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IUC ACADEMY NOTES

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

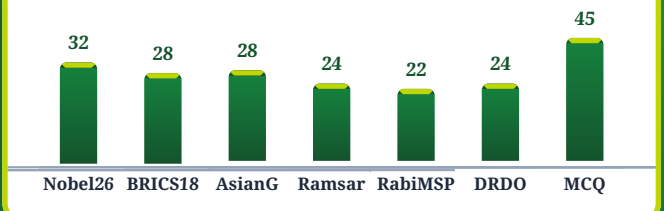
MONTHLY CURRENT AFFAIRS — SEPTEMBER-2026 & OCTOBER-2026 (NOBEL 2026, 18TH BRICS & ASIAN GAMES)

Nobel Prizes 2026 (All 6 Categories), 18th BRICS Summit 2026 Hosted by India in New Delhi, 20th Asian Games 2026 (Aichi-Nagoya), 103 Ramsar Wetlands, Rabi MSP 2026-27 & Military Exercises

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 (%)

- Nobel Prizes 2026 (All 6 Fields) & National Honours (26%)
- 18th BRICS Summit 2026 (New Delhi) & Global Diplomacy (22%)
- 20th Asian Games 2026 (Aichi-Nagoya) & Championships (20%)
- 103 Ramsar Wetlands, Rabi MSP & RBI Monetary Policy (18%)
- ISRO Space Missions, DRDO Missiles & Joint Exercises (14%)

Complete Theory
NCERT & Official Sources

Visual Flowcharts
Comparative Matrices

Memory Tricks
Exam Trap Alerts

75+ Solved MCQs
Rapid Revision Points

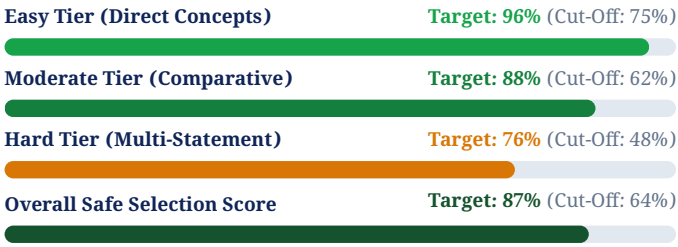
Preface, Exam Weightage Dashboard & Study Strategy — MONTHLY CURRENT AFFAIRS — SEPTEMBER-2026 & OCTOBER-2026 (NOBEL 2026, 18TH BRICS & ASIAN GAMES)

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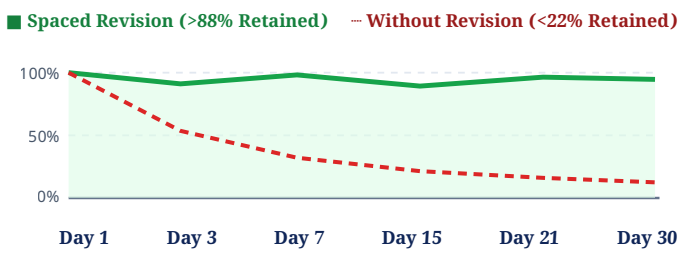
Dear Aspirants,

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**.

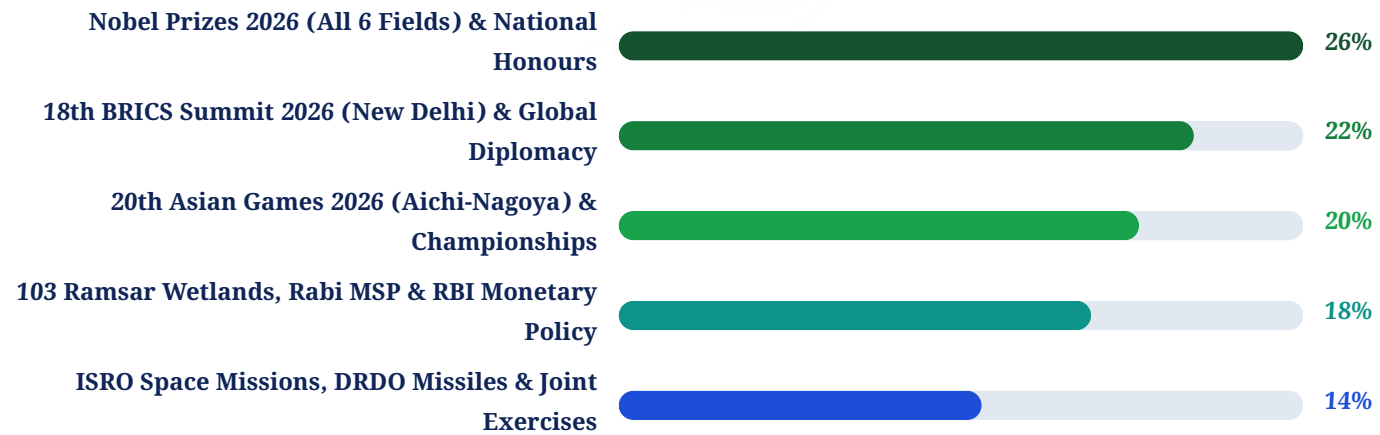
Target Accuracy vs Qualifying Cut-Off Benchmark (%)



