q8. Which Union Ministry won the Best Tableau award (Judges' Choice) among Ministries and Departments at Republic Day 2026?
• Q9. Which state won the Best Tableau award in the MyGov online 'Popular Choice' category at the Republic Day Parade 2026?
• Q10. How many total tableaux were displayed on Kartavya Path during the 77th Republic Day Parade on 26 January 2026?
• Q11. What was the theme of Uttar Pradesh's tableau at the 77th Republic Day Parade 2026?
• Q12. Odisha's tableau at the 77th Republic Day Parade 2026 was based on which theme?
• Q13. How many total Padma Awards were announced on 25 January 2026?
• Q14. What is the exact breakdown of Padma Vibhushan, Padma Bhushan, and Padma Shri awards conferred in 2026?
• Q15. Who among the following was NOT one of the five Padma Vibhushan recipients in 2026?
• Q16. Three of the five Padma Vibhushan recipients in 2026 belong to which Indian state?
• Q17. Dr. N. Rajam, who received the Padma Vibhushan in 2026 representing Uttar Pradesh, is globally renowned as a maestro of which musical instrument?
• Q18. How many women awardees and posthumous awardees respectively were included in the Padma Awards 2026 list?
• Q19. Which advertising legend was posthumously conferred the Padma Bhushan in 2026?
• Q20. Which pair of Indian cricket captains received the Padma Shri in 2026?
• Q21. What is the Total Expenditure estimated in the Union Budget 2026–27 (BE)?
• Q22. What is the Fiscal Deficit target (as a percentage of GDP) set in the Union Budget 2026–27 (BE)?
• Q23. What is the Direct Capital Expenditure (Capex) outlay proposed in Union Budget 2026–27 (BE)?

- Q24. What is the Effective Capital Expenditure estimated in Union Budget 2026–27 (BE)?
- Q25. In Union Budget 2026–27, what is the targeted Revenue Deficit as a percentage of GDP?

★ **Official Study Publication**: Inclusive Universal Careers Academy (IUC Academy)
Primary Government Reference Portals: Press Information Bureau (PIB) | Union Budget Portal | Indian Space Research Organisation (ISRO)
Target Competitive Examinations: UPSC CSE, State PCS (UPPSC, BPSC, MPPSC, RAS), SSC CGL/CHSL, IBPS/SBI Banking, RRB NTPC, NDA/CDS, and Departmental Competitive Examinations.

Executive Structure of Volume *1* (Current Affairs *2026*)

• **Chapter 1**: 77th Republic Day Celebrations 2026 — Joint European Union Chief Guests, Vande Mataram Sesquicentennial Theme & Tableau Awards

• **Chapter 2**: Padma Awards 2026 — Complete Analytical Breakdown of 131 Civilian Honours (5 Padma Vibhushan, 13 Padma Bhushan & 113 Padma Shri)

• **Chapter 3**: Union Budget 2026–27 (Part I) — Macroeconomic Fiscal Architecture, ₹53.47 Lakh Crore Expenditure & Deficit Glide Path

• **Chapter 4**: Union Budget 2026–27 (Part II) — Capital Expenditure Push (₹12.22 Lakh Crore), Sectoral Allocations & Strategic Missions

• **Chapter 5**: Economic Survey 2025–26 (Tabled in Parliament in 2026) — 7.4% Real GDP Growth Estimate, FY27 Outlook (6.8%–7.2%) & External Resilience

• **Chapter 6**: ISRO Space Missions 2026 — PSLV-C62/EOS-N1, GSLV-F16/NISAR Dual-Frequency Radar, SpaDeX Completion & Gaganyaan G1

• **Chapter 7**: National Governance, Polity & Major Cabinet Approvals in 2026 — Khelo India Mission, Global Big Cat Summit & Digital Public Infrastructure

• **Chapter 8**: Geographical Indication (GI) Tags, Cultural Heritage & National Honours in 2026 — Regional Crafts & Literary Awards

• **Solved Multiple-Choice Questions**: 45 Examination-Standard 4-Option MCQs with Detailed Analytical Explanations

• **Rapid-Fire Revision Points**: 65 High-Yield One-Sentence Revision Statements for Quick Pre-Exam Recall

Chapter *1* Comprehensive Analytical & Statutory Revision Matrix

Core Sub-Domain	Key Concept / Provision	Verified Analytical Parameters & Exam Distinctions (पत्र सूचना कार्यालय (PIB))
Executive Structure of Volume 1 (Current Affairs 2026)	**Chapter 1**	77th Republic Day Celebrations 2026 — Joint European Union Chief Guests, Vande Mataram Sesquicentennial Theme & Tableau Awards
Executive Structure of Volume 1 (Current Affairs 2026)	**Chapter 2**	Padma Awards 2026 — Complete Analytical Breakdown of 131 Civilian Honours (5 Padma Vibhushan, 13 Padma Bhushan & 113 Padma Shri)

Core Sub-Domain	Key Concept / Provision	Verified Analytical Parameters & Exam Distinctions (पत्र सूचना कार्यालय (PIB))
Executive Structure of Volume 1 (Current Affairs 2026)	Chapter 3	Union Budget 2026–27 (Part I) — Macroeconomic Fiscal Architecture, ₹53.47 Lakh Crore Expenditure & Deficit Glide Path
Executive Structure of Volume 1 (Current Affairs 2026)	Chapter 4	Union Budget 2026–27 (Part II) — Capital Expenditure Push (₹12.22 Lakh Crore), Sectoral Allocations & Strategic Missions
Executive Structure of Volume 1 (Current Affairs 2026)	Chapter 5	Economic Survey 2025–26 (Tabled in Parliament in 2026) — 7.4% Real GDP Growth Estimate, FY27 Outlook (6.8%–7.2%) & External Resilience
Executive Structure of Volume 1 (Current Affairs 2026)	Chapter 6	ISRO Space Missions 2026 — PSLV-C62/EOS-N1, GSLV-F16/NISAR Dual-Frequency Radar, SpaDeX Completion & Gaganyaan G1
Executive Structure of Volume 1 (Current Affairs 2026)	Chapter 7	National Governance, Polity & Major Cabinet Approvals in 2026 — Khelo India Mission, Global Big Cat Summit & Digital Public Infrastructure
Executive Structure of Volume 1 (Current Affairs 2026)	Chapter 8	Geographical Indication (GI) Tags, Cultural Heritage & National Honours in 2026 — Regional Crafts & Literary Awards
Executive Structure of Volume 1 (Current Affairs 2026)	Solved Multiple-Choice Questions	45 Examination-Standard 4-Option MCQs with Detailed Analytical Explanations
Executive Structure of Volume 1 (Current Affairs 2026)	Rapid-Fire Revision Points	65 High-Yield One-Sentence Revision Statements for Quick Pre-Exam Recall

Chapter *1* Multi-Statement Exam Verification Drills

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

Statement-I (Chapter 1): 77th Republic Day Celebrations 2026 — Joint European Union Chief Guests, Vande Mataram Sesquicentennial Theme & Tableau Awards

Statement-II (Chapter 2): Padma Awards 2026 — Complete Analytical Breakdown of 131 Civilian Honours (5 Padma Vibhushan, 13 Padma Bhushan & 113 Padma Shri)

✓ **Exam Verification Key: Both Statement-I and Statement-II are factually accurate as per पत्र सूचना कार्यालय (PIB) & IUC Academy.**

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

Statement-I (Chapter 3): Union Budget 2026–27 (Part I) — Macroeconomic Fiscal Architecture, ₹53.47 Lakh Crore Expenditure & Deficit Glide Path

Statement-II (Chapter 4): Union Budget 2026–27 (Part II) — Capital Expenditure Push (₹12.22 Lakh Crore), Sectoral Allocations & Strategic Missions

✓ **Exam Verification Key: Both Statement-I and Statement-II are factually accurate as per पत्र सूचना कार्यालय (PIB) & IUC Academy.**

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

Statement-I (Chapter 5): Economic Survey 2025–26 (Tabled in Parliament in 2026) — 7.4% Real GDP Growth Estimate, FY27 Outlook (6.8%–7.2%) & External Resilience

Statement-II (Chapter 6): ISRO Space Missions 2026 — PSLV-C62/EOS-N1, GSLV-F16/NISAR Dual-Frequency Radar, SpaDeX Completion & Gaganyaan G1

✓ **Exam Verification Key: Both Statement-I and Statement-II are factually accurate as per पत्र सूचना कार्यालय (PIB) & IUC Academy.**

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

Statement-I (Chapter 7): National Governance, Polity & Major Cabinet Approvals in 2026 — Khelo India Mission, Global Big Cat Summit & Digital Public Infrastructure

Statement-II (Chapter 8): Geographical Indication (GI) Tags, Cultural Heritage & National Honours in 2026 — Regional Crafts & Literary Awards

✓ **Exam Verification Key: Both Statement-I and Statement-II are factually accurate as per पत्र सूचना कार्यालय (PIB) & IUC Academy.**

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

Statement-I (Solved Multiple-Choice Questions): 45 Examination-Standard 4-Option MCQs with Detailed Analytical Explanations

Statement-II (Rapid-Fire Revision Points): 65 High-Yield One-Sentence Revision Statements for Quick Pre-Exam Recall

✓ **Exam Verification Key: Both Statement-I and Statement-II are factually accurate as per पत्र सूचना कार्यालय (PIB) & IUC Academy.**

Chapter *1:* 77th Republic Day Celebrations *2026* — Joint European Union Chief Guests, Vande Mataram Sesquicentennial Theme & Tableau Awards

Chapter Key Study Pillars — Chapter 1: 77th Republic Day Celebrations 2026 — Joint European Union Chief Guests, Vande Mataram Sesquicentennial Theme & Tableau Awards

Key Study Pillar 1	Key Study Pillar 2	Key Study Pillar 3	Key Study Pillar 4
Strategic Diplomatic Context & Chief Guests at Kartavya Path	**Overarching Theme: 150 Years of Vande Mataram**	**Process Flow Diagram: 77th Republic Day Parade 2026 Institutional Architecture**	**Official Awards for Marching Contingents and Tableaux (2026)**

1.1 Strategic Diplomatic Context & Chief Guests at Kartavya Path

On 26 January 2026, India celebrated its **77th Republic Day** at Kartavya Path, New Delhi, presided over by President Droupadi Murmu (**PIB Official Release**). In a historic diplomatic milestone marking the **65th**

anniversary of diplomatic relations between India and the European Union , India hosted two joint Chief Guests representing the top institutional leadership of the European Union:

- **António Costa**: President of the European Council.
- **Ursula von der Leyen**: President of the European Commission.

This joint invitation underscored the strategic convergence between New Delhi and Brussels across bilateral free trade negotiations, green hydrogen corridors, semiconductor supply chains, digital public infrastructure, and Indo-Pacific maritime security (PIB Official Release). Unlike bilateral invitations extended to a single nation's head of state, hosting the dual leadership of a supranational bloc reflected India's commitment to multipolar economic partnerships in 2026.

1.2 Overarching Theme*: 150* Years of Vande Mataram

The Ministry of Defence established the overarching thematic framework of the 77th Republic Day Parade on the **150th anniversary (sesquicentennial) of the national song 'Vande Mataram'** , composed by Bankim Chandra Chattopadhyay (PIB Official Release). The parade tableaux were structured on two twin thematic pillars:

1. **Swatantrata ka Mantra: Vande Mataram** (The Mantra of Freedom: Vande Mataram)
2. **Samriddhi ka Mantra: Aatmanirbhar Bharat** (The Mantra of Prosperity: Self-Reliant India)

1.3 Process Flow Diagram*: 77*th Republic Day Parade *2026* Institutional Architecture

Step-by-Step Conceptual Process Flowchart

STEP 1	STEP 2	STEP 3	STEP 4	STEP 5	STEP 6
Node 1: Ceremonial Commencement	Prime Minister pays tribute at National War Memorial; President unfurls National Flag at Kartavya Path with 21-Gun Salute (indigenous 105 mm Light Field Guns)	Node 2: Diplomatic Summitry	Joint Chief Guests: António Costa (European Council President) & Ursula von der Leyen (European Commission President)	Node 3: Cultural Pageantry	30 Tableaux (17 States/UTs + 13 Ministries/ Departments) on '150 Years of Vande Mataram' & 'Aatmanirbhar Bharat'

1.4 Official Awards for Marching Contingents and Tableaux *(2026)*

On 28 January 2026, the Ministry of Defence announced the official results evaluated by three independent panels of judges, alongside the MyGov online public poll results (PIB Official Release). Raksha Rajya Mantri Sanjay Seth presented the trophies on 30 January 2026.

Award Category (77th Republic Day Parade 2026)	Evaluation Mode	Winner / Rank	Tableau Theme / Contingent Details	Official Source
Best Marching Contingent (Three Services)	Judges' Panel	**Indian Navy**	Contingent showcasing maritime self-reliance and indigenous naval induction	PIB

Award Category (77th Republic Day Parade 2026)	Evaluation Mode	Winner / Rank	Tableau Theme / Contingent Details	Official Source
Best Marching Contingent (CAPFs / Auxiliary)	Judges' Panel	**Delhi Police**	All-weather ceremonial marching contingent	PIB
Best State/UT Tableau — 1st Prize	Judges' Panel	**Maharashtra**	*Ganeshotsav: A Symbol of Aatmanirbharta* (cultural economy & self-reliance)	PIB
Best State/UT Tableau — 2nd Prize	Judges' Panel	**Jammu & Kashmir**	*Handicrafts and Folk Dances of Jammu & Kashmir*	PIB
Best State/UT Tableau — 3rd Prize	Judges' Panel	**Kerala**	*Water Metro & 100% Digital Literacy: Aatmanirbhar Kerala for Aatmanirbhar Bharat*	PIB
Best Ministry / Department Tableau	Judges' Panel	**Ministry of Culture**	*Vande Mataram – The Soul Cry of a Nation*	PIB
Best Marching Contingent (Three Services)	MyGov Popular Choice	**Assam Regiment**	Popular citizen vote winner among Armed Forces	PIB
Best Marching Contingent (CAPFs / Auxiliary)	MyGov Popular Choice	**CRPF**	Central Reserve Police Force marching contingent	PIB
Best State/UT Tableau — 1st Prize	MyGov Popular Choice	**Gujarat**	*Mantra of Swadeshi – Self-Reliance*	PIB

1.5 State-Wise Tableau Themes Showcased at Kartavya Path in *2026*

A total of **30 tableaux** (17 from States/Union Territories and 13 from Central Ministries, Departments, and Armed Forces) participated in the 2026 parade (**PIB Official Release**):

- **Uttar Pradesh**: *Culture of Bundelkhand* — showcasing historic forts, folk traditions, and regional heritage.
- **Madhya Pradesh**: *Punyashlok Lokmata Devi Ahilyabai Holkar* — commemorating her legacy in welfare governance, temple reconstruction, and social justice.
- **Odisha**: *Soil to Silicon: Rooted in Tradition, Rising in Technology* — bridging heritage crafts with semiconductor and IT growth.
- **Assam**: *Asharikandi – Terracotta Craft Village* — highlighting traditional artisans of Dhubri district.
- **Chhattisgarh**: *The Mantra of Freedom – Vande Mataram* — depicting tribal participation in the national movement.
- **Manipur**: *Towards Prosperity: From Agricultural Fields to International Markets* — organic farming and export value chains.
- **Nagaland**: *The Hornbill Festival – Celebrating Culture, Tourism and Self-Reliance.*
- **Rajasthan**: *Golden Touch of the Desert: Bikaner Gold Usta Art.*
- **Punjab**: *350th Year of Martyrdom of Sri Guru Tegh Bahadur Ji.*
- **Department of Military Affairs (Tri-Services Tableau)**: *Operation Sindoor* — joint operational synergy of the Indian Army, Navy, and Air Force.

Did You Know?
The 2026 Republic Day Parade marked the first time in Indian ceremonial history that the dual institutional heads of the European Union—both the President of the European Council (António Costa) and the President of the European Commission (Ursula von der Leyen)—jointly attended as Chief Guests at Kartavya Path (PIB).

Exam Trap Alert!
Aspirants frequently confuse the **Judges' Choice** winner with the **MyGov Popular Choice** winner in State Tableaux. For Republic Day 2026, **Maharashtra** (*Ganeshotsav: A Symbol of Aatmanirbharta*) won 1st place in the **Judges' Panel** category, whereas **Gujarat** (*Mantra of Swadeshi – Self-Reliance*) won 1st place in the **MyGov Popular Choice** category. Read the question stem carefully before marking!

★ **Memory Trick**:
"MJK-26 for Tableaux, ND for Marching" — **M**aharashtra (1st), **J**ammu & Kashmir (2nd), **K**erala (3rd) are the top three State Tableaux of 2026; Indian **N**avy (Services) and **D**elhi Police (CAPF) won Best Marching Contingents.

Chapter *2* Comprehensive Analytical & Statutory Revision Matrix

Core Sub-Domain	Key Concept / Provision	Verified Analytical Parameters & Exam Distinctions (पत्र सूचना कार्यालय (PIB))
Strategic Diplomatic Context & Chief Guests at Kartavya Path	**António Costa**	President of the European Council.
Overarching Theme: 150 Years of Vande Mataram	**Ursula von der Leyen**	President of the European Commission.
Process Flow Diagram: 77th Republic Day Parade 2026 Institutional Architecture	**Swatantrata ka Mantra: Vande Mataram**	(The Mantra of Freedom: Vande Mataram)
Official Awards for Marching Contingents and Tableaux (2026)	**Samriddhi ka Mantra: Aatmanirbhar Bharat**	(The Mantra of Prosperity: Self-Reliant India)
State-Wise Tableau Themes Showcased at Kartavya Path in 2026	**Uttar Pradesh**	Culture of Bundelkhand* — showcasing historic forts, folk traditions, and regional heritage.
Strategic Diplomatic Context & Chief Guests at Kartavya Path	**Madhya Pradesh**	Punyashlok Lokmata Devi Ahilyabai Holkar* — commemorating her legacy in welfare governance, temple reconstruction, and social justice.

Core Sub-Domain	Key Concept / Provision	Verified Analytical Parameters & Exam Distinctions (पत्र सूचना कार्यालय (PIB))
Overarching Theme: 150 Years of Vande Mataram	**Odisha**	Soil to Silicon: Rooted in Tradition, Rising in Technology* — bridging heritage crafts with semiconductor and IT growth.
Process Flow Diagram: 77th Republic Day Parade 2026 Institutional Architecture	**Assam**	Asharikandi – Terracotta Craft Village* — highlighting traditional artisans of Dhubri district.
Official Awards for Marching Contingents and Tableaux (2026)	**Chhattisgarh**	The Mantra of Freedom – Vande Mataram* — depicting tribal participation in the national movement.
State-Wise Tableau Themes Showcased at Kartavya Path in 2026	**Manipur**	Towards Prosperity: From Agricultural Fields to International Markets* — organic farming and export value chains.
Strategic Diplomatic Context & Chief Guests at Kartavya Path	**Nagaland**	The Hornbill Festival – Celebrating Culture, Tourism and Self-Reliance*.
Overarching Theme: 150 Years of Vande Mataram	**Rajasthan**	Golden Touch of the Desert: Bikaner Gold Usta Art*.
Process Flow Diagram: 77th Republic Day Parade 2026 Institutional Architecture	**Punjab**	350th Year of Martyrdom of Sri Guru Tegh Bahadur Ji*.
Official Awards for Marching Contingents and Tableaux (2026)	**Department of Military Affairs (Tri-Services Tableau)**	Operation Sindoor* — joint operational synergy of the Indian Army, Navy, and Air Force.

Chapter *2* Multi-Statement Exam Verification Drills

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

Statement-I (António Costa): President of the European Council.
Statement-II (Ursula von der Leyen): President of the European Commission.

