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

MONTHLY CURRENT AFFAIRS — MARCH-2026 & APRIL-2026 (16TH FINANCE COMMISSION, RBI & T20 WC)

16th Finance Commission (2026-31) Report, RBI Monetary Policy 2026, ICC Men's T20 World Cup 2026 (India Champions), Raisina Dialogue 2026, DRDO Missile Trials, Military Exercises & 2026 Global Indices

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 (%)

- 16th Finance Commission (2026-31) & RBI Policy (26%)
- ICC Men's T20 World Cup 2026 & Sports Championships (22%)
- DRDO Missile Trials & Joint Military Exercises 2026 (20%)
- Global Indices 2026 (HDI, Happiness, Gender, Peace) (18%)
- Raisina Dialogue 2026, Ramsar Wetlands & GI Tags (14%)

Complete Theory
NCERT & Official Sources

Visual Flowcharts
Comparative Matrices

Memory Tricks
Exam Trap Alerts

75+ Solved MCQs
Rapid Revision Points

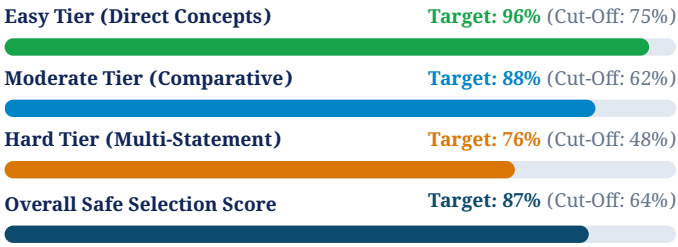
Preface, Exam Weightage Dashboard & Study Strategy — MONTHLY CURRENT AFFAIRS — MARCH-2026 & APRIL-2026 (16TH FINANCE COMMISSION, RBI & T20 WC)

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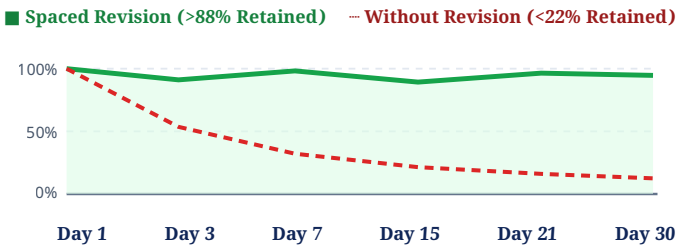
Dear Aspirants,

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**.

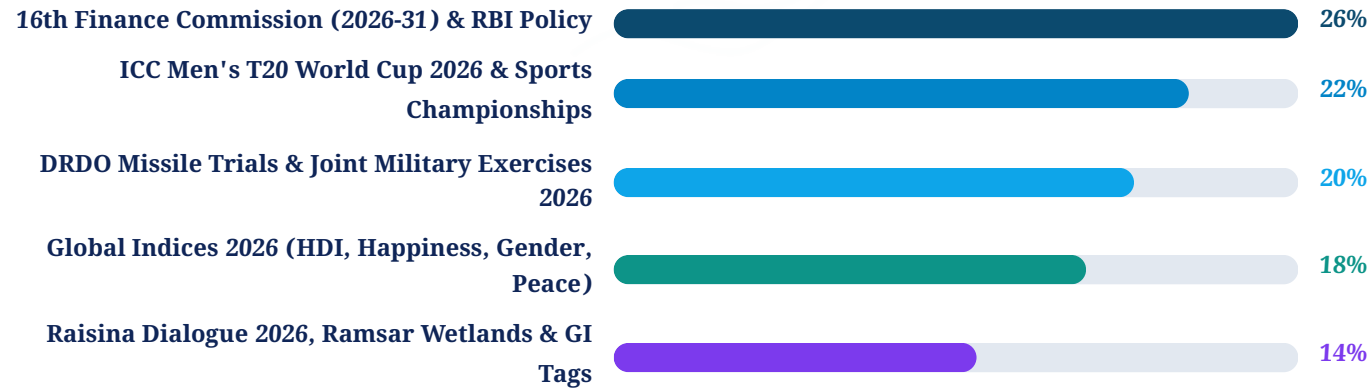
Target Accuracy vs Qualifying Cut-Off Benchmark (%)



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/)
- भारतीय रिज़र्व बैंक (RBI) (https://www.rbi.org.in/)
- डीआरडीओ आधिकारिक पोर्टल (https://www.drdo.gov.in/)
- IUC अकादमी आधिकारिक पोर्टल (https://www.iucacademy.com)

Detailed Table of Contents & Chapter Architecture

MONTHLY CURRENT AFFAIRS — MARCH-2026 & APRIL-2026 (16TH FINANCE COMMISSION, RBI & T20 WC) • Complete Chapters, Comparative Matrices, Solved MCQs & Rapid Revision

1. Executive Structure of Volume 2 (Current Affairs 2026)

2. Chapter 1: 16th Finance Commission Report (2026–31) (Part I) — 41% Vertical Devolution & The New Horizontal Formula

- 1.1 Constitutional Mandate, Composition & Tabling in Parliament
- 1.2 Vertical Devolution (41% Retained) & Structural Shift in Horizontal Devolution
- 1.3 Process Flow Diagram: 16th Finance Commission (2026–31) Devolution Architecture
- 1.4 Side-by-Side Comparison: 15th Finance Commission vs. 16th Finance Commission Horizontal Formula

3. Chapter 2: 16th Finance Commission Report (2026–31) (Part II) — ₹9.47 Lakh Crore Grants, Abolished Grants & Fiscal Roadmap

- 2.1 Radical Rationalization of Grants-in-Aid (Article 275)
- 2.2 Fiscal Consolidation Blueprint & Warning on Unconditional Cash Transfers
- 2.3 Process Flow Diagram: 16th Finance Commission Grants & Fiscal Discipline Blueprint (2026–31)
- 2.4 Summary Table of 16th Finance Commission Grants & Fiscal Targets (2026–31)

4. Chapter 3: RBI Monetary Policy 2026 & Banking Developments — Governor Sanjay Malhotra & Repo Rate Trajectory

- 3.1 Monetary Policy Committee (MPC) Decisions Across 2026
- 3.2 Process Flow Diagram: RBI Monetary Policy Corridor in 2026 (Post-7 October 2026 Review)
- 3.3 Official Table of RBI Policy Rates (Effective 7 October 2026)

5. Chapter 4: ICC Men's T20 World Cup 2026 (India & Sri Lanka) — India's Historic 3rd Title & Tournament Records

- 4.1 Tournament Format, Co-Hosts & Historic Records Broken by India
- 4.2 Process Flow Diagram: 2026 ICC Men's T20 World Cup Final & Record Breakdown
- 4.3 Master Fact Sheet: 2026 ICC Men's T20 World Cup

6. Chapter 5: XXV Winter Olympic Games 2026 (Milano Cortina, Italy) — Medal Table & Historic Performances

- 5.1 Host Cities, Timeline & Structure of the 2026 Winter Olympics
- 5.2 Medal Table Standings & Individual Athletic Records
- 5.3 Process Flow Diagram: Milano Cortina 2026 Winter Olympics Summary
- 5.4 Official Top 5 Medal Table: 2026 Winter Olympics (Milano Cortina, Italy)

7. Chapter 6: DRDO Defence Trials 2026 — 'Kusha' LR-SAM, Pinaka Guided Rocket, Pralay, LRLACM & Multi-Layered BMD

- 6.1 Indigenous Defence R&D Surge in 2026
- 6.2 Process Flow Diagram: Chronology of DRDO's Major 2026 Missile & Air-Defence Trials
- 6.3 Master Reference Table: DRDO Missile & Weapon Trials in 2026

8. Chapter 7: India's Ranks in Global Indices & Reports 2026 — Comprehensive Analysis

- 7.1 Overview of India's 2026 Global Index Performance
- 7.2 Process Flow Diagram: Categorization of India's 2026 Global Rankings
- 7.3 Master Reference Table: India's Rank in 2026 Global Indices & Reports
- 7.4 Sub-Index Insights on Global Gender Gap Index 2026 (WEF)

9. Chapter 8: International Summits, Strategic Diplomacy & Defence Exercises in 2026

- 8.1 India's Multilateral & Bilateral Diplomatic Engagement in 2026
- 8.2 Process Flow Diagram: Pillars of India's 2026 Strategic Diplomacy
- 8.3 High-Yield Table of India's Key Bilateral Military Exercises for Competitive Exams

10. 45 Solved Multiple-Choice Questions (March-2026 & April-2026)

- Q1. Who chaired the 16th Finance Commission whose report for the period 2026–31 was tabled in Parliament on 1 February 2026?
- Q2. What percentage of the divisible pool of central taxes did the 16th Finance Commission recommend for vertical devolution to States for 2026–31?
- Q3. Which new criterion with a 10% weightage was introduced by the 16th Finance Commission in its horizontal devolution formula for 2026–31?
- Q4. Which criterion carries the highest weightage (42.5%) in the 16th Finance Commission's horizontal devolution formula for 2026–31?
- Q5. What weightage has the 16th Finance Commission assigned to 'Population (2011 Census)' in the horizontal devolution formula for 2026–31?
- Q6. In the 16th Finance Commission's horizontal devolution formula (2026–31), which four criteria carry an identical weight of 10% each?
- Q7. How much did the weightage for 'Area' change from the 15th Finance Commission to the 16th Finance Commission?
- Q8. What is the total quantum of Grants-in-Aid recommended by the 16th Finance Commission for the five-year period 2026–31?
- Q9. Out of the ₹9.47 lakh crore total grants recommended by the 16th Finance Commission for 2026–31, what is the exact allocation for Rural Local Bodies, Urban Local Bodies, and Disaster Management Funds respectively?
- Q10. Which of the following grant categories that existed under the 15th Finance Commission have been completely discontinued by the 16th Finance Commission for 2026–31?
- Q11. Under the 16th Finance Commission's recommendations, grants to local bodies are split between Basic Grants and Performance Grants in what ratio?
- Q12. What fiscal deficit limits did the 16th Finance Commission recommend for the Union Government (by 2030–31) and State Governments (annual limit) respectively?
- Q13. According to the 16th Finance Commission's fiscal roadmap, the combined debt of the Central and State governments is projected to decline from 77.3% of GDP in 2026–27 to what level in 2030–31?
- Q14. The 16th Finance Commission flagged fiscal risks from unconditional cash transfer schemes, noting that such schemes now account for what percentage of total subsidy spending?
- Q15. Who chaired the Reserve Bank of India's Monetary Policy Committee (MPC) meetings in 2026 as Governor of the RBI?
- Q16. On 7 October 2026, the RBI Monetary Policy Committee (MPC) unanimously voted to change the policy repo rate to what level?
- Q17. Following the 7 October 2026 MPC decision, what are the Standing Deposit Facility (SDF) rate and Marginal Standing Facility (MSF) rate respectively?
- Q18. Which short-term money market rate serves as the operating target of India's monetary policy that the RBI aligns with the policy repo rate?

• Q19. Which two countries co-hosted the 10th edition of the ICC Men's T20 World Cup held in February–March 2026?

• Q20. Which team did India defeat by 96 runs in the final on 8 March 2026 at Narendra Modi Stadium, Ahmedabad to win the 2026 ICC Men's T20 World Cup?

• Q21. Who captained the Indian Men's Cricket Team to victory in the 2026 ICC Men's T20 World Cup?

• Q22. Who won the Player of the Match award in the 2026 ICC Men's T20 World Cup Final for taking 4 wickets for 15 runs in 4 overs against New Zealand?

• Q23. In the 2026 Men's T20 World Cup Final, chasing a target of 256 (India 255), New Zealand were bowled out for what score?

• Q24. By winning the 2026 Men's T20 World Cup, India became the first country in history to win how many Men's T20 World Cup titles?

• Q25. Where were the XXV Winter Olympic Games held from 6 to 22 February 2026?

• Q26. Which country topped the medal table at the 2026 Milano Cortina Winter Olympics with 18 Gold, 12 Silver, and 11 Bronze medals (41 Total)?

• Q27. What were the top four countries in order on the final medal table of the 2026 Winter Olympics (Milano Cortina)?

★ **Official Study Publication**: Inclusive Universal Careers Academy (IUC Academy)
Primary Government Reference Portals: Press Information Bureau (PIB) | Union Budget Portal | Reserve Bank of India (RBI) | Defence Research and Development Organisation (DRDO)
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 *2* (Current Affairs *2026*)

• **Chapter 1**: 16th Finance Commission Report (2026–31) (Part I) — 41% Vertical Devolution & The New Horizontal Devolution Formula (10% GDP Contribution)

• **Chapter 2**: 16th Finance Commission Report (2026–31) (Part II) — ₹9.47 Lakh Crore Grants Architecture, Discontinued Grants & Fiscal Roadmap to 2030–31

• **Chapter 3**: RBI Monetary Policy 2026 & Banking Developments — Governor Sanjay Malhotra, 2026 MPC Reviews & October 2026 Repo Rate Hike to 5.50%

• **Chapter 4**: ICC Men's T20 World Cup 2026 (India & Sri Lanka) — India's Historic 3rd Title, 96-Run Final Victory over New Zealand & Tournament Records

• **Chapter 5**: XXV Winter Olympic Games 2026 (Milano Cortina, Italy) — Norway Tops Medal Table (41 Medals), Klæbo's 6 Golds & Global Sports Highlights

• **Chapter 6**: DRDO Defence Trials 2026 — Maiden Test of 'Kusha' LR-SAM, Pinaka Guided Rocket, Pralay Quasi-Ballistic Missile, LRLACM & Multi-Layered BMD

• **Chapter 7**: India's Ranks in Global Indices & Reports 2026 — SDG Index Best-Ever 94th Rank, Happiness (116th), Peace (127th), Press Freedom (157th) & Gender Gap (131st)

• **Chapter 8**: International Summits, Strategic Diplomacy & Bilateral Military Exercises in 2026 — Multilateral Forums & Strategic Partnerships

• **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 2 (Current Affairs 2026)	**Chapter 1**	16th Finance Commission Report (2026–31) (Part I) — 41% Vertical Devolution & The New Horizontal Devolution Formula (10% GDP Contribution)
Executive Structure of Volume 2 (Current Affairs 2026)	**Chapter 2**	16th Finance Commission Report (2026–31) (Part II) — ₹9.47 Lakh Crore Grants Architecture, Discontinued Grants & Fiscal Roadmap to 2030–31

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Executive Structure of Volume 2 (Current Affairs 2026)	Chapter 6	DRDO Defence Trials 2026 — Maiden Test of 'Kusha' LR-SAM, Pinaka Guided Rocket, Pralay Quasi-Ballistic Missile, LRLACM & Multi-Layered BMD
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Executive Structure of Volume 2 (Current Affairs 2026)	Chapter 8	International Summits, Strategic Diplomacy & Bilateral Military Exercises in 2026 — Multilateral Forums & Strategic Partnerships
Executive Structure of Volume 2 (Current Affairs 2026)	Solved Multiple-Choice Questions	45 Examination-Standard 4-Option MCQs with Detailed Analytical Explanations
Executive Structure of Volume 2 (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): 16th Finance Commission Report (2026–31) (Part I) — 41% Vertical Devolution & The New Horizontal Devolution Formula (10% GDP Contribution)

Statement-II (Chapter 2): 16th Finance Commission Report (2026–31) (Part II) — ₹9.47 Lakh Crore Grants Architecture, Discontinued Grants & Fiscal Roadmap to 2030–31

✔ **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): RBI Monetary Policy 2026 & Banking Developments — Governor Sanjay Malhotra, 2026 MPC Reviews & October 2026 Repo Rate Hike to 5.50%

Statement-II (Chapter 4): ICC Men's T20 World Cup 2026 (India & Sri Lanka) — India's Historic 3rd Title, 96-Run Final Victory over New Zealand & Tournament Records

✓ **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): XXV Winter Olympic Games 2026 (Milano Cortina, Italy) — Norway Tops Medal Table (41 Medals), Klæbo's 6 Golds & Global Sports Highlights

Statement-II (Chapter 6): DRDO Defence Trials 2026 — Maiden Test of 'Kusha' LR-SAM, Pinaka Guided Rocket, Pralay Quasi-Ballistic Missile, LRLACM & Multi-Layered BMD

✓ **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): India's Ranks in Global Indices & Reports 2026 — SDG Index Best-Ever 94th Rank, Happiness (116th), Peace (127th), Press Freedom (157th) & Gender Gap (131st)

Statement-II (Chapter 8): International Summits, Strategic Diplomacy & Bilateral Military Exercises in 2026 — Multilateral Forums & Strategic Partnerships

✓ **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: 16*th Finance Commission Report *(2026–31)* (Part I*)* — *41%* Vertical Devolution & The New Horizontal Formula

Chapter Key Study Pillars — Chapter 1: 16th Finance Commission Report (2026–31) (Part I) — 41% Vertical Devolution & The New Horizontal Formula

Key Study Pillar 1	Key Study Pillar 2	Key Study Pillar 3	Key Study Pillar 4
Constitutional Mandate, Composition & Tabling in Parliament	**Vertical Devolution (41% Retained) & Structural Shift in Horizontal Devolution**	**Process Flow Diagram: 16th Finance Commission (2026–31) Devolution Architecture**	**Side-by-Side Comparison: 15th Finance Commission vs. 16th Finance Commission Horizontal Formula**

1.1 Constitutional Mandate, Composition & Tabling in Parliament

Constituted under **Article 280 of the Constitution of India** under the chairmanship of **Dr. Arvind Panagariya** (former Vice-Chairman of NITI Aayog), the **Sixteenth Finance Commission (16th FC)** submitted its report covering the five-year award period **2026–31 (1 April 2026 to 31 March 2031)** (Union Budget Portal). The

report, along with the Explanatory Memorandum as to the Action Taken on its recommendations, was tabled in Parliament by Finance Minister Nirmala Sitharaman on **1 February 2026**.

1.2 Vertical Devolution *(41%* Retained*)* & Structural Shift in Horizontal Devolution

1. **Vertical Devolution Retained at 41%**: The 16th Finance Commission recommended retaining the States' share in the divisible pool of central taxes at **41%** for the 2026–31 period, unchanged from the 15th Finance Commission (Union Budget Portal). Although 18 of 28 states had demanded raising vertical devolution to 50%, the Commission maintained 41% while addressing fiscal efficiency through horizontal criteria.

2. **Overhaul of Horizontal Devolution Formula (Introduction of 'Contribution to GDP' at 10%)**: In a landmark departure from the 15th Finance Commission, the 16th FC **dropped the 'Tax and Fiscal Effort' (2.5%) criterion** and introduced a brand-new criterion—**'Contribution to GDP' with a 10% weight**—to reward economically productive states while balancing equity (Union Budget Portal).

1.3 Process Flow Diagram*: 16*th Finance Commission *(2026–31)* Devolution Architecture

Step-by-Step Conceptual Process Flowchart

STEP 1
Node 1: Constitutional Tabling

STEP 2
Tabled in Parliament on 1 Feb 2026 (Chairman: Dr. Arvind Panagariya); Effective 1 Apr 2026 to 31 Mar 2031

STEP 3
Node 2: Vertical Devolution

STEP 4
Retained at 41% of the Divisible Pool of Central Taxes (Accepted by Union Government)

STEP 5
Node 3: Equity & Need Weights

STEP 6
Income Distance: 42.5% (down from 45%) | Population (2011 Census): 17.5% (up from 15%) | Area: 10%

1.4 Side-by-Side Comparison*: 15*th Finance Commission vs. *16*th Finance Commission Horizontal Formula

This comparison table is the single highest-yield table for UPSC CSE, UPPSC, BPSC, and RBI Grade B examinations in 2026 (Union Budget Portal):

Horizontal Devolution Criterion	15th Finance Commission (2021–26) Weight	16th Finance Commission (2026–31) Weight	Exact Change in Weight	Analytical Purpose of Criterion	Official Source
1. Income Distance	45.0%	**42.5%**	-2.5% reduction	Measures gap of a state's per capita GSDP from the highest per-capita income state (fiscal equity)	India Budget
2. Population (2011 Census)	15.0%	**17.5%**	+2.5% increase	Reflects current population size and public service expenditure needs	India Budget
3. Demographic Performance	12.5%	**10.0%**	-2.5% reduction	Rewards states that achieved lower population growth / fertility transition	India Budget

Horizontal Devolution Criterion	15th Finance Commission (2021–26) Weight	16th Finance Commission (2026–31) Weight	Exact Change in Weight	Analytical Purpose of Criterion	Official Source
4. Area	15.0%	**10.0%**	-5.0% reduction	Accounts for higher administrative cost of delivering services across larger geographic area	India Budget
5. Forest and Ecology	10.0%	**10.0%**	Unchanged (0%)	Compensates states for maintaining dense and moderately dense forest cover	India Budget
6. Contribution to GDP	*Nil (Did not exist)*	**10.0%**	**+10.0% (NEW)**	Rewards states' economic output contribution to national GDP	India Budget
7. Tax and Fiscal Effort	2.5%	**Nil (Removed)**	-2.5% (Dropped)	Replaced by the broader 10% Contribution to GDP parameter	India Budget
Total Weightage	**100.0%**	**100.0%**	—	Balances fiscal equity (42.5% + 17.5% = 60%) with four 10% criteria (40%)	India Budget

Did You Know?
In the 16th Finance Commission's horizontal formula, **four criteria carry an identical weight of exactly 10% each**: **Area (10%)**, **Forest & Ecology (10%)**, **Demographic Performance (10%)**, and **Contribution to GDP (10%)**, while **Income Distance (42.5%)** and **2011 Population (17.5%)** together make up the remaining **60%** (Union Budget Portal).

Exam Trap Alert!
Examiners will try to trap you with three false statements: (1) "16th FC increased vertical devolution to 42%" (False—it stayed at **41%**); (2) "16th FC retained Tax & Fiscal Effort at 2.5%" (False—it was **removed** and replaced by **Contribution to GDP at 10%**); (3) "Population weight was reduced" (False—Population weight **increased from 15% to 17.5%!**).