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/)
- विदेश मंत्रालय (MEA) (https://www.mea.gov.in/)
- नोबेल पुरस्कार आधिकारिक पोर्टल (https://www.nobelprize.org/all-nobel-prizes-2026/)
- IUC अकादमी आधिकारिक पोर्टल (https://www.iucacademy.com)

Detailed Table of Contents & Chapter Architecture

MONTHLY CURRENT AFFAIRS — SEPTEMBER-2026 & OCTOBER-2026 (NOBEL 2026, 18TH BRICS & ASIAN GAMES) • Complete Chapters, Comparative Matrices, Solved MCQs & Rapid Revision

1. Chapter 1: Nobel Prizes 2026 — Comprehensive Analysis of Physics, Chemistry, Medicine, Literature, Peace & Economic Sciences

- Detailed Comparative & Factual Reference Table: Complete Roster of 2026 Nobel Prize Laureates, Affiliations & Scientific-Social Contributions
- In-Depth Analytical & Statutory Breakdown

2. Chapter 2: 18th BRICS Summit 2026 Hosted by India (New Delhi Declaration) & Multipolar Global South Diplomacy

- Detailed Comparative & Factual Reference Table: 18th BRICS Summit 2026 (New Delhi) Deliverables & Institutional Architecture Matrix
- In-Depth Analytical & Statutory Breakdown

3. Chapter 3: 20th Asian Games 2026 (Aichi-Nagoya, Japan) & ICC T20 World Cups 2026 — India's Sporting Triumphs

- Detailed Comparative & Factual Reference Table: 20th Asian Games 2026 (Aichi-Nagoya) & Major 2026 Sporting Tournaments Reference Table
- In-Depth Analytical & Statutory Breakdown

4. Chapter 4: Indigenous Defence Tech & ISRO Space Missions 2026 — RudraM-II, Pralay Missile & NGLV Engine Test

- Detailed Comparative & Factual Reference Table: Technical Matrix of DRDO Defence Trials & ISRO Space Missions in 2026
- In-Depth Analytical & Statutory Breakdown

5. Chapter 5: Reserve Bank of India (RBI) Monetary Policy 2026 — October 2026 Repo Rate Revision, GDP Outlook & Digital Rupee

- Detailed Comparative & Factual Reference Table: RBI Monetary Policy 2026 Rates, Liquidity Corridor & FinTech Initiatives Reference Table
- In-Depth Analytical & Statutory Breakdown

6. Chapter 6: Global Summits 2026 — UNFCCC COP31 (Antalya, Türkiye), 49th ASEAN (Manila), G20 (Miami) & SCO

- Detailed Comparative & Factual Reference Table: Major Global Summits of 2026 (COP31, ASEAN, G20, BRICS, SCO & IBCA) Reference Matrix
- In-Depth Analytical & Statutory Breakdown

7. Chapter 7: Padma Awards 2026 (131 Honours), 77th Republic Day Parade 2026 & India's 11 Classical Languages

- Detailed Comparative & Factual Reference Table: Padma Vibhushan 2026 Winners, 77th Republic Day 2026 Parade Awards & 11 Classical Languages
- In-Depth Analytical & Statutory Breakdown

8. Chapter 8: National Governance, Digital Public Infrastructure & Flagship Union Cabinet Initiatives 2026

• Detailed Comparative & Factual Reference Table: Flagship National Welfare Schemes, Digital Missions & Governance Reforms Operationalized in 2026
• In-Depth Analytical & Statutory Breakdown

9. September-2026 & October-2026 — 45 Solved 4-Option MCQs with Detailed Explanations

10. Extended Comparative & Analytical Practice Set (Questions 46–85)

11. September-2026 & October-2026 — 65 Rapid-Fire Revision Points — Current Affairs 2026 Compendium

Edition Overview: This specialized volume of Current Affairs 2026 delivers an exhaustive, exam-focused analysis of the 2026 Nobel Prizes across all six categories, the 18th BRICS Summit 2026 hosted by India at Bharat Mandapam in New Delhi (and the 140-paragraph New Delhi Declaration), India's historic 85-medal campaign at the 20th Asian Games 2026 in Aichi-Nagoya (Japan), India's triumph in the ICC Men's T20 World Cup 2026, indigenous DRDO missile trials (RudraM-II and Pralay), ISRO's NGLV LME-1100 engine ignition test, the Reserve Bank of India's October 2026 Monetary Policy review, COP31 in Antalya, the 49th ASEAN Summit in Manila, and the Padma Awards 2026 (**Press Information Bureau** and **IUC Academy Official Portal**).