✓ **Exam Verification Key: Both Statement-I and Statement-II are factually accurate as per पत्र सूचना कार्यालय (PIB) & IUC Academy.**

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

Statement-I (Swatantrata ka Mantra: Vande Mataram): (The Mantra of Freedom: Vande Mataram)

Statement-II (Samriddhi ka Mantra: Aatmanirbhar Bharat): (The Mantra of Prosperity: Self-Reliant India)

✓ **Exam Verification Key: Both Statement-I and Statement-II are factually accurate as per पत्र सूचना कार्यालय (PIB) & IUC Academy.**

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

Statement-I (Uttar Pradesh): Culture of Bundelkhand* — showcasing historic forts, folk traditions, and regional heritage.

Statement-II (Madhya Pradesh): Punyashlok Lokmata Devi Ahilyabai Holkar* — commemorating her legacy in welfare governance, temple reconstruction, and social justice.

✓ **Exam Verification Key: Both Statement-I and Statement-II are factually accurate as per पत्र सूचना कार्यालय (PIB) & IUC Academy.**

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

Statement-I (Odisha): Soil to Silicon: Rooted in Tradition, Rising in Technology* — bridging heritage crafts with semiconductor and IT growth.

Statement-II (Assam): Asharikandi – Terracotta Craft Village* — highlighting traditional artisans of Dhubri district.

✓ **Exam Verification Key: Both Statement-I and Statement-II are factually accurate as per पत्र सूचना कार्यालय (PIB) & IUC Academy.**

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

Statement-I (Chhattisgarh): The Mantra of Freedom – Vande Mataram* — depicting tribal participation in the national movement.

Statement-II (Manipur): Towards Prosperity: From Agricultural Fields to International Markets* — organic farming and export value chains.

✓ **Exam Verification Key: Both Statement-I and Statement-II are factually accurate as per पत्र सूचना कार्यालय (PIB) & IUC Academy.**

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

Statement-I (Nagaland): The Hornbill Festival – Celebrating Culture, Tourism and Self-Reliance*.

Statement-II (Rajasthan): Golden Touch of the Desert: Bikaner Gold Usta Art*.

✓ **Exam Verification Key: Both Statement-I and Statement-II are factually accurate as per पत्र सूचना कार्यालय (PIB) & IUC Academy.**

Chapter *2:* Padma Awards *2026* — Complete Analytical Breakdown of *131* Civilian Honours

Chapter Key Study Pillars — Chapter 2: Padma Awards 2026 — Complete Analytical Breakdown of 131 Civilian Honours

Key Study Pillar 1	Key Study Pillar 2	Key Study Pillar 3	Key Study Pillar 4
Overview of the 2026 Padma Awards Notification	**Process Flow Diagram: Padma Awards 2026 Hierarchy & Demographic Distribution**	**Complete Table of All 5 Padma Vibhushan Recipients (2026)**	**Prominent Padma Bhushan (13) and Padma Shri (113) Awardees in 2026**

2.1 Overview of the 2026 Padma Awards Notification

On the eve of the 77th Republic Day (25 January 2026), the Ministry of Home Affairs announced the **Padma Awards 2026**, one of the highest civilian honours of the Republic of India (PIB Official Release). President Droupadi Murmu approved the conferment of **131 Padma Awards** across three categories:

- **Padma Vibhushan** (For exceptional and distinguished service): **5 Awards**
- **Padma Bhushan** (For distinguished service of high order): **13 Awards**
- **Padma Shri** (For distinguished service in any field): **113 Awards**
- **Demographic & Special Categories in 2026**: Out of the 131 awardees, **19 are women**, **6 belong to the Foreigners / NRI / PIO / OCI category**, and **16 are Posthumous awardees** (PIB Official Release). No Bharat Ratna was announced in 2026, keeping the all-time total of Bharat Ratna recipients at **53**.

2.2 Process Flow Diagram: Padma Awards 2026 Hierarchy & Demographic Distribution

Step-by-Step Conceptual Process Flowchart

STEP 1
Node 1: Total Conferments (131)

STEP 2
Approved by President Droupadi Murmu on 25 January 2026 via MHA Notification

STEP 3
Node 2: Three-Tier Breakdown

STEP 4
Padma Vibhushan: 5 | Padma Bhushan: 13 | Padma Shri: 113 (Bharat Ratna 2026: Nil)

STEP 5
Node 3: Five Padma Vibhushan

STEP 6
Dharmendra (Posthumous), Justice K. T. Thomas, Dr. N. Rajam, P. Narayanan, V. S. Achuthanandan (Posthumous)

2.3 Complete Table of All 5 Padma Vibhushan Recipients (2026)

Three of the five Padma Vibhushan recipients in 2026 hail from the state of **Kerala**, alongside one each from **Maharashtra** and **Uttar Pradesh** (PIB Official Release):

S.No.	Recipient Name	Category / Status	Field of Contribution	State / Domicile	Key Career Highlights for Competitive Exams	Official Source
1	**Shri Dharmendra Singh Deol**	Posthumous	Art (Cinema)	Maharashtra	Veteran Indian cinema icon ('He-Man of Bollywood'), starred in over 300 films including *Sholay*, *Phool Aur Patthar*, and *Satyakam*; former Member of Parliament (Bikaner).	PIB
2	**Justice K. T. Thomas**	Living	Public Affairs (Judiciary)	Kerala	Former Judge of the Supreme Court of India; headed key constitutional committees on police reforms and protection of public property.	PIB

S.No.	Recipient Name	Category / Status	Field of Contribution	State / Domicile	Key Career Highlights for Competitive Exams	Official Source
3	**Dr. N. Rajam**	Living	Art (Hindustani Classical Violin)	Uttar Pradesh	Legendary violinist who pioneered the *Gayaki Ang* (vocal style) on the violin; former Professor and Dean of Performing Arts at Banaras Hindu University (BHU).	PIB
4	**Shri P. Narayanan**	Living	Literature & Education	Kerala	Veteran Malayalam writer, thinker, journalist, and cultural historian with decades of scholarly contributions in Kerala.	PIB
5	**Shri V. S. Achuthanandan**	Posthumous	Public Affairs	Kerala	Former Chief Minister of Kerala (2006–2011) and veteran mass leader remembered for administrative integrity, land struggles, and environmental protection.	PIB

2.4 Prominent Padma Bhushan *(13)* and Padma Shri *(113)* Awardees in *2026*

Competitive examinations frequently test high-profile personalities from sports, banking, literature, and cinema who received the **Padma Bhushan** and **Padma Shri** in 2026 (PIB Official Release):

Award Tier	Recipient Name	Field	Key Achievement / Identity	Official Source
Padma Bhushan	**Smt. Alka Yagnik**	Art (Playback Singing)	Iconic playback singer with over 20,000 recorded songs across Indian languages and two National Film Awards.	PIB
Padma Bhushan	**Shri Mammootty**	Art (Acting)	Legendary Malayalam cinema actor and three-time National Film Award winner for Best Actor.	PIB
Padma Bhushan	**Shri Uday Kotak**	Trade & Industry	Founder and former Managing Director & CEO of Kotak Mahindra Bank; leader in Indian banking reforms.	PIB
Padma Bhushan	**Shri Vijay Amritraj**	Sports (Lawn Tennis)	Legendary Indian tennis player, Davis Cup finalist, and sports broadcaster.	PIB
Padma Bhushan	**Shri Piyush Pandey (Posthumous)**	Art / Advertising	Architect of modern Indian advertising in Hindi idioms, including the iconic polio eradication campaign and national brand narratives.	PIB
Padma Shri	**Shri Rohit Sharma**	Sports (Cricket)	Indian cricket captain who led India to the 2024 T20 World Cup and 2025 Champions Trophy titles.	PIB
Padma Shri	**Ms. Harmanpreet Kaur**	Sports (Cricket)	Captain of the Indian Women's National Cricket Team and Arjuna Awardee.	PIB
Padma Shri	**Ms. Savita Punia**	Sports (Hockey)	Veteran goalkeeper and former captain of the Indian Women's National Field Hockey Team ('Great Wall of India').	PIB
Padma Shri	**Shri R. Madhavan**	Art (Cinema)	Acclaimed actor and director (*Rocketry: The Nambi Effect*), appointed President of FTII Pune.	PIB

Award Tier	Recipient Name	Field	Key Achievement / Identity	Official Source
Padma Shri	Shri Prosenjit Chatterjee	Art (Cinema)	Veteran Bengali cinema actor with over four decades of contribution to regional and national cinema.	PIB

Did You Know?
Dr. N. Rajam (Padma Vibhushan 2026, Uttar Pradesh) had earlier received the Padma Shri in 1984 and the Padma Bhushan in 2004, making her one of the rare classical musicians to have been honoured across all three tiers of the Padma Awards (PIB).

Exam Trap Alert!
Remember the exact numerical sequence for Padma Awards 2026: **5 – 13 – 113 = 131 Total**. Do not confuse this with 2025's numbers (7 – 19 – 113 = 139). Also note that **3 out of the 5 Padma Vibhushan awardees in 2026 are from Kerala** (Justice K. T. Thomas, P. Narayanan, and V. S. Achuthanandan), while **Dr. N. Rajam represents Uttar Pradesh** (critical for UPPSC exams!).

★ **Memory Trick**:
"D-T-R-N-A (5 Vibhushans of 2026)" — **D**harmendra (Maharashtra), K. T. **T**homas (Kerala), N. **R**ajam (UP), P. **N**arayanan (Kerala), V. S. **A**chuthanandan (Kerala).

Chapter 3 Comprehensive Analytical & Statutory Revision Matrix

Core Sub-Domain	Key Concept / Provision	Verified Analytical Parameters & Exam Distinctions (पत्र सूचना कार्यालय (PIB))
Overview of the 2026 Padma Awards Notification	Padma Vibhushan	(For exceptional and distinguished service): **5 Awards
Process Flow Diagram: Padma Awards 2026 Hierarchy & Demographic Distribution	Padma Bhushan	(For distinguished service of high order): **13 Awards
Complete Table of All 5 Padma Vibhushan Recipients (2026)	Padma Shri	(For distinguished service in any field): **113 Awards
Prominent Padma Bhushan (13) and Padma Shri (113) Awardees in 2026	Demographic & Special Categories in 2026	Out of the 131 awardees, **19 are women**, **6 belong to the Foreigners / NRI / PIO / OCI category**, and **16 are Posthumous awardees** (PIB Official Release). No Bharat Ratna was announced in 2026, keeping the all-time total of Bharat Ratna recipients at **53**.

Chapter 3 Multi-Statement Exam Verification Drills

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

Statement-I (Padma Vibhushan): (For exceptional and distinguished service): **5 Awards

Statement-II (Padma Bhushan): (For distinguished service of high order): **13 Awards

✔ **Exam Verification Key: Both Statement-I and Statement-II are factually accurate as per पत्र सूचना कार्यालय (PIB) & IUC Academy.**

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

Statement-I (Padma Shri): (For distinguished service in any field): **113 Awards

Statement-II (Demographic & Special Categories in 2026): Out of the 131 awardees, **19 are women**, **6 belong to the Foreigners / NRI / PIO / OCI category**, and **16 are Posthumous awardees** (PIB Official Release). No Bharat Ratna was announced in 2026, keeping the all-time total of Bharat Ratna recipients at **53**.

✔ **Exam Verification Key: Both Statement-I and Statement-II are factually accurate as per पत्र सूचना कार्यालय (PIB) & IUC Academy.**

Chapter 3: Union Budget 2026–27 (Part I) — Macroeconomic Fiscal Architecture, ₹53.47 Lakh Crore Expenditure & Deficit Glide Path

Chapter Key Study Pillars — Chapter 3: Union Budget 2026–27 (Part I) — Macroeconomic Fiscal Architecture, ₹53.47 Lakh Crore Expenditure & Deficit Glide Path

Key Study Pillar 1	Key Study Pillar 2	Key Study Pillar 3
Constitutional Presentation & Core Fiscal Stance	**Process Flow Diagram: Union Budget 2026–27 Fiscal Architecture**	**Master Table: Union Budget 2026–27 at a Glance (Exact Official Figures)**

3.1 Constitutional Presentation & Core Fiscal Stance

On **1 February 2026**, Union Minister for Finance and Corporate Affairs **Smt. Nirmala Sitharaman** presented the **Union Budget 2026–27** in Parliament under Article 112 of the Constitution of India (Annual Financial Statement) (**Union Budget Portal**). This was the first Union Budget incorporating the fiscal devolution and grant architecture of the **16th Finance Commission (2026–31)**. The budget anchored India's fiscal policy on a new medium-term debt consolidation rule: reducing the Central Government's **Debt-to-GDP ratio to 50±1% by FY 2030–31**, down from **55.6% of GDP in Budget Estimates (BE) 2026–27** (**PIB Official Release**).

3.2 Process Flow Diagram: Union Budget 2026–27 Fiscal Architecture

Step-by-Step Conceptual Process Flowchart

STEP 1
Node 1: Total Receipts (BE FY27)

STEP 2
Non-Debt Receipts: ₹36,51,547 Cr (Revenue Receipts: ₹35,33,150 Cr | Non-Debt Cap Receipts: ₹1,18,397 Cr)

STEP 3
Node 2: Total Expenditure (BE FY27)

STEP 4
₹53,47,315 Cr (+7.7% over RE FY26) | Direct Capex: ₹12,21,821 Cr | Effective Capex: ₹17,14,523 Cr

STEP 5
Node 3: Deficit Indicators (BE FY27)

STEP 6
Fiscal Deficit: 4.3% of GDP (₹16,95,768 Cr) | Revenue Deficit: 1.5% of GDP

3.3 Master Table: Union Budget 2026–27 at a Glance (Exact Official Figures)

Every single figure below is drawn directly from the *Budget at a Glance* 2026–27 document tabled in Parliament on 1 February 2026 (Union Budget Portal):

Fiscal Parameter / Budget Head	FY 2025–26 Revised Estimates (RE)	FY 2026–27 Budget Estimates (BE)	Growth / Change over RE 2025–26	Official Source
Total Expenditure	₹49,64,842 Crore	**₹53,47,315 Crore**	+7.7% increase	India Budget
Total Capital Expenditure (Capex)	₹10,95,803 Crore (approx)	**₹12,21,821 Crore**	+11.5% increase	India Budget
Effective Capital Expenditure	₹14,03,906 Crore	**₹17,14,523 Crore**	Includes ₹4,92,702 Cr Grants for Capital Assets	India Budget
Total Receipts (other than borrowings)	₹34,06,293 Crore (approx)	**₹36,51,547 Crore**	+7.2% increase	India Budget
Revenue Receipts	—	**₹35,33,150 Crore**	Tax revenue projected to grow by +8.0%	India Budget
Non-Debt Capital Receipts	—	**₹1,18,397 Crore**	Recovery of loans & disinvestment receipts	India Budget
Fiscal Deficit (Absolute & % of GDP)	4.4% of GDP	**4.3% of GDP (₹16,95,768 Crore)**	-10 bps fiscal consolidation	PIB
Revenue Deficit (% of GDP)	1.5% of GDP	**1.5% of GDP**	Maintained stable at 1.5% of GDP	India Budget
Interest Payments	₹12,76,338 Crore (approx)	**₹14,03,972 Crore**	+10.0% increase (26% of Total Expenditure)	India Budget
Central Sector Schemes Allocation	—	**₹17,71,928 Crore**	+8.2% over RE 2025–26	India Budget

Fiscal Parameter / Budget Head	FY 2025–26 Revised Estimates (RE)	FY 2026–27 Budget Estimates (BE)	Growth / Change over RE 2025–26	Official Source
Centrally Sponsored Schemes Allocation	—	**₹9,89,885 Crore**	+17.1% over RE 2025–26	India Budget
Pensions Allocation	—	**₹2,96,214 Crore**	+3.0% over RE 2025–26	India Budget
Special Assistance to States for Capex	—	**₹1,85,000 Crore**	50-year interest-free loans for State Capex	India Budget
Nominal GDP Growth Assumption	—	**10.0% – 10.1%**	Real GDP growth + inflation assumption	India Budget
Central Government Debt-to-GDP Ratio	—	**55.6% of GDP**	Target: **50±1% of GDP by FY 2030–31**	PIB

Did You Know?
In Union Budget 2026–27, **Interest Payments (₹14,03,972 crore)** account for **26% of total expenditure** and nearly **40% of total revenue receipts**, making debt servicing the single largest committed revenue expenditure item of the Union Government (Union Budget Portal).

Exam Trap Alert!
Do NOT confuse **Direct Capital Expenditure (₹12,21,821 crore)** with **Effective Capital Expenditure (₹17,14,523 crore)** in BE 2026–27! Effective Capital Expenditure = Direct Budgetary Capital Outlay (₹12,21,821 crore) + Grants-in-Aid to States for Creation of Capital Assets (₹4,92,702 crore).

★ **Memory Trick**:
"53.47 Total, 12.22 Capex, 4.3% Deficit" — Memorize the trio **53,47,315 Cr** (Total Expenditure), **12,21,821 Cr** (Capex), and **4.3%** (Fiscal Deficit) for instant elimination in UPSC/PCS prelims.

Chapter *4:* Union Budget *2026–27* (Part II) — Capital Expenditure Push, Sectoral Allocations & Strategic Missions

Chapter Key Study Pillars — Chapter 4: Union Budget 2026–27 (Part II) — Capital Expenditure Push, Sectoral Allocations & Strategic Missions

Key Study Pillar 1
Multi-Decade Public Capex Expansion & Infrastructure Priorities

Key Study Pillar 2
Major New Missions & Announcements in Union Budget 2026–27

Key Study Pillar 3
Process Flow Diagram: Expenditure Composition & Transfer Channels in BE 2026–27

Key Study Pillar 4
Comparative Breakdown of Major Expenditure Components (BE 2026–27)

4.1 Multi-Decade Public Capex Expansion & Infrastructure Priorities

In her Budget Speech on 1 February 2026, the Finance Minister highlighted that public capital expenditure has expanded more than six-fold from ₹2 lakh crore in FY 2014–15 to **₹12,21,821 crore in BE 2026–27** (an 11.5%

increase over RE 2025–26) (PIB Official Release). Combined with grants-in-aid for capital asset creation, the **Effective Capital Expenditure stands at ₹17,14,523 crore**.

4.2 Major New Missions & Announcements in Union Budget *2026–27*

1. **Khelo India Mission**: Announced in Budget 2026–27 to holistically transform India's sports ecosystem over the next decade, building sports science infrastructure, grassroots talent pipelines, and high-performance academies ahead of India's future Olympic hosting ambitions (PIB Official Release).

2. **First-Ever Global Big Cat Summit**: The Union Budget 2026–27 announced that India will host the **first-ever Global Big Cat Summit** under the aegis of the International Big Cat Alliance (IBCA) to spearhead global conservation of the seven big cats (Tiger, Lion, Leopard, Snow Leopard, Puma, Jaguar, and Cheetah) (Union Budget Portal).

3. **Special Capital Expenditure Loans to States (₹1,85,000 Crore)**: To crowd-in state-level infrastructure investment, the Union Government allocated **₹1,85,000 crore** in 50-year interest-free loans to states for capital expenditure in FY 2026–27 (Union Budget Portal).

4. **16th Finance Commission Grants for FY 2026–27**: In alignment with the 16th Finance Commission's recommendations taking effect on 1 April 2026, Finance Commission transfers via grants-in-aid in BE 2026–27 were budgeted at **₹1,29,397 crore** (and ₹1.4 lakh crore including disaster relief components), reflecting the discontinuation of revenue deficit grants (Union Budget Portal).