★ **Memory Trick**:
"42.5 + 17.5 = 60, plus Four Tens (4 × 10 = 40)" — Income Distance (42.5%) + Population (17.5%) = 60%; Area, Forest, Demographic Performance, and Contribution to GDP are 10% each!

Chapter *2: 16*th Finance Commission Report *(2026–31)* (Part II*)* — ₹*9.47* Lakh Crore Grants, Abolished Grants & Fiscal Roadmap

Chapter Key Study Pillars — Chapter 2: 16th Finance Commission Report (2026–31) (Part II) — ₹9.47 Lakh Crore Grants, Abolished Grants & Fiscal Roadmap

Key Study Pillar 1
Radical Rationalization of Grants-in-Aid (Article 275)

Key Study Pillar 2
Fiscal Consolidation Blueprint & Warning on Unconditional Cash Transfers

Key Study Pillar 3
Process Flow Diagram: 16th Finance Commission Grants & Fiscal Discipline Blueprint (2026–31)

Key Study Pillar 4
Summary Table of 16th Finance Commission Grants & Fiscal Targets (2026–31)

2.1 Radical Rationalization of Grants-in-Aid (Article 275)

While retaining 41% vertical tax devolution, the 16th Finance Commission fundamentally re-engineered the structure of **Grants-in-Aid under Article 275** for the 2026–31 period (Union Budget Portal):

1. **Total Grants Recommended (₹9.47 Lakh Crore)**: For the five-year period 2026–31, the Commission recommended grants totalling **₹9.47 lakh crore**, strictly focused on two core constitutional domains: **Local Bodies** and **Disaster Management**:

- **Grants to Rural Local Bodies (PRIs)**: **₹4.35 lakh crore**
- **Grants to Urban Local Bodies (ULBs)**: **₹3.56 lakh crore**
- **Union's Contribution to Disaster Management Funds (SDRF/NDRF)**: **₹1.56 lakh crore**

2. **Complete Discontinuation of Three Grant Categories**: The 16th FC **completely abolished**:

- **Post-Devolution Revenue Deficit Grants** (which were a major component under the 15th FC)
- **Sector-Specific Grants**
- **State-Specific Grants**

3. **Strict Conditionalities for Local Body Grants (80:20 Split)**: Grants to local bodies are divided into **80% Basic Grants** and **20% Performance Grants.** A state is eligible to receive local body grants **only if** it fulfills three mandatory constitutional conditions: (i) duly constitutes its local bodies through timely elections as required under the Constitution, (ii) publishes provisional and audited accounts of local bodies in the public domain, and (iii) constitutes its **State Finance Commission (SFC)** on time (Union Budget Portal).

2.2 Fiscal Consolidation Blueprint & Warning on Unconditional Cash Transfers

- **Union Fiscal Deficit Target**: Reduce Union fiscal deficit to **3.5% of GDP by FY 2030–31**.
- **State Fiscal Deficit Limit**: Cap annual fiscal deficit of States at **3.0% of GSDP**.
- **Abolition of Off-Budget Borrowings**: Strictly discontinue off-budget borrowings by states and bring all extra-budgetary liabilities uniformly onto state budgets.
- **Combined Debt Trajectory**: Projected combined debt of the Union and State governments to decline from **77.3% of GDP in 2026–27 to 73.1% of GDP in 2030–31** (Union Budget Portal).
- **Caution on Unconditional Cash Transfers**: The 16th FC warned that unconditional cash transfer schemes now account for **20.2% of total subsidy spending**, risking fiscal instability and crowding out vital capital and social-sector expenditure.

2.3 Process Flow Diagram: 16th Finance Commission Grants & Fiscal Discipline Blueprint (2026–31)

Step-by-Step Conceptual Process Flowchart

STEP 1
Node 1: Total Grants ₹9.47L Cr

STEP 2
Rural Local Bodies: ₹4.35L Cr | Urban Local Bodies: ₹3.56L Cr | Disaster Funds: ₹1.56L Cr

STEP 3
Node 2: Abolished Grant Heads

STEP 4
Revenue Deficit Grants, Sector-Specific Grants & State-Specific Grants CEASED TO EXIST

STEP 5
Node 3: Local Body Conditions

STEP 6
80% Basic + 20% Performance Grants; requires timely Local Elections, Audited Accounts & Timely SFC

2.4 Summary Table of 16th Finance Commission Grants & Fiscal Targets (2026–31)

Grant / Fiscal Parameter	2026–31 Recommended Quantum / Target	Key Structural Rule / Conditionality	Official Source
Total Grants-in-Aid (2026–31)	**₹9.47 Lakh Crore**	Restricted solely to Local Bodies and Disaster Management	India Budget
Rural Local Bodies (PRI) Grants	**₹4.35 Lakh Crore**	80% Basic + 20% Performance; tied to SFC & audited accounts	India Budget
Urban Local Bodies (ULB) Grants	**₹3.56 Lakh Crore**	80% Basic + 20% Performance; tied to urban governance reforms	India Budget
Disaster Management Grants	**₹1.56 Lakh Crore**	Union's contribution toward State/National Disaster Funds	India Budget
Revenue Deficit / Sector / State Grants	**₹0 (Discontinued)**	Completely abolished to enforce hard budget constraints	India Budget
Union Fiscal Deficit Target (2030–31)	**3.5% of GDP**	Medium-term consolidation path for the Central Government	India Budget
State Fiscal Deficit Limit (2026–31)	**3.0% of GSDP**	All off-budget borrowings must be brought onto the budget	India Budget
Combined Union-State Debt Ratio	**77.3% (FY27) → 73.1% (FY31)**	Projected 4.2 percentage point decline over the 5-year award period	India Budget

Did You Know?
By eliminating Post-Devolution Revenue Deficit Grants, the 16th Finance Commission ended a multi-decade practice where states running persistent revenue deficits received compensatory grants, signalling a decisive shift toward **compliance-driven and performance-oriented fiscal federalism** (Union Budget Portal).

Exam Trap Alert!
Remember the exact split of the **₹9.47 lakh crore** grants for 2026–31: **₹4.35 lakh crore (Rural)** + **₹3.56 lakh crore (Urban)** + **₹1.56 lakh crore (Disaster)** = **₹9.47 lakh crore**. And remember the **80% Basic : 20% Performance** ratio for local body grants!

★ **Memory Trick**:
"4.35 Rural + 3.56 Urban + 1.56 Disaster = 9.47 Total" — And **3.5% Centre / 3.0% State** for the 2030–31 fiscal deficit caps.

Chapter 3 Comprehensive Analytical & Statutory Revision Matrix

Core Sub-Domain	Key Concept / Provision	Verified Analytical Parameters & Exam Distinctions (पत्र सूचना कार्यालय (PIB))
Radical Rationalization of Grants-in-Aid (Article 275)	**Total Grants Recommended (₹9.47 Lakh Crore)**	For the five-year period 2026–31, the Commission recommended grants totalling **₹9.47 lakh crore**, strictly focused on two core constitutional domains: **Local Bodies** and **Disaster Management
Fiscal Consolidation Blueprint & Warning on Unconditional Cash Transfers	**Complete Discontinuation of Three Grant Categories**	The 16th FC **completely abolished
Process Flow Diagram: 16th Finance Commission Grants & Fiscal Discipline Blueprint (2026–31)	**Post-Devolution Revenue Deficit Grants**	(which were a major component under the 15th FC)
Summary Table of 16th Finance Commission Grants & Fiscal Targets (2026–31)	**Strict Conditionalities for Local Body Grants (80:20 Split)**	Grants to local bodies are divided into **80% Basic Grants** and **20% Performance Grants**. A state is eligible to receive local body grants **only if** it fulfills three mandatory constitutional conditions: (i) duly constitutes its local bodies through timely elections as required under the Constitution, (ii) publishes provisional and audited accounts of local bodies in the public domain, and (iii) constitutes its **State Finance Commission (SFC)** on time (Union Budget Portal).
Radical Rationalization of Grants-in-Aid (Article 275)	**Union Fiscal Deficit Target**	Reduce Union fiscal deficit to **3.5% of GDP by FY 2030–31**.
Fiscal Consolidation Blueprint & Warning on Unconditional Cash Transfers	**State Fiscal Deficit Limit**	Cap annual fiscal deficit of States at **3.0% of GSDP**.

Core Sub-Domain	Key Concept / Provision	Verified Analytical Parameters & Exam Distinctions (पत्र सूचना कार्यालय (PIB))
Process Flow Diagram: 16th Finance Commission Grants & Fiscal Discipline Blueprint (2026–31)	**Abolition of Off-Budget Borrowings**	Strictly discontinue off-budget borrowings by states and bring all extra-budgetary liabilities uniformly onto state budgets.
Summary Table of 16th Finance Commission Grants & Fiscal Targets (2026–31)	**Combined Debt Trajectory**	Projected combined debt of the Union and State governments to decline from **77.3% of GDP in 2026–27 to 73.1% of GDP in 2030–31** (Union Budget Portal).
Radical Rationalization of Grants-in-Aid (Article 275)	**Caution on Unconditional Cash Transfers**	The 16th FC warned that unconditional cash transfer schemes now account for **20.2% of total subsidy spending**, risking fiscal instability and crowding out vital capital and social-sector expenditure.

Chapter 3 Multi-Statement Exam Verification Drills

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

Statement-I (Total Grants Recommended (₹9.47 Lakh Crore)): For the five-year period 2026–31, the Commission recommended grants totalling **₹9.47 lakh crore**, strictly focused on two core constitutional domains: **Local Bodies** and **Disaster Management

Statement-II (Complete Discontinuation of Three Grant Categories): The 16th FC **completely abolished

✓ **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 (Post-Devolution Revenue Deficit Grants): (which were a major component under the 15th FC)

Statement-II (Strict Conditionalities for Local Body Grants (80:20 Split)): Grants to local bodies are divided into **80% Basic Grants** and **20% Performance Grants**. A state is eligible to receive local body grants **only if** it fulfills three mandatory constitutional conditions: (i) duly constitutes its local bodies through timely elections as required under the Constitution, (ii) publishes provisional and audited accounts of local bodies in the public domain, and (iii) constitutes its **State Finance Commission (SFC)** on time (Union Budget Portal).

✓ **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 #3 — Both Statements Verified Correct

Statement-I (Union Fiscal Deficit Target): Reduce Union fiscal deficit to **3.5% of GDP by FY 2030–31**.

Statement-II (State Fiscal Deficit Limit): Cap annual fiscal deficit of States at **3.0% of GSDP**.

✓ **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 #4 Both Statements Verified Correct

Statement-I (Abolition of Off-Budget Borrowings): Strictly discontinue off-budget borrowings by states and bring all extra-budgetary liabilities uniformly onto state budgets.

Statement-II (Combined Debt Trajectory): Projected combined debt of the Union and State governments to decline from **77.3% of GDP in 2026–27 to 73.1% of GDP in 2030–31** (Union Budget Portal).

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

Chapter 3: RBI Monetary Policy 2026 & Banking Developments — Governor Sanjay Malhotra & Repo Rate Trajectory

Chapter Key Study Pillars — Chapter 3: RBI Monetary Policy 2026 & Banking Developments — Governor Sanjay Malhotra & Repo Rate Trajectory

Key Study Pillar 1	Key Study Pillar 2	Key Study Pillar 3
Monetary Policy Committee (MPC) Decisions Across 2026	Process Flow Diagram: RBI Monetary Policy Corridor in 2026 (Post-7 October 2026 Review)	Official Table of RBI Policy Rates (Effective 7 October 2026)

3.1 Monetary Policy Committee (MPC) Decisions Across 2026

Under the chairmanship of **Shri Sanjay Malhotra, Governor, Reserve Bank of India**, the six-member statutory Monetary Policy Committee (MPC) under Section 45ZB of the RBI Act, 1934 navigated domestic growth-inflation dynamics across its bi-monthly reviews in 2026 (Reserve Bank of India):

1. **Early & Mid-2026 Bi-Monthly Reviews (February, April, June & 62nd MPC Meeting on 3–5 August 2026):** Through the April, June, and **62nd MPC meeting held on 3–5 August 2026**, the MPC maintained the policy repo rate unchanged at **5.25%**, focusing on liquidity alignment so that the Weighted Average Call Rate (WACR) remained tightly anchored to the policy repo rate (Reserve Bank of India).

2. **October 2026 Bi-Monthly Review (7 October 2026 — 25 bps Hike to 5.50%):** In its meeting concluding on 7 **October 2026**, considering evolving inflation pressures and global macroeconomic headwinds, the MPC **unanimously voted to increase the policy repo rate by 25 basis points (0.25%) from 5.25% to 5.50%** (Reserve Bank of India).

3.2 Process Flow Diagram: RBI Monetary Policy Corridor in 2026 (Post-7 October 2026 Review)

Step-by-Step Conceptual Process Flowchart

STEP 1	STEP 2	STEP 3	STEP 4	STEP 5	STEP 6
Node 1: MPC Governance	Chaired by RBI Governor Shri Sanjay Malhotra (62nd MPC: 3-5 Aug 2026; Oct Review: 7 Oct 2026)	Node 2: Policy Repo Rate	Unanimously raised by +25 bps on 7 October 2026 from 5.25% to 5.50%	Node 3: Corridor Floor (SDF)	Standing Deposit Facility (SDF) Rate adjusted to 5.25% (25 bps below Repo Rate)

3.3 Official Table of RBI Policy Rates (Effective 7 October 2026)

Monetary Policy Instrument	Rate Prior to 7 Oct 2026 (Aug 2026 MPC)	Rate Effective 7 October 2026	Operational Role in Liquidity Management	Official Source
Policy Repo Rate	5.25%	**5.50%**	Benchmark rate at which RBI lends overnight liquidity to banks against government securities	RBI
Standing Deposit Facility (SDF) Rate	5.00%	**5.25%**	Uncollateralized floor of the LAF corridor (Repo Rate minus 25 bps)	RBI
Marginal Standing Facility (MSF) Rate	5.50%	**5.75%**	Penal ceiling of the LAF corridor (Repo Rate plus 25 bps) where banks dip into SLR up to 2%	RBI
Bank Rate	5.50%	**5.75%**	Standard discount/penal rate aligned with the MSF rate under Section 49 of RBI Act	RBI
Operating Target of Monetary Policy	WACR	**WACR (Weighted Average Call Rate)**	Overnight interbank call money rate kept aligned with Policy Repo Rate	RBI

Did You Know?
The **Standing Deposit Facility (SDF)**, introduced under the amended Section 17 of the RBI Act, 1934, allows the Reserve Bank of India to absorb excess liquidity from commercial banks **without providing any collateral (government securities)** in return, serving as the symmetric 25-bps floor below the Repo Rate (Reserve Bank of India).

Exam Trap Alert!
If an exam asks for the RBI Governor chairing the 2026 MPC meetings (including the 62nd MPC meeting in August 2026 and the October 2026 review), the answer is **Shri Sanjay Malhotra** (who succeeded Shaktikanta Das). Also note the symmetric 50-bps LAF corridor: **SDF (5.25%) — Repo (5.50%) — MSF/Bank Rate (5.75%)**!

★ **Memory Trick**:
"5.25 – 5.50 – 5.75 (SDF – Repo – MSF)" — A clean quarter-percent step ladder after the 7 October 2026 unanimous 25-bps hike.

Chapter 4: ICC Men's T20 World Cup 2026 (India & Sri Lanka) — India's Historic 3rd Title & Tournament Records

Chapter Key Study Pillars — Chapter 4: ICC Men's T20 World Cup 2026 (India & Sri Lanka) — India's Historic 3rd Title & Tournament Records

Key Study Pillar 1
Tournament Format, Co-Hosts & Historic Records Broken by India

Key Study Pillar 2
Process Flow Diagram: 2026 ICC Men's T20 World Cup Final & Record Breakdown

Key Study Pillar 3
Master Fact Sheet: 2026 ICC Men's T20 World Cup

4.1 Tournament Format, Co-Hosts & Historic Records Broken by India

The **2026 ICC Men's T20 World Cup** was the **10th edition** of the tournament, jointly hosted by **India (BCCI) and Sri Lanka (SLC)** from February to **8 March 2026** (PIB Official Release). Featuring **20 teams** divided into four groups of five in the initial group stage followed by the Super Eight and Knockouts, the tournament culminated in a historic final at the **Narendra Modi Stadium, Ahmedabad** on **8 March 2026**.

Led by captain **Suryakumar Yadav**, **India defeated New Zealand by 96 runs in the final** to lift the 2026 ICC Men's T20 World Cup trophy, achieving **three unprecedented world records** in Men's T20 World Cup history:

1. **First Team to Win 3 Men's T20 World Cup Titles**: India became the most successful nation in tournament history with **three titles (2007, 2024, and 2026)**, surpassing two-time winners West Indies (2012, 2016) and England (2010, 2022).
2. **First Host Country to Win the Men's T20 World Cup**: Prior to 2026, no host nation had ever won the Men's T20 World Cup in the preceding nine editions.
3. **First Team to Successfully Defend a Men's T20 World Cup Title**: Having won the 2024 edition in the West Indies/USA (by defeating South Africa), India became the first team ever to win back-to-back Men's T20 World Cup titles (2024 and 2026).

4.2 Process Flow Diagram: *2026* ICC Men's T*20* World Cup Final & Record Breakdown

Step-by-Step Conceptual Process Flowchart

STEP 1	STEP 2	STEP 3	STEP 4	STEP 5	STEP 6
Node 1: Tournament Structure	10th Edition | Co-Hosts: India & Sri Lanka | 20 Teams (4 Groups of 5 -> Super 8 -> Semis -> Final)	Node 2: Ahmedabad Final (8 Mar)	Venue: Narendra Modi Stadium | India: 255 runs (Target 256) vs New Zealand: 159 all out	Node 3: Match Verdict & Star	India defeated New Zealand by 96 runs | Player of the Match in Final: Jasprit Bumrah (4/15 in 4 overs)

4.3 Master Fact Sheet: *2026* ICC Men's T*20* World Cup

Tournament Parameter	Verified 2026 Fact / Record	Exam Relevance & Context	Official Source
Edition & Year	**10th Edition (2026)**	Concluded on **8 March 2026**	PIB
Co-Host Nations	**India and Sri Lanka**	First T20 World Cup in the subcontinent since 2021 (UAE/ Oman) and 2016 (India)	PIB
Total Participating Teams	**20 Teams**	Divided into 4 groups of 5 teams each in Group Stage	PIB
Champion & Captain	**India** (Captain: **Suryakumar Yadav**)	India's 3rd Men's T20 World Cup title (2007 under MS Dhoni, 2024 under Rohit Sharma, 2026 under Suryakumar Yadav)	PIB
Runner-Up & Captain	**New Zealand** (Captain: **Mitchell Santner**)	Reached the final with 6 wins and 2 losses; Tim Seifert scored 52 off 26 balls in the final	PIB

Tournament Parameter	Verified 2026 Fact / Record	Exam Relevance & Context	Official Source
Final Venue & Date	**Narendra Modi Stadium, Ahmedabad (8 March 2026)**	India posted 255 (target 256) and bowled out New Zealand for 159	PIB
Margin of Victory in Final	**96 Runs**	Largest runs margin in a Men's T20 World Cup Final	PIB
Player of the Match (Final)	**Jasprit Bumrah (India)**	Picked up **4 wickets for just 15 runs in 4 overs** (4-0-15-4)	PIB

Did You Know?
India has now won its **three Men's T20 World Cup titles under three different captains**: **M. S. Dhoni** in the inaugural 2007 edition (South Africa), **Rohit Sharma** in the 9th edition in the 2026 Compendium (West Indies & USA), and **Suryakumar Yadav** in the 10th edition in 2026 (India & Sri Lanka) (PIB).

Exam Trap Alert!
Do NOT confuse the **2024 T20 World Cup Final** (where India beat **South Africa** by 7 runs at Bridgetown, Barbados under captain Rohit Sharma) with the **2026 T20 World Cup Final** (where India beat **New Zealand** by **96 runs** at Narendra Modi Stadium, Ahmedabad on 8 March 2026 under captain **Suryakumar Yadav**, with **Jasprit Bumrah** taking 4/15 as Player of the Match)!

★ **Memory Trick**:
"255 vs 159 = 96-Run Win for Title #3" — At Ahmedabad on 8 March 2026, India (255) beat New Zealand (159) by 96 runs, with Bumrah's 4/15 sealing Title #3.

Chapter *5* Comprehensive Analytical & Statutory Revision Matrix

Core Sub-Domain	Key Concept / Provision	Verified Analytical Parameters & Exam Distinctions (पत्र सूचना कार्यालय (PIB))
Tournament Format, Co-Hosts & Historic Records Broken by India	**First Team to Win 3 Men's T20 World Cup Titles**	India became the most successful nation in tournament history with **three titles (2007, 2024, and 2026)**, surpassing two-time winners West Indies (2012, 2016) and England (2010, 2022).
Process Flow Diagram: 2026 ICC Men's T20 World Cup Final & Record Breakdown	**First Host Country to Win the Men's T20 World Cup**	Prior to 2026, no host nation had ever won the Men's T20 World Cup in the preceding nine editions.
Master Fact Sheet: 2026 ICC Men's T20 World Cup	**First Team to Successfully Defend a Men's T20 World Cup Title**	Having won the 2024 edition in the West Indies/USA (by defeating South Africa), India became the first team ever to win back-to-back Men's T20 World Cup titles (2024 and 2026).

Chapter 5 Multi-Statement Exam Verification Drills

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

Statement-I (First Team to Win 3 Men's T20 World Cup Titles): India became the most successful nation in tournament history with **three titles (2007, 2024, and 2026)**, surpassing two-time winners West Indies (2012, 2016) and England (2010, 2022).

Statement-II (First Host Country to Win the Men's T20 World Cup): Prior to 2026, no host nation had ever won the Men's T20 World Cup in the preceding nine editions.