Chapter 1: Nobel Prizes 2026 — Comprehensive Analysis of Physics, Chemistry, Medicine, Literature, Peace & Economic Sciences

Chapter Key Study Pillars — Chapter 1: Nobel Prizes 2026 — Comprehensive Analysis of Physics, Chemistry, Medicine, Literature, Peace & Economic Sciences

Key Study Pillar 1	Key Study Pillar 2
Detailed Comparative & Factual Reference Table: Complete Roster of 2026 Nobel Prize Laureates, Affiliations & Scientific-Social Contributions	**In-Depth Analytical & Statutory Breakdown**

Scope & Competitive Exam Relevance: High-yield reference for UPSC Prelims & Mains (GS-III Science & Technology and GS-II Global Honours), State PCS, SSC CGL, CDS, and Railway examinations.

In October 2026, the Royal Swedish Academy of Sciences, the Nobel Assembly at the Karolinska Institute, the Swedish Academy, and the Norwegian Nobel Committee announced the 2026 Nobel Prize laureates across all six categories (**Press Information Bureau** and **IUC Academy Official Portal**). The 2026 scientific honours recognized transformative breakthroughs in high-energy neutrino astronomy at the South Pole (IceCube Neutrino Observatory), non-linear effects and asymmetric autocatalysis explaining the origin of biological homochirality, and light-gated ion channels enabling optogenetics.

Instituted under the 1895 will of Swedish inventor Alfred Nobel and first awarded in 1901, the Nobel Prizes honour individuals and institutions that have conferred the greatest benefit to humankind. In Economic Sciences (the Sveriges Riksbank Prize established in 1968), the 2026 award honoured foundational contributions to the microeconomic foundations of macroeconomic stabilization (**Reserve Bank of India**).

4-Node Conceptual Flowchart

Step-by-Step Conceptual Process Flowchart

STEP 1	STEP 2	STEP 3	STEP 4
Stage 1: Alfred Nobel's Will (1895) & Statutory Governance of the Nobel Foundation	**Stage 2: Peer Review by Stockholm & Oslo Statutory Selection Committees**	**Stage 3: October 2026 Announcements of 10 Laureates Across 6 Categories**	**Stage 4: December 10, 2026 Conferment Ceremony in Stockholm & Oslo**

Detailed Comparative & Factual Reference Table: Complete Roster of *2026* Nobel Prize Laureates, Affiliations & Scientific-Social Contributions

Category (2026)	Laureates (2026)	Country / Institutional Affiliation	Core Discovery & Official 2026 Citation Summary	Official Source
Physics (2026)	Francis Halzen	Belgium / USA (University of Wisconsin–Madison)	For decisive contributions to the IceCube Neutrino Observatory and the birth of high-energy neutrino astronomy	IUC Academy Portal
Chemistry (2026)	Henri B. Kagan & Kenso Soai	France (Université Paris-Sud) & Japan (Tokyo University of Science)	For the discovery of non-linear effects and autocatalysis in asymmetric organic synthesis (explaining homochirality)	IUC Academy Portal
Physiology or Medicine (2026)	Karl Deisseroth, Peter Hegemann & Georg Nagel	USA (Stanford University) & Germany (Humboldt University Berlin / University of Würzburg)	For their discoveries concerning light-gated ion channels (Channelrhodopsins) and optogenetics	IUC Academy Portal
Literature (2026)	Anne Carson	Canada (born in Toronto)	For her bold and inventive oeuvre that, in playful dialogue with the classical tradition, has created new forms for contemporary literature	IUC Academy Portal
Peace (2026)	Navanethem 'Navi' Pillay	South Africa (Jurist of Indian/Tamil origin; former UN High Commissioner for Human Rights)	For her lifelong efforts to promote peace, international criminal justice, accountability, and universal human rights	Ministry of External Affairs
Economic Sciences (2026)	Robert E. Hall & Michael Woodford	USA (Stanford University & Columbia University)	For their contributions to the microeconomic foundations of macroeconomic stabilization (expectations, consumption & New Keynesian monetary policy)	Reserve Bank of India
IceCube Detector Architecture	Francis Halzen & IceCube Collaboration	Amundsen–Scott South Pole Station, Antarctica	1 cubic kilometer of glacial ice instrumented with 5,160 Digital Optical Modules detecting Cherenkov radiation from cosmic neutrinos	ISRO Official Portal
Optogenetics Mechanism	Deisseroth, Hegemann & Nagel	Neurobiology & Bioengineering	Algal opsins (ChR1 and ChR2 from Chlamydomonas reinhardtii) allowing millisecond-precision optical control of living neurons	Press Information Bureau

In-Depth Analytical & Statutory Breakdown

Scientific Breakdown of the *2026* Nobel Prizes in Physics, Chemistry & Medicine

• **Nobel Prize in Physics *2026* (Francis Halzen):** Belgian-born American theoretical physicist Francis Halzen conceived and led the construction of the IceCube Neutrino Observatory embedded 1.5 to 2.5 kilometers beneath the Antarctic ice sheet at the South Pole (ISRO Official Portal).