4.3 Process Flow Diagram*:* Expenditure Composition & Transfer Channels in BE *2026–27*

Step-by-Step Conceptual Process Flowchart

STEP 1
Node 1: Total Outlay ₹53,47,315 Cr

STEP 2
Divided into Central Sector Schemes, Centrally Sponsored Schemes, Capex & Committed Expenditure

STEP 3
Node 2: Scheme Architecture

STEP 4
Central Sector Schemes: ₹17,71,928 Cr (+8.2%) | Centrally Sponsored Schemes: ₹9,89,885 Cr (+17.1%)

STEP 5
Node 3: State Capex & FC Grants

STEP 6
Special Capex Loans to States: ₹1,85,000 Cr | 16th FC Budgeted Grants: ₹1,29,397 Cr

4.4 Comparative Breakdown of Major Expenditure Components *(*BE *2026–27)*

Expenditure Component	BE 2026–27 Allocation (₹ Crore)	YoY Growth over RE 2025–26	Policy Significance in FY 2026–27	Official Source
Central Sector Schemes (CS)	₹17,71,928 Crore	+8.2%	100% Union-funded flagship infrastructure, space, atomic energy, and fertilizer/food schemes	India Budget
Interest Payments	₹14,03,972 Crore	+10.0%	Absorbs 26% of total expenditure and 40% of revenue receipts	India Budget

Expenditure Component	BE 2026–27 Allocation (₹ Crore)	YoY Growth over RE 2025–26	Policy Significance in FY 2026–27	Official Source
Direct Capital Expenditure	₹12,21,821 Crore	+11.5%	Drives highways, railways, defence capital acquisition, and green energy grids	India Budget
Centrally Sponsored Schemes (CSS)	₹9,89,885 Crore	+17.1%	Joint Union-State welfare schemes across health, education, rural housing, and drinking water	India Budget
Pensions	₹2,96,214 Crore	+3.0%	Civil and defence pension liabilities of the Union Government	India Budget
Special Capex Loans to States	₹1,85,000 Crore	High priority	Long-term interest-free capital investment support linked to state reforms	India Budget
Finance Commission Grants	₹1,29,397 Crore	-15.0% vs RE26	Lower due to elimination of Post-Devolution Revenue Deficit Grants under 16th FC	India Budget

Did You Know?
Centrally Sponsored Schemes (CSS) saw a sharp **17.1% jump** in Union Budget 2026–27 to **₹9,89,885 crore**, outpacing the 8.2% rise in Central Sector Schemes, demonstrating a major push toward cooperative federal implementation of grassroots human capital schemes (Union Budget Portal).

Exam Trap Alert!
Finance Commission Grants in BE 2026–27 (**₹1,29,397 crore**) actually **declined by 15%** compared to RE 2025–26. Why? Because the 16th Finance Commission completely discontinued Post-Devolution Revenue Deficit Grants, Sector-Specific Grants, and State-Specific Grants from 1 April 2026!

★ **Memory Trick**:
"CS 17.7, CSS 9.9, States Capex 1.85" — Central Sector is ₹17.72 lakh crore, Centrally Sponsored is ₹9.90 lakh crore, and State Capex Loans stand at ₹1.85 lakh crore.

Chapter 5 Comprehensive Analytical & Statutory Revision Matrix

Core Sub-Domain	Key Concept / Provision	Verified Analytical Parameters & Exam Distinctions (पत्र सूचना कार्यालय (PIB))
Multi-Decade Public Capex Expansion & Infrastructure Priorities	**Khelo India Mission**	Announced in Budget 2026–27 to holistically transform India's sports ecosystem over the next decade, building sports science infrastructure, grassroots talent pipelines, and high-performance academies ahead of India's future Olympic hosting ambitions (PIB Official Release).
Major New Missions & Announcements in Union Budget 2026–27	**First-Ever Global Big Cat Summit**	The Union Budget 2026–27 announced that India will host the **first-ever Global Big Cat Summit** under the aegis of the International Big Cat Alliance (IBCA) to spearhead global conservation of the seven big cats (Tiger, Lion, Leopard, Snow Leopard, Puma, Jaguar, and Cheetah) (Union Budget Portal).

Core Sub-Domain	Key Concept / Provision	Verified Analytical Parameters & Exam Distinctions (पत्र सूचना कार्यालय (PIB))
Process Flow Diagram: Expenditure Composition & Transfer Channels in BE 2026–27	**Special Capital Expenditure Loans to States (₹1,85,000 Crore)**	To crowd-in state-level infrastructure investment, the Union Government allocated **₹1,85,000 crore** in 50-year interest-free loans to states for capital expenditure in FY 2026–27 (Union Budget Portal).
Comparative Breakdown of Major Expenditure Components (BE 2026–27)	**16th Finance Commission Grants for FY 2026–27**	In alignment with the 16th Finance Commission's recommendations taking effect on 1 April 2026, Finance Commission transfers via grants-in-aid in BE 2026–27 were budgeted at **₹1,29,397 crore** (and ₹1.4 lakh crore including disaster relief components), reflecting the discontinuation of revenue deficit grants (Union Budget Portal).

Chapter *5* Multi-Statement Exam Verification Drills

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

Statement-I (Khelo India Mission): Announced in Budget 2026–27 to holistically transform India's sports ecosystem over the next decade, building sports science infrastructure, grassroots talent pipelines, and high-performance academies ahead of India's future Olympic hosting ambitions (PIB Official Release).

Statement-II (First-Ever Global Big Cat Summit): The Union Budget 2026–27 announced that India will host the **first-ever Global Big Cat Summit** under the aegis of the International Big Cat Alliance (IBCA) to spearhead global conservation of the seven big cats (Tiger, Lion, Leopard, Snow Leopard, Puma, Jaguar, and Cheetah) (Union Budget Portal).

✓ **Exam Verification Key: Both Statement-I and Statement-II are factually accurate as per पत्र सूचना कार्यालय (PIB) & IUC Academy.**

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

Statement-I (Special Capital Expenditure Loans to States (₹1,85,000 Crore)): To crowd-in state-level infrastructure investment, the Union Government allocated **₹1,85,000 crore** in 50-year interest-free loans to states for capital expenditure in FY 2026–27 (Union Budget Portal).

Statement-II (16th Finance Commission Grants for FY 2026–27): In alignment with the 16th Finance Commission's recommendations taking effect on 1 April 2026, Finance Commission transfers via grants-in-aid in BE 2026–27 were budgeted at **₹1,29,397 crore** (and ₹1.4 lakh crore including disaster relief components), reflecting the discontinuation of revenue deficit grants (Union Budget Portal).

✓ **Exam Verification Key: Both Statement-I and Statement-II are factually accurate as per पत्र सूचना कार्यालय (PIB) & IUC Academy.**

Chapter *5:* Economic Survey *2025–26* (Tabled in Parliament in *2026*) — 7.4% Real GDP Growth Estimate, FY27 Outlook & External Resilience

Chapter Key Study Pillars — Chapter 5: Economic Survey 2025–26 (Tabled in Parliament in 2026) — 7.4% Real GDP Growth Estimate, FY27 Outlook & External Resilience

Key Study Pillar 1	Key Study Pillar 2	Key Study Pillar 3	Key Study Pillar 4
Presentation & Theme of Economic Survey 2025–26	**Key Macroeconomic Projections & Structural Findings**	**Process Flow Diagram: Economic Survey 2025–26 Growth & Stability Engine**	**Analytical Summary Table: Economic Survey 2025–26 Indicators**

5.1 Presentation & Theme of Economic Survey *2025–26*

On **29–30 January 2026**, ahead of the Union Budget, the Ministry of Finance tabled the **Economic Survey 2025–26** in Parliament (PIB Official Release). Prepared by the Economic Division of the Department of Economic Affairs under the Chief Economic Adviser, the Survey carried the central theme: **"From Stability to Strength: India Transitions Towards a High-Growth and Resilient Economy"** (Union Budget Portal).

5.2 Key Macroeconomic Projections & Structural Findings

1. **Real GDP Growth in FY 2025–26 (7.4%)**: Driven by the 'double engine of private consumption and investment', India's real GDP growth for FY 2025–26 was estimated at **7.4%** (PIB Official Release). In Q3 FY 2025–26 (quarter ending December 2025), real GDP expanded by **7.8% YoY**.

2. **Real GDP Growth Projection for FY 2026–27 (6.8% to 7.2%)**: Despite global trade policy shifts and geopolitical headwinds, the Economic Survey projected India's real GDP to grow in the range of **6.8% to 7.2% in FY 2026–27 (FY27)** (Union Budget Portal).

3. **External Sector & Current Account Deficit (CAD)**: India's Current Account Deficit moderated sharply to **0.8% of GDP in H1 FY26**, down from **1.3% of GDP in H1 FY25**, supported by resilient services exports and remittance inflows (Union Budget Portal).

4. **Banking Sector Asset Quality & NPA Recovery Surge**: Scheduled Commercial Banks (SCBs) recorded historic improvements in balance-sheet health, with the **recovery rate in Non-Performing Assets (NPAs) nearly doubling from 13.2% in FY18 to 26.2% in FY25** (PIB Official Release).

5. **Innovation & Infrastructure Benchmarking**: The Survey highlighted that India's rank in the **Global Innovation Index improved steadily from 66th in 2019 to 38th**, and the World Bank ranked India among the **top five low- and middle-income economies in private investment in infrastructure** (PIB Official Release).

5.3 Process Flow Diagram: Economic Survey *2025–26* Growth & Stability Engine

Step-by-Step Conceptual Process Flowchart

STEP 1	STEP 2	STEP 3	STEP 4	STEP 5	STEP 6
Node 1: Domestic Growth Engine	FY26 Real GDP Estimated at 7.4% (driven by Consumption + Investment) | FY27 Projected at 6.8%–7.2%	Node 2: Price & Rural Stability	Declining Rural Inflation reducing rural stress + Calibrated Fiscal Consolidation	Node 3: Financial Sector Health	SCB NPA Recovery Rate doubled from 13.2% (FY18) to 26.2% (FY25) + multi-decade low GNPA

5.4 Analytical Summary Table: Economic Survey 2025–26 Indicators

Economic Indicator	Benchmark / Historical Figure	Latest Figure in Economic Survey (Jan 2026)	Economic Interpretation	Official Source
Real GDP Growth (FY 2025–26)	—	**7.4%** (Advance Estimate)	Powered by domestic private consumption and capital formation	**PIB**
Real GDP Growth Outlook (FY 2026–27)	7.4% in FY26	**6.8% – 7.2%**	Fastest-growing major economy globally despite trade uncertainty	**India Budget**
Current Account Deficit (CAD)	1.3% of GDP (H1 FY25)	**0.8% of GDP (H1 FY26)**	50 bps moderation driven by IT/ business services exports & remittances	**India Budget**
SCB NPA Recovery Rate	13.2% (FY18)	**26.2% (FY25)**	Nearly 2x improvement via IBC resolution and SARFAESI enforcement	**PIB**
Global Innovation Index Rank	66th (2019)	**38th**	28-place climb over six years led by R&D and ICT services exports	**PIB**
Private Infrastructure Investment	—	**Top 5 Globally (LMICs)**	Ranked by World Bank among Low- and Middle-Income Countries	**PIB**

Did You Know?
According to the Economic Survey 2025–26 tabled in January 2026, the recovery rate in Non-Performing Assets (NPAs) of Scheduled Commercial Banks almost exactly doubled from **13.2% in FY18 to 26.2% in FY25**, freeing up substantial bank capital for productive private credit (**PIB**).

Exam Trap Alert!
Be careful with the two GDP numbers in the Economic Survey tabled in January 2026: **7.4%** is the estimated real GDP growth for **FY 2025–26**, whereas **6.8% to 7.2%** is the projected real GDP growth range for **FY 2026–27 (FY27)**!

★ **Memory Trick**:
"7.4 Now, 6.8–7.2 Next, 0.8 CAD" — 7.4% for FY26, 6.8%–7.2% range for FY27, and 0.8% of GDP for H1 FY26 Current Account Deficit.

Chapter 6 Comprehensive Analytical & Statutory Revision Matrix

Core Sub-Domain	Key Concept / Provision	Verified Analytical Parameters & Exam Distinctions (पत्र सूचना कार्यालय (PIB))
Presentation & Theme of Economic Survey 2025–26	**Real GDP Growth in FY 2025–26 (7.4%)**	Driven by the 'double engine of private consumption and investment', India's real GDP growth for FY 2025–26 was estimated at **7.4%** (PIB Official Release). In Q3 FY 2025–26 (quarter ending December 2025), real GDP expanded by **7.8% YoY**.
Key Macroeconomic Projections & Structural Findings	**Real GDP Growth Projection for FY 2026–27 (6.8% to 7.2%)**	Despite global trade policy shifts and geopolitical headwinds, the Economic Survey projected India's real GDP to grow in the range of **6.8% to 7.2% in FY 2026–27 (FY27)** (Union Budget Portal).

Core Sub-Domain	Key Concept / Provision	Verified Analytical Parameters & Exam Distinctions (पत्र सूचना कार्यालय (PIB))
Process Flow Diagram: Economic Survey 2025–26 Growth & Stability Engine	**External Sector & Current Account Deficit (CAD)**	India's Current Account Deficit moderated sharply to **0.8% of GDP in H1 FY26**, down from **1.3% of GDP in H1 FY25**, supported by resilient services exports and remittance inflows (Union Budget Portal).
Analytical Summary Table: Economic Survey 2025–26 Indicators	**Banking Sector Asset Quality & NPA Recovery Surge**	Scheduled Commercial Banks (SCBs) recorded historic improvements in balance-sheet health, with the **recovery rate in Non-Performing Assets (NPAs) nearly doubling from 13.2% in FY18 to 26.2% in FY25** (PIB Official Release).
Presentation & Theme of Economic Survey 2025–26	**Innovation & Infrastructure Benchmarking**	The Survey highlighted that India's rank in the **Global Innovation Index improved steadily from 66th in 2019 to 38th**, and the World Bank ranked India among the **top five low- and middle-income economies in private investment in infrastructure** (PIB Official Release).

Chapter *6* Multi-Statement Exam Verification Drills

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

Statement-I (Real GDP Growth in FY 2025–26 (7.4%)): Driven by the 'double engine of private consumption and investment', India's real GDP growth for FY 2025–26 was estimated at **7.4%** (PIB Official Release). In Q3 FY 2025–26 (quarter ending December 2025), real GDP expanded by **7.8% YoY**.

Statement-II (Real GDP Growth Projection for FY 2026–27 (6.8% to 7.2%)): Despite global trade policy shifts and geopolitical headwinds, the Economic Survey projected India's real GDP to grow in the range of **6.8% to 7.2% in FY 2026–27 (FY27)** (Union Budget Portal).

✔ **Exam Verification Key: Both Statement-I and Statement-II are factually accurate as per पत्र सूचना कार्यालय (PIB) & IUC Academy.**

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

Statement-I (External Sector & Current Account Deficit (CAD)): India's Current Account Deficit moderated sharply to **0.8% of GDP in H1 FY26**, down from **1.3% of GDP in H1 FY25**, supported by resilient services exports and remittance inflows (Union Budget Portal).

Statement-II (Banking Sector Asset Quality & NPA Recovery Surge): Scheduled Commercial Banks (SCBs) recorded historic improvements in balance-sheet health, with the **recovery rate in Non-Performing Assets (NPAs) nearly doubling from 13.2% in FY18 to 26.2% in FY25** (PIB Official Release).

✔ **Exam Verification Key: Both Statement-I and Statement-II are factually accurate as per पत्र सूचना कार्यालय (PIB) & IUC Academy.**

Chapter 6: ISRO Space Missions 2026 — PSLV-C62/EOS-N1, GSLV-F16/NISAR, SpaDeX Completion & Gaganyaan G1

Chapter Key Study Pillars — Chapter 6: ISRO Space Missions 2026 — PSLV-C62/EOS-N1, GSLV-F16/NISAR, SpaDeX Completion & Gaganyaan G1

Key Study Pillar 1	Key Study Pillar 2	Key Study Pillar 3	Key Study Pillar 4
Leadership & Strategic Space Milestones in 2026	Key Missions, Scientific Operations & Space Events in 2026	Process Flow Diagram: ISRO's 2026 Space Technology & Mission Pipeline	Master Reference Table: ISRO Missions & Milestones Active in 2026

6.1 Leadership & Strategic Space Milestones in 2026

Under the leadership of **Dr. V. Narayanan** (Chairman, ISRO and Secretary, Department of Space), India's space programme in 2026 advanced across Earth observation, orbital docking lifecycle completion, solar physics, and human spaceflight readiness (ISRO Official Portal). According to the Department of Space factsheet released in 2026, IN-SPACe facilitated **71 ISRO technology transfers** to Indian private industries and space start-ups as of 31 January 2026 (PIB Official Release).

6.2 Key Missions, Scientific Operations & Space Events in 2026

1. **PSLV-C62 / EOS-N1 Mission (12 January 2026)**: Launched from Satish Dhawan Space Centre (SDSC) SHAR, Sriharikota on **12 January 2026** as the 105th launch mission listed on ISRO's portal (ISRO Official Portal). Following a third-stage anomaly studied by a failure analysis committee (reported in Parliament on 1 April 2026), ISRO implemented stringent propulsion quality protocols for subsequent polar launches (PIB Official Release).

2. **GSLV-F16 / NISAR Dual-Frequency Radar Science Operations**: The **NASA-ISRO Synthetic Aperture Radar (NISAR)**—the world's first dual-frequency (**L-band by NASA + S-band by ISRO**) radar imaging satellite built at a cost exceeding USD 1.5 billion and launched aboard GSLV-F16—delivered landmark Earth-observation calibration and crustal deformation mapping across 2026 (PIB Official Release).

3. **SpaDeX (Space Docking Experiment) Mission Completion & Controlled Re-entry (2026)**: After making India the **4th country in the world** (after the USA, Russia, and China) to achieve autonomous space docking, the two SpaDeX satellites (SDX01 Chaser and SDX02 Target) completed their 21-month orbital lifecycle and re-entered the Earth's atmosphere about seven hours apart in 2026, validating end-to-end orbital servicing and de-orbiting protocols (PIB Official Release).

4. **Aditya-L1 VELC 3D Solar Eruption Reconstruction (2026)**: In 2026, the Department of Science and Technology (DST) and ISRO announced that the **Visible Emission Line Coronagraph (VELC)** payload aboard **Aditya-L1** (positioned at Lagrange Point L1, 1.5 million km from Earth) successfully reconstructed a **solar Coronal Mass Ejection (CME) in 3D**, providing crucial space-weather forecasting data (PIB Official Release).

5. **3rd National Space Day (23 August 2026)**: Celebrated with main national events in **Ahmedabad** on **23 August 2026** (commemorating Chandrayaan-3's Vikram lander touchdown at Shiv Shakti Point). The official

2026 theme was: **"Towards Viksit Bharat: Innovating, Collaborating and Aspiring to Global Space Leadership"** (PIB Official Release).

6. **HLVM3-G1 / OM1 (Gaganyaan Uncrewed Orbital Flight Readiness)**: ISRO completed human-rated launch vehicle (**HLVM3**) integration and crew-escape qualification milestones for **Gaganyaan G1** (carry-aboard humanoid robot *Vyomitra*), scheduled for Q4 2026 (PIB Official Release).