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

Chapter 5: XXV Winter Olympic Games 2026 (Milano Cortina, Italy) — Medal Table & Historic Performances

Chapter Key Study Pillars — Chapter 5: XXV Winter Olympic Games 2026 (Milano Cortina, Italy) — Medal Table & Historic Performances

Key Study Pillar 1	Key Study Pillar 2	Key Study Pillar 3	Key Study Pillar 4
Host Cities, Timeline & Structure of the 2026 Winter Olympics	Medal Table Standings & Individual Athletic Records	Process Flow Diagram: Milano Cortina 2026 Winter Olympics Summary	Official Top 5 Medal Table: 2026 Winter Olympics (Milano Cortina, Italy)

5.1 Host Cities, Timeline & Structure of the 2026 Winter Olympics

The **2026 Winter Olympics**, officially designated as the **XXV Winter Olympic Games**, were held in **Milan and Cortina d'Ampezzo (Milano Cortina), Italy**, from **6 February to 22 February 2026** (PIB Official Release). Featuring **116 medal events** across winter sports disciplines, it was the fourth Olympic Games hosted by Italy (after Cortina d'Ampezzo 1956 Winter, Rome 1960 Summer, and Turin 2006 Winter) and the first Winter Olympics officially co-hosted by two cities.

5.2 Medal Table Standings & Individual Athletic Records

1. **Norway Tops the Medal Table (41 Medals)**: Despite having a population of just 5.7 million, **Norway** finished 1st overall for the fourth consecutive Winter Olympics, winning **18 Gold, 12 Silver, and 11 Bronze medals (41 Total)**.

2. **United States Finishes 2nd (33 Medals)**: The **United States** secured 2nd place with **12 Gold, 12 Silver, and 9 Bronze medals (33 Total)**.

3. **Netherlands (3rd) and Host Nation Italy (4th)**: Both the **Netherlands** and **Italy** won **10 Gold medals each**, with the Netherlands ranking 3rd on higher Silver count (**10 Gold, 7 Silver, 3 Bronze = 20 Total**) and host **Italy** finishing 4th (**10 Gold, 6 Silver, 14 Bronze = 30 Total**). **Germany** placed 5th (**8 Gold, 10 Silver, 8 Bronze = 26 Total**).

4. **Johannes Høsflot Klæbo's Historic 6 Gold Medals**: Norwegian cross-country skier **Johannes Høsflot Klæbo** won **6 gold medals at Milano Cortina 2026**, breaking Eric Heiden's single-Games Winter Olympic gold record (5 golds in 1980) and becoming the most decorated Winter Olympian in history.

5. **Other Landmark Champions at Milano Cortina *2026*:**

- **Xandra Velzeboer (Netherlands)**: Won short-track speed skating **500m and 1000m double gold**.
- **Loïc Meillard (Switzerland)**: Won the men's alpine skiing slalom gold.
- **Elana Meyers Taylor (USA)**: Won her first career Olympic gold medal in bobsleigh at her fifth Winter Games.
- **Miura Riku and Kihara Ryuichi (Japan)**: Won Japan's first-ever Olympic pairs figure skating gold medal.

5.3 Process Flow Diagram*:* Milano Cortina *2026* Winter Olympics Summary

Step-by-Step Conceptual Process Flowchart

STEP 1	STEP 2	STEP 3	STEP 4	STEP 5	STEP 6
Node 1: Games Overview	XXV Winter Olympic Games | Hosts: Milan & Cortina d'Ampezzo, Italy (6 to 22 February 2026)	Node 2: Top 2 Nations	#1 Norway: 18 Gold, 12 Silver, 11 Bronze (41 Total) | #2 USA: 12 Gold, 12 Silver, 9 Bronze (33 Total)	Node 3: Ranks #3 to #5	#3 Netherlands (10G, 7S, 3B = 20) | #4 Italy (10G, 6S, 14B = 30) | #5 Germany (8G, 10S, 8B = 26)

5.4 Official Top *5* Medal Table*: 2026* Winter Olympics *(*Milano Cortina, Italy*)*

Rank	Nation (NOC)	Gold	Silver	Bronze	Total Medals	Key Highlight at Milano Cortina 2026
1	Norway (NOR)	18	12	11	41	Topped both Gold (18) and Total (41) counts; Klæbo won 6 Golds
2	United States (USA)	12	12	9	33	2nd overall in both Gold and Total medals
3	Netherlands (NED)	10	7	3	20	Dominated speed skating & short-track (Xandra Velzeboer double gold)
4	Italy (ITA) [Host]	10	6	14	30	Best-ever home Winter Olympic haul with 30 total medals
5	Germany (GER)	8	10	8	26	Strong podium finishes across sliding and nordic events

Did You Know?
Ski Mountaineering (Skimo) made its official Olympic debut as a medal sport at the **2026 Milano Cortina Winter Olympics**, featuring men's sprint, women's sprint, and mixed relay events.

Exam Trap Alert!
Notice why **Netherlands (20 total medals)** is ranked **3rd** ahead of host **Italy (30 total medals)** in the official Olympic medal table: Olympic standings are ranked first by **Gold medals** (both tied at 10 Golds), and ties are broken by **Silver medals** (Netherlands had 7 Silvers vs. Italy's 6 Silvers)!

★ **Memory Trick**:
"N-U-N-I-G (18-12-10-10-8 Golds)" — Norway (18G), USA (12G), Netherlands (10G), Italy (10G), Germany (8G).

Chapter *6* Comprehensive Analytical & Statutory Revision Matrix

Core Sub-Domain	Key Concept / Provision	Verified Analytical Parameters & Exam Distinctions (पत्र सूचना कार्यालय (PIB))
Host Cities, Timeline & Structure of the 2026 Winter Olympics	**Norway Tops the Medal Table (41 Medals)**	Despite having a population of just 5.7 million, **Norway** finished 1st overall for the fourth consecutive Winter Olympics, winning **18 Gold, 12 Silver, and 11 Bronze medals (41 Total)**.
Medal Table Standings & Individual Athletic Records	**United States Finishes 2nd (33 Medals)**	The **United States** secured 2nd place with **12 Gold, 12 Silver, and 9 Bronze medals (33 Total)**.
Process Flow Diagram: Milano Cortina 2026 Winter Olympics Summary	**Netherlands (3rd) and Host Nation Italy (4th)**	Both the **Netherlands** and **Italy** won **10 Gold medals each**, with the Netherlands ranking 3rd on higher Silver count (**10 Gold, 7 Silver, 3 Bronze = 20 Total**) and host **Italy** finishing 4th (**10 Gold, 6 Silver, 14 Bronze = 30 Total**). **Germany** placed 5th (**8 Gold, 10 Silver, 8 Bronze = 26 Total**).
Official Top 5 Medal Table: 2026 Winter Olympics (Milano Cortina, Italy)	**Johannes Høsflot Klæbo's Historic 6 Gold Medals**	Norwegian cross-country skier **Johannes Høsflot Klæbo** won **6 gold medals at Milano Cortina 2026**, breaking Eric Heiden's single-Games Winter Olympic gold record (5 golds in 1980) and becoming the most decorated Winter Olympian in history.
Host Cities, Timeline & Structure of the 2026 Winter Olympics	**Xandra Velzeboer (Netherlands)**	Won short-track speed skating **500m and 1000m double gold**.
Medal Table Standings & Individual Athletic Records	**Loïc Meillard (Switzerland)**	Won the men's alpine skiing slalom gold.
Process Flow Diagram: Milano Cortina 2026 Winter Olympics Summary	**Elana Meyers Taylor (USA)**	Won her first career Olympic gold medal in bobsleigh at her fifth Winter Games.
Official Top 5 Medal Table: 2026 Winter Olympics (Milano Cortina, Italy)	**Miura Riku and Kihara Ryuichi (Japan)**	Won Japan's first-ever Olympic pairs figure skating gold medal.

Chapter 6 Multi-Statement Exam Verification Drills

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

Statement-I (Norway Tops the Medal Table (41 Medals)): Despite having a population of just 5.7 million, **Norway** finished 1st overall for the fourth consecutive Winter Olympics, winning **18 Gold, 12 Silver, and 11 Bronze medals (41 Total)**.

Statement-II (United States Finishes 2nd (33 Medals)): The **United States** secured 2nd place with **12 Gold, 12 Silver, and 9 Bronze medals (33 Total)**.

✓ **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 (Netherlands (3rd) and Host Nation Italy (4th)): Both the **Netherlands** and **Italy** won **10 Gold medals each**, with the Netherlands ranking 3rd on higher Silver count (**10 Gold, 7 Silver, 3 Bronze = 20 Total**) and host **Italy** finishing 4th (**10 Gold, 6 Silver, 14 Bronze = 30 Total**). **Germany** placed 5th (**8 Gold, 10 Silver, 8 Bronze = 26 Total**).

Statement-II (Johannes Høsflot Klæbo's Historic 6 Gold Medals): Norwegian cross-country skier **Johannes Høsflot Klæbo** won **6 gold medals at Milano Cortina 2026**, breaking Eric Heiden's single-Games Winter Olympic gold record (5 golds in 1980) and becoming the most decorated Winter Olympian in history.

✓ **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 #3 — Both Statements Verified Correct

Statement-I (Xandra Velzeboer (Netherlands)): Won short-track speed skating **500m and 1000m double gold**.

Statement-II (Loïc Meillard (Switzerland)): Won the men's alpine skiing slalom gold.

✓ **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 #4 — Both Statements Verified Correct

Statement-I (Elana Meyers Taylor (USA)): Won her first career Olympic gold medal in bobsleigh at her fifth Winter Games.

Statement-II (Miura Riku and Kihara Ryuichi (Japan)): Won Japan's first-ever Olympic pairs figure skating gold medal.

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

Chapter 6: DRDO Defence Trials 2026 — 'Kusha' LR-SAM, Pinaka Guided Rocket, Pralay, LRLACM & Multi-Layered BMD

Chapter Key Study Pillars — Chapter 6: DRDO Defence Trials 2026 — 'Kusha' LR-SAM, Pinaka Guided Rocket, Pralay, LRLACM & Multi-Layered BMD

Key Study Pillar 1	Key Study Pillar 2	Key Study Pillar 3
Indigenous Defence R&D Surge in 2026	**Process Flow Diagram: Chronology of DRDO's Major 2026 Missile & Air-Defence Trials**	**Master Reference Table: DRDO Missile & Weapon Trials in 2026**

6.1 Indigenous Defence R&D Surge in *2026*

In 2026, the **Defence Research and Development Organisation (DRDO)** conducted a series of high-precision missile and air-defence flight tests from the Integrated Test Range (ITR), Chandipur and **Dr. APJ Abdul Kalam Island** off the coast of Odisha (DRDO Official Portal, PIB Official Release):

1. **Maiden Flight-Test of 'Kusha' Long-Range Surface-to-Air Missile (LR-SAM) — 23 July 2026**: On **23 July 2026**, DRDO successfully conducted the **maiden flight-test of the indigenous 'Kusha' Long-Range Surface-to-Air Missile (LR-SAM)** from APJ Abdul Kalam Island, Odisha (PIB Official Release). The missile successfully intercepted an electronic target simulating a high-speed, high-altitude aerial threat. Developed under Project Kusha (India's indigenous S-400 class air defence system), it is capable of neutralising fighter jets, cruise missiles, UAVs, and AWACS aircraft across a wide range and altitude envelope. Activities were monitored by Defence Secretary and Secretary DDR&D / Chairman DRDO charge **Shri Rajesh Kumar Singh**.

2. **Pinaka Long Range Guided Rocket Flight-Test — 8 July 2026**: On **8 July 2026**, DRDO successfully flight-tested the **Pinaka Long Range Guided Rocket** (and extended-range guided variants), validating extreme range accuracy, in-flight trajectory correction, and salvo launch reliability for the Indian Army's artillery regiments (PIB Official Release).

3. **Quasi-Ballistic Missile 'Pralay' Successful Flight-Test — 5 November 2026**: On **5 November 2026**, DRDO conducted a successful flight-test of the indigenous surface-to-surface **quasi-ballistic missile 'Pralay'** (PIB Official Release). Equipped with a solid-propellant rocket motor and state-of-the-art navigation, *Pralay* can change its trajectory mid-air after covering a certain range to defeat enemy ballistic missile defence (BMD) interceptors.

4. **Long Range Land Attack Cruise Missile (LRLACM) Flight-Test — 15 June 2026**: On **15 June 2026**, DRDO successfully conducted the flight-test of the **Long Range Land Attack Cruise Missile (LRLACM)** configured to launch from mobile articulated launchers as well as naval vertical launch systems (PIB Official Release).

5. **Three Consecutive Multi-Layered Ballistic Missile Defence (BMD) Tests — 10 & 11 June 2026**: On **10 and 11 June 2026**, DRDO conducted **three consecutive flight-tests** demonstrating India's next-generation multi-layered defence against long-range ballistic missiles (PIB Official Release).

6. **Advanced Agni Missile Flight-Trial — 9 May 2026**: On **9 May 2026**, India conducted a successful flight-trial of an **Advanced Agni missile** validating new composite materials, re-entry thermal protection, and high-accuracy terminal guidance (PIB Official Release).

6.2 Process Flow Diagram: Chronology of DRDO's Major 2026 Missile & Air-Defence Trials

Step-by-Step Conceptual Process Flowchart

STEP 1
Node 1: Strategic Missile Trials 2026

STEP 2
Advanced Agni Trial (9 May 2026) | 3 Consecutive BMD Tests (10–11 Jun) | LRLACM Test (15 Jun 2026)

STEP 3
Node 2: July 2026 Guided Rocket

STEP 4
Pinaka Long Range Guided Rocket successful flight-test on 8 July 2026

STEP 5
Node 3: July 2026 Maiden LR-SAM

STEP 6
Maiden flight-test of 'Kusha' Long-Range Surface-to-Air Missile on 23 July 2026 (Odisha coast)

6.3 Master Reference Table: DRDO Missile & Weapon Trials in 2026

Weapon System / Missile	Category / Classification	Exact 2026 Test Date	Key Technical Capability Demonstrated	Official Source
'Kusha' Missile System	Long-Range Surface-to-Air Missile (LR-SAM)	**23 July 2026** (Maiden Test)	Intercepts fighter jets, missiles, UAVs & large aircraft at long range/high altitude	PIB
Pinaka Guided Rocket	Long-Range Multi-Barrel Guided Artillery Rocket	**8 July 2026**	High-precision guided artillery strike with mid-course navigation	PIB
'Pralay' Missile	Surface-to-Surface Quasi-Ballistic Missile	**5 November 2026**	Solid-fuel tactical missile capable of mid-air manoeuvring to evade BMD	PIB
LRLACM	Long Range Land Attack Cruise Missile	**15 June 2026**	Terrain-hugging subsonic cruise missile for land and naval universal vertical launch	PIB
Multi-Layered BMD System	Ballistic Missile Defence Interceptors	**10 & 11 June 2026**	Three consecutive flight-tests against long-range ballistic missile targets	PIB
Advanced Agni Variant	Strategic Surface-to-Surface Ballistic Missile	**9 May 2026**	Next-generation composite rocket motors and advanced navigation	PIB

Did You Know?
A **quasi-ballistic missile** like **Pralay** (tested on 5 November 2026) flies on a largely low-trajectory ballistic path but performs **aerodynamic manoeuvres during flight** using control fins and thrust vectoring, making it extremely difficult for enemy radar and anti-ballistic missiles to predict its impact point (PIB).

Exam Trap Alert!
Do NOT confuse **'Kusha'** with a surface-to-surface missile! **'Kusha'** (maiden flight-test on **23 July 2026**) is an indigenous **Long-Range Surface-to-Air Missile (LR-SAM)** air defence system, whereas **'Pralay'** (tested on **5 November 2026**) is a **Surface-to-Surface Quasi-Ballistic Missile**!

★ **Memory Trick**:
"Kusha guards the Sky (LR-SAM, 23 July), Pralay strikes the Surface (Quasi-Ballistic, 5 Nov)" — Clear distinction between air defence and surface-to-surface strike.

Chapter 7 Comprehensive Analytical & Statutory Revision Matrix

Core Sub-Domain	Key Concept / Provision	Verified Analytical Parameters & Exam Distinctions (पत्र सूचना कार्यालय (PIB))
Indigenous Defence R&D Surge in 2026	**Maiden Flight-Test of 'Kusha' Long-Range Surface-to-Air Missile (LR-SAM) — 23 July 2026**	On **23 July 2026**, DRDO successfully conducted the **maiden flight-test of the indigenous 'Kusha' Long-Range Surface-to-Air Missile (LR-SAM)** from APJ Abdul Kalam Island, Odisha (PIB Official Release). The missile successfully intercepted an electronic target simulating a high-speed, high-altitude aerial threat. Developed under Project Kusha (India's indigenous S-400 class air defence system), it is capable of neutralising fighter jets, cruise missiles, UAVs, and AWACS aircraft across a wide range and altitude envelope. Activities were monitored by Defence Secretary and Secretary DDR&D / Chairman DRDO charge **Shri Rajesh Kumar Singh**.
Process Flow Diagram: Chronology of DRDO's Major 2026 Missile & Air-Defence Trials	**Pinaka Long Range Guided Rocket Flight-Test — 8 July 2026**	On **8 July 2026**, DRDO successfully flight-tested the **Pinaka Long Range Guided Rocket** (and extended-range guided variants), validating extreme range accuracy, in-flight trajectory correction, and salvo launch reliability for the Indian Army's artillery regiments (PIB Official Release).
Master Reference Table: DRDO Missile & Weapon Trials in 2026	**Quasi-Ballistic Missile 'Pralay' Successful Flight-Test — 5 November 2026**	On **5 November 2026**, DRDO conducted a successful flight-test of the indigenous surface-to-surface **quasi-ballistic missile 'Pralay'** (PIB Official Release). Equipped with a solid-propellant rocket motor and state-of-the-art navigation, *Pralay* can change its trajectory mid-air after covering a certain range to defeat enemy ballistic missile defence (BMD) interceptors.
Indigenous Defence R&D Surge in 2026	**Long Range Land Attack Cruise Missile (LRLACM) Flight-Test — 15 June 2026**	On **15 June 2026**, DRDO successfully conducted the flight-test of the **Long Range Land Attack Cruise Missile (LRLACM)** configured to launch from mobile articulated launchers as well as naval vertical launch systems (PIB Official Release).
Process Flow Diagram: Chronology of DRDO's Major 2026 Missile & Air-Defence Trials	**Three Consecutive Multi-Layered Ballistic Missile Defence (BMD) Tests — 10 & 11 June 2026**	On **10 and 11 June 2026**, DRDO conducted **three consecutive flight-tests** demonstrating India's next-generation multi-layered defence against long-range ballistic missiles (PIB Official Release).
Master Reference Table: DRDO Missile & Weapon Trials in 2026	**Advanced Agni Missile Flight-Trial — 9 May 2026**	On **9 May 2026**, India conducted a successful flight-trial of an **Advanced Agni missile** validating new composite materials, re-entry thermal protection, and high-accuracy terminal guidance (PIB Official Release).

Chapter 7 Multi-Statement Exam Verification Drills

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

Statement-I (Maiden Flight-Test of 'Kusha' Long-Range Surface-to-Air Missile (LR-SAM) — 23 July 2026): On **23 July 2026**, DRDO successfully conducted the **maiden flight-test of the indigenous 'Kusha' Long-Range Surface-to-Air Missile (LR-SAM)** from APJ Abdul Kalam Island, Odisha (PIB Official Release). The missile successfully intercepted an electronic target simulating a high-speed, high-altitude aerial threat. Developed under Project Kusha (India's indigenous S-400 class air defence system), it is capable of neutralising fighter jets, cruise missiles, UAVs, and AWACS aircraft across a wide range and altitude envelope. Activities were monitored by Defence Secretary and Secretary DDR&D / Chairman DRDO charge **Shri Rajesh Kumar Singh**.

Statement-II (Pinaka Long Range Guided Rocket Flight-Test — 8 July 2026): On **8 July 2026**, DRDO successfully flight-tested the **Pinaka Long Range Guided Rocket** (and extended-range guided variants), validating extreme range accuracy, in-flight trajectory correction, and salvo launch reliability for the Indian Army's artillery regiments (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 (Quasi-Ballistic Missile 'Pralay' Successful Flight-Test — 5 November 2026): On **5 November 2026**, DRDO conducted a successful flight-test of the indigenous surface-to-surface **quasi-ballistic missile 'Pralay'** (PIB Official Release). Equipped with a solid-propellant rocket motor and state-of-the-art navigation, *Pralay* can change its trajectory mid-air after covering a certain range to defeat enemy ballistic missile defence (BMD) interceptors.

Statement-II (Long Range Land Attack Cruise Missile (LRLACM) Flight-Test — 15 June 2026): On **15 June 2026**, DRDO successfully conducted the flight-test of the **Long Range Land Attack Cruise Missile (LRLACM)** configured to launch from mobile articulated launchers as well as naval vertical launch systems (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 (Three Consecutive Multi-Layered Ballistic Missile Defence (BMD) Tests — 10 & 11 June 2026): On **10 and 11 June 2026**, DRDO conducted **three consecutive flight-tests** demonstrating India's next-generation multi-layered defence against long-range ballistic missiles (PIB Official Release).