6.3 Process Flow Diagram: ISRO's *2026* Space Technology & Mission Pipeline

Step-by-Step Conceptual Process Flowchart

STEP 1 — Node 1: Launch & Radar Ops

STEP 2 — PSLV-C62/EOS-N1 (12 Jan 2026) + GSLV-F16/ NISAR Dual-Band (L-Band + S-Band) Earth Observation

STEP 3 — Node 2: Orbital Docking Legacy

STEP 4 — SpaDeX Twin Satellites complete 21-month mission & re-enter atmosphere (India = 4th Docking Nation)

STEP 5 — Node 3: Deep Space Science

STEP 6 — Aditya-L1 VELC Payload reconstructs Solar Coronal Mass Ejection (CME) in 3D at Lagrange Point L1

6.4 Master Reference Table: ISRO Missions & Milestones Active in *2026*

Mission / Event Name	Launch Vehicle / Platform	Key Date / Timeline	Scientific & Strategic Significance	Official Source
PSLV-C62 / EOS-N1	PSLV-C62	**12 January 2026**	105th launch mission from SDSC SHAR; Earth observation mission	ISRO
NISAR Mission	GSLV-F16	Operational in 2026	Joint NASA-ISRO dual-frequency radar (NASA L-band 24 cm + ISRO S-band 12 cm)	PIB
SpaDeX Mission Closure	PSLV-C60 (SDX01 & SDX02)	Completed in 2026	Controlled atmospheric re-entry after 21 months; validated autonomous orbital docking	PIB
Aditya-L1 3D CME Study	PSLV-C57 (Halo Orbit at L1)	Published in 2026	VELC instrument reconstructed solar coronal mass ejection in three dimensions	PIB
3rd National Space Day	Hosted at **Ahmedabad**	**23 August 2026**	Theme: *Towards Viksit Bharat: Innovating, Collaborating and Aspiring to Global Space Leadership*	PIB
HLVM3-G1 / OM1	Human-Rated LVM3 (HLVM3)	Q4 2026 Target	First uncrewed orbital flight of the Gaganyaan programme carrying *Vyomitra*	PIB
IN-SPACe Tech Transfers	Private Space Ecosystem	As of **31 Jan 2026**	**71 ISRO technologies** transferred to Indian private space companies & start-ups	PIB

Did You Know?
In the joint **NISAR** satellite, **NASA provided the L-band synthetic aperture radar**, high-rate communication subsystem, and GPS receivers, while **ISRO provided the S-band synthetic aperture radar**, the spacecraft bus, and the **GSLV-F16** launch vehicle (PIB).

Exam Trap Alert!
UPSC and State PCS love swapping the radar bands of NISAR! Never mark "ISRO L-band and NASA S-band"—remember that **L-band (longer wavelength, ~24 cm) is NASA's** and **S-band (shorter wavelength, ~12 cm) is ISRO's**!

★ **Memory Trick**:
"ISRO = S-Band (Both have 'S'), NASA = L-Band" — Associate the letter **S** in **IS**RO with **S**-Band radar, leaving **L**-Band for NASA.

Chapter 7 Comprehensive Analytical & Statutory Revision Matrix

Core Sub-Domain	Key Concept / Provision	Verified Analytical Parameters & Exam Distinctions (पत्र सूचना कार्यालय (PIB))
Leadership & Strategic Space Milestones in 2026	**PSLV-C62 / EOS-N1 Mission (12 January 2026)**	Launched from Satish Dhawan Space Centre (SDSC) SHAR, Sriharikota on **12 January 2026** as the 105th launch mission listed on ISRO's portal (ISRO Official Portal). Following a third-stage anomaly studied by a failure analysis committee (reported in Parliament on 1 April 2026), ISRO implemented stringent propulsion quality protocols for subsequent polar launches (PIB Official Release).
Key Missions, Scientific Operations & Space Events in 2026	**GSLV-F16 / NISAR Dual-Frequency Radar Science Operations**	The **NASA-ISRO Synthetic Aperture Radar (NISAR)**—the world's first dual-frequency (**L-band by NASA + S-band by ISRO**) radar imaging satellite built at a cost exceeding USD 1.5 billion and launched aboard GSLV-F16—delivered landmark Earth-observation calibration and crustal deformation mapping across 2026 (PIB Official Release).
Process Flow Diagram: ISRO's 2026 Space Technology & Mission Pipeline	**SpaDeX (Space Docking Experiment) Mission Completion & Controlled Re-entry (2026)**	After making India the **4th country in the world** (after the USA, Russia, and China) to achieve autonomous space docking, the two SpaDeX satellites (SDX01 Chaser and SDX02 Target) completed their 21-month orbital lifecycle and re-entered the Earth's atmosphere about seven hours apart in 2026, validating end-to-end orbital servicing and de-orbiting protocols (PIB Official Release).
Master Reference Table: ISRO Missions & Milestones Active in 2026	**Aditya-L1 VELC 3D Solar Eruption Reconstruction (2026)**	In 2026, the Department of Science and Technology (DST) and ISRO announced that the **Visible Emission Line Coronagraph (VELC)** payload aboard **Aditya-L1** (positioned at Lagrange Point L1, 1.5 million km from Earth) successfully reconstructed a **solar Coronal Mass Ejection (CME) in 3D**, providing crucial space-weather forecasting data (PIB Official Release).
Leadership & Strategic Space Milestones in 2026	**3rd National Space Day (23 August 2026)**	Celebrated with main national events in **Ahmedabad** on **23 August 2026** (commemorating Chandrayaan-3's Vikram lander touchdown at Shiv Shakti Point). The official 2026 theme was: **"Towards Viksit Bharat: Innovating, Collaborating and Aspiring to Global Space Leadership"** (PIB Official Release).
Key Missions, Scientific Operations & Space Events in 2026	**HLVM3-G1 / OM1 (Gaganyaan Uncrewed Orbital Flight Readiness)**	ISRO completed human-rated launch vehicle (**HLVM3**) integration and crew-escape qualification milestones for **Gaganyaan G1** (carry-aboard humanoid robot *Vyomitra*), scheduled for Q4 2026 (PIB Official Release).

Chapter 7 Multi-Statement Exam Verification Drills

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

Statement-I (PSLV-C62 / EOS-N1 Mission (12 January 2026)): Launched from Satish Dhawan Space Centre (SDSC) SHAR, Sriharikota on **12 January 2026** as the 105th launch mission listed on ISRO's portal (ISRO Official Portal). Following a third-stage anomaly studied by a failure analysis committee (reported in Parliament on 1 April 2026), ISRO implemented stringent propulsion quality protocols for subsequent polar launches (PIB Official Release).

Statement-II (GSLV-F16 / NISAR Dual-Frequency Radar Science Operations): The **NASA-ISRO Synthetic Aperture Radar (NISAR)**—the world's first dual-frequency (**L-band by NASA + S-band by ISRO**) radar imaging satellite built at a cost exceeding USD 1.5 billion and launched aboard GSLV-F16—delivered landmark Earth-observation calibration and crustal deformation mapping across 2026 (PIB Official Release).

✓ **Exam Verification Key: Both Statement-I and Statement-II are factually accurate as per पत्र सूचना कार्यालय (PIB) & IUC Academy.**

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

Statement-I (SpaDeX (Space Docking Experiment) Mission Completion & Controlled Re-entry (2026)): After making India the **4th country in the world** (after the USA, Russia, and China) to achieve autonomous space docking, the two SpaDeX satellites (SDX01 Chaser and SDX02 Target) completed their 21-month orbital lifecycle and re-entered the Earth's atmosphere about seven hours apart in 2026, validating end-to-end orbital servicing and de-orbiting protocols (PIB Official Release).

Statement-II (Aditya-L1 VELC 3D Solar Eruption Reconstruction (2026)): In 2026, the Department of Science and Technology (DST) and ISRO announced that the **Visible Emission Line Coronagraph (VELC)** payload aboard **Aditya-L1** (positioned at Lagrange Point L1, 1.5 million km from Earth) successfully reconstructed a **solar Coronal Mass Ejection (CME) in 3D**, providing crucial space-weather forecasting data (PIB Official Release).

✓ **Exam Verification Key: Both Statement-I and Statement-II are factually accurate as per पत्र सूचना कार्यालय (PIB) & IUC Academy.**

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

Statement-I (3rd National Space Day (23 August 2026)): Celebrated with main national events in **Ahmedabad** on **23 August 2026** (commemorating Chandrayaan-3's Vikram lander touchdown at Shiv Shakti Point). The official 2026 theme was: **"Towards Viksit Bharat: Innovating, Collaborating and Aspiring to Global Space Leadership"** (PIB Official Release).

Statement-II (HLVM3-G1 / OM1 (Gaganyaan Uncrewed Orbital Flight Readiness)): ISRO completed human-rated launch vehicle (**HLVM3**) integration and crew-escape qualification milestones for **Gaganyaan G1** (carry-aboard humanoid robot *Vyomitra*), scheduled for Q4 2026 (PIB Official Release).

✓ **Exam Verification Key: Both Statement-I and Statement-II are factually accurate as per पत्र सूचना कार्यालय (PIB) & IUC Academy.**

Chapter 7: National Governance, Polity & Major Policy Initiatives in *2026*

Chapter Key Study Pillars — Chapter 7: National Governance, Polity & Major Policy Initiatives in 2026

Key Study Pillar 1	Key Study Pillar 2	Key Study Pillar 3
Constitutional & Administrative Developments in 2026	**Process Flow Diagram: 2026 National Governance & Policy Pillars**	**Key National Policy Initiatives & Portals Active in 2026**

7.1 Constitutional & Administrative Developments in *2026*

The year 2026 witnessed structural governance milestones across cooperative federalism, criminal justice digitization, environmental diplomacy, and sports governance (**PIB Official Release**):

1. **Implementation of 16th Finance Commission Cycle (From 1 April 2026)**: Under Article 280 of the Constitution, the five-year award period (**FY 2026–27 to FY 2030–31**) of the 16th Finance Commission took legal effect on 1 April 2026, shifting intergovernmental fiscal transfers toward compliance-driven local body grants and GDP-contribution incentives (Union Budget Portal).

2. **Full-Scale Digital Integration of New Criminal Laws (BNS, BNSS & BSA) in 2026**: Across 2026, the Ministry of Home Affairs accelerated nationwide implementation of **e-Sakshya** (cloud-based digital video recording of crime scenes and searches), **Nyaya Shruti** (virtual court appearances), and **e-Summons** under the Bharatiya Nyaya Sanhita (BNS), Bharatiya Nagarik Suraksha Sanhita (BNSS), and Bharatiya Sakshya Adhiniyam (BSA) (PIB Official Release).

3. **100% Digital Literacy & Water Metro Governance Model (Kerala)**: Highlighted during the 77th Republic Day celebrations in January 2026, Kerala showcased the synergy of **Kochi Water Metro** (India's first integrated water metro transit system powered by electric-hybrid boats) and **100% grassroots digital literacy** as a template for sustainable urban-rural governance (PIB Official Release).

4. **India–European Union Strategic Partnership at 65 Years (2026)**: Marked by the joint presence of European Council President António Costa and European Commission President Ursula von der Leyen in New Delhi in January 2026, bilateral Trade and Technology Council (TTC) working groups advanced cooperation on AI governance, green supply chains, and digital public infrastructure (PIB Official Release).

7.2 Process Flow Diagram: *2026* National Governance & Policy Pillars

Step-by-Step Conceptual Process Flowchart

STEP 1
Node 1: Fiscal Federalism

STEP 2
16th Finance Commission Award Period (2026–31) commences on 1 April 2026 under Article 280

STEP 3
Node 2: Digital Criminal Justice

STEP 4
Nationwide rollout of e-Sakshya, Nyaya Shruti & e-Summons under BNS, BNSS & BSA

STEP 5
Node 3: Ecological Diplomacy

STEP 6
India announces hosting of 1st Global Big Cat Summit under International Big Cat Alliance (IBCA)

7.3 Key National Policy Initiatives & Portals Active in *2026*

Policy Initiative / Platform	Nodal Ministry / Authority	Core Functional Mandate in 2026	Constitutional / Statutory Anchor	Official Source
Khelo India Mission	Ministry of Youth Affairs & Sports	10-year structural transformation of sports infrastructure, sports science, and athlete coaching	Union Budget 2026–27 Announcement	PIB
1st Global Big Cat Summit	Ministry of Environment, Forest & Climate Change	Global summit hosted by India for conservation of 7 big cat species via IBCA	International Big Cat Alliance (HQ: India)	India Budget
e-Sakshya & Nyaya Shruti	Ministry of Home Affairs / NIC	Mandatory audio-video recording of forensic evidence and virtual judicial hearings	Bharatiya Nagarik Suraksha Sanhita (BNSS)	PIB

Policy Initiative / Platform	Nodal Ministry / Authority	Core Functional Mandate in 2026	Constitutional / Statutory Anchor	Official Source
India–EU TTC (65th Year of Ties)	Ministry of External Affairs & Commerce	Bilateral working groups on AI standards, green energy technologies, and resilient trade	India–EU Strategic Partnership (1962–2026)	PIB

Did You Know?
Outside the European Union itself, **India is the only country** with which the European Union has established a **Trade and Technology Council (TTC)** besides the United States, underscoring the strategic importance of the 2026 India–EU summitry (PIB).

Exam Trap Alert!
The **International Big Cat Alliance (IBCA)** covers 7 **big cats** (Tiger, Lion, Leopard, Snow Leopard, Puma, Jaguar, and Cheetah). Note that while **5 of these 7 big cats** are found naturally or reintroduced in India (Tiger, Lion, Leopard, Snow Leopard, and Cheetah), **Puma and Jaguar are NOT native to India**!

★ **Memory Trick**:
"5 in India, 2 in Americas (Puma & Jaguar)" — Out of the 7 big cats covered by the Global Big Cat Summit announced in Budget 2026–27, Puma and Jaguar belong to the Americas, while the other 5 inhabit India.

Chapter *8* Comprehensive Analytical & Statutory Revision Matrix

Core Sub-Domain	Key Concept / Provision	Verified Analytical Parameters & Exam Distinctions (पत्र सूचना कार्यालय (PIB))
Constitutional & Administrative Developments in 2026	**Implementation of 16th Finance Commission Cycle (From 1 April 2026)**	Under Article 280 of the Constitution, the five-year award period (**FY 2026–27 to FY 2030–31**) of the 16th Finance Commission took legal effect on 1 April 2026, shifting intergovernmental fiscal transfers toward compliance-driven local body grants and GDP-contribution incentives (Union Budget Portal).
Process Flow Diagram: 2026 National Governance & Policy Pillars	**Full-Scale Digital Integration of New Criminal Laws (BNS, BNSS & BSA) in 2026**	Across 2026, the Ministry of Home Affairs accelerated nationwide implementation of **e-Sakshya** (cloud-based digital video recording of crime scenes and searches), **Nyaya Shruti** (virtual court appearances), and **e-Summons** under the Bharatiya Nyaya Sanhita (BNS), Bharatiya Nagarik Suraksha Sanhita (BNSS), and Bharatiya Sakshya Adhiniyam (BSA) (PIB Official Release).
Key National Policy Initiatives & Portals Active in 2026	**100% Digital Literacy & Water Metro Governance Model (Kerala)**	Highlighted during the 77th Republic Day celebrations in January 2026, Kerala showcased the synergy of **Kochi Water Metro** (India's first integrated water metro transit system powered by electric-hybrid boats) and **100% grassroots digital literacy** as a template for sustainable urban-rural governance (PIB Official Release).
Constitutional & Administrative Developments in 2026	**India–European Union Strategic Partnership at 65 Years (2026)**	Marked by the joint presence of European Council President António Costa and European Commission President Ursula von der Leyen in New Delhi in January 2026, bilateral Trade and Technology Council (TTC) working groups advanced cooperation on AI governance, green supply chains, and digital public infrastructure (PIB Official Release).

Chapter 8 Multi-Statement Exam Verification Drills

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

Statement-I (Implementation of 16th Finance Commission Cycle (From 1 April 2026)): Under Article 280 of the Constitution, the five-year award period (**FY 2026–27 to FY 2030–31**) of the 16th Finance Commission took legal effect on 1 April 2026, shifting intergovernmental fiscal transfers toward compliance-driven local body grants and GDP-contribution incentives (Union Budget Portal).

Statement-II (Full-Scale Digital Integration of New Criminal Laws (BNS, BNSS & BSA) in 2026): Across 2026, the Ministry of Home Affairs accelerated nationwide implementation of **e-Sakshya** (cloud-based digital video recording of crime scenes and searches), **Nyaya Shruti** (virtual court appearances), and **e-Summons** under the Bharatiya Nyaya Sanhita (BNS), Bharatiya Nagarik Suraksha Sanhita (BNSS), and Bharatiya Sakshya Adhiniyam (BSA) (PIB Official Release).

✓ **Exam Verification Key: Both Statement-I and Statement-II are factually accurate as per पत्र सूचना कार्यालय (PIB) & IUC Academy.**

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

Statement-I (100% Digital Literacy & Water Metro Governance Model (Kerala)): Highlighted during the 77th Republic Day celebrations in January 2026, Kerala showcased the synergy of **Kochi Water Metro** (India's first integrated water metro transit system powered by electric-hybrid boats) and **100% grassroots digital literacy** as a template for sustainable urban-rural governance (PIB Official Release).

Statement-II (India–European Union Strategic Partnership at 65 Years (2026)): Marked by the joint presence of European Council President António Costa and European Commission President Ursula von der Leyen in New Delhi in January 2026, bilateral Trade and Technology Council (TTC) working groups advanced cooperation on AI governance, green supply chains, and digital public infrastructure (PIB Official Release).

✓ **Exam Verification Key: Both Statement-I and Statement-II are factually accurate as per पत्र सूचना कार्यालय (PIB) & IUC Academy.**

Chapter 8: Geographical Indication (GI) Tags, Cultural Heritage & National Honours in 2026

Chapter Key Study Pillars — Chapter 8: Geographical Indication (GI) Tags, Cultural Heritage & National Honours in 2026

Key Study Pillar 1	Key Study Pillar 2	Key Study Pillar 3
Cultural Heritage & GI-Tagged Crafts Featured on the National Stage in 2026	Process Flow Diagram: GI Registry Framework & 2026 Cultural Showcases	High-Yield Table of Regional Crafts, GI Products & Cultural Landmarks in News (2026)

8.1 Cultural Heritage & GI-Tagged Crafts Featured on the National Stage in 2026

In 2026, traditional Indian handicrafts, Geographical Indication (GI) products, and classical arts received prominent national recognition across the 77th Republic Day tableaux, Ministry of Commerce GI Registry drives, and Padma Awards (**PIB Official Release**):

1. **Asharikandi Terracotta Craft (Dhubri District, Assam)**: Showcased as Assam's official state tableau in January 2026, Asharikandi in Dhubri district is India's largest center of traditional *Hira* community terracotta artisans, famous for the iconic *Hatima Putul* (elephant-eared mother-and-child doll) (**PIB Official Release**).

2. **Bikaner Gold Usta Art (Rajasthan)**: Featured on Rajasthan's 2026 tableau (*Golden Touch of the Desert: Bikaner Gold Usta Art*), this GI-tagged craft involves intricate 24-carat gold embossing (*Manoti* and *Naqqashi*) on camel hide and architectural surfaces, historically patronized in Bikaner (PIB Official Release).

3. **Jammu & Kashmir Traditional Handicrafts (Pashmina, Sozni, Kani Shawls & Walnut Wood Carving)**: Earned the **2nd Best Tableau Award** at the 2026 Republic Day Parade, spotlighting GI-registered Kashmiri Pashmina, Kani weaving, Papier-mâché, and Basohli painting (PIB Official Release).

4. **Bundelkhand Cultural Heritage (Uttar Pradesh)**: Featured on Uttar Pradesh's 2026 tableau, celebrating the architectural grandeur of Kalinjar and Jhansi forts alongside GI-recognized Bundelkhand crafts such as **Mahoba Gaura Stone Craft** and **Jhansi Soft Toys** (PIB Official Release).

5. **350th Martyrdom Anniversary of Sri Guru Tegh Bahadur Ji (1675–2025/2026)**: Commemorated nationally in 2026 via Punjab's official tableau and Ministry of Culture programmes honouring the ninth Sikh Guru (*Hind di Chadar*) (PIB Official Release).

6. **300th Birth Anniversary Legacy of Punyashlok Lokmata Devi Ahilyabai Holkar (1725–2025/2026)**: Celebrated across 2026 through Madhya Pradesh's state tableau and national commemorative initiatives highlighting her rule from Maheshwar and promotion of GI-tagged **Maheshwari Handloom Sarees** (PIB Official Release).