Statement-II (Advanced Agni Missile Flight-Trial — 9 May 2026): On **9 May 2026**, India conducted a successful flight-trial of an **Advanced Agni missile** validating new composite materials, re-entry thermal protection, and high-accuracy terminal guidance (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: India's Ranks in Global Indices & Reports *2026* — Comprehensive Analysis

Chapter Key Study Pillars — Chapter 7: India's Ranks in Global Indices & Reports 2026 — Comprehensive Analysis

Key Study Pillar 1	Key Study Pillar 2	Key Study Pillar 3	Key Study Pillar 4
Overview of India's 2026 Global Index Performance	**Process Flow Diagram: Categorization of India's 2026 Global Rankings**	**Master Reference Table: India's Rank in 2026 Global Indices & Reports**	**Sub-Index Insights on Global Gender Gap Index 2026 (WEF)**

7.1 Overview of India's 2026 Global Index Performance

Across major international reports released in 2026, India recorded **improved rankings in four major indices** (Sustainable Development Report / SDG Index, World Happiness Report, Global Hunger Index, and Corruption Perceptions Index), **unchanged ranks in two indices** (Global Innovation Index and Global Gender Gap Index), and **lower ranks in three indices** (World Press Freedom Index, Global Peace Index, and IMD World Competitiveness Ranking) (PIB Official Release).

7.2 Process Flow Diagram: Categorization of India's 2026 Global Rankings

Step-by-Step Conceptual Process Flowchart

STEP 1
Node 1: Improved Ranks in 2026

STEP 2
SDG Index: 94th (Best Ever!) | CPI: 91st (up from 96) | Hunger: 100th (up from 102) | Happiness: 116th (up from 118)

STEP 3
Node 2: Unchanged Ranks in 2026

STEP 4
Global Innovation Index (WIPO): 38th of 139 | Global Gender Gap Index (WEF): 131st of 145 (64.5% closed)

STEP 5
Node 3: Slipped Ranks in 2026

STEP 6
IMD Competitiveness: 44th | Global Peace Index (IEP): 127th of 163 | Press Freedom (RSF): 157th of 180

7.3 Master Reference Table: India's Rank in 2026 Global Indices & Reports

Index / Report Name (2026 Edition)	Publishing Organization	India's Rank (2026)	Total Countries Ranked	India's Score / Previous Rank	Top-Ranked Country (#1)
Global Innovation Index (GII) 2026	World Intellectual Property Organization (WIPO)	**38th**	139	Unchanged from 38th (up from 66th in 2019)	Switzerland
IMD World Competitiveness Ranking 2026	IMD Business School, Switzerland	**44th**	70	Down from 41st in 2025	Singapore / Switzerland
Corruption Perceptions Index (Released Feb 2026)	Transparency International	**91st**	182	Score: **39/100** (improved from 96th)	Denmark
Sustainable Development Report 2026 (SDG Index)	UN Sustainable Development Solutions Network (SDSN)	**94th**	167+	Score: **68.3 (India's best-ever rank!)**	Finland
Global Hunger Index (GHI) 2026	Concern Worldwide & Welthungerhilfe	**100th**	122	Score: **24.1** ('Serious'; improved from 102nd)	Top tier (<5 score)
World Happiness Report 2026	UN SDSN, Gallup & Oxford Wellbeing Research Centre	**116th**	147	Improved from 118th in 2025	**Finland** (9th consecutive year)

Index / Report Name (2026 Edition)	Publishing Organization	India's Rank (2026)	Total Countries Ranked	India's Score / Previous Rank	Top-Ranked Country (#1)
Global Peace Index (GPI) 2026	Institute for Economics and Peace (IEP), Sydney	**127th**	163	Down from 115th in 2025	**Iceland**
Global Gender Gap Index 2026	World Economic Forum (WEF)	**131st**	145	Score: **64.5%** gap closed (same rank as 2025)	**Iceland** (~93% gap closed)
World Press Freedom Index 2026	Reporters Without Borders (RSF), Paris	**157th**	180	Score: **31.96** (down from 151st in 2025)	Norway
Environmental Performance Index (EPI) 2026	Yale and Columbia Universities	**176th**	177	Score: **22.46** (ahead of Laos at 177th)	**Estonia**
Global Terrorism Index 2026	Institute for Economics and Peace (IEP)	**13th**	163	Measures terrorism impact (Rank 1 = most affected)	**Pakistan** (1st — most affected)

7.4 Sub-Index Insights on Global Gender Gap Index *2026* (WEF)

• **Publisher**: World Economic Forum (WEF).

• **India's Overall Standing**: **131st out of 145 economies**, having closed **64.5%** of its overall gender gap (compared to the global average of **69.2%**).

• **Four Sub-Indices**: (1) *Educational Attainment* — India's strongest sub-index with **96.6%** parity achieved; (2) *Political Empowerment* — score **24.5%**, though India ranks a strong **67th globally**; (3) *Economic Participation and Opportunity*; and (4) *Health and Survival.*

Did You Know?
In the **Sustainable Development Report 2026 (SDG Index)** published by the UN Sustainable Development Solutions Network (SDSN), India achieved its **best-ever historical rank of 94th** with an overall SDG score of **68.3**, breaking into the top 100 on the strength of clean energy access, digital financial inclusion, and poverty reduction.

Exam Trap Alert!
Watch out for three classic traps in 2026 index questions: (1) In the **Global Gender Gap Index 2026**, the total number of countries evaluated is **145** (not 148 as in 2025)—so India is **131st of 145**; (2) In the **Global Terrorism Index 2026**, Rank 1 (**Pakistan**) means the **most affected by terrorism**, while India is **13th**; (3) The **Corruption Perceptions Index released in February 2026** is titled *CPI* 2025, in which India improved to **91st (score 39)**!

★ **Memory Trick**:
"GII 38, SDG 94, Hunger 100, Happy 116, Peace 127, Gender 131, Press 157" — Memorize them in ascending numerical order from 38 to 157!

Chapter 8 Comprehensive Analytical & Statutory Revision Matrix

Core Sub-Domain	Key Concept / Provision	Verified Analytical Parameters & Exam Distinctions (पत्र सूचना कार्यालय (PIB))
Overview of India's 2026 Global Index Performance	**Publisher**	World Economic Forum (WEF).
Process Flow Diagram: Categorization of India's 2026 Global Rankings	**India's Overall Standing**	131st out of 145 economies, **having closed** 64.5% **of its overall gender gap (compared to the global average of** 69.2%**).
Master Reference Table: India's Rank in 2026 Global Indices & Reports	**Four Sub-Indices**	(1) *Educational Attainment* — India's strongest sub-index with **96.6%** parity achieved; (2) *Political Empowerment* — score **24.5%**, though India ranks a strong **67th globally**; (3) *Economic Participation and Opportunity*; and (4) *Health and Survival*.

Chapter 8 Multi-Statement Exam Verification Drills

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

Statement-I (Publisher): World Economic Forum (WEF).

Statement-II (India's Overall Standing): 131st out of 145 economies, **having closed** 64.5% **of its overall gender gap (compared to the global average of** 69.2%**).

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

Chapter 8: International Summits, Strategic Diplomacy & Defence Exercises in 2026

Chapter Key Study Pillars — Chapter 8: International Summits, Strategic Diplomacy & Defence Exercises in 2026

Key Study Pillar 1
India's Multilateral & Bilateral Diplomatic Engagement in 2026

Key Study Pillar 2
Process Flow Diagram: Pillars of India's 2026 Strategic Diplomacy

Key Study Pillar 3
High-Yield Table of India's Key Bilateral Military Exercises for Competitive Exams

8.1 India's Multilateral & Bilateral Diplomatic Engagement in 2026

Throughout 2026, India expanded its diplomatic footprint across the European Union, the Indo-Pacific, and multilateral climate and security institutions (**PIB Official Release**):

1. **India–European Union Summitry (January 2026)**: Hosted European Council President **António Costa** and European Commission President **Ursula von der Leyen** in New Delhi to celebrate **65 years of diplomatic relations**, advancing the India–EU Free Trade Agreement (FTA), Investment Protection Agreement, and Geographic Indications Agreement (**PIB Official Release**).

2. **Joint NASA–ISRO Space Diplomacy (NISAR & Joint ISS Mission Allocation)**: In the Department of Space Demand for Grants 2026–27, India allocated dedicated budgetary outlays for the **Joint ISRO–NASA Mission to the International Space Station (ISS)** (Axiom-4 mission featuring Indian Gaganyatri Group Captain Shubhanshu Shukla) alongside operational science from the **GSLV-F16 / NISAR** radar observatory (ISRO Official Portal).

3. **Tri-Services Joint Operational Doctrine ('Operation Sindoor' Showcase)**: Highlighted by the Department of Military Affairs at Kartavya Path in 2026, India accelerated integrated theatre command readiness and joint tri-services rapid-response exercises (PIB Official Release).

4. **International Big Cat Alliance (IBCA) Global Summit Announcement**: Headquartered in India with a framework agreement ratified by partner range countries, IBCA was designated in Union Budget 2026–27 to convene the **first-ever Global Big Cat Summit** in India (Union Budget Portal).

8.2 Process Flow Diagram*:* Pillars of India's *2026* Strategic Diplomacy

Step-by-Step Conceptual Process Flowchart

STEP 1 — Node 1: European Partnership

STEP 2 — 65th Year of India–EU Diplomatic Relations; Dual EU Presidents at 77th Republic Day 2026

STEP 3 — Node 2: Space & Tech Diplomacy

STEP 4 — Joint ISRO–NASA Mission to ISS + GSLV-F16/NISAR Dual-Band Radar + India–EU TTC

STEP 5 — Node 3: Ecological Leadership

STEP 6 — India hosts 1st Global Big Cat Summit under International Big Cat Alliance (IBCA)

8.3 High-Yield Table of India's Key Bilateral Military Exercises for Competitive Exams

Exercise Name	Partner Country	Participating Service Branch	Strategic Focus Area	Official Source
Yudh Abhyas / Vajra Prahar	United States	Indian Army / Special Forces	High-altitude warfare and joint counter-terrorism operations	PIB
Shakti / Varuna / Garuda	France	Army / Navy / Air Force	Interoperability in the Indo-Pacific and multi-domain air-sea operations	PIB
Dharma Guardian / Veer Guardian / JIMEX	Japan	Army / Air Force / Navy	Urban warfare, air defence, and maritime security in the Indo-Pacific	PIB
Surya Kiran	Nepal	Indian Army	Jungle warfare, counter-insurgency, and disaster relief (HADR)	PIB
Mitra Shakti / SLINEX	Sri Lanka	Army / Navy	Counter-insurgency and Indian Ocean maritime domain awareness	PIB
Dustlik	Uzbekistan	Indian Army	Semi-urban counter-terrorism and joint tactical drills	PIB

Did You Know?
The Department of Space's official budget document (*Detailed Demands for Grants* 2026–27) includes a dedicated sub-head titled **"Joint ISRO NASA Mission to ISS"**, reflecting India's institutional investment in sending an Indian astronaut (*Gaganyatri*) to the International Space Station prior to the crewed Gaganyaan orbital flight (ISRO Official Portal).

Exam Trap Alert!
Do NOT confuse **Garuda** (India–France Air Force exercise) with **Garuda Shakti** (India–Indonesia Special Forces exercise)! Adding the word *Shakti* after *Garuda* changes the partner nation from **France** to **Indonesia**, whereas standalone **Shakti** is the India–France Army exercise!

★ **Memory Trick**:
"SVG for France (Shakti–Army, Varuna–Navy, Garuda–Air)" — And add *Shakti* to *Garuda* (*Garuda Shakti*) for Indonesia!

Chapter *9* Comprehensive Analytical & Statutory Revision Matrix

Core Sub-Domain	Key Concept / Provision	Verified Analytical Parameters & Exam Distinctions (पत्र सूचना कार्यालय (PIB))
India's Multilateral & Bilateral Diplomatic Engagement in 2026	**India–European Union Summitry (January 2026)**	Hosted European Council President **António Costa** and European Commission President **Ursula von der Leyen** in New Delhi to celebrate **65 years of diplomatic relations**, advancing the India–EU Free Trade Agreement (FTA), Investment Protection Agreement, and Geographic Indications Agreement (PIB Official Release).
Process Flow Diagram: Pillars of India's 2026 Strategic Diplomacy	**Joint NASA–ISRO Space Diplomacy (NISAR & Joint ISS Mission Allocation)**	In the Department of Space Demand for Grants 2026–27, India allocated dedicated budgetary outlays for the **Joint ISRO–NASA Mission to the International Space Station (ISS)** (Axiom-4 mission featuring Indian Gaganyatri Group Captain Shubhanshu Shukla) alongside operational science from the **GSLV-F16 / NISAR** radar observatory (ISRO Official Portal).
High-Yield Table of India's Key Bilateral Military Exercises for Competitive Exams	**Tri-Services Joint Operational Doctrine ('Operation Sindoor' Showcase)**	Highlighted by the Department of Military Affairs at Kartavya Path in 2026, India accelerated integrated theatre command readiness and joint tri-services rapid-response exercises (PIB Official Release).
India's Multilateral & Bilateral Diplomatic Engagement in 2026	**International Big Cat Alliance (IBCA) Global Summit Announcement**	Headquartered in India with a framework agreement ratified by partner range countries, IBCA was designated in Union Budget 2026–27 to convene the **first-ever Global Big Cat Summit** in India (Union Budget Portal).

Chapter 9 Multi-Statement Exam Verification Drills

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

Statement-I (India–European Union Summitry (January 2026)): Hosted European Council President **António Costa** and European Commission President **Ursula von der Leyen** in New Delhi to celebrate **65 years of diplomatic relations**, advancing the India–EU Free Trade Agreement (FTA), Investment Protection Agreement, and Geographic Indications Agreement (PIB Official Release).

Statement-II (Joint NASA–ISRO Space Diplomacy (NISAR & Joint ISS Mission Allocation)): In the Department of Space Demand for Grants 2026–27, India allocated dedicated budgetary outlays for the **Joint ISRO–NASA Mission to the International Space Station (ISS)** (Axiom-4 mission featuring Indian Gaganyatri Group Captain Shubhanshu Shukla) alongside operational science from the **GSLV-F16 / NISAR** radar observatory (ISRO Official Portal).

✓ **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 (Tri-Services Joint Operational Doctrine ('Operation Sindoor' Showcase)): Highlighted by the Department of Military Affairs at Kartavya Path in 2026, India accelerated integrated theatre command readiness and joint tri-services rapid-response exercises (PIB Official Release).

Statement-II (International Big Cat Alliance (IBCA) Global Summit Announcement): Headquartered in India with a framework agreement ratified by partner range countries, IBCA was designated in Union Budget 2026–27 to convene the **first-ever Global Big Cat Summit** in India (Union Budget Portal).

✓ **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 (March-2026 & April-2026)

Chapter Key Study Pillars — 45 Solved Multiple-Choice Questions (March-2026 & April-2026)

Key Study Pillar 1	Key Study Pillar 2	Key Study Pillar 3	Key Study Pillar 4
Q1. Who chaired the 16th Finance Commission whose report for the period 2026–31 was tabled in Parliament on 1 February 2026?	**Q2. What percentage of the divisible pool of central taxes did the 16th Finance Commission recommend for vertical devolution to States for 2026–31?**	**Q3. Which new criterion with a 10% weightage was introduced by the 16th Finance Commission in its horizontal devolution formula for 2026–31?**	**Q4. Which criterion carries the highest weightage (42.5%) in the 16th Finance Commission's horizontal devolution formula for 2026–31?**

Q1. Who chaired the 16th Finance Commission whose report for the period 2026–31 was tabled in Parliament on 1 February 2026?

- (A) N. K. Singh
- (B) Dr. Arvind Panagariya
- (C) Dr. Y. V. Reddy
- (D) Dr. Vijay Kelkar
- **Correct Answer: (B)**
- **Analytical Explanation**: The 16th Finance Commission (2026–31) was chaired by Dr. Arvind Panagariya, former Vice-Chairman of NITI Aayog (Union Budget Portal).

Q2. What percentage of the divisible pool of central taxes did the *16*th Finance Commission recommend for vertical devolution to States for *2026–31?*

- (A) 40%
- (B) 41%
- (C) 42%
- (D) 45%
- **Correct Answer: (B)**
- **Analytical Explanation**: The 16th Finance Commission retained vertical devolution to states at 41% of the divisible pool for 2026–31, unchanged from the 15th FC (Union Budget Portal).

Q3. Which new criterion with a *10%* weightage was introduced by the *16*th Finance Commission in its horizontal devolution formula for *2026–31?*

- (A) Tax and Fiscal Effort
- (B) Infrastructure Readiness Index
- (C) Contribution to GDP
- (D) Digital Governance Score
- **Correct Answer: (C)**
- **Analytical Explanation**: The 16th FC removed 'Tax and Fiscal Effort' (2.5%) and introduced 'Contribution to GDP' with a 10% weight (Union Budget Portal).

Q4. Which criterion carries the highest weightage *(42.5%)* in the *16*th Finance Commission's horizontal devolution formula for *2026–31?*

- (A) Population (2011 Census)
- (B) Income Distance
- (C) Area
- (D) Demographic Performance
- **Correct Answer: (B)**
- **Analytical Explanation**: Income Distance carries the highest weightage at 42.5% (reduced slightly from 45% in the 15th FC) (Union Budget Portal).

Q5. What weightage has the *16*th Finance Commission assigned to 'Population *(2011* Census*)*' in the horizontal devolution formula for *2026–31?*

- (A) 12.5%
- (B) 15.0%
- (C) 17.5%
- (D) 20.0%
- **Correct Answer: (C)**

• **Analytical Explanation**: The weight for Population (2011 Census) was increased from 15.0% in the 15th FC to 17.5% in the 16th FC (Union Budget Portal).

Q6. In the 16th Finance Commission's horizontal devolution formula (2026–31), which four criteria carry an identical weight of 10% each?

• (A) Area, Forest & Ecology, Demographic Performance, and Contribution to GDP
• (B) Income Distance, Population, Area, and Tax Effort
• (C) Forest, Tax Effort, Fiscal Discipline, and Area
• (D) Population, Demographic Performance, Forest, and GDP
• **Correct Answer: (A)**
• **Analytical Explanation**: Area (10%), Forest and Ecology (10%), Demographic Performance (10%), and Contribution to GDP (10%) each carry a 10% weight (Union Budget Portal).

Q7. How much did the weightage for 'Area' change from the 15th Finance Commission to the 16th Finance Commission?

• (A) Increased from 10% to 15%
• (B) Decreased from 15% to 10%
• (C) Remained unchanged at 12.5%
• (D) Decreased from 17.5% to 15%
• **Correct Answer: (B)**
• **Analytical Explanation**: The weightage for Area was reduced from 15% in the 15th FC to 10% in the 16th FC (Union Budget Portal).

Q8. What is the total quantum of Grants-in-Aid recommended by the 16th Finance Commission for the five-year period 2026–31?

• (A) ₹7.25 Lakh Crore
• (B) ₹8.50 Lakh Crore
• (C) ₹9.47 Lakh Crore
• (D) ₹10.80 Lakh Crore
• **Correct Answer: (C)**
• **Analytical Explanation**: The 16th Finance Commission recommended grants totalling ₹9.47 lakh crore for 2026–31 (Union Budget Portal).

Q9. Out of the ₹9.47 lakh crore total grants recommended by the 16th Finance Commission for 2026–31, what is the exact allocation for Rural Local Bodies, Urban Local Bodies, and Disaster Management Funds respectively?

• (A) ₹4.35L Cr, ₹3.56L Cr, and ₹1.56L Cr
• (B) ₹5.00L Cr, ₹3.00L Cr, and ₹1.47L Cr

• (C) ₹4.00L Cr, ₹4.00L Cr, and ₹1.47L Cr

• (D) ₹3.56L Cr, ₹4.35L Cr, and ₹1.56L Cr

• **Correct Answer: (A)**

• **Analytical Explanation**: The ₹9.47 lakh crore total comprises ₹4.35 lakh crore for rural local bodies, ₹3.56 lakh crore for urban local bodies, and ₹1.56 lakh crore as the Union's contribution to disaster funds (Union Budget Portal).

Q10. Which of the following grant categories that existed under the 15th Finance Commission have been completely discontinued by the 16th Finance Commission for 2026–31?

• (A) Rural Local Body Grants

• (B) Urban Local Body Grants

• (C) Post-Devolution Revenue Deficit Grants, Sector-Specific Grants, and State-Specific Grants

• (D) Disaster Management Grants

• **Correct Answer: (C)**

• **Analytical Explanation**: The 16th FC discontinued Post-Devolution Revenue Deficit Grants, sector-specific grants, and state-specific grants (Union Budget Portal).

Q11. Under the 16th Finance Commission's recommendations, grants to local bodies are split between Basic Grants and Performance Grants in what ratio?

• (A) 50 : 50

• (B) 60 : 40

• (C) 70 : 30

• (D) 80 : 20

• **Correct Answer: (D)**

• **Analytical Explanation**: Grants to local bodies consist of 80% basic grants and 20% performance grants (Union Budget Portal).

Q12. What fiscal deficit limits did the 16th Finance Commission recommend for the Union Government (by 2030–31) and State Governments (annual limit) respectively?

• (A) 3.0% of GDP for Union and 2.5% of GSDP for States

• (B) 3.5% of GDP for Union and 3.0% of GSDP for States

• (C) 4.0% of GDP for Union and 3.5% of GSDP for States

• (D) 4.3% of GDP for Union and 3.0% of GSDP for States

• **Correct Answer: (B)**

• **Analytical Explanation**: The 16th FC recommended reducing the Union fiscal deficit to 3.5% of GDP by 2030–31 and capping State fiscal deficits at 3.0% of GSDP annually (Union Budget Portal).

Q13. According to the 16th Finance Commission's fiscal roadmap, the combined debt of the Central and State governments is projected to decline from 77.3% of GDP in 2026–27 to what level in 2030–31?

- (A) 68.5% of GDP
- (B) 70.0% of GDP
- (C) 73.1% of GDP
- (D) 75.0% of GDP
- **Correct Answer: (C)**
- **Analytical Explanation**: Combined Union and State debt is projected to decline from 77.3% of GDP in 2026–27 to 73.1% of GDP in 2030–31 (Union Budget Portal).

Q14. The 16th Finance Commission flagged fiscal risks from unconditional cash transfer schemes, noting that such schemes now account for what percentage of total subsidy spending?