8.2 Process Flow Diagram*:* GI Registry Framework & *2026* Cultural Showcases

Step-by-Step Conceptual Process Flowchart

STEP 1 Node 1: Statutory Framework

STEP 2 Geographical Indications of Goods (Registration & Protection) Act, 1999 (10-Year Validity, Renewable)

STEP 3 Node 2: Eastern & NE Crafts

STEP 4 Asharikandi Terracotta Craft (Dhubri, Assam) + Odisha 'Soil to Silicon' Heritage-Tech Fusion

STEP 5 Node 3: Northern & Western GI

STEP 6 Bikaner Gold Usta Art (Rajasthan) + J&K GI Handicrafts + Bundelkhand Gaura Stone Craft (UP)

8.3 High-Yield Table of Regional Crafts, GI Products & Cultural Landmarks in News *(2026)*

Craft / Cultural Landmark	State / Union Territory	Specific District / Region	Key Distinguishing Feature for Exams	Official Source
Asharikandi Terracotta Craft	Assam	Dhubri District	Traditional *Hira* community clay craft without potter's wheel; famous for *Hatima* doll	PIB
Bikaner Gold Usta Art	Rajasthan	Bikaner	GI-tagged gold embossing (*Naqqashi* & *Manoti)* on camel leather and walls	PIB
Kashmiri Pashmina & Sozni	Jammu & Kashmir	Srinagar / Kashmir Valley	GI-tagged fine cashmere wool and needle embroidery; won 2nd Best Tableau in 2026	PIB

Craft / Cultural Landmark	State / Union Territory	Specific District / Region	Key Distinguishing Feature for Exams	Official Source
Bundelkhand Heritage & Gaura Stone	Uttar Pradesh	Bundelkhand (Mahoba / Jhansi)	Intricate radiant white pyrophyllite stone carving and Bundeli folk arts	PIB
Maheshwari Handloom & Ahilyabai Legacy	Madhya Pradesh	Khargone (Maheshwar on Narmada bank)	Patronized by Lokmata Devi Ahilyabai Holkar; reversible border cotton-silk sarees	PIB
Hornbill Cultural Festival	Nagaland	Kisama Heritage Village (Kohima)	'Festival of Festivals' showcasing 17+ Naga tribes' weave, bamboo, and woodcraft	PIB

Did You Know?
Under the **Geographical Indications of Goods (Registration and Protection) Act, 1999** (administered by the Controller General of Patents, Designs and Trade Marks under DPIIT, Ministry of Commerce and Industry, with registry headquarters in **Chennai**), a GI registration is valid for **10 years** and can be renewed indefinitely for successive 10-year periods (PIB).

Exam Trap Alert!
Do NOT confuse **Usta Art** (Bikaner, Rajasthan — gold embossing on camel hide) with **Thewa Art** (Pratapgarh, Rajasthan — intricate gold work fused onto molten green/blue glass). Both are GI-tagged crafts from Rajasthan, and Bikaner's Usta Art was specifically featured at the 2026 Republic Day Parade!

★ **Memory Trick**:
"A-B-C of 2026 Cultural Tableaux" — **A**sharikandi Terracotta (**A**ssam), **B**ikaner Usta Art (Rajasthan), and **C**ulture of Bundelkhand (Uttar Pradesh).

Chapter 9 Comprehensive Analytical & Statutory Revision Matrix

Core Sub-Domain	Key Concept / Provision	Verified Analytical Parameters & Exam Distinctions (पत्र सूचना कार्यालय (PIB))
Cultural Heritage & GI-Tagged Crafts Featured on the National Stage in 2026	**Asharikandi Terracotta Craft (Dhubri District, Assam)**	Showcased as Assam's official state tableau in January 2026, Asharikandi in Dhubri district is India's largest center of traditional *Hira* community terracotta artisans, famous for the iconic *Hatima Putul* (elephant-eared mother-and-child doll) (PIB Official Release).
Process Flow Diagram: GI Registry Framework & 2026 Cultural Showcases	**Bikaner Gold Usta Art (Rajasthan)**	Featured on Rajasthan's 2026 tableau (*Golden Touch of the Desert*: *Bikaner Gold Usta Art*), this GI-tagged craft involves intricate 24-carat gold embossing (*Manoti* and *Naqqashi*) on camel hide and architectural surfaces, historically patronized in Bikaner (PIB Official Release).
High-Yield Table of Regional Crafts, GI Products & Cultural Landmarks in News (2026)	**Jammu & Kashmir Traditional Handicrafts (Pashmina, Sozni, Kani Shawls & Walnut Wood Carving)**	Earned the **2nd Best Tableau Award** at the 2026 Republic Day Parade, spotlighting GI-registered Kashmiri Pashmina, Kani weaving, Papier-mâché, and Basohli painting (PIB Official Release).

Core Sub-Domain	Key Concept / Provision	Verified Analytical Parameters & Exam Distinctions (पत्र सूचना कार्यालय (PIB))
Cultural Heritage & GI-Tagged Crafts Featured on the National Stage in 2026	**Bundelkhand Cultural Heritage (Uttar Pradesh)**	Featured on Uttar Pradesh's 2026 tableau, celebrating the architectural grandeur of Kalinjar and Jhansi forts alongside GI-recognized Bundelkhand crafts such as **Mahoba Gaura Stone Craft** and **Jhansi Soft Toys** (PIB Official Release).
Process Flow Diagram: GI Registry Framework & 2026 Cultural Showcases	**350th Martyrdom Anniversary of Sri Guru Tegh Bahadur Ji (1675–2025/2026)**	Commemorated nationally in 2026 via Punjab's official tableau and Ministry of Culture programmes honouring the ninth Sikh Guru (*Hind di Chadar*) (PIB Official Release).
High-Yield Table of Regional Crafts, GI Products & Cultural Landmarks in News (2026)	**300th Birth Anniversary Legacy of Punyashlok Lokmata Devi Ahilyabai Holkar (1725–2025/2026)**	Celebrated across 2026 through Madhya Pradesh's state tableau and national commemorative initiatives highlighting her rule from Maheshwar and promotion of GI-tagged **Maheshwari Handloom Sarees** (PIB Official Release).

Chapter *9* Multi-Statement Exam Verification Drills

Chapter 9 Statement-Verification Drill #1 — **Both Statements Verified Correct**

Statement-I (Asharikandi Terracotta Craft (Dhubri District, Assam)): Showcased as Assam's official state tableau in January 2026, Asharikandi in Dhubri district is India's largest center of traditional *Hira* community terracotta artisans, famous for the iconic *Hatima Putul* (elephant-eared mother-and-child doll) (PIB Official Release).

Statement-II (Bikaner Gold Usta Art (Rajasthan)): Featured on Rajasthan's 2026 tableau (*Golden Touch of the Desert: Bikaner Gold Usta Art*), this GI-tagged craft involves intricate 24-carat gold embossing (*Manoti* and *Naqqashi*) on camel hide and architectural surfaces, historically patronized in Bikaner (PIB Official Release).

✓ **Exam Verification Key: Both Statement-I and Statement-II are factually accurate as per पत्र सूचना कार्यालय (PIB) & IUC Academy.**

Chapter 9 Statement-Verification Drill #2 — **Both Statements Verified Correct**

Statement-I (Jammu & Kashmir Traditional Handicrafts (Pashmina, Sozni, Kani Shawls & Walnut Wood Carving)): Earned the **2nd Best Tableau Award** at the 2026 Republic Day Parade, spotlighting GI-registered Kashmiri Pashmina, Kani weaving, Papier-mâché, and Basohli painting (PIB Official Release).

Statement-II (Bundelkhand Cultural Heritage (Uttar Pradesh)): Featured on Uttar Pradesh's 2026 tableau, celebrating the architectural grandeur of Kalinjar and Jhansi forts alongside GI-recognized Bundelkhand crafts such as **Mahoba Gaura Stone Craft** and **Jhansi Soft Toys** (PIB Official Release).

✓ **Exam Verification Key: Both Statement-I and Statement-II are factually accurate as per पत्र सूचना कार्यालय (PIB) & IUC Academy.**

Chapter 9 Statement-Verification Drill #3 Both Statements Verified Correct

Statement-I (350th Martyrdom Anniversary of Sri Guru Tegh Bahadur Ji (1675–2025/2026)): Commemorated nationally in 2026 via Punjab's official tableau and Ministry of Culture programmes honouring the ninth Sikh Guru (*Hind di Chadar*) (PIB Official Release).

Statement-II (300th Birth Anniversary Legacy of Punyashlok Lokmata Devi Ahilyabai Holkar (1725–2025/2026)): Celebrated across 2026 through Madhya Pradesh's state tableau and national commemorative initiatives highlighting her rule from Maheshwar and promotion of GI-tagged **Maheshwari Handloom Sarees** (PIB Official Release).

✓ **Exam Verification Key: Both Statement-I and Statement-II are factually accurate as per पत्र सूचना कार्यालय (PIB) & IUC Academy.**

45 Solved Multiple-Choice Questions *(*January-*2026* & February-*2026)*

Chapter Key Study Pillars — 45 Solved Multiple-Choice Questions (January-2026 & February-2026)

Key Study Pillar 1	Key Study Pillar 2	Key Study Pillar 3	Key Study Pillar 4
Q1. Who served as the joint Chief Guests at India's 77th Republic Day Parade held at Kartavya Path on 26 January 2026?	**Q2. The invitation of European Union leaders as Chief Guests for Republic Day 2026 coincided with which milestone in India–EU diplomatic relations?**	**Q3. What was the central commemoration theme of the 77th Republic Day Parade 2026?**	**Q4. Which state won the 1st Prize for Best Tableau (Judges' Choice) at the Republic Day Parade 2026?**

Q*1.* Who served as the joint Chief Guests at India's 77th Republic Day Parade held at Kartavya Path on *26* January *2026?*

- (A) Emmanuel Macron and Abdel Fattah El-Sisi
- (B) António Costa and Ursula von der Leyen
- (C) Prabowo Subianto and Giorgia Meloni
- (D) Keir Starmer and Olaf Scholz

- **Correct Answer: (B)**

- **Analytical Explanation**: European Council President António Costa and European Commission President Ursula von der Leyen were the joint Chief Guests at the 77th Republic Day Parade 2026 (**PIB**).

Q*2.* The invitation of European Union leaders as Chief Guests for Republic Day *2026* coincided with which milestone in India–EU diplomatic relations?

- (A) 50th Anniversary
- (B) 60th Anniversary
- (C) 65th Anniversary
- (D) 75th Anniversary

- **Correct Answer: (C)**

- **Analytical Explanation**: The year 2026 marks the 65th anniversary of the establishment of diplomatic relations between India and the European Union (**PIB**).

Q3. What was the central commemoration theme of the 77th Republic Day Parade 2026?

- (A) 100 Years of Dandi March
- (B) 150 Years of Vande Mataram
- (C) 75 Years of the Planning Commission
- (D) 125 Years of Swadeshi Movement
- **Correct Answer: (B)**
- **Analytical Explanation**: The 2026 Republic Day Parade celebrated the 150th anniversary of the national song 'Vande Mataram' alongside 'Aatmanirbhar Bharat' (PIB).

Q4. Which state won the 1st Prize for Best Tableau (Judges' Choice) at the Republic Day Parade 2026?

- (A) Gujarat
- (B) Jammu & Kashmir
- (C) Maharashtra
- (D) Uttar Pradesh
- **Correct Answer: (C)**
- **Analytical Explanation**: Maharashtra won the 1st Prize (Judges' Choice) for its tableau 'Ganeshotsav: A Symbol of Aatmanirbharta' (PIB).

Q5. Which state/UT won the 2nd and 3rd Prizes respectively in the Judges' Choice category for Best Tableau at Republic Day 2026?

- (A) Uttar Pradesh and Madhya Pradesh
- (B) Jammu & Kashmir and Kerala
- (C) Odisha and Assam
- (D) Gujarat and Rajasthan
- **Correct Answer: (B)**
- **Analytical Explanation**: Jammu & Kashmir (Handicrafts and Folk Dances) won 2nd place and Kerala (Water Metro & 100% Digital Literacy) won 3rd place (PIB).

Q6. Which Armed Forces contingent was adjudged the Best Marching Contingent among the three Services by the Judges' Panel at Republic Day 2026?

- (A) Indian Army (Madras Regiment)
- (B) Indian Air Force
- (C) Indian Navy
- (D) Assam Regiment
- **Correct Answer: (C)**
- **Analytical Explanation**: The Indian Navy contingent won Best Marching Contingent among the three Services in the Judges' Panel category, while Assam Regiment won in the MyGov Popular Choice poll (PIB).

Q7. Which force won the Best Marching Contingent award among CAPFs and other auxiliary forces (Judges' Choice) at the 77th Republic Day Parade 2026?

• (A) CRPF

• (B) CISF

• (C) Delhi Police

• (D) BSF

• **Correct Answer: (C)**

• **Analytical Explanation**: Delhi Police won the Judges' Panel award for Best Marching Contingent among CAPFs/auxiliary forces, while CRPF won the Popular Choice poll (**PIB**).

Q8. Which Union Ministry won the Best Tableau award (Judges' Choice) among Ministries and Departments at Republic Day 2026?

• (A) Ministry of Education

• (B) Ministry of Culture

• (C) Ministry of Home Affairs

• (D) Ministry of AYUSH

• **Correct Answer: (B)**

• **Analytical Explanation**: The Ministry of Culture won Best Tableau among Central Ministries for 'Vande Mataram – The Soul Cry of a Nation' (**PIB**).

Q9. Which state won the Best Tableau award in the MyGov online 'Popular Choice' category at the Republic Day Parade 2026?

• (A) Maharashtra

• (B) Kerala

• (C) Gujarat

• (D) Rajasthan

• **Correct Answer: (C)**

• **Analytical Explanation**: Gujarat ('Mantra of Swadeshi – Self-Reliance') topped the MyGov Popular Choice poll for State Tableaux (**PIB**).

Q10. How many total tableaux were displayed on Kartavya Path during the 77th Republic Day Parade on 26 January 2026?

• (A) 25 (15 States + 10 Ministries)

• (B) 26 (16 States + 10 Ministries)

• (C) 30 (17 States/UTs + 13 Ministries/Departments)

• (D) 32 (20 States + 12 Ministries)

• **Correct Answer: (C)**

• **Analytical Explanation**: A total of 30 tableaux—17 from States/UTs and 13 from Ministries/Departments/Services—participated in 2026 (**PIB**).

Q11. What was the theme of Uttar Pradesh's tableau at the 77th Republic Day Parade 2026?

• (A) Mahakumbh Prayagraj
• (B) Culture of Bundelkhand
• (C) Ayodhya Deepotsav
• (D) Kashi Vishwanath Corridor

• **Correct Answer**: **(B)**

• **Analytical Explanation**: Uttar Pradesh showcased the 'Culture of Bundelkhand' at the 2026 Republic Day Parade (**PIB**).

Q12. Odisha's tableau at the 77th Republic Day Parade 2026 was based on which theme?

• (A) Konark Sun Temple
• (B) Soil to Silicon: Rooted in Tradition, Rising in Technology
• (C) Chilika Lake Biodiversity
• (D) Bali Jatra Maritime Heritage

• **Correct Answer**: **(B)**

• **Analytical Explanation**: Odisha presented 'Soil to Silicon: Rooted in Tradition, Rising in Technology' (**PIB**).

Q13. How many total Padma Awards were announced on 25 January 2026?

• (A) 128
• (B) 131
• (C) 139
• (D) 144

• **Correct Answer**: **(B)**

• **Analytical Explanation**: President Droupadi Murmu approved 131 Padma Awards in 2026: 5 Padma Vibhushan, 13 Padma Bhushan, and 113 Padma Shri (**PIB**).

Q14. What is the exact breakdown of Padma Vibhushan, Padma Bhushan, and Padma Shri awards conferred in 2026?

• (A) 7, 19, and 113
• (B) 5, 13, and 113
• (C) 6, 17, and 109
• (D) 4, 14, and 110

• **Correct Answer**: **(B)**

• **Analytical Explanation**: The 2026 list comprises 5 Padma Vibhushan, 13 Padma Bhushan, and 113 Padma Shri awards (**PIB**).

Q15. Who among the following was NOT one of the five Padma Vibhushan recipients in *2026*?

• (A) Dharmendra Singh Deol (Posthumous)

• (B) Justice K. T. Thomas

• (C) Dr. N. Rajam

• (D) Uday Kotak

• **Correct Answer: (D)**

• **Analytical Explanation**: Uday Kotak was awarded the Padma Bhushan in 2026. The five Padma Vibhushan recipients were Dharmendra, Justice K. T. Thomas, Dr. N. Rajam, P. Narayanan, and V. S. Achuthanandan (**PIB**).

Q16. Three of the five Padma Vibhushan recipients in *2026* belong to which Indian state?

• (A) Maharashtra

• (B) Uttar Pradesh

• (C) Kerala

• (D) Tamil Nadu

• **Correct Answer: (C)**

• **Analytical Explanation**: Justice K. T. Thomas, P. Narayanan, and former CM V. S. Achuthanandan (posthumous) all belong to Kerala (**PIB**).

Q17. Dr. N. Rajam, who received the Padma Vibhushan in *2026* representing Uttar Pradesh, is globally renowned as a maestro of which musical instrument?

• (A) Sitar

• (B) Sarod

• (C) Hindustani Classical Violin

• (D) Santoor

• **Correct Answer: (C)**

• **Analytical Explanation**: Dr. N. Rajam is a legendary Hindustani classical violinist and former Dean at Banaras Hindu University (**PIB**).

Q18. How many women awardees and posthumous awardees respectively were included in the Padma Awards *2026* list?

• (A) 19 women and 16 posthumous

• (B) 23 women and 10 posthumous

• (C) 15 women and 12 posthumous

• (D) 25 women and 18 posthumous

• **Correct Answer: (A)**

• **Analytical Explanation**: Out of 131 Padma awardees in 2026, 19 are women, 6 are Foreigners/NRI/PIO/OCI, and 16 are posthumous (**PIB**).

Q19. Which advertising legend was posthumously conferred the Padma Bhushan in *2026?*

- (A) Alyque Padamsee
- (B) Piyush Pandey
- (C) Sylvester daCunha
- (D) Subhash Ghosal
- **Correct Answer: (B)**
- **Analytical Explanation**: Advertising veteran Piyush Pandey received the Padma Bhushan (Posthumous) in 2026 (**PIB**).

Q20. Which pair of Indian cricket captains received the Padma Shri in *2026?*

- (A) Virat Kohli and Mithali Raj
- (B) Rohit Sharma and Harmanpreet Kaur
- (C) Suryakumar Yadav and Smriti Mandhana
- (D) Jasprit Bumrah and Deepti Sharma
- **Correct Answer: (B)**
- **Analytical Explanation**: Rohit Sharma and Harmanpreet Kaur were both conferred the Padma Shri in 2026 (**PIB**).

Q21. What is the Total Expenditure estimated in the Union Budget *2026–27* (BE)?

- (A) ₹49,64,842 Crore
- (B) ₹51,20,000 Crore
- (C) ₹53,47,315 Crore
- (D) ₹55,10,450 Crore
- **Correct Answer: (C)**
- **Analytical Explanation**: Total expenditure in Budget Estimates (BE) 2026–27 is ₹53,47,315 crore, a 7.7% increase over RE 2025–26 (**Union Budget Portal**).

Q22. What is the Fiscal Deficit target (as a percentage of GDP) set in the Union Budget *2026–27* (BE)?

- (A) 4.5% of GDP
- (B) 4.4% of GDP
- (C) 4.3% of GDP
- (D) 4.1% of GDP
- **Correct Answer: (C)**
- **Analytical Explanation**: Fiscal deficit in BE 2026–27 is targeted at 4.3% of GDP (₹16,95,768 crore), down from 4.4% of GDP in RE 2025–26 (**Union Budget Portal**).

Q23. What is the Direct Capital Expenditure (Capex) outlay proposed in Union Budget 2026–27 (BE)?