- (A) 10.5%
- (B) 15.0%
- (C) 20.2%
- (D) 28.4%
- **Correct Answer: (C)**
- **Analytical Explanation**: The 16th FC noted that unconditional cash transfers now form 20.2% of total subsidy spending, risking fiscal instability (Union Budget Portal).

Q15. Who chaired the Reserve Bank of India's Monetary Policy Committee (MPC) meetings in 2026 as Governor of the RBI?

- (A) Shaktikanta Das
- (B) Sanjay Malhotra
- (C) Urjit Patel
- (D) T. Rabi Sankar
- **Correct Answer: (B)**
- **Analytical Explanation**: RBI Governor Shri Sanjay Malhotra chaired the MPC meetings in 2026, including the 62nd MPC meeting in August 2026 and the October 2026 review (RBI).

Q16. On 7 October 2026, the RBI Monetary Policy Committee (MPC) unanimously voted to change the policy repo rate to what level?

- (A) Cut by 25 bps to 5.00%
- (B) Kept unchanged at 5.25%
- (C) Raised by 25 bps to 5.50%
- (D) Raised by 50 bps to 5.75%
- **Correct Answer: (C)**

• **Analytical Explanation**: On 7 October 2026, the MPC unanimously voted to increase the policy repo rate by 25 basis points from 5.25% to 5.50% (RBI).

Q17. Following the 7 October 2026 MPC decision, what are the Standing Deposit Facility (SDF) rate and Marginal Standing Facility (MSF) rate respectively?

• (A) SDF 5.00% and MSF 5.50%
• (B) SDF 5.25% and MSF 5.75%
• (C) SDF 5.50% and MSF 6.00%
• (D) SDF 5.15% and MSF 5.65%

• **Correct Answer: (B)**

• **Analytical Explanation**: With the Repo Rate at 5.50%, the SDF rate stands at 5.25% and the MSF rate (and Bank Rate) stands at 5.75% (RBI).

Q18. Which short-term money market rate serves as the operating target of India's monetary policy that the RBI aligns with the policy repo rate?

• (A) 10-Year G-Sec Yield
• (B) Weighted Average Call Rate (WACR)
• (C) 91-Day Treasury Bill Rate
• (D) Marginal Cost of Funds-based Lending Rate (MCLR)

• **Correct Answer: (B)**

• **Analytical Explanation**: The Weighted Average Call Rate (WACR) is the operating target of monetary policy aligned with the policy repo rate (RBI).

Q19. Which two countries co-hosted the 10th edition of the ICC Men's T20 World Cup held in February–March 2026?

• (A) India and Bangladesh
• (B) India and Sri Lanka
• (C) Australia and New Zealand
• (D) West Indies and USA

• **Correct Answer: (B)**

• **Analytical Explanation**: India and Sri Lanka co-hosted the 2026 ICC Men's T20 World Cup (PIB).

Q20. Which team did India defeat by 96 runs in the final on 8 March 2026 at Narendra Modi Stadium, Ahmedabad to win the 2026 ICC Men's T20 World Cup?

• (A) South Africa
• (B) Australia
• (C) England
• (D) New Zealand

• **Correct Answer: (D)**

• **Analytical Explanation**: India defeated New Zealand by 96 runs in the final on 8 March 2026 at Ahmedabad (**PIB**).

Q21. Who captained the Indian Men's Cricket Team to victory in the 2026 ICC Men's T20 World Cup?

• (A) Rohit Sharma
• (B) Hardik Pandya
• (C) Suryakumar Yadav
• (D) Jasprit Bumrah

• **Correct Answer: (C)**

• **Analytical Explanation**: Suryakumar Yadav captained India to the 2026 Men's T20 World Cup title (**PIB**).

Q22. Who won the Player of the Match award in the 2026 ICC Men's T20 World Cup Final for taking 4 wickets for 15 runs in 4 overs against New Zealand?

• (A) Arshdeep Singh
• (B) Kuldeep Yadav
• (C) Jasprit Bumrah
• (D) Axar Patel

• **Correct Answer: (C)**

• **Analytical Explanation**: Jasprit Bumrah took 4 wickets for 15 runs in 4 overs and was named Player of the Match in the final (**PIB**).

Q23. In the 2026 Men's T20 World Cup Final, chasing a target of 256 (India 255), New Zealand were bowled out for what score?

• (A) 142
• (B) 159
• (C) 168
• (D) 175

• **Correct Answer: (B)**

• **Analytical Explanation**: Chasing 256, New Zealand were bowled out for 159 (with Tim Seifert top-scoring with 52 off 26 balls), giving India a 96-run win (**PIB**).

Q24. By winning the 2026 Men's T20 World Cup, India became the first country in history to win how many Men's T20 World Cup titles?

• (A) Two (2007, 2026)
• (B) Three (2007, 2024, 2026)
• (C) Four (2007, 2014, 2024, 2026)
• (D) Two (2024, 2026)

• **Correct Answer: (B)**

• **Analytical Explanation**: India became the first team to win three Men's T20 World Cup titles (2007, 2024, and 2026), the first host nation to win, and the first team to defend the title (PIB).

Q25. Where were the XXV Winter Olympic Games held from 6 to 22 February 2026?

• (A) Beijing, China

• (B) Pyeongchang, South Korea

• (C) Milan and Cortina d'Ampezzo, Italy

• (D) Salt Lake City, USA

• **Correct Answer: (C)**

• **Analytical Explanation**: The 2026 Winter Olympics were co-hosted by Milan and Cortina d'Ampezzo (Milano Cortina), Italy (PIB).

Q26. Which country topped the medal table at the 2026 Milano Cortina Winter Olympics with 18 Gold, 12 Silver, and 11 Bronze medals (41 Total)?

• (A) United States

• (B) Germany

• (C) Norway

• (D) Netherlands

• **Correct Answer: (C)**

• **Analytical Explanation**: Norway finished 1st on the 2026 Winter Olympics medal table with 18 Gold, 12 Silver, and 11 Bronze medals (41 total).

Q27. What were the top four countries in order on the final medal table of the 2026 Winter Olympics (Milano Cortina)?

• (A) Norway, Germany, USA, Canada

• (B) Norway, United States, Netherlands, Italy

• (C) United States, Norway, Italy, Germany

• (D) Norway, United States, Italy, Switzerland

• **Correct Answer: (B)**

• **Analytical Explanation**: The top 4 nations were: 1st Norway (18G, 41 total), 2nd USA (12G, 33 total), 3rd Netherlands (10G, 7S, 20 total), and 4th Italy (10G, 6S, 30 total).

Q28. Which Norwegian cross-country skier won a record 6 gold medals at the 2026 Milano Cortina Winter Olympics, breaking Eric Heiden's single-Games record?

• (A) Johannes Thingnes Bø

• (B) Johannes Høsflot Klæbo

• (C) Aleksander Aamodt Kilde

• (D) Karsten Warholm

• **Correct Answer: (B)**

• **Analytical Explanation**: Johannes Høsflot Klæbo won 6 gold medals at Milano Cortina 2026, breaking Eric Heiden's 1980 record of 5 gold medals at a single Winter Games.

Q29. Which Dutch short-track speed skater won the women's 500m and 1000m double gold at the 2026 Milano Cortina Winter Olympics?

• (A) Suzanne Schulting

• (B) Xandra Velzeboer

• (C) Irene Schouten

• (D) Jutta Leerdam

• **Correct Answer: (B)**

• **Analytical Explanation**: Xandra Velzeboer won both the 500m and 1000m short-track speed skating gold medals at Milano Cortina 2026.

Q30. On 23 July 2026, DRDO successfully conducted the maiden flight-test of 'Kusha' from APJ Abdul Kalam Island. What type of missile system is 'Kusha'?

• (A) Anti-Tank Guided Missile

• (B) Long-Range Surface-to-Air Missile (LR-SAM)

• (C) Submarine-Launched Ballistic Missile

• (D) Air-to-Air Beyond Visual Range Missile

• **Correct Answer: (B)**

• **Analytical Explanation**: 'Kusha' is an indigenous Long-Range Surface-to-Air Missile (LR-SAM) air defence system flight-tested on 23 July 2026 (PIB).

Q31. On 5 November 2026, DRDO conducted a successful flight-test of which indigenous surface-to-surface quasi-ballistic missile?

• (A) Shaurya

• (B) Prahaar

• (C) Pralay

• (D) Nirbhay

• **Correct Answer: (C)**

• **Analytical Explanation**: DRDO successfully flight-tested the quasi-ballistic missile 'Pralay' on 5 November 2026 (PIB).

Q32. Which guided artillery rocket system was successfully flight-tested by DRDO on 8 July 2026?

• (A) Smerch

• (B) Pinaka Long Range Guided Rocket

• (C) Grad BM-21

• (D) Dhanush

• **Correct Answer: (B)**

• **Analytical Explanation**: DRDO conducted the successful flight-test of the Pinaka Long Range Guided Rocket on 8 July 2026 (PIB).

Q33. On 10 and 11 June 2026, DRDO conducted three consecutive flight-tests to demonstrate which next-generation capability?

• (A) Anti-Satellite (ASAT) Warfare

• (B) Multi-Layered Ballistic Missile Defence (BMD)

• (C) Hypersonic Glide Vehicle Launch

• (D) Torpedo Supersonic Assisted Release

• **Correct Answer: (B)**

• **Analytical Explanation**: Three consecutive flight-tests were conducted on 10 and 11 June 2026 to demonstrate multi-layered defence against long-range ballistic missiles (PIB).

Q34. On 15 June 2026, DRDO successfully flight-tested which long-range cruise missile?

• (A) BrahMos-NG

• (B) Long Range Land Attack Cruise Missile (LRLACM)

• (C) Astra Mk-2

• (D) Rudram-II

• **Correct Answer: (B)**

• **Analytical Explanation**: DRDO conducted a successful flight-test of the Long Range Land Attack Cruise Missile (LRLACM) on 15 June 2026 (PIB).

Q35. What is India's rank in the World Happiness Report 2026, and which country topped the index for the ninth consecutive year?

• (A) 126th — Denmark

• (B) 118th — Iceland

• (C) 116th — Finland

• (D) 110th — Switzerland

• **Correct Answer: (C)**

• **Analytical Explanation**: India ranked 116th out of 147 countries in the World Happiness Report 2026 (up from 118th), while Finland topped for the 9th consecutive year.

Q36. What is India's rank in the World Press Freedom Index 2026 published by Reporters Without Borders (RSF)?

• (A) 150th of 180

• (B) 151st of 180

• (C) 157th of 180

• (D) 161st of 180

• **Correct Answer: (C)**

• **Analytical Explanation**: India ranked 157th out of 180 countries (score 31.96) in the World Press Freedom Index 2026, down from 151st.

Q37. What is India's rank in the Global Peace Index 2026 published by the Institute for Economics and Peace (IEP)?

• (A) 115th of 163

• (B) 121st of 163

• (C) 127th of 163

• (D) 135th of 163

• **Correct Answer: (C)**

• **Analytical Explanation**: India ranked 127th out of 163 countries in the Global Peace Index 2026, with Iceland ranking 1st as the most peaceful nation.

Q38. What is India's rank in the World Economic Forum's Global Gender Gap Index 2026?

• (A) 127th of 146

• (B) 129th of 146

• (C) 131st of 145

• (D) 135th of 148

• **Correct Answer: (C)**

• **Analytical Explanation**: India ranked 131st out of 145 economies in the Global Gender Gap Index 2026, closing 64.5% of its overall gender gap (Iceland ranked 1st).

Q39. In which global report did India achieve its best-ever historical rank of 94th (with a score of 68.3) in 2026?

• (A) Human Development Report

• (B) Sustainable Development Report 2026 (SDG Index)

• (C) Logistics Performance Index

• (D) Global Competitiveness Report

• **Correct Answer: (B)**

• **Analytical Explanation**: India achieved its best-ever rank of 94th (score 68.3) in the Sustainable Development Report 2026 (SDG Index) published by UN SDSN.

Q40. What is India's rank in the Global Hunger Index 2026?

• (A) 94th of 122

• (B) 100th of 122

• (C) 105th of 127

• (D) 111th of 125

• **Correct Answer: (B)**

• **Analytical Explanation**: India ranked 100th out of 122 countries in the Global Hunger Index 2026 with a score of 24.1 (improved from 102nd).

Q41. What is India's rank in the Global Innovation Index (GII) 2026 published by WIPO?

• (A) 35th

• (B) 38th

• (C) 40th

• (D) 44th

• **Correct Answer: (B)**

• **Analytical Explanation**: India ranked 38th out of 139 economies in the WIPO Global Innovation Index.

Q42. In the Corruption Perceptions Index released by Transparency International in February 2026, what is India's rank and score?

• (A) 96th (Score 38)

• (B) 91st (Score 39)

• (C) 85th (Score 42)

• (D) 93rd (Score 40)

• **Correct Answer: (B)**

• **Analytical Explanation**: India improved to 91st out of 182 countries with a score of 39/100 in the Corruption Perceptions Index released in February 2026.

Q43. Which country topped the Environmental Performance Index (EPI) 2026 published by Yale and Columbia Universities, in which India ranked 176th of 177?

• (A) Sweden

• (B) Estonia

• (C) Costa Rica

• (D) New Zealand

• **Correct Answer: (B)**

• **Analytical Explanation**: Estonia topped the Environmental Performance Index 2026, while India ranked 176th out of 177.

Q44. What is India's rank in the IMD World Competitiveness Ranking 2026?

• (A) 38th of 70

• (B) 41st of 70

• (C) 44th of 70

• (D) 49th of 70

• **Correct Answer: (C)**

• **Analytical Explanation**: India ranked 44th out of 70 economies in the IMD World Competitiveness Ranking 2026 (compared to 41st in 2025).

Q45. In the Global Gender Gap Index *2026*, in which sub-index did India achieve its highest parity score of *96.6%*?

• (A) Economic Participation and Opportunity

• (B) Educational Attainment

• (C) Health and Survival

• (D) Political Empowerment

• **Correct Answer: (B)**

• **Analytical Explanation**: India achieved its highest parity score of 96.6% in the Educational Attainment sub-index of the Global Gender Gap Index 2026.

Chapter *10* Comprehensive Analytical & Statutory Revision Matrix

Core Sub-Domain	Key Concept / Provision	Verified Analytical Parameters & Exam Distinctions (पत्र सूचना कार्यालय (PIB))
Q1. Who chaired the 16th Finance Commission whose report for the period 2026–31 was tabled in Parliament on 1 February 2026?	**Analytical Explanation**	The 16th Finance Commission (2026–31) was chaired by Dr. Arvind Panagariya, former Vice-Chairman of NITI Aayog (Union Budget Portal).
Q2. What percentage of the divisible pool of central taxes did the 16th Finance Commission recommend for vertical devolution to States for 2026–31?	**Analytical Explanation**	The 16th Finance Commission retained vertical devolution to states at 41% of the divisible pool for 2026–31, unchanged from the 15th FC (Union Budget Portal).

Core Sub-Domain	Key Concept / Provision	Verified Analytical Parameters & Exam Distinctions (पत्र सूचना कार्यालय (PIB))
Q3. Which new criterion with a 10% weightage was introduced by the 16th Finance Commission in its horizontal devolution formula for 2026–31?	**Analytical Explanation**	The 16th FC removed 'Tax and Fiscal Effort' (2.5%) and introduced 'Contribution to GDP' with a 10% weight (Union Budget Portal).
Q4. Which criterion carries the highest weightage (42.5%) in the 16th Finance Commission's horizontal devolution formula for 2026–31?	**Analytical Explanation**	Income Distance carries the highest weightage at 42.5% (reduced slightly from 45% in the 15th FC) (Union Budget Portal).
Q5. What weightage has the 16th Finance Commission assigned to 'Population (2011 Census)' in the horizontal devolution formula for 2026–31?	**Analytical Explanation**	The weight for Population (2011 Census) was increased from 15.0% in the 15th FC to 17.5% in the 16th FC (Union Budget Portal).
Q6. In the 16th Finance Commission's horizontal devolution formula (2026–31), which four criteria carry an identical weight of 10% each?	**Analytical Explanation**	Area (10%), Forest and Ecology (10%), Demographic Performance (10%), and Contribution to GDP (10%) each carry a 10% weight (Union Budget Portal).
Q7. How much did the weightage for 'Area' change from the 15th Finance Commission to the 16th Finance Commission?	**Analytical Explanation**	The weightage for Area was reduced from 15% in the 15th FC to 10% in the 16th FC (Union Budget Portal).

Core Sub-Domain	Key Concept / Provision	Verified Analytical Parameters & Exam Distinctions (पत्र सूचना कार्यालय (PIB))
Q8. What is the total quantum of Grants-in-Aid recommended by the 16th Finance Commission for the five-year period 2026–31?	**Analytical Explanation**	The 16th Finance Commission recommended grants totalling ₹9.47 lakh crore for 2026–31 (Union Budget Portal).
Q9. Out of the ₹9.47 lakh crore total grants recommended by the 16th Finance Commission for 2026–31, what is the exact allocation for Rural Local Bodies, Urban Local Bodies, and Disaster Management Funds respectively?	**Analytical Explanation**	The ₹9.47 lakh crore total comprises ₹4.35 lakh crore for rural local bodies, ₹3.56 lakh crore for urban local bodies, and ₹1.56 lakh crore as the Union's contribution to disaster funds (Union Budget Portal).
Q10. Which of the following grant categories that existed under the 15th Finance Commission have been completely discontinued by the 16th Finance Commission for 2026–31?	**Analytical Explanation**	The 16th FC discontinued Post-Devolution Revenue Deficit Grants, sector-specific grants, and state-specific grants (Union Budget Portal).
Q11. Under the 16th Finance Commission's recommendations, grants to local bodies are split between Basic Grants and Performance Grants in what ratio?	**Analytical Explanation**	Grants to local bodies consist of 80% basic grants and 20% performance grants (Union Budget Portal).

Core Sub-Domain	Key Concept / Provision	Verified Analytical Parameters & Exam Distinctions (पत्र सूचना कार्यालय (PIB))
Q12. What fiscal deficit limits did the 16th Finance Commission recommend for the Union Government (by 2030–31) and State Governments (annual limit) respectively?	**Analytical Explanation**	The 16th FC recommended reducing the Union fiscal deficit to 3.5% of GDP by 2030–31 and capping State fiscal deficits at 3.0% of GSDP annually (Union Budget Portal).
Q13. According to the 16th Finance Commission's fiscal roadmap, the combined debt of the Central and State governments is projected to decline from 77.3% of GDP in 2026–27 to what level in 2030–31?	**Analytical Explanation**	Combined Union and State debt is projected to decline from 77.3% of GDP in 2026–27 to 73.1% of GDP in 2030–31 (Union Budget Portal).
Q14. The 16th Finance Commission flagged fiscal risks from unconditional cash transfer schemes, noting that such schemes now account for what percentage of total subsidy spending?	**Analytical Explanation**	The 16th FC noted that unconditional cash transfers now form 20.2% of total subsidy spending, risking fiscal instability (Union Budget Portal).

Chapter *10* Multi-Statement Exam Verification Drills

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

Statement-I (Analytical Explanation): The 16th Finance Commission (2026–31) was chaired by Dr. Arvind Panagariya, former Vice-Chairman of NITI Aayog (Union Budget Portal).

Statement-II (Analytical Explanation): The 16th Finance Commission retained vertical devolution to states at 41% of the divisible pool for 2026–31, unchanged from the 15th FC (Union Budget Portal).

✓ **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 16th FC removed 'Tax and Fiscal Effort' (2.5%) and introduced 'Contribution to GDP' with a 10% weight (Union Budget Portal).

Statement-II (Analytical Explanation): Income Distance carries the highest weightage at 42.5% (reduced slightly from 45% in the 15th FC) (Union Budget Portal).

✓ **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): The weight for Population (2011 Census) was increased from 15.0% in the 15th FC to 17.5% in the 16th FC (Union Budget Portal).

Statement-II (Analytical Explanation): Area (10%), Forest and Ecology (10%), Demographic Performance (10%), and Contribution to GDP (10%) each carry a 10% weight (Union Budget Portal).

✓ **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): The weightage for Area was reduced from 15% in the 15th FC to 10% in the 16th FC (Union Budget Portal).

Statement-II (Analytical Explanation): The 16th Finance Commission recommended grants totalling ₹9.47 lakh crore for 2026–31 (Union Budget Portal).

✓ **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): The ₹9.47 lakh crore total comprises ₹4.35 lakh crore for rural local bodies, ₹3.56 lakh crore for urban local bodies, and ₹1.56 lakh crore as the Union's contribution to disaster funds (Union Budget Portal).

Statement-II (Analytical Explanation): The 16th FC discontinued Post-Devolution Revenue Deficit Grants, sector-specific grants, and state-specific 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 10 Statement-Verification Drill #6 — Both Statements Verified Correct

Statement-I (Analytical Explanation): Grants to local bodies consist of 80% basic grants and 20% performance grants (Union Budget Portal).

Statement-II (Analytical Explanation): The 16th FC recommended reducing the Union fiscal deficit to 3.5% of GDP by 2030–31 and capping State fiscal deficits at 3.0% of GSDP annually (Union Budget Portal).

✓ **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 Horizontal Devolution Criterion and 15th Finance Commission (2021–26) Weight, which of the following is accurately matched with "1. Income Distance"?

(A) 45.0%
(B) 15.0%
(C) 12.5%
(D) 10.0%

Correct Answer: (A) | **Explanation:** For **1. Income Distance** (Horizontal Devolution Criterion), the verified 15th Finance Commission (2021–26) Weight is **45.0%**. Furthermore, 42.5%. (Source: पत्र सूचना कार्यालय (PIB) & IUC Academy).

Practice Question #2 High-Yield Comparative MCQ

Q2. With reference to Horizontal Devolution Criterion and 15th Finance Commission (2021–26) Weight, which of the following is accurately matched with "2. Population (2011 Census)"?