- (A) ₹11,11,111 Crore
- (B) ₹12,21,821 Crore
- (C) ₹14,03,972 Crore
- (D) ₹17,14,523 Crore
- **Correct Answer: (B)**
- **Analytical Explanation**: Direct Capital Expenditure in BE 2026–27 is ₹12,21,821 crore (+11.5% over RE 2025–26), while Effective Capex is ₹17,14,523 crore (Union Budget Portal).

Q24. What is the Effective Capital Expenditure estimated in Union Budget 2026–27 (BE)?

- (A) ₹12,21,821 Crore
- (B) ₹15,48,282 Crore
- (C) ₹17,14,523 Crore
- (D) ₹18,50,000 Crore
- **Correct Answer: (C)**
- **Analytical Explanation**: Effective Capital Expenditure (Direct Capex + Grants for creation of capital assets) is estimated at ₹17,14,523 crore in BE 2026–27 (Union Budget Portal).

Q25. In Union Budget 2026–27, what is the targeted Revenue Deficit as a percentage of GDP?

- (A) 1.2% of GDP
- (B) 1.5% of GDP
- (C) 1.8% of GDP
- (D) 2.0% of GDP
- **Correct Answer: (B)**
- **Analytical Explanation**: Revenue deficit in BE 2026–27 is targeted at 1.5% of GDP, unchanged from RE 2025–26 (Union Budget Portal).

Q26. What is the Central Government's long-term Debt-to-GDP ratio target by FY 2030–31 as stated in Union Budget 2026–27?

- (A) 45±1% of GDP
- (B) 50±1% of GDP
- (C) 55±1% of GDP
- (D) 60±1% of GDP
- **Correct Answer: (B)**
- **Analytical Explanation**: The Central Government aims to bring its Debt-to-GDP ratio to 50±1% by FY 2030–31, from 55.6% in BE 2026–27 (Union Budget Portal).

Q27. How much has been allocated for Interest Payments in Union Budget 2026–27 (BE), accounting for 26% of total expenditure?

• (A) ₹11,90,440 Crore
• (B) ₹12,76,338 Crore
• (C) ₹14,03,972 Crore
• (D) ₹16,95,768 Crore
• **Correct Answer: (C)**
• **Analytical Explanation**: Interest payments are estimated at ₹14,03,972 crore in BE 2026–27, which is 26% of total expenditure and 40% of revenue receipts (Union Budget Portal).

Q28. What is the total non-debt receipts (receipts other than borrowings) estimated in Union Budget 2026–27 (BE)?

• (A) ₹32,07,200 Crore
• (B) ₹35,33,150 Crore
• (C) ₹36,51,547 Crore
• (D) ₹38,90,120 Crore
• **Correct Answer: (C)**
• **Analytical Explanation**: Total receipts other than borrowings are estimated at ₹36,51,547 crore (comprising ₹35,33,150 crore revenue receipts and ₹1,18,397 crore non-debt capital receipts) (Union Budget Portal).

Q29. How much has Union Budget 2026–27 allocated as special 50-year interest-free loans to States for capital expenditure?

• (A) ₹1,30,000 Crore
• (B) ₹1,50,000 Crore
• (C) ₹1,85,000 Crore
• (D) ₹2,00,000 Crore
• **Correct Answer: (C)**
• **Analytical Explanation**: Special assistance to states as loans for capital expenditure is budgeted at ₹1,85,000 crore in FY 2026–27 (Union Budget Portal).

Q30. Union Budget 2026–27 announced that India will host the first-ever global summit dedicated to the conservation of which wildlife group?

• (A) Global Great Apes Summit
• (B) Global Big Cat Summit
• (C) Global Migratory Birds Summit
• (D) Global Marine Mammals Summit
• **Correct Answer: (B)**

• **Analytical Explanation**: Budget 2026–27 announced that India will host the first-ever Global Big Cat Summit (Union Budget Portal).

Q31. According to the Economic Survey 2025–26 tabled in Parliament in January 2026, what is India's estimated real GDP growth rate for FY 2025–26?

• (A) 6.5%
• (B) 6.8%
• (C) 7.2%
• (D) 7.4%

• **Correct Answer: (D)**

• **Analytical Explanation**: The Economic Survey 2025–26 estimated India's real GDP growth for FY26 at 7.4%, driven by consumption and investment (PIB).

Q32. What real GDP growth range did the Economic Survey 2025–26 project for India in FY 2026–27 (FY27)?

• (A) 6.3% – 6.8%
• (B) 6.5% – 7.0%
• (C) 6.8% – 7.2%
• (D) 7.2% – 7.6%

• **Correct Answer: (C)**

• **Analytical Explanation**: The Economic Survey projected India's real GDP growth in the range of 6.8% to 7.2% for FY 2026–27 (Union Budget Portal).

Q33. As reported in the Economic Survey 2025–26, India's Current Account Deficit (CAD) moderated to what percentage of GDP in H1 FY26?

• (A) 0.5% of GDP
• (B) 0.8% of GDP
• (C) 1.1% of GDP
• (D) 1.3% of GDP

• **Correct Answer: (B)**

• **Analytical Explanation**: India's CAD moderated to 0.8% of GDP in H1 FY26 from 1.3% of GDP in H1 FY25 (Union Budget Portal).

Q34. According to the Economic Survey 2025–26, the recovery rate in Non-Performing Assets (NPAs) of Scheduled Commercial Banks (SCBs) rose from 13.2% in FY18 to what level in FY25?

• (A) 19.5%
• (B) 22.4%
• (C) 26.2%

• (D) 31.0%

• **Correct Answer: (C)**

• **Analytical Explanation**: The NPA recovery rate of SCBs nearly doubled from 13.2% in FY18 to 26.2% in FY25 (**PIB**).

Q35. Which polar satellite launch mission was conducted by ISRO on 12 January 2026?

• (A) PSLV-C60 / SpaDeX

• (B) PSLV-C62 / EOS-N1

• (C) GSLV-F16 / NISAR

• (D) LVM3-M6 / BlueBird

• **Correct Answer: (B)**

• **Analytical Explanation**: ISRO conducted the PSLV-C62 / EOS-N1 mission on 12 January 2026 (**ISRO**).

Q36. In the joint NASA-ISRO Synthetic Aperture Radar (NISAR) mission, which radar frequency bands are contributed by NASA and ISRO respectively?

• (A) S-Band by NASA and L-Band by ISRO

• (B) L-Band by NASA and S-Band by ISRO

• (C) X-Band by NASA and C-Band by ISRO

• (D) C-Band by NASA and Ku-Band by ISRO

• **Correct Answer: (B)**

• **Analytical Explanation**: NISAR is the world's first dual-frequency radar imaging satellite using NASA's L-band radar and ISRO's S-band radar launched aboard GSLV-F16 (**PIB**).

Q37. Which instrument aboard ISRO's Aditya-L1 solar observatory helped reconstruct a solar Coronal Mass Ejection (CME) in 3D, as reported in 2026?

• (A) SUIT

• (B) VELC (Visible Emission Line Coronagraph)

• (C) ASPEX

• (D) PAPA

• **Correct Answer: (B)**

• **Analytical Explanation**: Aditya-L1's primary payload VELC (Visible Emission Line Coronagraph) enabled the 3D reconstruction of a solar coronal mass ejection (**PIB**).

Q38. Where was the 3rd National Space Day celebrated on 23 August 2026, and what was its theme?

• (A) Bengaluru — 'Touching Lives while Touching the Moon'

• (B) Ahmedabad — 'Towards Viksit Bharat: Innovating, Collaborating and Aspiring to Global Space Leadership'

• (C) New Delhi — 'Aryabhata to Gaganyaan'

• (D) Sriharikota — 'Atmanirbhar Space Economy'

• **Correct Answer: (B)**

• **Analytical Explanation**: The 3rd National Space Day was held at Ahmedabad on 23 August 2026 with the theme 'Towards Viksit Bharat: Innovating, Collaborating and Aspiring to Global Space Leadership' (**PIB**).

Q39. Through the SpaDeX mission—whose two satellites completed their 21-month mission and re-entered the atmosphere in 2026—India became which country in the world to achieve autonomous space docking?

• (A) 3rd
• (B) 4th
• (C) 5th
• (D) 6th

• **Correct Answer: (B)**

• **Analytical Explanation**: India became the 4th country in the world (after the USA, Russia, and China) to demonstrate in-orbit autonomous docking via SpaDeX (**PIB**).

Q40. As of 31 January 2026, how many ISRO technology transfers to Indian industry and start-ups had been facilitated by IN-SPACe?

• (A) 45
• (B) 58
• (C) 71
• (D) 92

• **Correct Answer: (C)**

• **Analytical Explanation**: IN-SPACe facilitated 71 technology transfers from ISRO to private industries and start-ups as of 31 January 2026 (**PIB**).

Q41. What is the official designation of the first uncrewed orbital flight test under the Gaganyaan programme targeted for late 2026?

• (A) TV-D1
• (B) HLVM3-G1 / OM1
• (C) GSLV-F17
• (D) SSLV-D4

• **Correct Answer: (B)**

• **Analytical Explanation**: HLVM3-G1 / OM1 is the first uncrewed orbital mission under the Gaganyaan programme using the Human-Rated LVM3 (**PIB**).

Q42. Asharikandi, which was showcased on Assam's Republic Day 2026 tableau as India's largest traditional terracotta craft village, is located in which district of Assam?

• (A) Majuli

• (B) Dhubri
• (C) Kamrup
• (D) Sivasagar
• **Correct Answer: (B)**
• **Analytical Explanation**: Asharikandi Terracotta Craft Village is located in Dhubri district of Assam (PIB).

Q43. Rajasthan's *2026* Republic Day tableau 'Golden Touch of the Desert' showcased which GI-tagged gold embossing craft of Bikaner?

• (A) Thewa Art
• (B) Blue Pottery
• (C) Bikaner Gold Usta Art
• (D) Molela Clay Work
• **Correct Answer: (C)**
• **Analytical Explanation**: Rajasthan's tableau highlighted Bikaner Gold Usta Art (PIB).

Q44. Which mobile application was rolled out nationwide under the Bharatiya Nagarik Suraksha Sanhita (BNSS) for mandatory cloud-based audio-video recording of crime scene forensics and search seizures?

• (A) Nyaya Setu
• (B) e-Sakshya
• (C) FastTrack Portal
• (D) Gram Nyaya App
• **Correct Answer: (B)**
• **Analytical Explanation**: e-Sakshya enables police officers to record crime scenes, searches, and seizures digitally under BNSS (PIB).

Q45. Under the Geographical Indications of Goods (Registration and Protection) Act, *1999*, what is the initial validity period of a GI registration before renewal?

• (A) 5 Years
• (B) 10 Years
• (C) 15 Years
• (D) 20 Years
• **Correct Answer: (B)**
• **Analytical Explanation**: A GI registration is valid for 10 years and can be renewed from time to time for further periods of 10 years each (PIB).

Chapter *10* Comprehensive Analytical & Statutory Revision Matrix

Core Sub-Domain	Key Concept / Provision	Verified Analytical Parameters & Exam Distinctions (पत्र सूचना कार्यालय (PIB))
Q1. Who served as the joint Chief Guests at India's 77th Republic Day Parade held at Kartavya Path on 26 January 2026?	**Analytical Explanation**	European Council President António Costa and European Commission President Ursula von der Leyen were the joint Chief Guests at the 77th Republic Day Parade 2026 (PIB).
Q2. The invitation of European Union leaders as Chief Guests for Republic Day 2026 coincided with which milestone in India–EU diplomatic relations?	**Analytical Explanation**	The year 2026 marks the 65th anniversary of the establishment of diplomatic relations between India and the European Union (PIB).
Q3. What was the central commemoration theme of the 77th Republic Day Parade 2026?	**Analytical Explanation**	The 2026 Republic Day Parade celebrated the 150th anniversary of the national song 'Vande Mataram' alongside 'Aatmanirbhar Bharat' (PIB).
Q4. Which state won the 1st Prize for Best Tableau (Judges' Choice) at the Republic Day Parade 2026?	**Analytical Explanation**	Maharashtra won the 1st Prize (Judges' Choice) for its tableau 'Ganeshotsav: A Symbol of Aatmanirbharta' (PIB).
Q5. Which state/UT won the 2nd and 3rd Prizes respectively in the Judges' Choice category for Best Tableau at Republic Day 2026?	**Analytical Explanation**	Jammu & Kashmir (Handicrafts and Folk Dances) won 2nd place and Kerala (Water Metro & 100% Digital Literacy) won 3rd place (PIB).

Core Sub-Domain	Key Concept / Provision	Verified Analytical Parameters & Exam Distinctions (पत्र सूचना कार्यालय (PIB))
Q6. Which Armed Forces contingent was adjudged the Best Marching Contingent among the three Services by the Judges' Panel at Republic Day 2026?	**Analytical Explanation**	The Indian Navy contingent won Best Marching Contingent among the three Services in the Judges' Panel category, while Assam Regiment won in the MyGov Popular Choice poll (PIB).
Q7. Which force won the Best Marching Contingent award among CAPFs and other auxiliary forces (Judges' Choice) at the 77th Republic Day Parade 2026?	**Analytical Explanation**	Delhi Police won the Judges' Panel award for Best Marching Contingent among CAPFs/auxiliary forces, while CRPF won the Popular Choice poll (PIB).
Q8. Which Union Ministry won the Best Tableau award (Judges' Choice) among Ministries and Departments at Republic Day 2026?	**Analytical Explanation**	The Ministry of Culture won Best Tableau among Central Ministries for 'Vande Mataram – The Soul Cry of a Nation' (PIB).
Q9. Which state won the Best Tableau award in the MyGov online 'Popular Choice' category at the Republic Day Parade 2026?	**Analytical Explanation**	Gujarat ('Mantra of Swadeshi – Self-Reliance') topped the MyGov Popular Choice poll for State Tableaux (PIB).
Q10. How many total tableaux were displayed on Kartavya Path during the 77th Republic Day Parade on 26 January 2026?	**Analytical Explanation**	A total of 30 tableaux—17 from States/UTs and 13 from Ministries/Departments/Services—participated in 2026 (PIB).
Q11. What was the theme of Uttar Pradesh's tableau at the 77th Republic Day Parade 2026?	**Analytical Explanation**	Uttar Pradesh showcased the 'Culture of Bundelkhand' at the 2026 Republic Day Parade (PIB).

Core Sub-Domain	Key Concept / Provision	Verified Analytical Parameters & Exam Distinctions (पत्र सूचना कार्यालय (PIB))
Q12. Odisha's tableau at the 77th Republic Day Parade 2026 was based on which theme?	**Analytical Explanation**	Odisha presented 'Soil to Silicon: Rooted in Tradition, Rising in Technology' (PIB).
Q13. How many total Padma Awards were announced on 25 January 2026?	**Analytical Explanation**	President Droupadi Murmu approved 131 Padma Awards in 2026: 5 Padma Vibhushan, 13 Padma Bhushan, and 113 Padma Shri (PIB).
Q14. What is the exact breakdown of Padma Vibhushan, Padma Bhushan, and Padma Shri awards conferred in 2026?	**Analytical Explanation**	The 2026 list comprises 5 Padma Vibhushan, 13 Padma Bhushan, and 113 Padma Shri awards (PIB).

Chapter *10* Multi-Statement Exam Verification Drills

Chapter 10 Statement-Verification Drill #1 — **Both Statements Verified Correct**

Statement-I (Analytical Explanation): European Council President António Costa and European Commission President Ursula von der Leyen were the joint Chief Guests at the 77th Republic Day Parade 2026 (PIB).

Statement-II (Analytical Explanation): The year 2026 marks the 65th anniversary of the establishment of diplomatic relations between India and the European Union (PIB).

✔ **Exam Verification Key: Both Statement-I and Statement-II are factually accurate as per पत्र सूचना कार्यालय (PIB) & IUC Academy.**

Chapter 10 Statement-Verification Drill #2 — **Both Statements Verified Correct**

Statement-I (Analytical Explanation): The 2026 Republic Day Parade celebrated the 150th anniversary of the national song 'Vande Mataram' alongside 'Aatmanirbhar Bharat' (PIB).

Statement-II (Analytical Explanation): Maharashtra won the 1st Prize (Judges' Choice) for its tableau 'Ganeshotsav: A Symbol of Aatmanirbharta' (PIB).

✔ **Exam Verification Key: Both Statement-I and Statement-II are factually accurate as per पत्र सूचना कार्यालय (PIB) & IUC Academy.**

Chapter 10 Statement-Verification Drill #3 — **Both Statements Verified Correct**

Statement-I (Analytical Explanation): Jammu & Kashmir (Handicrafts and Folk Dances) won 2nd place and Kerala (Water Metro & 100% Digital Literacy) won 3rd place (PIB).

Statement-II (Analytical Explanation): The Indian Navy contingent won Best Marching Contingent among the three Services in the Judges' Panel category, while Assam Regiment won in the MyGov Popular Choice poll (PIB).

✔ **Exam Verification Key: Both Statement-I and Statement-II are factually accurate as per पत्र सूचना कार्यालय (PIB) & IUC Academy.**

Chapter 10 Statement-Verification Drill #4 Both Statements Verified Correct

Statement-I (Analytical Explanation): Delhi Police won the Judges' Panel award for Best Marching Contingent among CAPFs/auxiliary forces, while CRPF won the Popular Choice poll (PIB).

Statement-II (Analytical Explanation): The Ministry of Culture won Best Tableau among Central Ministries for 'Vande Mataram – The Soul Cry of a Nation' (PIB).

✔ **Exam Verification Key: Both Statement-I and Statement-II are factually accurate as per पत्र सूचना कार्यालय (PIB) & IUC Academy.**

Chapter 10 Statement-Verification Drill #5 Both Statements Verified Correct

Statement-I (Analytical Explanation): Gujarat ('Mantra of Swadeshi – Self-Reliance') topped the MyGov Popular Choice poll for State Tableaux (PIB).

Statement-II (Analytical Explanation): A total of 30 tableaux—17 from States/UTs and 13 from Ministries/Departments/Services—participated in 2026 (PIB).

✔ **Exam Verification Key: Both Statement-I and Statement-II are factually accurate as per पत्र सूचना कार्यालय (PIB) & IUC Academy.**

Chapter 10 Statement-Verification Drill #6 Both Statements Verified Correct

Statement-I (Analytical Explanation): Uttar Pradesh showcased the 'Culture of Bundelkhand' at the 2026 Republic Day Parade (PIB).

Statement-II (Analytical Explanation): Odisha presented 'Soil to Silicon: Rooted in Tradition, Rising in Technology' (PIB).

✔ **Exam Verification Key: Both Statement-I and Statement-II are factually accurate as per पत्र सूचना कार्यालय (PIB) & IUC Academy.**

Extended Comparative & Analytical Practice Set (Questions *1* to *40*)

Practice Question #1 High-Yield Comparative MCQ

Q1. With reference to Award Category (77th Republic Day Parade 2026) and Evaluation Mode, which of the following is accurately matched with "Best Marching Contingent (Three Services)"?

(A) Judges' Panel

(B) None of the above parameters for Best Marching Contingent (Three Services)

(C) None of the above parameters for Best Marching Contingent (Three Services)

(D) None of the above parameters for Best Marching Contingent (Three Services)

Correct Answer: (A) | **Explanation:** For **Best Marching Contingent (Three Services)** (Award Category (77th Republic Day Parade 2026)), the verified Evaluation Mode is **Judges' Panel**. Furthermore, Indian Navy. (Source: पत्र सूचना कार्यालय (PIB) & IUC Academy).

Practice Question #2 High-Yield Comparative MCQ

Q2. With reference to Award Category (77th Republic Day Parade 2026) and Evaluation Mode, which of the following is accurately matched with "Best Marching Contingent (CAPFs / Auxiliary)"?

(A) Smt. Alka Yagnik

(B) Judges' Panel

(C) None of the above parameters for Best Marching Contingent (CAPFs / Auxiliary)

(D) None of the above parameters for Best Marching Contingent (CAPFs / Auxiliary)

Correct Answer: (B) | **Explanation:** For **Best Marching Contingent (CAPFs / Auxiliary)** (Award Category (77th Republic Day Parade 2026)), the verified Evaluation Mode is **Judges' Panel**. Furthermore, Delhi Police. (Source: पत्र सूचना कार्यालय (PIB) & IUC Academy).

Practice Question #3 High-Yield Comparative MCQ

Q3. With reference to Award Category (77th Republic Day Parade 2026) and Evaluation Mode, which of the following is accurately matched with "Best State/UT Tableau — 1st Prize"?

(A) Smt. Alka Yagnik
(B) Shri Rohit Sharma
(C) Judges' Panel
(D) None of the above parameters for Best State/UT Tableau — 1st Prize

Correct Answer: (C) | **Explanation:** For **Best State/UT Tableau — 1st Prize** (Award Category (77th Republic Day Parade 2026)), the verified Evaluation Mode is **Judges' Panel**. Furthermore, Maharashtra. (Source: पत्र सूचना कार्यालय (PIB) & IUC Academy).

Practice Question #4 High-Yield Comparative MCQ

Q4. With reference to Award Category (77th Republic Day Parade 2026) and Evaluation Mode, which of the following is accurately matched with "Best State/UT Tableau — 2nd Prize"?

(A) Smt. Alka Yagnik
(B) Shri Rohit Sharma
(C) ₹49,64,842 Crore
(D) Judges' Panel

Correct Answer: (D) | **Explanation:** For **Best State/UT Tableau — 2nd Prize** (Award Category (77th Republic Day Parade 2026)), the verified Evaluation Mode is **Judges' Panel**. Furthermore, Jammu & Kashmir. (Source: पत्र सूचना कार्यालय (PIB) & IUC Academy).

Practice Question #5 High-Yield Comparative MCQ

Q5. With reference to Award Category (77th Republic Day Parade 2026) and Evaluation Mode, which of the following is accurately matched with "Best State/UT Tableau — 3rd Prize"?

(A) Judges' Panel
(B) Smt. Alka Yagnik
(C) Shri Rohit Sharma
(D) ₹49,64,842 Crore

Correct Answer: (A) | **Explanation:** For **Best State/UT Tableau — 3rd Prize** (Award Category (77th Republic Day Parade 2026)), the verified Evaluation Mode is **Judges' Panel**. Furthermore, Kerala. (Source: पत्र सूचना कार्यालय (PIB) & IUC Academy).

Practice Question #6 High-Yield Comparative MCQ

Q6. With reference to Award Category (77th Republic Day Parade 2026) and Evaluation Mode, which of the following is accurately matched with "Best Ministry / Department Tableau"?

(A) Smt. Alka Yagnik
(B) Judges' Panel
(C) Shri Rohit Sharma
(D) ₹49,64,842 Crore

Correct Answer: (B) | **Explanation:** For **Best Ministry / Department Tableau** (Award Category (77th Republic Day Parade 2026)), the verified Evaluation Mode is **Judges' Panel**. Furthermore, Ministry of Culture. (Source: पत्र सूचना कार्यालय (PIB) & IUC Academy).

Practice Question #7 High-Yield Comparative MCQ

Q7. With reference to Award Tier and Recipient Name, which of the following is accurately matched with "Padma Bhushan"?

(A) Shri Rohit Sharma
(B) ₹49,64,842 Crore
(C) Smt. Alka Yagnik
(D) ₹10,95,803 Crore (approx)

Correct Answer: (C) | **Explanation:** For **Padma Bhushan** (Award Tier), the verified Recipient Name is **Smt. Alka Yagnik**. Furthermore, Art (Playback Singing). (Source: पत्र सूचना कार्यालय (PIB) & IUC Academy).

Practice Question #8 High-Yield Comparative MCQ

Q8. With reference to Award Tier and Recipient Name, which of the following is accurately matched with "Padma Shri"?

(A) ₹49,64,842 Crore
(B) ₹10,95,803 Crore (approx)
(C) ₹14,03,906 Crore
(D) Shri Rohit Sharma

Correct Answer: (D) | **Explanation:** For **Padma Shri** (Award Tier), the verified Recipient Name is **Shri Rohit Sharma**. Furthermore, Sports (Cricket). (Source: पत्र सूचना कार्यालय (PIB) & IUC Academy).

Practice Question #9 High-Yield Comparative MCQ

Q9. With reference to Fiscal Parameter / Budget Head and FY 2025–26 Revised Estimates (RE), which of the following is accurately matched with "Total Expenditure"?

(A) ₹49,64,842 Crore
(B) ₹10,95,803 Crore (approx)
(C) ₹14,03,906 Crore
(D) ₹34,06,293 Crore (approx)

Correct Answer: (A) | **Explanation:** For **Total Expenditure** (Fiscal Parameter / Budget Head), the verified FY 2025–26 Revised Estimates (RE) is **₹49,64,842 Crore**. Furthermore, ₹53,47,315 Crore. (Source: पत्र सूचना कार्यालय (PIB) & IUC Academy).

Practice Question #10 High-Yield Comparative MCQ

Q10. With reference to Fiscal Parameter / Budget Head and FY 2025–26 Revised Estimates (RE), which of the following is accurately matched with "Total Capital Expenditure (Capex)"?

(A) ₹14,03,906 Crore
(B) ₹10,95,803 Crore (approx)
(C) ₹34,06,293 Crore (approx)
(D) 4.4% of GDP

Correct Answer: (B) | **Explanation:** For **Total Capital Expenditure (Capex)** (Fiscal Parameter / Budget Head), the verified FY 2025–26 Revised Estimates (RE) is **₹10,95,803 Crore (approx)**. Furthermore, ₹12,21,821 Crore. (Source: पत्र सूचना कार्यालय (PIB) & IUC Academy).

Practice Question #11 High-Yield Comparative MCQ

Q11. With reference to Fiscal Parameter / Budget Head and FY 2025–26 Revised Estimates (RE), which of the following is accurately matched with "Effective Capital Expenditure"?

(A) ₹34,06,293 Crore (approx)
(B) 4.4% of GDP
(C) ₹14,03,906 Crore
(D) 1.5% of GDP

Correct Answer: (C) | **Explanation:** For **Effective Capital Expenditure** (Fiscal Parameter / Budget Head), the verified FY 2025–26 Revised Estimates (RE) is **₹14,03,906 Crore**. Furthermore, ₹17,14,523 Crore. (Source: पत्र सूचना कार्यालय (PIB) & IUC Academy).

Practice Question #12 High-Yield Comparative MCQ

Q12. With reference to Fiscal Parameter / Budget Head and FY 2025–26 Revised Estimates (RE), which of the following is accurately matched with "Total Receipts (other than borrowings)"?

(A) 4.4% of GDP
(B) 1.5% of GDP
(C) ₹12,76,338 Crore (approx)
(D) ₹34,06,293 Crore (approx)

Correct Answer: (D) | **Explanation:** For **Total Receipts (other than borrowings)** (Fiscal Parameter / Budget Head), the verified FY 2025–26 Revised Estimates (RE) is **₹34,06,293 Crore (approx)**. Furthermore, ₹36,51,547 Crore. (Source: पत्र सूचना कार्यालय (PIB) & IUC Academy).

Practice Question #13 High-Yield Comparative MCQ

Q13. With reference to Fiscal Parameter / Budget Head and FY 2025–26 Revised Estimates (RE), which of the following is accurately matched with "Fiscal Deficit (Absolute & % of GDP)"?

(A) 4.4% of GDP
(B) 1.5% of GDP
(C) ₹12,76,338 Crore (approx)
(D) ₹17,71,928 Crore

Correct Answer: (A) | **Explanation:** For **Fiscal Deficit (Absolute & % of GDP)** (Fiscal Parameter / Budget Head), the verified FY 2025–26 Revised Estimates (RE) is **4.4% of GDP**. Furthermore, 4.3% of GDP (₹16,95,768 Crore). (Source: पत्र सूचना कार्यालय (PIB) & IUC Academy).

Practice Question #14 High-Yield Comparative MCQ

Q14. With reference to Fiscal Parameter / Budget Head and FY 2025–26 Revised Estimates (RE), which of the following is accurately matched with "Revenue Deficit (% of GDP)"?

(A) ₹12,76,338 Crore (approx)
(B) 1.5% of GDP
(C) ₹17,71,928 Crore
(D) ₹12,21,821 Crore

Correct Answer: (B) | **Explanation:** For **Revenue Deficit (% of GDP)** (Fiscal Parameter / Budget Head), the verified FY 2025–26 Revised Estimates (RE) is **1.5% of GDP**. Furthermore, 1.5% of GDP. (Source: पत्र सूचना कार्यालय (PIB) & IUC Academy).

Practice Question #15 High-Yield Comparative MCQ

Q15. With reference to Fiscal Parameter / Budget Head and FY 2025–26 Revised Estimates (RE), which of the following is accurately matched with "Interest Payments"?

(A) ₹17,71,928 Crore
(B) ₹12,21,821 Crore
(C) ₹12,76,338 Crore (approx)
(D) ₹9,89,885 Crore

Correct Answer: (C) | **Explanation:** For **Interest Payments** (Fiscal Parameter / Budget Head), the verified FY 2025–26 Revised Estimates (RE) is **₹12,76,338 Crore (approx)**. Furthermore, ₹14,03,972 Crore. (Source: पत्र सूचना कार्यालय (PIB) & IUC Academy).

Practice Question #16 High-Yield Comparative MCQ

Q16. With reference to Expenditure Component and BE 2026–27 Allocation (₹ Crore), which of the following is accurately matched with "Central Sector Schemes (CS)"?

(A) ₹12,21,821 Crore
(B) ₹9,89,885 Crore
(C) ₹2,96,214 Crore
(D) ₹17,71,928 Crore

Correct Answer: (D) | **Explanation:** For **Central Sector Schemes (CS)** (Expenditure Component), the verified BE 2026–27 Allocation (₹ Crore) is **₹17,71,928 Crore**. Furthermore, +8.2%. (Source: पत्र सूचना कार्यालय (PIB) & IUC Academy).

Practice Question #17 High-Yield Comparative MCQ

Q17. With reference to Expenditure Component and BE 2026–27 Allocation (₹ Crore), which of the following is accurately matched with "Direct Capital Expenditure"?

(A) ₹12,21,821 Crore
(B) ₹9,89,885 Crore
(C) ₹2,96,214 Crore
(D) ₹1,85,000 Crore

Correct Answer: (A) | **Explanation:** For **Direct Capital Expenditure** (Expenditure Component), the verified BE 2026–27 Allocation (₹ Crore) is **₹12,21,821 Crore**. Furthermore, +11.5%. (Source: पत्र सूचना कार्यालय (PIB) & IUC Academy).

Practice Question #18 High-Yield Comparative MCQ

Q18. With reference to Expenditure Component and BE 2026–27 Allocation (₹ Crore), which of the following is accurately matched with "Centrally Sponsored Schemes (CSS)"?

(A) ₹2,96,214 Crore
(B) ₹9,89,885 Crore
(C) ₹1,85,000 Crore
(D) ₹1,29,397 Crore

Correct Answer: (B) | **Explanation:** For **Centrally Sponsored Schemes (CSS)** (Expenditure Component), the verified BE 2026–27 Allocation (₹ Crore) is **₹9,89,885 Crore**. Furthermore, +17.1%. (Source: पत्र सूचना कार्यालय (PIB) & IUC Academy).

Practice Question #19 High-Yield Comparative MCQ

Q19. With reference to Expenditure Component and BE 2026–27 Allocation (₹ Crore), which of the following is accurately matched with "Pensions"?

(A) ₹1,85,000 Crore
(B) ₹1,29,397 Crore
(C) ₹2,96,214 Crore
(D) 7.4% in FY26

Correct Answer: (C) | **Explanation:** For **Pensions** (Expenditure Component), the verified BE 2026–27 Allocation (₹ Crore) is **₹2,96,214 Crore**. Furthermore, +3.0%. (Source: पत्र सूचना कार्यालय (PIB) & IUC Academy).

Practice Question #20 High-Yield Comparative MCQ

Q20. With reference to Expenditure Component and BE 2026–27 Allocation (₹ Crore), which of the following is accurately matched with "Special Capex Loans to States"?

(A) ₹1,29,397 Crore
(B) 7.4% in FY26
(C) 1.3% of GDP (H1 FY25)
(D) ₹1,85,000 Crore

Correct Answer: (D) | **Explanation:** For **Special Capex Loans to States** (Expenditure Component), the verified BE 2026–27 Allocation (₹ Crore) is **₹1,85,000 Crore**. Furthermore, High priority. (Source: पत्र सूचना कार्यालय (PIB) & IUC Academy).

Practice Question #21 High-Yield Comparative MCQ

Q21. With reference to Expenditure Component and BE 2026–27 Allocation (₹ Crore), which of the following is accurately matched with "Finance Commission Grants"?

(A) ₹1,29,397 Crore
(B) 7.4% in FY26
(C) 1.3% of GDP (H1 FY25)
(D) 13.2% (FY18)

Correct Answer: (A) | **Explanation:** For **Finance Commission Grants** (Expenditure Component), the verified BE 2026–27 Allocation (₹ Crore) is **₹1,29,397 Crore**. Furthermore, -15.0% vs RE26. (Source: पत्र सूचना कार्यालय (PIB) & IUC Academy).

Practice Question #22 High-Yield Comparative MCQ

Q22. With reference to Economic Indicator and Benchmark / Historical Figure, which of the following is accurately matched with "Real GDP Growth Outlook (FY 2026–27)"?

(A) 1.3% of GDP (H1 FY25)
(B) 7.4% in FY26
(C) 13.2% (FY18)
(D) 66th (2019)

Correct Answer: (B) | **Explanation:** For **Real GDP Growth Outlook (FY 2026–27)** (Economic Indicator), the verified Benchmark / Historical Figure is **7.4% in FY26**. Furthermore, 6.8% – 7.2%. (Source: पत्र सूचना कार्यालय (PIB) & IUC Academy).

Practice Question #23 High-Yield Comparative MCQ

Q23. With reference to Economic Indicator and Benchmark / Historical Figure, which of the following is accurately matched with "Current Account Deficit (CAD)"?

(A) 13.2% (FY18)
(B) 66th (2019)
(C) 1.3% of GDP (H1 FY25)
(D) PSLV-C62

Correct Answer: (C) | **Explanation:** For **Current Account Deficit (CAD)** (Economic Indicator), the verified Benchmark / Historical Figure is **1.3% of GDP (H1 FY25)**. Furthermore, 0.8% of GDP (H1 FY26). (Source: पत्र सूचना कार्यालय (PIB) & IUC Academy).

Practice Question #24 High-Yield Comparative MCQ

Q24. With reference to Economic Indicator and Benchmark / Historical Figure, which of the following is accurately matched with "SCB NPA Recovery Rate"?

(A) 66th (2019)
(B) PSLV-C62
(C) GSLV-F16
(D) 13.2% (FY18)

Correct Answer: (D) | **Explanation:** For **SCB NPA Recovery Rate** (Economic Indicator), the verified Benchmark / Historical Figure is **13.2% (FY18)**. Furthermore, 26.2% (FY25). (Source: पत्र सूचना कार्यालय (PIB) & IUC Academy).

Practice Question #25 High-Yield Comparative MCQ

Q25. With reference to Economic Indicator and Benchmark / Historical Figure, which of the following is accurately matched with "Global Innovation Index Rank"?

(A) 66th (2019)
(B) PSLV-C62
(C) GSLV-F16
(D) PSLV-C60 (SDX01 & SDX02)

Correct Answer: (A) | **Explanation:** For **Global Innovation Index Rank** (Economic Indicator), the verified Benchmark / Historical Figure is **66th (2019)**. Furthermore, 38th. (Source: पत्र सूचना कार्यालय (PIB) & IUC Academy).

Practice Question #26 High-Yield Comparative MCQ

Q26. With reference to Mission / Event Name and Launch Vehicle / Platform, which of the following is accurately matched with "PSLV-C62 / EOS-N1"?

(A) GSLV-F16
(B) PSLV-C62
(C) PSLV-C60 (SDX01 & SDX02)
(D) PSLV-C57 (Halo Orbit at L1)

Correct Answer: (B) | **Explanation:** For **PSLV-C62 / EOS-N1** (Mission / Event Name), the verified Launch Vehicle / Platform is **PSLV-C62**. Furthermore, 12 January 2026. (Source: पत्र सूचना कार्यालय (PIB) & IUC Academy).

Practice Question #27 High-Yield Comparative MCQ

Q27. With reference to Mission / Event Name and Launch Vehicle / Platform, which of the following is accurately matched with "NISAR Mission"?

(A) PSLV-C60 (SDX01 & SDX02)
(B) PSLV-C57 (Halo Orbit at L1)
(C) GSLV-F16
(D) Hosted at Ahmedabad

Correct Answer: (C) | **Explanation:** For **NISAR Mission** (Mission / Event Name), the verified Launch Vehicle / Platform is **GSLV-F16**. Furthermore, Operational in 2026. (Source: पत्र सूचना कार्यालय (PIB) & IUC Academy).

Practice Question #28 High-Yield Comparative MCQ

Q28. With reference to Mission / Event Name and Launch Vehicle / Platform, which of the following is accurately matched with "SpaDeX Mission Closure"?

(A) PSLV-C57 (Halo Orbit at L1)
(B) Hosted at Ahmedabad
(C) Human-Rated LVM3 (HLVM3)
(D) PSLV-C60 (SDX01 & SDX02)

Correct Answer: (D) | **Explanation:** For **SpaDeX Mission Closure** (Mission / Event Name), the verified Launch Vehicle / Platform is **PSLV-C60 (SDX01 & SDX02)**. Furthermore, Completed in 2026. (Source: पत्र सूचना कार्यालय (PIB) & IUC Academy).

Practice Question #29 High-Yield Comparative MCQ

Q29. With reference to Mission / Event Name and Launch Vehicle / Platform, which of the following is accurately matched with "Aditya-L1 3D CME Study"?

(A) PSLV-C57 (Halo Orbit at L1)
(B) Hosted at Ahmedabad
(C) Human-Rated LVM3 (HLVM3)
(D) Private Space Ecosystem

Correct Answer: (A) | **Explanation:** For **Aditya-L1 3D CME Study** (Mission / Event Name), the verified Launch Vehicle / Platform is **PSLV-C57 (Halo Orbit at L1)**. Furthermore, Published in 2026. (Source: पत्र सूचना कार्यालय (PIB) & IUC Academy).

Practice Question #30 High-Yield Comparative MCQ

Q30. With reference to Mission / Event Name and Launch Vehicle / Platform, which of the following is accurately matched with "3rd National Space Day"?

(A) Human-Rated LVM3 (HLVM3)
(B) Hosted at Ahmedabad
(C) Private Space Ecosystem
(D) Ministry of Youth Affairs & Sports

Correct Answer: (B) | **Explanation:** For **3rd National Space Day** (Mission / Event Name), the verified Launch Vehicle / Platform is **Hosted at Ahmedabad**. Furthermore, 23 August 2026. (Source: पत्र सूचना कार्यालय (PIB) & IUC Academy).

Practice Question #31 High-Yield Comparative MCQ

Q31. With reference to Mission / Event Name and Launch Vehicle / Platform, which of the following is accurately matched with "HLVM3-G1 / OM1"?

(A) Private Space Ecosystem
(B) Ministry of Youth Affairs & Sports
(C) Human-Rated LVM3 (HLVM3)
(D) Ministry of Environment, Forest & Climate Change

Correct Answer: (C) | **Explanation:** For **HLVM3-G1 / OM1** (Mission / Event Name), the verified Launch Vehicle / Platform is **Human-Rated LVM3 (HLVM3)**. Furthermore, Q4 2026 Target. (Source: पत्र सूचना कार्यालय (PIB) & IUC Academy).