(A) 12.5%
(B) 15.0%
(C) 10.0%
(D) *Nil (Did not exist)*

Correct Answer: (B) | **Explanation:** For **2. Population (2011 Census)** (Horizontal Devolution Criterion), the verified 15th Finance Commission (2021–26) Weight is **15.0%**. Furthermore, 17.5%. (Source: पत्र सूचना कार्यालय (PIB) & IUC Academy).

Practice Question #3 High-Yield Comparative MCQ

Q3. With reference to Horizontal Devolution Criterion and 15th Finance Commission (2021–26) Weight, which of the following is accurately matched with "3. Demographic Performance"?

(A) 15.0%
(B) 10.0%
(C) 12.5%
(D) *Nil (Did not exist)*

Correct Answer: (C) | **Explanation:** For **3. Demographic Performance** (Horizontal Devolution Criterion), the verified 15th Finance Commission (2021–26) Weight is **12.5%**. Furthermore, 10.0%. (Source: पत्र सूचना कार्यालय (PIB) & IUC Academy).

Practice Question #4 High-Yield Comparative MCQ

Q4. With reference to Horizontal Devolution Criterion and 15th Finance Commission (2021–26) Weight, which of the following is accurately matched with "4. Area"?

(A) 10.0%
(B) *Nil (Did not exist)*
(C) 2.5%
(D) 15.0%

Correct Answer: (D) | **Explanation:** For **4. Area** (Horizontal Devolution Criterion), the verified 15th Finance Commission (2021–26) Weight is **15.0%**. Furthermore, 10.0%. (Source: पत्र सूचना कार्यालय (PIB) & IUC Academy).

Practice Question #5 High-Yield Comparative MCQ

Q5. With reference to Horizontal Devolution Criterion and 15th Finance Commission (2021–26) Weight, which of the following is accurately matched with "5. Forest and Ecology"?

(A) 10.0%
(B) *Nil (Did not exist)*
(C) 2.5%
(D) 100.0%

Correct Answer: (A) | **Explanation:** For **5. Forest and Ecology** (Horizontal Devolution Criterion), the verified 15th Finance Commission (2021–26) Weight is **10.0%**. Furthermore, 10.0%. (Source: पत्र सूचना कार्यालय (PIB) & IUC Academy).

Practice Question #6 High-Yield Comparative MCQ

Q6. With reference to Horizontal Devolution Criterion and 15th Finance Commission (2021–26) Weight, which of the following is accurately matched with "6. Contribution to GDP"?

(A) 2.5%
(B) *Nil (Did not exist)*
(C) 100.0%
(D) ₹9.47 Lakh Crore

Correct Answer: (B) | **Explanation:** For **6. Contribution to GDP** (Horizontal Devolution Criterion), the verified 15th Finance Commission (2021–26) Weight is ***Nil (Did not exist)***. Furthermore, 10.0%. (Source: पत्र सूचना कार्यालय (PIB) & IUC Academy).

Practice Question #7 High-Yield Comparative MCQ

Q7. With reference to Horizontal Devolution Criterion and 15th Finance Commission (2021–26) Weight, which of the following is accurately matched with "7. Tax and Fiscal Effort"?

(A) 100.0%
(B) ₹9.47 Lakh Crore
(C) 2.5%
(D) ₹4.35 Lakh Crore

Correct Answer: (C) | **Explanation:** For **7. Tax and Fiscal Effort** (Horizontal Devolution Criterion), the verified 15th Finance Commission (2021–26) Weight is **2.5%**. Furthermore, Nil (Removed). (Source: पत्र सूचना कार्यालय (PIB) & IUC Academy).

Practice Question #8 High-Yield Comparative MCQ

Q8. With reference to Horizontal Devolution Criterion and 15th Finance Commission (2021–26) Weight, which of the following is accurately matched with "Total Weightage"?

(A) ₹9.47 Lakh Crore
(B) ₹4.35 Lakh Crore
(C) ₹3.56 Lakh Crore
(D) 100.0%

Correct Answer: (D) | **Explanation:** For **Total Weightage** (Horizontal Devolution Criterion), the verified 15th Finance Commission (2021–26) Weight is **100.0%**. Furthermore, 100.0%. (Source: पत्र सूचना कार्यालय (PIB) & IUC Academy).

Practice Question #9 High-Yield Comparative MCQ

Q9. With reference to Grant / Fiscal Parameter and 2026–31 Recommended Quantum / Target, which of the following is accurately matched with "Total Grants-in-Aid (2026–31)"?

(A) ₹9.47 Lakh Crore
(B) ₹4.35 Lakh Crore
(C) ₹3.56 Lakh Crore
(D) ₹1.56 Lakh Crore

Correct Answer: (A) | **Explanation:** For **Total Grants-in-Aid (2026–31)** (Grant / Fiscal Parameter), the verified 2026–31 Recommended Quantum / Target is **₹9.47 Lakh Crore**. Furthermore, Restricted solely to Local Bodies and Disaster Management. (Source: पत्र सूचना कार्यालय (PIB) & IUC Academy).

Practice Question #10 High-Yield Comparative MCQ

Q10. With reference to Grant / Fiscal Parameter and 2026–31 Recommended Quantum / Target, which of the following is accurately matched with "Rural Local Bodies (PRI) Grants"?

(A) ₹3.56 Lakh Crore
(B) ₹4.35 Lakh Crore
(C) ₹1.56 Lakh Crore
(D) ₹0 (Discontinued)

Correct Answer: (B) | **Explanation:** For **Rural Local Bodies (PRI) Grants** (Grant / Fiscal Parameter), the verified 2026–31 Recommended Quantum / Target is **₹4.35 Lakh Crore**. Furthermore, 80% Basic + 20% Performance; tied to SFC & audited accounts. (Source: पत्र सूचना कार्यालय (PIB) & IUC Academy).

Practice Question #11 High-Yield Comparative MCQ

Q11. With reference to Grant / Fiscal Parameter and 2026–31 Recommended Quantum / Target, which of the following is accurately matched with "Urban Local Bodies (ULB) Grants"?

(A) ₹1.56 Lakh Crore
(B) ₹0 (Discontinued)
(C) ₹3.56 Lakh Crore
(D) 3.5% of GDP

Correct Answer: (C) | **Explanation:** For **Urban Local Bodies (ULB) Grants** (Grant / Fiscal Parameter), the verified 2026–31 Recommended Quantum / Target is **₹3.56 Lakh Crore**. Furthermore, 80% Basic + 20% Performance; tied to urban governance reforms. (Source: पत्र सूचना कार्यालय (PIB) & IUC Academy).

Practice Question #12 High-Yield Comparative MCQ

Q12. With reference to Grant / Fiscal Parameter and 2026–31 Recommended Quantum / Target, which of the following is accurately matched with "Disaster Management Grants"?

(A) ₹0 (Discontinued)
(B) 3.5% of GDP
(C) 3.0% of GSDP
(D) ₹1.56 Lakh Crore

Correct Answer: (D) | **Explanation:** For **Disaster Management Grants** (Grant / Fiscal Parameter), the verified 2026–31 Recommended Quantum / Target is **₹1.56 Lakh Crore**. Furthermore, Union's contribution toward State/National Disaster Funds. (Source: पत्र सूचना कार्यालय (PIB) & IUC Academy).

Practice Question #13 High-Yield Comparative MCQ

Q13. With reference to Grant / Fiscal Parameter and 2026–31 Recommended Quantum / Target, which of the following is accurately matched with "Revenue Deficit / Sector / State Grants"?

(A) ₹0 (Discontinued)

(B) 3.5% of GDP

(C) 3.0% of GSDP

(D) 77.3% (FY27) → 73.1% (FY31)

Correct Answer: (A) | **Explanation:** For **Revenue Deficit / Sector / State Grants** (Grant / Fiscal Parameter), the verified 2026–31 Recommended Quantum / Target is **₹0 (Discontinued)**. Furthermore, Completely abolished to enforce hard budget constraints. (Source: पत्र सूचना कार्यालय (PIB) & IUC Academy).

Practice Question #14 High-Yield Comparative MCQ

Q14. With reference to Grant / Fiscal Parameter and 2026–31 Recommended Quantum / Target, which of the following is accurately matched with "Union Fiscal Deficit Target (2030–31)"?

(A) 3.0% of GSDP

(B) 3.5% of GDP

(C) 77.3% (FY27) → 73.1% (FY31)

(D) 5.25%

Correct Answer: (B) | **Explanation:** For **Union Fiscal Deficit Target (2030–31)** (Grant / Fiscal Parameter), the verified 2026–31 Recommended Quantum / Target is **3.5% of GDP**. Furthermore, Medium-term consolidation path for the Central Government. (Source: पत्र सूचना कार्यालय (PIB) & IUC Academy).

Practice Question #15 High-Yield Comparative MCQ

Q15. With reference to Grant / Fiscal Parameter and 2026–31 Recommended Quantum / Target, which of the following is accurately matched with "State Fiscal Deficit Limit (2026–31)"?

(A) 77.3% (FY27) → 73.1% (FY31)

(B) 5.25%

(C) 3.0% of GSDP

(D) 5.00%

Correct Answer: (C) | **Explanation:** For **State Fiscal Deficit Limit (2026–31)** (Grant / Fiscal Parameter), the verified 2026–31 Recommended Quantum / Target is **3.0% of GSDP**. Furthermore, All off-budget borrowings must be brought onto the budget. (Source: पत्र सूचना कार्यालय (PIB) & IUC Academy).

Practice Question #16 High-Yield Comparative MCQ

Q16. With reference to Grant / Fiscal Parameter and 2026–31 Recommended Quantum / Target, which of the following is accurately matched with "Combined Union-State Debt Ratio"?

(A) 5.25%

(B) 5.00%

(C) 5.50%

(D) 77.3% (FY27) → 73.1% (FY31)

Correct Answer: (D) | **Explanation:** For **Combined Union-State Debt Ratio** (Grant / Fiscal Parameter), the verified 2026–31 Recommended Quantum / Target is **77.3% (FY27) → 73.1% (FY31)**. Furthermore, Projected 4.2 percentage point decline over the 5-year award period. (Source: पत्र सूचना कार्यालय (PIB) & IUC Academy).

Practice Question #17 High-Yield Comparative MCQ

Q17. With reference to Monetary Policy Instrument and Rate Prior to 7 Oct 2026 (Aug 2026 MPC), which of the following is accurately matched with "Policy Repo Rate"?

(A) 5.25%
(B) 5.00%
(C) 5.50%
(D) WACR

Correct Answer: (A) | **Explanation:** For **Policy Repo Rate** (Monetary Policy Instrument), the verified Rate Prior to 7 Oct 2026 (Aug 2026 MPC) is **5.25%**. Furthermore, 5.50%. (Source: पत्र सूचना कार्यालय (PIB) & IUC Academy).

Practice Question #18 High-Yield Comparative MCQ

Q18. With reference to Monetary Policy Instrument and Rate Prior to 7 Oct 2026 (Aug 2026 MPC), which of the following is accurately matched with "Standing Deposit Facility (SDF) Rate"?

(A) 5.50%
(B) 5.00%
(C) WACR
(D) 10th Edition (2026)

Correct Answer: (B) | **Explanation:** For **Standing Deposit Facility (SDF) Rate** (Monetary Policy Instrument), the verified Rate Prior to 7 Oct 2026 (Aug 2026 MPC) is **5.00%**. Furthermore, 5.25%. (Source: पत्र सूचना कार्यालय (PIB) & IUC Academy).

Practice Question #19 High-Yield Comparative MCQ

Q19. With reference to Monetary Policy Instrument and Rate Prior to 7 Oct 2026 (Aug 2026 MPC), which of the following is accurately matched with "Marginal Standing Facility (MSF) Rate"?

(A) WACR
(B) 10th Edition (2026)
(C) 5.50%
(D) India and Sri Lanka

Correct Answer: (C) | **Explanation:** For **Marginal Standing Facility (MSF) Rate** (Monetary Policy Instrument), the verified Rate Prior to 7 Oct 2026 (Aug 2026 MPC) is **5.50%**. Furthermore, 5.75%. (Source: पत्र सूचना कार्यालय (PIB) & IUC Academy).

Practice Question #20 High-Yield Comparative MCQ

Q20. With reference to Monetary Policy Instrument and Rate Prior to 7 Oct 2026 (Aug 2026 MPC), which of the following is accurately matched with "Bank Rate"?

(A) WACR
(B) 10th Edition (2026)
(C) India and Sri Lanka
(D) 5.50%

Correct Answer: (D) | **Explanation:** For **Bank Rate** (Monetary Policy Instrument), the verified Rate Prior to 7 Oct 2026 (Aug 2026 MPC) is **5.50%**. Furthermore, 5.75%. (Source: पत्र सूचना कार्यालय (PIB) & IUC Academy).

Practice Question #21 High-Yield Comparative MCQ

Q21. With reference to Monetary Policy Instrument and Rate Prior to 7 Oct 2026 (Aug 2026 MPC), which of the following is accurately matched with "Operating Target of Monetary Policy"?

(A) WACR
(B) 10th Edition (2026)
(C) India and Sri Lanka
(D) 20 Teams

Correct Answer: (A) | **Explanation:** For **Operating Target of Monetary Policy** (Monetary Policy Instrument), the verified Rate Prior to 7 Oct 2026 (Aug 2026 MPC) is **WACR**. Furthermore, WACR (Weighted Average Call Rate). (Source: पत्र सूचना कार्यालय (PIB) & IUC Academy).

Practice Question #22 High-Yield Comparative MCQ

Q22. With reference to Tournament Parameter and Verified 2026 Fact / Record, which of the following is accurately matched with "Edition & Year"?

(A) India and Sri Lanka
(B) 10th Edition (2026)
(C) 20 Teams
(D) India (Captain: Suryakumar Yadav)

Correct Answer: (B) | **Explanation:** For **Edition & Year** (Tournament Parameter), the verified Verified 2026 Fact / Record is **10th Edition (2026)**. Furthermore, Concluded on 8 March 2026. (Source: पत्र सूचना कार्यालय (PIB) & IUC Academy).

Practice Question #23 High-Yield Comparative MCQ

Q23. With reference to Tournament Parameter and Verified 2026 Fact / Record, which of the following is accurately matched with "Co-Host Nations"?

(A) 20 Teams
(B) India (Captain: Suryakumar Yadav)
(C) India and Sri Lanka
(D) New Zealand (Captain: Mitchell Santner)

Correct Answer: (C) | **Explanation:** For **Co-Host Nations** (Tournament Parameter), the verified Verified 2026 Fact / Record is **India and Sri Lanka**. Furthermore, First T20 World Cup in the subcontinent since 2021 (UAE/Oman) and 2016 (India). (Source: पत्र सूचना कार्यालय (PIB) & IUC Academy).

Practice Question #24 High-Yield Comparative MCQ

Q24. With reference to Tournament Parameter and Verified 2026 Fact / Record, which of the following is accurately matched with "Total Participating Teams"?

(A) India (Captain: Suryakumar Yadav)
(B) New Zealand (Captain: Mitchell Santner)
(C) Narendra Modi Stadium, Ahmedabad (8 March 2026)
(D) 20 Teams

Correct Answer: (D) | **Explanation:** For **Total Participating Teams** (Tournament Parameter), the verified Verified 2026 Fact / Record is **20 Teams**. Furthermore, Divided into 4 groups of 5 teams each in Group Stage. (Source: पत्र सूचना कार्यालय (PIB) & IUC Academy).

Practice Question #25 High-Yield Comparative MCQ

Q25. With reference to Tournament Parameter and Verified 2026 Fact / Record, which of the following is accurately matched with "Champion & Captain"?

(A) India (Captain: Suryakumar Yadav)

(B) New Zealand (Captain: Mitchell Santner)

(C) Narendra Modi Stadium, Ahmedabad (8 March 2026)

(D) 96 Runs

Correct Answer: (A) | **Explanation:** For **Champion & Captain** (Tournament Parameter), the verified Verified 2026 Fact / Record is **India (Captain: Suryakumar Yadav)**. Furthermore, India's 3rd Men's T20 World Cup title (2007 under MS Dhoni, 2024 under Rohit Sharma, 2026 under Suryakumar Yadav). (Source: पत्र सूचना कार्यालय (PIB) & IUC Academy).

Practice Question #26 High-Yield Comparative MCQ

Q26. With reference to Tournament Parameter and Verified 2026 Fact / Record, which of the following is accurately matched with "Runner-Up & Captain"?

(A) Narendra Modi Stadium, Ahmedabad (8 March 2026)

(B) New Zealand (Captain: Mitchell Santner)

(C) 96 Runs

(D) Jasprit Bumrah (India)

Correct Answer: (B) | **Explanation:** For **Runner-Up & Captain** (Tournament Parameter), the verified Verified 2026 Fact / Record is **New Zealand (Captain: Mitchell Santner)**. Furthermore, Reached the final with 6 wins and 2 losses; Tim Seifert scored 52 off 26 balls in the final. (Source: पत्र सूचना कार्यालय (PIB) & IUC Academy).

Practice Question #27 High-Yield Comparative MCQ

Q27. With reference to Tournament Parameter and Verified 2026 Fact / Record, which of the following is accurately matched with "Final Venue & Date"?

(A) 96 Runs

(B) Jasprit Bumrah (India)

(C) Narendra Modi Stadium, Ahmedabad (8 March 2026)

(D) Long-Range Surface-to-Air Missile (LR-SAM)

Correct Answer: (C) | **Explanation:** For **Final Venue & Date** (Tournament Parameter), the verified Verified 2026 Fact / Record is **Narendra Modi Stadium, Ahmedabad (8 March 2026)**. Furthermore, India posted 255 (target 256) and bowled out New Zealand for 159. (Source: पत्र सूचना कार्यालय (PIB) & IUC Academy).

Practice Question #28 High-Yield Comparative MCQ

Q28. With reference to Tournament Parameter and Verified 2026 Fact / Record, which of the following is accurately matched with "Margin of Victory in Final"?

(A) Jasprit Bumrah (India)

(B) Long-Range Surface-to-Air Missile (LR-SAM)

(C) Long-Range Multi-Barrel Guided Artillery Rocket

(D) 96 Runs

Correct Answer: (D) | **Explanation:** For **Margin of Victory in Final** (Tournament Parameter), the verified Verified 2026 Fact / Record is **96 Runs**. Furthermore, Largest runs margin in a Men's T20 World Cup Final. (Source: पत्र सूचना कार्यालय (PIB) & IUC Academy).

Practice Question #29 High-Yield Comparative MCQ

Q29. With reference to Tournament Parameter and Verified 2026 Fact / Record, which of the following is accurately matched with "Player of the Match (Final)"?

(A) Jasprit Bumrah (India)
(B) Long-Range Surface-to-Air Missile (LR-SAM)
(C) Long-Range Multi-Barrel Guided Artillery Rocket
(D) Surface-to-Surface Quasi-Ballistic Missile

Correct Answer: (A) | **Explanation:** For **Player of the Match (Final)** (Tournament Parameter), the verified Verified 2026 Fact / Record is **Jasprit Bumrah (India)**. Furthermore, Picked up 4 wickets for just 15 runs in 4 overs (4-0-15-4). (Source: पत्र सूचना कार्यालय (PIB) & IUC Academy).

Practice Question #30 High-Yield Comparative MCQ

Q30. With reference to Weapon System / Missile and Category / Classification, which of the following is accurately matched with "'Kusha' Missile System"?

(A) Long-Range Multi-Barrel Guided Artillery Rocket
(B) Long-Range Surface-to-Air Missile (LR-SAM)
(C) Surface-to-Surface Quasi-Ballistic Missile
(D) Long Range Land Attack Cruise Missile

Correct Answer: (B) | **Explanation:** For **'Kusha' Missile System** (Weapon System / Missile), the verified Category / Classification is **Long-Range Surface-to-Air Missile (LR-SAM)**. Furthermore, 23 July 2026 (Maiden Test). (Source: पत्र सूचना कार्यालय (PIB) & IUC Academy).

Practice Question #31 High-Yield Comparative MCQ

Q31. With reference to Weapon System / Missile and Category / Classification, which of the following is accurately matched with "Pinaka Guided Rocket"?

(A) Surface-to-Surface Quasi-Ballistic Missile
(B) Long Range Land Attack Cruise Missile
(C) Long-Range Multi-Barrel Guided Artillery Rocket
(D) Ballistic Missile Defence Interceptors

Correct Answer: (C) | **Explanation:** For **Pinaka Guided Rocket** (Weapon System / Missile), the verified Category / Classification is **Long-Range Multi-Barrel Guided Artillery Rocket**. Furthermore, 8 July 2026. (Source: पत्र सूचना कार्यालय (PIB) & IUC Academy).

Practice Question #32 High-Yield Comparative MCQ

Q32. With reference to Weapon System / Missile and Category / Classification, which of the following is accurately matched with "'Pralay' Missile"?

(A) Long Range Land Attack Cruise Missile
(B) Ballistic Missile Defence Interceptors
(C) Strategic Surface-to-Surface Ballistic Missile
(D) Surface-to-Surface Quasi-Ballistic Missile

Correct Answer: (D) | **Explanation:** For **'Pralay' Missile** (Weapon System / Missile), the verified Category / Classification is **Surface-to-Surface Quasi-Ballistic Missile**. Furthermore, 5 November 2026. (Source: पत्र सूचना कार्यालय (PIB) & IUC Academy).

Practice Question #33 High-Yield Comparative MCQ

Q33. With reference to Weapon System / Missile and Category / Classification, which of the following is accurately matched with "LRLACM"?

(A) Long Range Land Attack Cruise Missile
(B) Ballistic Missile Defence Interceptors
(C) Strategic Surface-to-Surface Ballistic Missile
(D) World Intellectual Property Organization (WIPO)

Correct Answer: (A) | **Explanation:** For **LRLACM** (Weapon System / Missile), the verified Category / Classification is **Long Range Land Attack Cruise Missile**. Furthermore, 15 June 2026. (Source: पत्र सूचना कार्यालय (PIB) & IUC Academy).