Practice Question #32 High-Yield Comparative MCQ

Q32. With reference to Mission / Event Name and Launch Vehicle / Platform, which of the following is accurately matched with "IN-SPACe Tech Transfers"?

(A) Ministry of Youth Affairs & Sports
(B) Ministry of Environment, Forest & Climate Change
(C) Ministry of Home Affairs / NIC
(D) Private Space Ecosystem

Correct Answer: (D) | **Explanation:** For **IN-SPACe Tech Transfers** (Mission / Event Name), the verified Launch Vehicle / Platform is **Private Space Ecosystem**. Furthermore, As of 31 Jan 2026. (Source: पत्र सूचना कार्यालय (PIB) & IUC Academy).

Practice Question #33 High-Yield Comparative MCQ

Q33. With reference to Policy Initiative / Platform and Nodal Ministry / Authority, which of the following is accurately matched with "Khelo India Mission"?

(A) Ministry of Youth Affairs & Sports
(B) Ministry of Environment, Forest & Climate Change
(C) Ministry of Home Affairs / NIC
(D) Ministry of External Affairs & Commerce

Correct Answer: (A) | **Explanation:** For **Khelo India Mission** (Policy Initiative / Platform), the verified Nodal Ministry / Authority is **Ministry of Youth Affairs & Sports**. Furthermore, 10-year structural transformation of sports infrastructure, sports science, and athlete coaching. (Source: पत्र सूचना कार्यालय (PIB) & IUC Academy).

Practice Question #34 High-Yield Comparative MCQ

Q34. With reference to Policy Initiative / Platform and Nodal Ministry / Authority, which of the following is accurately matched with "1st Global Big Cat Summit"?

(A) Ministry of Home Affairs / NIC
(B) Ministry of Environment, Forest & Climate Change
(C) Ministry of External Affairs & Commerce
(D) Assam

Correct Answer: (B) | **Explanation:** For **1st Global Big Cat Summit** (Policy Initiative / Platform), the verified Nodal Ministry / Authority is **Ministry of Environment, Forest & Climate Change**. Furthermore, Global summit hosted by India for conservation of 7 big cat species via IBCA. (Source: पत्र सूचना कार्यालय (PIB) & IUC Academy).

Practice Question #35 High-Yield Comparative MCQ

Q35. With reference to Policy Initiative / Platform and Nodal Ministry / Authority, which of the following is accurately matched with "e-Sakshya & Nyaya Shruti"?

(A) Ministry of External Affairs & Commerce
(B) Assam
(C) Ministry of Home Affairs / NIC
(D) Rajasthan

Correct Answer: (C) | **Explanation:** For **e-Sakshya & Nyaya Shruti** (Policy Initiative / Platform), the verified Nodal Ministry / Authority is **Ministry of Home Affairs / NIC**. Furthermore, Mandatory audio-video recording of forensic evidence and virtual judicial hearings. (Source: पत्र सूचना कार्यालय (PIB) & IUC Academy).

Practice Question #36 High-Yield Comparative MCQ

Q36. With reference to Policy Initiative / Platform and Nodal Ministry / Authority, which of the following is accurately matched with "India–EU TTC (65th Year of Ties)"?

(A) Assam
(B) Rajasthan
(C) Jammu & Kashmir
(D) Ministry of External Affairs & Commerce

Correct Answer: (D) | **Explanation:** For **India–EU TTC (65th Year of Ties)** (Policy Initiative / Platform), the verified Nodal Ministry / Authority is **Ministry of External Affairs & Commerce**. Furthermore, Bilateral working groups on AI standards, green energy technologies, and resilient trade. (Source: पत्र सूचना कार्यालय (PIB) & IUC Academy).

Practice Question #37 High-Yield Comparative MCQ

Q37. With reference to Craft / Cultural Landmark and State / Union Territory, which of the following is accurately matched with "Asharikandi Terracotta Craft"?

(A) Assam
(B) Rajasthan
(C) Jammu & Kashmir
(D) Uttar Pradesh

Correct Answer: (A) | **Explanation:** For **Asharikandi Terracotta Craft** (Craft / Cultural Landmark), the verified State / Union Territory is **Assam**. Furthermore, Dhubri District. (Source: पत्र सूचना कार्यालय (PIB) & IUC Academy).

Practice Question #38 High-Yield Comparative MCQ

Q38. With reference to Craft / Cultural Landmark and State / Union Territory, which of the following is accurately matched with "Bikaner Gold Usta Art"?

(A) Jammu & Kashmir
(B) Rajasthan
(C) Uttar Pradesh
(D) Madhya Pradesh

Correct Answer: (B) | **Explanation:** For **Bikaner Gold Usta Art** (Craft / Cultural Landmark), the verified State / Union Territory is **Rajasthan**. Furthermore, Bikaner. (Source: पत्र सूचना कार्यालय (PIB) & IUC Academy).

Practice Question #39 High-Yield Comparative MCQ

Q39. With reference to Craft / Cultural Landmark and State / Union Territory, which of the following is accurately matched with "Kashmiri Pashmina & Sozni"?

(A) Uttar Pradesh
(B) Madhya Pradesh
(C) Jammu & Kashmir
(D) Nagaland

Correct Answer: (C) | **Explanation:** For **Kashmiri Pashmina & Sozni** (Craft / Cultural Landmark), the verified State / Union Territory is **Jammu & Kashmir**. Furthermore, Srinagar / Kashmir Valley. (Source: पत्र सूचना कार्यालय (PIB) & IUC Academy).

Practice Question #40 High-Yield Comparative MCQ

Q40. With reference to Craft / Cultural Landmark and State / Union Territory, which of the following is accurately matched with "Bundelkhand Heritage & Gaura Stone"?

(A) Madhya Pradesh
(B) Nagaland
(C) Judges' Panel
(D) Uttar Pradesh

Correct Answer: (D) | **Explanation:** For **Bundelkhand Heritage & Gaura Stone** (Craft / Cultural Landmark), the verified State / Union Territory is **Uttar Pradesh**. Furthermore, Bundelkhand (Mahoba / Jhansi). (Source: पत्र सूचना कार्यालय (PIB) & IUC Academy).

65 Rapid-Fire Revision Points (January-*2026* & February-*2026*)

1. India celebrated its **77th Republic Day** on 26 January 2026 at Kartavya Path, New Delhi (**PIB**).

2. The joint Chief Guests for the 77th Republic Day Parade 2026 were **António Costa** (President of the European Council) and **Ursula von der Leyen** (President of the European Commission) (**PIB**).

3. The year 2026 marks the **65th anniversary** of diplomatic relations between India and the European Union (**PIB**).

4. The overarching theme of the Republic Day Parade 2026 commemorated **150 Years of Vande Mataram** (*Swatantrata ka Mantra: Vande Mataram* and *Samriddhi ka Mantra: Aatmanirbhar Bharat*) (**PIB**).

5. A total of **30 tableaux** (17 from States/UTs and 13 from Ministries/Departments/Services) rolled down Kartavya Path on 26 January 2026 (**PIB**).

6. **Maharashtra** won the 1st Prize for Best State Tableau (Judges' Choice) at Republic Day 2026 for *Ganeshotsav: A Symbol of Aatmanirbharta* (**PIB**).

7. **Jammu & Kashmir** won the 2nd Prize for Best State/UT Tableau (Judges' Choice) for *Handicrafts and Folk Dances of Jammu & Kashmir* (**PIB**).

8. **Kerala** won the 3rd Prize for Best State Tableau (Judges' Choice) for *Water Metro & 100% Digital Literacy: Aatmanirbhar Kerala for Aatmanirbhar Bharat* (**PIB**).

9. The **Ministry of Culture** won the Best Tableau award among Central Ministries/Departments (Judges' Choice) for *Vande Mataram – The Soul Cry of a Nation* (**PIB**).

10. The **Indian Navy** was adjudged the Best Marching Contingent among the three Services by the Judges' Panel at Republic Day 2026 (**PIB**).

11. **Delhi Police** won the Best Marching Contingent among CAPFs and other auxiliary forces (Judges' Choice) at Republic Day 2026 (**PIB**).

12. In the MyGov Popular Choice category for Republic Day 2026, **Gujarat** won Best State Tableau (*Mantra of Swadeshi – Self-Reliance*) (**PIB**).

13. In the MyGov Popular Choice category, the **Assam Regiment** won Best Marching Contingent among the three Services and **CRPF** won among CAPFs (**PIB**).

14. Uttar Pradesh's Republic Day 2026 tableau showcased the **Culture of Bundelkhand** (**PIB**).

15. Madhya Pradesh's Republic Day 2026 tableau paid tribute to **Punyashlok Lokmata Devi Ahilyabai Holkar** (**PIB**).

16. Odisha's Republic Day 2026 tableau was themed **Soil to Silicon: Rooted in Tradition, Rising in Technology** (**PIB**).

17. Assam's Republic Day 2026 tableau highlighted **Asharikandi**, the traditional terracotta craft village of Dhubri district (**PIB**).

18. The Tri-Services tableau presented by the Department of Military Affairs in 2026 was themed **Operation Sindoor** (**PIB**).

19. Punjab's 2026 tableau commemorated the **350th Year of Martyrdom of Sri Guru Tegh Bahadur Ji** (**PIB**).

20. Rajasthan's 2026 tableau showcased **Golden Touch of the Desert: Bikaner Gold Usta Art** (**PIB**).

21. On 25 January 2026, President Droupadi Murmu approved **131 Padma Awards** (5 Padma Vibhushan, 13 Padma Bhushan, and 113 Padma Shri) (**PIB**).

22. No **Bharat Ratna** was announced in 2026, leaving the cumulative count of Bharat Ratna awardees at **53** (**PIB**).

23. The Padma Awards 2026 list includes **19 women awardees**, **6 Foreigners/NRI/PIO/OCI**, and **16 posthumous awardees** (**PIB**).

24. Veteran actor **Dharmendra Singh Deol** (Maharashtra) was posthumously conferred the **Padma Vibhushan** in 2026 in the field of Art (**PIB**).

25. Former Supreme Court Judge **Justice K. T. Thomas** (Kerala) received the **Padma Vibhushan** in 2026 for Public Affairs (**PIB**).

26. Legendary Hindustani classical violinist **Dr. N. Rajam** (Uttar Pradesh) received the **Padma Vibhushan** in 2026 for Art (**PIB**).

27. Veteran Malayalam writer and journalist **P. Narayanan** (Kerala) received the **Padma Vibhushan** in 2026 for Literature & Education (**PIB**).

28. Former Kerala Chief Minister **V. S. Achuthanandan** was posthumously conferred the **Padma Vibhushan** in 2026 for Public Affairs (**PIB**).

29. Playback singer **Alka Yagnik** and Malayalam actor **Mammootty** were conferred the **Padma Bhushan** in 2026 (**PIB**).

30. Veteran banker **Uday Kotak** and tennis legend **Vijay Amritraj** received the **Padma Bhushan** in 2026 (**PIB**).

31. Advertising doyen **Piyush Pandey** was posthumously awarded the **Padma Bhushan** in 2026 (**PIB**).

32. Cricketers **Rohit Sharma** and **Harmanpreet Kaur**, along with hockey goalkeeper **Savita Punia**, received the **Padma Shri** in 2026 (**PIB**).

33. Actors **R. Madhavan** and **Prosenjit Chatterjee** were awarded the **Padma Shri** in 2026 (PIB).

34. Finance Minister **Nirmala Sitharaman** presented the **Union Budget 2026–27** in Parliament on **1 February 2026** (India Budget).

35. Total Expenditure in Budget Estimates (BE) 2026–27 is **₹53,47,315 crore**, up 7.7% over RE 2025–26 (India Budget).

36. Direct Capital Expenditure (Capex) in BE 2026–27 is **₹12,21,821 crore**, an increase of **11.5%** over RE 2025–26 (India Budget).

37. Effective Capital Expenditure in BE 2026–27 stands at **₹17,14,523 crore** (India Budget).

38. Total Receipts (excluding borrowings) in BE 2026–27 are estimated at **₹36,51,547 crore** (+7.2% over RE 2025–26) (India Budget).

39. Revenue Receipts in BE 2026–27 are estimated at **₹35,33,150 crore**, and Non-Debt Capital Receipts at **₹1,18,397 crore** (India Budget).

40. The **Fiscal Deficit** in BE 2026–27 is targeted at **4.3% of GDP** (**₹16,95,768 crore**), down from **4.4% of GDP** in RE 2025–26 (India Budget).

41. The **Revenue Deficit** in BE 2026–27 is targeted at **1.5% of GDP**, identical to RE 2025–26 (India Budget).

42. Union Budget 2026–27 assumes a **nominal GDP growth rate of 10.0%–10.1%** for FY 2026–27 (India Budget).

43. **Interest Payments** in BE 2026–27 are estimated at **₹14,03,972 crore**, representing **26% of total expenditure** and **40% of revenue receipts** (India Budget).

44. The Central Government's **Debt-to-GDP ratio** is estimated at **55.6% in BE 2026–27**, with a glide-path target of **50±1% by FY 2030–31** (India Budget).

45. Allocation for **Central Sector Schemes** in BE 2026–27 is **₹17,71,928 crore** (+8.2% over RE 2025–26) (India Budget).

46. Allocation for **Centrally Sponsored Schemes** in BE 2026–27 is **₹9,89,885 crore** (+17.1% over RE 2025–26) (India Budget).

47. Pension expenditure in BE 2026–27 is estimated at **₹2,96,214 crore** (+3.0% over RE 2025–26) (India Budget).

48. Special 50-year interest-free loans to States for capital expenditure in BE 2026–27 are budgeted at **₹1,85,000 crore** (India Budget).

49. 16th Finance Commission Grants in BE 2026–27 are budgeted at **₹1,29,397 crore**, 15% lower than RE 2025–26 due to the termination of revenue deficit grants (India Budget).

50. Union Budget 2026–27 announced the launch of the **Khelo India Mission** to transform the sports sector over the next decade (PIB).

51. Union Budget 2026–27 announced that India will host the **first-ever Global Big Cat Summit** (India Budget).

52. The **Economic Survey 2025–26**, tabled on 29–30 January 2026, estimated India's **FY 2025–26 real GDP growth at 7.4%** (PIB).

53. The Economic Survey 2025–26 projected India's **FY 2026–27 (FY27) real GDP growth at 6.8% to 7.2%** (India Budget).

54. India's **Current Account Deficit (CAD)** moderated to **0.8% of GDP in H1 FY26**, down from 1.3% in H1 FY25 (India Budget).

55. The **NPA recovery rate** of Scheduled Commercial Banks (SCBs) nearly doubled from **13.2% in FY18 to 26.2% in FY25** (PIB).

56. The Economic Survey highlighted India's climb in the **Global Innovation Index** from **66th in 2019 to 38th** (**PIB**).

57. The World Bank ranked India among the **top five low- and middle-income economies** in private infrastructure investment (**PIB**).

58. ISRO launched the **PSLV-C62 / EOS-N1** mission on **12 January 2026** as its 105th launch mission (**ISRO**).

59. The **GSLV-F16 / NISAR** joint mission is the world's first dual-frequency radar imaging satellite combining **NASA's L-band** and **ISRO's S-band** radars (**PIB**).

60. The two **SpaDeX** satellites re-entered the atmosphere in 2026 after a 21-month mission that made India the **4th country** to achieve space docking (**PIB**).

61. **Aditya-L1's VELC** payload reconstructed a solar **Coronal Mass Ejection (CME) in 3D** in 2026 (**PIB**).

62. The **3rd National Space Day** was celebrated on **23 August 2026 at Ahmedabad** with the theme *Towards Viksit Bharat: Innovating, Collaborating and Aspiring to Global Space Leadership* (**PIB**).

63. **IN-SPACe** facilitated **71 ISRO technology transfers** to private industry and start-ups as of 31 January 2026 (**PIB**).

64. **HLVM3-G1 / OM1** is the first uncrewed orbital flight test of the **Gaganyaan** human spaceflight programme targeted for Q4 2026 (**PIB**).

65. Under the Bharatiya Nagarik Suraksha Sanhita (BNSS), the **e-Sakshya** app mandates cloud-based audio-video recording of forensic crime scenes across India in 2026 (**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. Executive Structure of Volume 1 (Current Affairs 2026)	☐ Completed (100% Concept Clarity)	☐ Flowchart & Tables Revised	☐ 75+ MCQs Solved (>85% Accuracy)	☐ **Final Rapid Recall Ready**
2. Chapter 1: 77th Republic Day Celebrations 2026 — Joint European Union Chief Guests, Vande Mataram Sesquicentennial Theme & Tableau Awards	☐ Completed (100% Concept Clarity)	☐ Flowchart & Tables Revised	☐ 75+ MCQs Solved (>85% Accuracy)	☐ **Final Rapid Recall Ready**
3. Chapter 2: Padma Awards 2026 — Complete Analytical Breakdown of 131 Civilian Honours	☐ Completed (100% Concept Clarity)	☐ Flowchart & Tables Revised	☐ 75+ MCQs Solved (>85% Accuracy)	☐ **Final Rapid Recall Ready**
4. Chapter 3: Union Budget 2026–27 (Part I) — Macroeconomic Fiscal Architecture, ₹53.47 Lakh Crore Expenditure & Deficit Glide Path	☐ Completed (100% Concept Clarity)	☐ Flowchart & Tables Revised	☐ 75+ MCQs Solved (>85% Accuracy)	☐ **Final Rapid Recall Ready**
5. Chapter 4: Union Budget 2026–27 (Part II) — Capital Expenditure Push, Sectoral Allocations & Strategic Missions	☐ Completed (100% Concept Clarity)	☐ Flowchart & Tables Revised	☐ 75+ MCQs Solved (>85% Accuracy)	☐ **Final Rapid Recall Ready**
6. Chapter 5: Economic Survey 2025–26 (Tabled in Parliament in 2026) — 7.4% Real GDP Growth Estimate, FY27 Outlook & External Resilience	☐ Completed (100% Concept Clarity)	☐ Flowchart & Tables Revised	☐ 75+ MCQs Solved (>85% Accuracy)	☐ **Final Rapid Recall Ready**
7. Chapter 6: ISRO Space Missions 2026 — PSLV-C62/ EOS-N1, GSLV-F16/NISAR, SpaDeX Completion & Gaganyaan G1	☐ Completed (100% Concept Clarity)	☐ Flowchart & Tables Revised	☐ 75+ MCQs Solved (>85% Accuracy)	☐ **Final Rapid Recall Ready**
8. Chapter 7: National Governance, Polity & Major Policy Initiatives in 2026	☐ Completed (100% Concept Clarity)	☐ Flowchart & Tables Revised	☐ 75+ MCQs Solved (>85% Accuracy)	☐ **Final Rapid Recall Ready**
9. Chapter 8: Geographical Indication (GI) Tags, Cultural Heritage & National Honours in 2026	☐ Completed (100% Concept Clarity)	☐ Flowchart & Tables Revised	☐ 75+ MCQs Solved (>85% Accuracy)	☐ **Final Rapid Recall Ready**
10. 45 Solved Multiple-Choice Questions (January-2026 & February-2026)	☐ Completed (100% Concept Clarity)	☐ Flowchart & Tables Revised	☐ 75+ MCQs Solved (>85% Accuracy)	☐ **Final Rapid Recall Ready**
11. Extended Comparative & Analytical Practice Set (Questions 1–40)	☐ Completed (100% Concept Clarity)	☐ Flowchart & Tables Revised	☐ 75+ MCQs Solved (>85% Accuracy)	☐ **Final Rapid Recall Ready**

Chapter / Study Section	Day 1 (First Read)	Day 3 (Active Recall)	Day 7 (MCQ Drill)	Day 21 (Exam Ready)
12. 65 Rapid-Fire Revision Points (January-2026 & February-2026)	☐ Completed (100% Concept Clarity)	☐ Flowchart & Tables Revised	☐ 75+ MCQs Solved (>85% Accuracy)	☐ **Final Rapid Recall Ready**