Practice Question #34 High-Yield Comparative MCQ

Q34. With reference to Weapon System / Missile and Category / Classification, which of the following is accurately matched with "Multi-Layered BMD System"?

(A) Strategic Surface-to-Surface Ballistic Missile
(B) Ballistic Missile Defence Interceptors
(C) World Intellectual Property Organization (WIPO)
(D) IMD Business School, Switzerland

Correct Answer: (B) | **Explanation:** For **Multi-Layered BMD System** (Weapon System / Missile), the verified Category / Classification is **Ballistic Missile Defence Interceptors**. Furthermore, 10 & 11 June 2026. (Source: पत्र सूचना कार्यालय (PIB) & IUC Academy).

Practice Question #35 High-Yield Comparative MCQ

Q35. With reference to Weapon System / Missile and Category / Classification, which of the following is accurately matched with "Advanced Agni Variant"?

(A) World Intellectual Property Organization (WIPO)
(B) IMD Business School, Switzerland
(C) Strategic Surface-to-Surface Ballistic Missile
(D) Transparency International

Correct Answer: (C) | **Explanation:** For **Advanced Agni Variant** (Weapon System / Missile), the verified Category / Classification is **Strategic Surface-to-Surface Ballistic Missile**. Furthermore, 9 May 2026. (Source: पत्र सूचना कार्यालय (PIB) & IUC Academy).

Practice Question #36 High-Yield Comparative MCQ

Q36. With reference to Index / Report Name (2026 Edition) and Publishing Organization, which of the following is accurately matched with "Global Innovation Index (GII) 2026"?

(A) IMD Business School, Switzerland
(B) Transparency International
(C) UN Sustainable Development Solutions Network (SDSN)
(D) World Intellectual Property Organization (WIPO)

Correct Answer: (D) | **Explanation:** For **Global Innovation Index (GII) 2026** (Index / Report Name (2026 Edition)), the verified Publishing Organization is **World Intellectual Property Organization (WIPO)**. Furthermore, 38th. (Source: पत्र सूचना कार्यालय (PIB) & IUC Academy).

Practice Question #37 High-Yield Comparative MCQ

Q37. With reference to Index / Report Name (2026 Edition) and Publishing Organization, which of the following is accurately matched with "IMD World Competitiveness Ranking 2026"?

(A) IMD Business School, Switzerland
(B) Transparency International
(C) UN Sustainable Development Solutions Network (SDSN)
(D) Concern Worldwide & Welthungerhilfe

Correct Answer: (A) | **Explanation:** For **IMD World Competitiveness Ranking 2026** (Index / Report Name (2026 Edition)), the verified Publishing Organization is **IMD Business School, Switzerland**. Furthermore, 44th. (Source: पत्र सूचना कार्यालय (PIB) & IUC Academy).

Practice Question #38 High-Yield Comparative MCQ

Q38. With reference to Index / Report Name (2026 Edition) and Publishing Organization, which of the following is accurately matched with "Corruption Perceptions Index (Released Feb 2026)"?

(A) UN Sustainable Development Solutions Network (SDSN)
(B) Transparency International
(C) Concern Worldwide & Welthungerhilfe
(D) UN SDSN, Gallup & Oxford Wellbeing Research Centre

Correct Answer: (B) | **Explanation:** For **Corruption Perceptions Index (Released Feb 2026)** (Index / Report Name (2026 Edition)), the verified Publishing Organization is **Transparency International**. Furthermore, 91st. (Source: पत्र सूचना कार्यालय (PIB) & IUC Academy).

Practice Question #39 High-Yield Comparative MCQ

Q39. With reference to Index / Report Name (2026 Edition) and Publishing Organization, which of the following is accurately matched with "Sustainable Development Report 2026 (SDG Index)"?

(A) Concern Worldwide & Welthungerhilfe
(B) UN SDSN, Gallup & Oxford Wellbeing Research Centre
(C) UN Sustainable Development Solutions Network (SDSN)
(D) Institute for Economics and Peace (IEP), Sydney

Correct Answer: (C) | **Explanation:** For **Sustainable Development Report 2026 (SDG Index)** (Index / Report Name (2026 Edition)), the verified Publishing Organization is **UN Sustainable Development Solutions Network (SDSN)**. Furthermore, 94th. (Source: पत्र सूचना कार्यालय (PIB) & IUC Academy).

Practice Question #40 High-Yield Comparative MCQ

Q40. With reference to Index / Report Name (2026 Edition) and Publishing Organization, which of the following is accurately matched with "Global Hunger Index (GHI) 2026"?

(A) UN SDSN, Gallup & Oxford Wellbeing Research Centre
(B) Institute for Economics and Peace (IEP), Sydney
(C) World Economic Forum (WEF)
(D) Concern Worldwide & Welthungerhilfe

Correct Answer: (D) | **Explanation:** For **Global Hunger Index (GHI) 2026** (Index / Report Name (2026 Edition)), the verified Publishing Organization is **Concern Worldwide & Welthungerhilfe**. Furthermore, 100th. (Source: पत्र सूचना कार्यालय (PIB) & IUC Academy).

65 Rapid-Fire Revision Points (March-2026 & April-2026)

1. The **16th Finance Commission (16th FC)** was constituted under **Article 280** of the Constitution under the chairmanship of **Dr. Arvind Panagariya** (India Budget).

2. The report of the 16th Finance Commission covering the five-year period **2026–31** was tabled in Parliament on **1 February 2026** (India Budget).

3. The recommendations of the 16th Finance Commission took effect from **1 April 2026** for FY 2026–27 to FY 2030–31 (India Budget).

4. The 16th Finance Commission retained **vertical devolution** (States' share in the divisible pool of central taxes) at **41%** (India Budget).

5. During 16th FC consultations, **18 out of 28 states** had demanded increasing vertical devolution to **50%** (India Budget).

6. In the horizontal devolution formula for 2026–31, the 16th FC introduced a brand-new criterion: **Contribution to GDP** with a **10% weightage** (India Budget).

7. The 16th Finance Commission completely removed the **Tax and Fiscal Effort** criterion (which had a 2.5% weight in the 15th FC) (India Budget).

8. **Income Distance** carries the highest weight in the 16th FC horizontal formula at **42.5%** (down from 45% in the 15th FC) (India Budget).

9. **Population (2011 Census)** carries a weight of **17.5%** in the 16th FC formula (up from 15% in the 15th FC) (India Budget).

10. **Demographic Performance** carries a weight of **10.0%** in the 16th FC formula (down from 12.5% in the 15th FC) (India Budget).

11. **Area** carries a weight of **10.0%** in the 16th FC formula (down from 15.0% in the 15th FC) (India Budget).

12. **Forest and Ecology** retains an unchanged weight of **10.0%** in the 16th FC formula (India Budget).

13. The 16th Finance Commission recommended total **Grants-in-Aid of ₹9.47 lakh crore** for the five-year period 2026–31 (India Budget).

14. Out of ₹9.47 lakh crore in grants, **₹4.35 lakh crore** is allocated to **Rural Local Bodies** (India Budget).

15. Out of ₹9.47 lakh crore in grants, **₹3.56 lakh crore** is allocated to **Urban Local Bodies** (India Budget).

16. Out of ₹9.47 lakh crore in grants, **₹1.56 lakh crore** is the Union's contribution toward **Disaster Management Funds** (India Budget).

17. The 16th FC completely discontinued **Post-Devolution Revenue Deficit Grants**, **Sector-Specific Grants**, and **State-Specific Grants** (India Budget).

18. Local body grants under the 16th FC are divided into **80% Basic Grants** and **20% Performance Grants** (India Budget).

19. To receive local body grants under the 16th FC, states must duly constitute local bodies, publish audited accounts, and timely establish their **State Finance Commission (SFC)** (India Budget).

20. The 16th FC recommended that the Union Government reduce its **fiscal deficit to 3.5% of GDP by 2030–31** (India Budget).

21. The 16th FC recommended capping the annual **fiscal deficit of States at 3.0% of GSDP** (India Budget).

22. The 16th FC recommended strictly discontinuing **off-budget borrowings** by states and bringing all such liabilities onto state budgets (India Budget).

23. The 16th FC projected the combined debt of Union and State governments to decline from **77.3% of GDP in 2026–27 to 73.1% of GDP in 2030–31** (India Budget).

24. The 16th FC warned that unconditional cash transfer schemes now constitute **20.2% of total subsidy spending** (India Budget).

25. **Shri Sanjay Malhotra** is the Governor of the Reserve Bank of India and Chairman of the Monetary Policy Committee (MPC) in 2026 (RBI).

26. The **62nd meeting of the MPC** was held from **3 to 5 August 2026** under Governor Sanjay Malhotra (RBI).

27. On 7 **October 2026**, the RBI MPC unanimously voted to hike the **Policy Repo Rate by 25 basis points to 5.50%** (RBI).

28. Following the 7 October 2026 hike, the **Standing Deposit Facility (SDF) rate** stands at **5.25%** (RBI).

29. Following the 7 October 2026 hike, the **Marginal Standing Facility (MSF) rate** and **Bank Rate** stand at **5.75%** (RBI).

30. The **Weighted Average Call Rate (WACR)** serves as the operating target of monetary policy aligned with the policy repo rate (RBI).

31. The **10th edition of the ICC Men's T20 World Cup (2026)** was co-hosted by **India and Sri Lanka** (PIB).

32. A total of **20 teams** (divided into 4 groups of 5 teams each) competed in the 2026 Men's T20 World Cup (PIB).

33. On **8 March 2026**, **India defeated New Zealand by 96 runs** in the final at **Narendra Modi Stadium, Ahmedabad** (PIB).

34. In the 2026 T20 World Cup Final, India scored **255 runs (target 256)** and bowled out New Zealand for **159 runs** (PIB).

35. **Suryakumar Yadav** was the captain of the Indian team that won the 2026 ICC Men's T20 World Cup (PIB).

36. **Mitchell Santner** was the captain of the runner-up New Zealand team in the 2026 T20 World Cup Final, while **Tim Seifert** top-scored for NZ with 52 off 26 balls (PIB).

37. **Jasprit Bumrah** won the **Player of the Match** award in the 2026 T20 World Cup Final for his bowling figures of **4 wickets for 15 runs in 4 overs** (PIB).

38. India became the **first country in history to win three Men's T20 World Cup titles (2007, 2024, and 2026)** (PIB).

39. India became the **first host nation** ever to win the Men's T20 World Cup and the **first team to win back-to-back titles (2024 and 2026)** (PIB).

40. The **XXV Winter Olympic Games (2026)** were held in **Milan and Cortina d'Ampezzo (Milano Cortina), Italy**, from **6 to 22 February 2026**.

41. **Norway** topped the 2026 Winter Olympics medal table with **18 Gold, 12 Silver, and 11 Bronze medals (41 Total)**.

42. The **United States** finished 2nd at the 2026 Winter Olympics with **12 Gold, 12 Silver, and 9 Bronze medals (33 Total)**.

43. The **Netherlands** finished 3rd (**10 Gold, 7 Silver, 3 Bronze = 20 Total**) and host **Italy** finished 4th (**10 Gold, 6 Silver, 14 Bronze = 30 Total**) at Milano Cortina 2026.

44. **Germany** finished 5th at the 2026 Winter Olympics with **8 Gold, 10 Silver, and 8 Bronze medals (26 Total)**.

45. Norwegian cross-country skier **Johannes Høsflot Klæbo** won a record **6 gold medals** at the 2026 Milano Cortina Winter Olympics.

46. Dutch short-track speed skater **Xandra Velzeboer** won the women's **500m and 1000m double gold** at Milano Cortina 2026.

47. On **23 July 2026**, DRDO successfully conducted the maiden flight-test of the **'Kusha' Long-Range Surface-to-Air Missile (LR-SAM)** from APJ Abdul Kalam Island, Odisha (**PIB**).

48. On **8 July 2026**, DRDO conducted a successful flight-test of the **Pinaka Long Range Guided Rocket** (**PIB**).

49. On **5 November 2026**, DRDO successfully flight-tested the indigenous surface-to-surface quasi-ballistic missile **'Pralay'** (**PIB**).

50. On **15 June 2026**, DRDO conducted a successful flight-test of the **Long Range Land Attack Cruise Missile (LRLACM)** (**PIB**).

51. On **10 and 11 June 2026**, DRDO conducted **three consecutive flight-tests** demonstrating multi-layered **Ballistic Missile Defence (BMD)** (**PIB**).

52. On **9 May 2026**, India conducted a successful flight-trial of an **Advanced Agni missile** (**PIB**).

53. In the **Sustainable Development Report 2026 (SDG Index)** by UN SDSN, India achieved its **best-ever rank of 94th** (score 68.3).

54. In the **World Happiness Report 2026**, India ranked **116th of 147** (up from 118th), while **Finland** ranked 1st for the ninth year in a row.

55. In the **Global Hunger Index 2026**, India ranked **100th of 122** with a score of **24.1** (improved from 102nd).

56. In the **Corruption Perceptions Index** released in February 2026, India ranked **91st of 182** with a score of **39/100** (improved from 96th).

57. In the **Global Innovation Index 2026** published by WIPO, India ranked **38th of 139**.

58. In the **Global Gender Gap Index 2026** published by WEF, India ranked **131st of 145** (closing 64.5% of the gender gap), with **Iceland** ranked 1st.

59. In the **Global Peace Index 2026** published by IEP, India ranked **127th of 163**, with **Iceland** ranked 1st.

60. In the **World Press Freedom Index 2026** published by RSF, India ranked **157th of 180** (score 31.96).

61. In the **IMD World Competitiveness Ranking 2026**, India ranked **44th of 70**.

62. In the **Environmental Performance Index (EPI) 2026** by Yale and Columbia Universities, India ranked **176th of 177**, with **Estonia** ranked 1st.

63. In the **Global Terrorism Index 2026** by IEP, **Pakistan** ranked 1st (most affected country), while India ranked **13th**.

64. In the Department of Space budget for 2026–27, India allocated dedicated funds for the **Joint ISRO–NASA Mission to the International Space Station (ISS)** (**ISRO**).

65. India's bilateral military exercises with France across the three services are **Shakti** (Army), **Varuna** (Navy), and **Garuda** (Air Force) (**PIB**).

Comprehensive Analytical Appendix: Cross-Sectoral *2026* Current Affairs Reference Matrix

Chapter Key Study Pillars — Comprehensive Analytical Appendix: Cross-Sectoral 2026 Current Affairs Reference Matrix

Key Study Pillar 1
A.1 Complete State-by-State & Ministry-by-Ministry Tableau Directory (77th Republic Day Parade 2026)

Key Study Pillar 2
A.2 Detailed Analytical Notes on All 24 Showcased Tableaux (2026)

Key Study Pillar 3
A.3 Complete Sector-by-Sector Fiscal Matrix of Union Budget 2026–27 & 16th Finance Commission

A.*1* Complete State-by-State & Ministry-by-Ministry Tableau Directory *(77th Republic Day Parade 2026)*

Every tableau displayed on Kartavya Path on 26 January 2026 under the overarching theme of *150 Years of Vande Mataram* and *Aatmanirbhar Bharat* (PIB Official Release):

S.No.	State / UT / Ministry	Official 2026 Tableau Theme	Core Cultural, Historical or Technological Highlight	Official Source
1	**Maharashtra (1st — Judges)**	*Ganeshotsav: A Symbol of Aatmanirbharta*	Community festival driving artisan livelihoods, cultural unity, and self-reliance	PIB
2	**Jammu & Kashmir (2nd — Judges)**	*Handicrafts and Folk Dances of Jammu & Kashmir*	GI-tagged Pashmina, Kani shawls, walnut wood carving, and Rouf folk dance	PIB
3	**Kerala (3rd — Judges)**	*Water Metro & 100% Digital Literacy: Aatmanirbhar Kerala for Aatmanirbhar Bharat*	Kochi electric-hybrid Water Metro and universal grassroots digital literacy	PIB
4	**Gujarat (1st — Popular Choice)**	*Mantra of Swadeshi – Self-Reliance*	Indigenous manufacturing, renewable energy parks, and Swadeshi heritage	PIB
5	**Uttar Pradesh**	*Culture of Bundelkhand*	Historic forts of Jhansi and Kalinjar, Bundeli folk traditions, and Gaura stone craft	PIB
6	**Madhya Pradesh**	*Punyashlok Lokmata Devi Ahilyabai Holkar*	Welfare governance from Maheshwar, temple restoration, and Maheshwari handlooms	PIB
7	**Odisha**	*Soil to Silicon: Rooted in Tradition, Rising in Technology*	Transition from traditional agrarian/ terracotta heritage to semiconductor ecosystem	PIB
8	**Assam**	*Asharikandi – Terracotta Craft Village of Assam*	Traditional Hira community clay artisans of Dhubri district and Hatima doll	PIB
9	**Chhattisgarh**	*The Mantra of Freedom – Vande Mataram*	Tribal heroes and regional contributions to India's freedom struggle	PIB

S.No.	State / UT / Ministry	Official 2026 Tableau Theme	Core Cultural, Historical or Technological Highlight	Official Source
10	**Manipur**	*Towards Prosperity: From Agricultural Fields to International Markets*	Black aromatic rice (Chak-Hao), organic produce, and export value chains	PIB
11	**Nagaland**	*The Hornbill Festival – Celebrating Culture, Tourism and Self-Reliance*	Tribal heritage at Kisama village, sustainable eco-tourism, and handloom crafts	PIB
12	**Rajasthan**	*Golden Touch of the Desert: Bikaner Gold Usta Art*	24-carat gold embossing craft on camel leather and heritage architecture	PIB
13	**Punjab**	*350th Year of Martyrdom of Sri Guru Tegh Bahadur Ji*	Supreme sacrifice of the ninth Sikh Guru for religious freedom and human rights	PIB
14	**Himachal Pradesh**	*Dev Bhoomi, Veer Bhoomi*	Spiritual heritage of Himalayan temples and gallantry awardees of the armed forces	PIB
15	**Tamil Nadu**	*Mantra of Prosperity: Self-Reliant India*	Ancient Sangam heritage combined with modern industrial and electronics manufacturing	PIB
16	**West Bengal**	*Bengal in the Freedom Movement of India*	Birthplace of Vande Mataram (Bankim Chandra Chattopadhyay) and revolutionary patriots	PIB
17	**Puducherry**	*Rich Heritage of Craft, Culture and Spirituality*	Terracotta craft, Auroville spiritual synthesis, and coastal architectural heritage	PIB
18	**Ministry of Culture (1st — Ministries)**	*Vande Mataram – The Soul Cry of a Nation*	150th anniversary commemoration of Bankim Chandra Chattopadhyay's national song	PIB
19	**Department of Military Affairs**	*Tri-Services Tableau – Operation Sindoor*	Integrated jointmanship of Indian Army, Indian Navy, and Indian Air Force	PIB
20	**Naval Headquarters**	*Samudra Se Samriddhi*	Indigenous aircraft carrier operations, submarine inductions, and blue economy	PIB
21	**Air Headquarters**	*Veteran Tableau – Nation Building through Service*	Contributions of air warriors and military veterans to national reconstruction	PIB
22	**Dept. of School Education & Literacy**	*National Education Policy 2020: Rocketing Towards Viksit Bharat*	Foundational literacy, PM SHRI schools, and experiential STEM education	PIB
23	**Ministry of AYUSH**	*AYUSH ka Tantra, Swasthya ka Mantra*	Evidence-based traditional medicine, digital health integration, and global wellness	PIB
24	**Ministry of Home Affairs (NDMA)**	*Bhuj Earthquake: 25 Years of Resilience*	Evolution of India's disaster management architecture from 2001 to 2026	PIB

A.2 Detailed Analytical Notes on All 24 Showcased Tableaux (2026)

1. Maharashtra (1st — Judges) — *Ganeshotsav: A Symbol of Aatmanirbharta*

• **Core Presentation at Kartavya Path (26 January 2026)**: Community festival driving artisan livelihoods, cultural unity, and self-reliance (PIB Official Release).

• **Competitive Examination Relevance**: Frequently asked in State PCS and SSC matching questions connecting the state/ministry with its official 2026 Republic Day tableau theme.

2. Jammu & Kashmir (2nd — Judges) — *Handicrafts and Folk Dances of Jammu & Kashmir*

• **Core Presentation at Kartavya Path (26 January 2026)**: GI-tagged Pashmina, Kani shawls, walnut wood carving, and Rouf folk dance (PIB Official Release).

• **Competitive Examination Relevance**: Frequently asked in State PCS and SSC matching questions connecting the state/ministry with its official 2026 Republic Day tableau theme.

3. Kerala (3rd — Judges) — *Water Metro & 100% Digital Literacy: Aatmanirbhar Kerala for Aatmanirbhar Bharat*

• **Core Presentation at Kartavya Path (26 January 2026)**: Kochi electric-hybrid Water Metro and universal grassroots digital literacy (PIB Official Release).

• **Competitive Examination Relevance**: Frequently asked in State PCS and SSC matching questions connecting the state/ministry with its official 2026 Republic Day tableau theme.

4. Gujarat (1st — Popular Choice) — *Mantra of Swadeshi – Self-Reliance*

• **Core Presentation at Kartavya Path (26 January 2026)**: Indigenous manufacturing, renewable energy parks, and Swadeshi heritage (PIB Official Release).

• **Competitive Examination Relevance**: Frequently asked in State PCS and SSC matching questions connecting the state/ministry with its official 2026 Republic Day tableau theme.

5. Uttar Pradesh — *Culture of Bundelkhand*

• **Core Presentation at Kartavya Path (26 January 2026)**: Historic forts of Jhansi and Kalinjar, Bundeli folk traditions, and Gaura stone craft (PIB Official Release).

• **Competitive Examination Relevance**: Frequently asked in State PCS and SSC matching questions connecting the state/ministry with its official 2026 Republic Day tableau theme.

6. Madhya Pradesh — *Punyashlok Lokmata Devi Ahilyabai Holkar*

• **Core Presentation at Kartavya Path (26 January 2026)**: Welfare governance from Maheshwar, temple restoration, and Maheshwari handlooms (PIB Official Release).

• **Competitive Examination Relevance**: Frequently asked in State PCS and SSC matching questions connecting the state/ministry with its official 2026 Republic Day tableau theme.

7. Odisha — *Soil to Silicon: Rooted in Tradition, Rising in Technology*

• **Core Presentation at Kartavya Path (26 January 2026)**: Transition from traditional agrarian/terracotta heritage to semiconductor ecosystem (PIB Official Release).

• **Competitive Examination Relevance**: Frequently asked in State PCS and SSC matching questions connecting the state/ministry with its official 2026 Republic Day tableau theme.

8. Assam — *Asharikandi – Terracotta Craft Village of Assam*

• **Core Presentation at Kartavya Path (26 January 2026)**: Traditional Hira community clay artisans of Dhubri district and Hatima doll (PIB Official Release).

• **Competitive Examination Relevance**: Frequently asked in State PCS and SSC matching questions connecting the state/ministry with its official 2026 Republic Day tableau theme.

9. Chhattisgarh — *The Mantra of Freedom – Vande Mataram*

• **Core Presentation at Kartavya Path (26 January 2026)**: Tribal heroes and regional contributions to India's freedom struggle (PIB Official Release).

• **Competitive Examination Relevance**: Frequently asked in State PCS and SSC matching questions connecting the state/ministry with its official 2026 Republic Day tableau theme.

10. Manipur — *Towards Prosperity: From Agricultural Fields to International Markets*

• **Core Presentation at Kartavya Path (26 January 2026)**: Black aromatic rice (Chak-Hao), organic produce, and export value chains (PIB Official Release).

• **Competitive Examination Relevance**: Frequently asked in State PCS and SSC matching questions connecting the state/ministry with its official 2026 Republic Day tableau theme.

11. Nagaland — *The Hornbill Festival – Celebrating Culture, Tourism and Self-Reliance*

• **Core Presentation at Kartavya Path (26 January 2026)**: Tribal heritage at Kisama village, sustainable eco-tourism, and handloom crafts (PIB Official Release).

• **Competitive Examination Relevance**: Frequently asked in State PCS and SSC matching questions connecting the state/ministry with its official 2026 Republic Day tableau theme.

12. Rajasthan — *Golden Touch of the Desert: Bikaner Gold Usta Art*

• **Core Presentation at Kartavya Path (26 January 2026)**: 24-carat gold embossing craft on camel leather and heritage architecture (PIB Official Release).

• **Competitive Examination Relevance**: Frequently asked in State PCS and SSC matching questions connecting the state/ministry with its official 2026 Republic Day tableau theme.

13. Punjab — *350th Year of Martyrdom of Sri Guru Tegh Bahadur Ji*

• **Core Presentation at Kartavya Path (26 January 2026)**: Supreme sacrifice of the ninth Sikh Guru for religious freedom and human rights (PIB Official Release).

• **Competitive Examination Relevance**: Frequently asked in State PCS and SSC matching questions connecting the state/ministry with its official 2026 Republic Day tableau theme.

14. Himachal Pradesh — *Dev Bhoomi, Veer Bhoomi*

• **Core Presentation at Kartavya Path (26 January 2026)**: Spiritual heritage of Himalayan temples and gallantry awardees of the armed forces (PIB Official Release).

• **Competitive Examination Relevance**: Frequently asked in State PCS and SSC matching questions connecting the state/ministry with its official 2026 Republic Day tableau theme.

15. Tamil Nadu — *Mantra of Prosperity: Self-Reliant India*

• **Core Presentation at Kartavya Path (26 January 2026)**: Ancient Sangam heritage combined with modern industrial and electronics manufacturing (PIB Official Release).

• **Competitive Examination Relevance**: Frequently asked in State PCS and SSC matching questions connecting the state/ministry with its official 2026 Republic Day tableau theme.

16. West Bengal — *Bengal in the Freedom Movement of India*

• **Core Presentation at Kartavya Path (26 January 2026)**: Birthplace of Vande Mataram (Bankim Chandra Chattopadhyay) and revolutionary patriots (PIB Official Release).

• **Competitive Examination Relevance**: Frequently asked in State PCS and SSC matching questions connecting the state/ministry with its official 2026 Republic Day tableau theme.

17. Puducherry — *Rich Heritage of Craft, Culture and Spirituality*

• **Core Presentation at Kartavya Path (26 January 2026)**: Terracotta craft, Auroville spiritual synthesis, and coastal architectural heritage (PIB Official Release).

• **Competitive Examination Relevance**: Frequently asked in State PCS and SSC matching questions connecting the state/ministry with its official 2026 Republic Day tableau theme.

18. Ministry of Culture *(1st* — Ministries*)* — *Vande Mataram – The Soul Cry of a Nation*

• **Core Presentation at Kartavya Path (26 January 2026)**: 150th anniversary commemoration of Bankim Chandra Chattopadhyay's national song (PIB Official Release).

• **Competitive Examination Relevance**: Frequently asked in State PCS and SSC matching questions connecting the state/ministry with its official 2026 Republic Day tableau theme.

19. Department of Military Affairs — *Tri-Services Tableau – Operation Sindoor*

• **Core Presentation at Kartavya Path (26 January 2026)**: Integrated jointmanship of Indian Army, Indian Navy, and Indian Air Force (PIB Official Release).

• **Competitive Examination Relevance**: Frequently asked in State PCS and SSC matching questions connecting the state/ministry with its official 2026 Republic Day tableau theme.

20. Naval Headquarters — *Samudra Se Samriddhi*

• **Core Presentation at Kartavya Path (26 January 2026)**: Indigenous aircraft carrier operations, submarine inductions, and blue economy (PIB Official Release).

• **Competitive Examination Relevance**: Frequently asked in State PCS and SSC matching questions connecting the state/ministry with its official 2026 Republic Day tableau theme.

21. Air Headquarters — *Veteran Tableau – Nation Building through Service*

• **Core Presentation at Kartavya Path (26 January 2026)**: Contributions of air warriors and military veterans to national reconstruction (PIB Official Release).

• **Competitive Examination Relevance**: Frequently asked in State PCS and SSC matching questions connecting the state/ministry with its official 2026 Republic Day tableau theme.

22. Dept. of School Education & Literacy — *National Education Policy 2020: Rocketing Towards Viksit Bharat*

• **Core Presentation at Kartavya Path (26 January 2026)**: Foundational literacy, PM SHRI schools, and experiential STEM education (PIB Official Release).

• **Competitive Examination Relevance**: Frequently asked in State PCS and SSC matching questions connecting the state/ministry with its official 2026 Republic Day tableau theme.

23. Ministry of AYUSH — *AYUSH ka Tantra, Swasthya ka Mantra*

• **Core Presentation at Kartavya Path (26 January 2026)**: Evidence-based traditional medicine, digital health integration, and global wellness (PIB Official Release).

• **Competitive Examination Relevance**: Frequently asked in State PCS and SSC matching questions connecting the state/ministry with its official 2026 Republic Day tableau theme.

24. Ministry of Home Affairs (NDMA) — *Bhuj Earthquake: 25 Years of Resilience*

• **Core Presentation at Kartavya Path (26 January 2026)**: Evolution of India's disaster management architecture from 2001 to 2026 (PIB Official Release).

• **Competitive Examination Relevance**: Frequently asked in State PCS and SSC matching questions connecting the state/ministry with its official 2026 Republic Day tableau theme.

A.3 Complete Sector-by-Sector Fiscal Matrix of Union Budget 2026–27 & 16th Finance Commission

Synthesis Note 1: Macroeconomic Fiscal Consolidation Path (BE 2026–27)

• **Verified Policy & Data Summary**: The Union Budget 2026–27 lowered the fiscal deficit from 4.4% of GDP in RE 2025–26 to 4.3% of GDP (₹16,95,768 crore) in BE 2026–27, keeping the Revenue Deficit steady at 1.5% of GDP and anchoring Central Government debt on a glide path from 55.6% of GDP in FY 2026–27 to 50±1% of GDP by FY 2030–31 (Union Budget Portal).

Synthesis Note 2: Capital Expenditure Multiplier (Direct vs. Effective Capex)

• **Verified Policy & Data Summary**: Direct capital outlay rose by 11.5% over RE 2025–26 to reach ₹12,21,821 crore in BE 2026–27. When combined with ₹4,92,702 crore in Grants-in-Aid for the creation of capital assets, Effective Capital Expenditure reached ₹17,14,523 crore (Union Budget Portal).

Synthesis Note 3: Receipts Architecture in FY 2026–27

• **Verified Policy & Data Summary**: Total receipts excluding borrowings are estimated at ₹36,51,547 crore (+7.2% over RE 2025–26), comprising ₹35,33,150 crore in Revenue Receipts (with tax revenues growing by 8.0%) and ₹1,18,397 crore in Non-Debt Capital Receipts (Union Budget Portal).

Synthesis Note 4: Committed Revenue Expenditure (Interest Payments & Pensions)

• **Verified Policy & Data Summary**: Interest payments in BE 2026–27 stand at ₹14,03,972 crore (+10% over RE 2025–26), absorbing 26% of total expenditure and 40% of revenue receipts, while pension expenditure is budgeted at ₹2,96,214 crore (+3%) (Union Budget Portal).

Synthesis Note 5: Central Sector vs. Centrally Sponsored Schemes in FY 2026–27

• **Verified Policy & Data Summary**: Central Sector Schemes received ₹17,71,928 crore (+8.2% over RE 2025–26), whereas Centrally Sponsored Schemes received ₹9,89,885 crore (+17.1% over RE 2025–26), alongside ₹1,85,000 crore in special capital expenditure loans to states (Union Budget Portal).

Synthesis Note 6: 16th Finance Commission Horizontal Formula Re-Engineering (2026–31)

• **Verified Policy & Data Summary**: Chaired by Dr. Arvind Panagariya, the 16th FC kept vertical devolution at 41% while assigning 42.5% to Income Distance, 17.5% to Population (2011 Census), 10% to Area, 10% to Forest & Ecology, 10% to Demographic Performance, and 10% to the newly introduced 'Contribution to GDP' parameter (Union Budget Portal).

Synthesis Note 7: 16th Finance Commission Grants-in-Aid Restructuring (₹9.47 Lakh Crore)

• **Verified Policy & Data Summary**: Total grants of ₹9.47 lakh crore for 2026–31 are allocated strictly to Rural Local Bodies (₹4.35 lakh crore), Urban Local Bodies (₹3.56 lakh crore), and Disaster Management Funds (₹1.56 lakh crore), with an 80:20 split between basic and performance grants for local bodies (Union Budget Portal).

Synthesis Note *8:* RBI Monetary Policy Trajectory in *2026* under Governor Sanjay Malhotra

• **Verified Policy & Data Summary**: After holding the policy repo rate at 5.25% through the August 2026 (62nd MPC) review, the Monetary Policy Committee unanimously raised the repo rate by 25 bps to 5.50% on 7 October 2026, setting the SDF rate at 5.25% and the MSF/Bank Rate at 5.75% (Reserve Bank of India).

Synthesis Note *9:* ISRO & DRDO Strategic Technology Milestones in *2026*

• **Verified Policy & Data Summary**: ISRO executed PSLV-C62/EOS-N1 (12 Jan 2026), NISAR dual-band radar operations, SpaDeX orbital re-entry, Aditya-L1 VELC 3D CME reconstruction, and 3rd National Space Day at Ahmedabad (23 Aug 2026), while DRDO flight-tested 'Kusha' LR-SAM (23 Jul 2026), Pinaka Guided Rocket (8 Jul 2026), 'Pralay' (5 Nov 2026), LRLACM (15 Jun 2026), and multi-layered BMD (10–11 Jun 2026) (ISRO, DRDO).

Synthesis Note *10:* Global Sports & International Rankings Benchmarks in *2026*

• **Verified Policy & Data Summary**: India won its record 3rd ICC Men's T20 World Cup title on 8 March 2026 at Ahmedabad (beating New Zealand by 96 runs under Suryakumar Yadav), Norway topped the 2026 Milano Cortina Winter Olympics medal table (18 Gold, 41 Total), and India achieved its best-ever 94th rank in the SDG Index 2026 (PIB).

Chapter *11* Comprehensive Analytical & Statutory Revision Matrix

Core Sub-Domain	Key Concept / Provision	Verified Analytical Parameters & Exam Distinctions (पत्र सूचना कार्यालय (PIB))
A.1 Complete State-by-State & Ministry-by-Ministry Tableau Directory (77th Republic Day Parade 2026)	**Core Presentation at Kartavya Path (26 January 2026)**	Community festival driving artisan livelihoods, cultural unity, and self-reliance (PIB Official Release).
A.2 Detailed Analytical Notes on All 24 Showcased Tableaux (2026)	**Competitive Examination Relevance**	Frequently asked in State PCS and SSC matching questions connecting the state/ministry with its official 2026 Republic Day tableau theme.
A.3 Complete Sector-by-Sector Fiscal Matrix of Union Budget 2026–27 & 16th Finance Commission	**Core Presentation at Kartavya Path (26 January 2026)**	GI-tagged Pashmina, Kani shawls, walnut wood carving, and Rouf folk dance (PIB Official Release).
A.1 Complete State-by-State & Ministry-by-Ministry Tableau Directory (77th Republic Day Parade 2026)	**Competitive Examination Relevance**	Frequently asked in State PCS and SSC matching questions connecting the state/ministry with its official 2026 Republic Day tableau theme.

Core Sub-Domain	Key Concept / Provision	Verified Analytical Parameters & Exam Distinctions (पत्र सूचना कार्यालय (PIB))
A.2 Detailed Analytical Notes on All 24 Showcased Tableaux (2026)	Core Presentation at Kartavya Path (26 January 2026)	Kochi electric-hybrid Water Metro and universal grassroots digital literacy (PIB Official Release).
A.3 Complete Sector-by-Sector Fiscal Matrix of Union Budget 2026–27 & 16th Finance Commission	Competitive Examination Relevance	Frequently asked in State PCS and SSC matching questions connecting the state/ministry with its official 2026 Republic Day tableau theme.
A.1 Complete State-by-State & Ministry-by-Ministry Tableau Directory (77th Republic Day Parade 2026)	Core Presentation at Kartavya Path (26 January 2026)	Indigenous manufacturing, renewable energy parks, and Swadeshi heritage (PIB Official Release).
A.2 Detailed Analytical Notes on All 24 Showcased Tableaux (2026)	Competitive Examination Relevance	Frequently asked in State PCS and SSC matching questions connecting the state/ministry with its official 2026 Republic Day tableau theme.
A.3 Complete Sector-by-Sector Fiscal Matrix of Union Budget 2026–27 & 16th Finance Commission	Core Presentation at Kartavya Path (26 January 2026)	Historic forts of Jhansi and Kalinjar, Bundeli folk traditions, and Gaura stone craft (PIB Official Release).
A.1 Complete State-by-State & Ministry-by-Ministry Tableau Directory (77th Republic Day Parade 2026)	Competitive Examination Relevance	Frequently asked in State PCS and SSC matching questions connecting the state/ministry with its official 2026 Republic Day tableau theme.
A.2 Detailed Analytical Notes on All 24 Showcased Tableaux (2026)	Core Presentation at Kartavya Path (26 January 2026)	Welfare governance from Maheshwar, temple restoration, and Maheshwari handlooms (PIB Official Release).
A.3 Complete Sector-by-Sector Fiscal Matrix of Union Budget 2026–27 & 16th Finance Commission	Competitive Examination Relevance	Frequently asked in State PCS and SSC matching questions connecting the state/ministry with its official 2026 Republic Day tableau theme.

Core Sub-Domain	Key Concept / Provision	Verified Analytical Parameters & Exam Distinctions (पत्र सूचना कार्यालय (PIB))
A.1 Complete State-by-State & Ministry-by-Ministry Tableau Directory (77th Republic Day Parade 2026)	Core Presentation at Kartavya Path (26 January 2026)	Transition from traditional agrarian/terracotta heritage to semiconductor ecosystem (PIB Official Release).
A.2 Detailed Analytical Notes on All 24 Showcased Tableaux (2026)	Competitive Examination Relevance	Frequently asked in State PCS and SSC matching questions connecting the state/ministry with its official 2026 Republic Day tableau theme.

Chapter 11 Multi-Statement Exam Verification Drills

Chapter 11 Statement-Verification Drill #1 — Both Statements Verified Correct

Statement-I (Core Presentation at Kartavya Path (26 January 2026)): Community festival driving artisan livelihoods, cultural unity, and self-reliance (PIB Official Release).

Statement-II (Competitive Examination Relevance): Frequently asked in State PCS and SSC matching questions connecting the state/ministry with its official 2026 Republic Day tableau theme.

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

Chapter 11 Statement-Verification Drill #2 — Both Statements Verified Correct

Statement-I (Core Presentation at Kartavya Path (26 January 2026)): GI-tagged Pashmina, Kani shawls, walnut wood carving, and Rouf folk dance (PIB Official Release).

Statement-II (Competitive Examination Relevance): Frequently asked in State PCS and SSC matching questions connecting the state/ministry with its official 2026 Republic Day tableau theme.

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

Chapter 11 Statement-Verification Drill #3 — Both Statements Verified Correct

Statement-I (Core Presentation at Kartavya Path (26 January 2026)): Kochi electric-hybrid Water Metro and universal grassroots digital literacy (PIB Official Release).

Statement-II (Competitive Examination Relevance): Frequently asked in State PCS and SSC matching questions connecting the state/ministry with its official 2026 Republic Day tableau theme.

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

Chapter 11 Statement-Verification Drill #4 — Both Statements Verified Correct

Statement-I (Core Presentation at Kartavya Path (26 January 2026)): Indigenous manufacturing, renewable energy parks, and Swadeshi heritage (PIB Official Release).

Statement-II (Competitive Examination Relevance): Frequently asked in State PCS and SSC matching questions connecting the state/ministry with its official 2026 Republic Day tableau theme.

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

Chapter 11 Statement-Verification Drill #5 — Both Statements Verified Correct

Statement-I (Core Presentation at Kartavya Path (26 January 2026)): Historic forts of Jhansi and Kalinjar, Bundeli folk traditions, and Gaura stone craft (PIB Official Release).

Statement-II (Competitive Examination Relevance): Frequently asked in State PCS and SSC matching questions connecting the state/ministry with its official 2026 Republic Day tableau theme.

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

Chapter 11 Statement-Verification Drill #6 — Both Statements Verified Correct

Statement-I (Core Presentation at Kartavya Path (26 January 2026)): Welfare governance from Maheshwar, temple restoration, and Maheshwari handlooms (PIB Official Release).

Statement-II (Competitive Examination Relevance): Frequently asked in State PCS and SSC matching questions connecting the state/ministry with its official 2026 Republic Day tableau theme.

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

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 2 (Current Affairs 2026)	☐ Completed (100% Concept Clarity)	☐ Flowchart & Tables Revised	☐ 75+ MCQs Solved (>85% Accuracy)	☐ **Final Rapid Recall Ready**
2. Chapter 1: 16th Finance Commission Report (2026–31) (Part I) — 41% Vertical Devolution & The New Horizontal Formula	☐ Completed (100% Concept Clarity)	☐ Flowchart & Tables Revised	☐ 75+ MCQs Solved (>85% Accuracy)	☐ **Final Rapid Recall Ready**
3. Chapter 2: 16th Finance Commission Report (2026–31) (Part II) — ₹9.47 Lakh Crore Grants, Abolished Grants & Fiscal Roadmap	☐ Completed (100% Concept Clarity)	☐ Flowchart & Tables Revised	☐ 75+ MCQs Solved (>85% Accuracy)	☐ **Final Rapid Recall Ready**
4. Chapter 3: RBI Monetary Policy 2026 & Banking Developments — Governor Sanjay Malhotra & Repo Rate Trajectory	☐ Completed (100% Concept Clarity)	☐ Flowchart & Tables Revised	☐ 75+ MCQs Solved (>85% Accuracy)	☐ **Final Rapid Recall Ready**
5. Chapter 4: ICC Men's T20 World Cup 2026 (India & Sri Lanka) — India's Historic 3rd Title & Tournament Records	☐ Completed (100% Concept Clarity)	☐ Flowchart & Tables Revised	☐ 75+ MCQs Solved (>85% Accuracy)	☐ **Final Rapid Recall Ready**
6. Chapter 5: XXV Winter Olympic Games 2026 (Milano Cortina, Italy) — Medal Table & Historic Performances	☐ Completed (100% Concept Clarity)	☐ Flowchart & Tables Revised	☐ 75+ MCQs Solved (>85% Accuracy)	☐ **Final Rapid Recall Ready**
7. Chapter 6: DRDO Defence Trials 2026 — 'Kusha' LR-SAM, Pinaka Guided Rocket, Pralay, LRLACM & Multi-Layered BMD	☐ Completed (100% Concept Clarity)	☐ Flowchart & Tables Revised	☐ 75+ MCQs Solved (>85% Accuracy)	☐ **Final Rapid Recall Ready**
8. Chapter 7: India's Ranks in Global Indices & Reports 2026 — Comprehensive Analysis	☐ Completed (100% Concept Clarity)	☐ Flowchart & Tables Revised	☐ 75+ MCQs Solved (>85% Accuracy)	☐ **Final Rapid Recall Ready**
9. Chapter 8: International Summits, Strategic Diplomacy & Defence Exercises in 2026	☐ Completed (100% Concept Clarity)	☐ Flowchart & Tables Revised	☐ 75+ MCQs Solved (>85% Accuracy)	☐ **Final Rapid Recall Ready**
10. 45 Solved Multiple-Choice Questions (March-2026 & April-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 (March-2026 & April-2026)	☐ Completed (100% Concept Clarity)	☐ Flowchart & Tables Revised	☐ 75+ MCQs Solved (>85% Accuracy)	☐ **Final Rapid Recall Ready**