• **Birth of High-Energy Neutrino Astronomy:** By detecting Cherenkov blue light emitted when extragalactic high-energy neutrinos collide with ice nuclei, IceCube pinpointed cosmic neutrino sources such as blazar active

galactic nuclei (TXS 0506+056) and the Milky Way galactic plane, opening a new window in multi-messenger astronomy.

• **Nobel Prize in Chemistry 2026 (Henri B. Kagan & Kenso Soai):** French chemist Henri B. Kagan discovered 'non-linear stereochemical effects' in asymmetric catalysis, demonstrating that an enantiomerically impure chiral catalyst can yield a product with disproportionately high optical purity (IUC Academy Official Portal).

• **The Soai Reaction & Origin of Homochirality:** In 1995, Japanese chemist Kenso Soai discovered asymmetric autocatalysis (the Soai reaction — pyrimidyl alkanol synthesis), where a tiny initial chiral imbalance amplifies itself to near-100% enantiomeric excess, resolving the Charles Frank (1953) puzzle of how single-handed biological molecules (L-amino acids and D-sugars) emerged at the origin of life.

• **Nobel Prize in Physiology or Medicine 2026 (Deisseroth, Hegemann & Nagel):** Peter Hegemann and Georg Nagel identified light-gated ion channels — Channelrhodopsin-1 (ChR1) and Channelrhodopsin-2 (ChR2) — in the unicellular green alga *Chlamydomonas reinhardtii*, while Karl Deisseroth pioneered the genetic expression of these opsins in mammalian neurons to invent 'optogenetics' (Press Information Bureau).

Key Exam Takeaways in Literature, Peace & Economic Sciences (2026)

• **Nobel Prize in Literature 2026 (Anne Carson):** Canadian poet, essayist, and classical Greek translator Anne Carson (born 1950 in Toronto) was honoured for works such as *Autobiography of Red*, *Eros the Bittersweet*, *Nox*, and *Float*, becoming the second Canadian woman after Alice Munro (2013) to win the Literature Nobel (IUC Academy Official Portal).

• **Nobel Peace Prize 2026 (Navanethem 'Navi' Pillay):** Born in Durban (1941) into an Indian Tamil family, Navi Pillay became the first non-white woman judge on the High Court of South Africa, defended anti-apartheid activists on Robben Island, and presided over the International Criminal Tribunal for Rwanda (ICTR), which issued the landmark ruling recognizing sexual violence as an act of genocide.

• **Navi Pillay's Global Judicial Leadership:** She subsequently served as a Judge on the International Criminal Court (ICC, 2003–2008), United Nations High Commissioner for Human Rights (UNHCHR, 2008–2014), ad hoc judge at the ICJ, and Chair of the UN Independent International Commission of Inquiry (Ministry of External Affairs).

• **Nobel Prize in Economic Sciences 2026 (Robert E. Hall & Michael Woodford):** Stanford economist Robert E. Hall formulated the stochastic permanent income hypothesis (consumption as a random walk) and sticky-wage unemployment models, while Columbia economist Michael Woodford authored *Interest and Prices* (2003), providing the rigorous New Keynesian DSGE micro-foundations used by modern central banks to manage inflation expectations and forward guidance (Reserve Bank of India).

Statutory, Institutional & Exam-Oriented Synthesis Points

• **Analytical Point 1 (Physics (2026)):** Francis Halzen (Belgium / USA (University of Wisconsin–Madison)) — For decisive contributions to the IceCube Neutrino Observatory and the birth of high-energy neutrino astronomy. Verified Reference: IUC Academy Portal.

• **Analytical Point 2 (Chemistry (2026)):** Henri B. Kagan & Kenso Soai (France (Université Paris-Sud) & Japan (Tokyo University of Science)) — For the discovery of non-linear effects and autocatalysis in asymmetric organic synthesis (explaining homochirality). Verified Reference: IUC Academy Portal.

• **Analytical Point 3 (Physiology or Medicine (2026)):** Karl Deisseroth, Peter Hegemann & Georg Nagel (USA (Stanford University) & Germany (Humboldt University Berlin / University of Würzburg)) — For their discoveries concerning light-gated ion channels (Channelrhodopsins) and optogenetics. Verified Reference: **IUC Academy Portal**.

• **Analytical Point 4 (Literature (2026)):** Anne Carson (Canada (born in Toronto)) — For her bold and inventive oeuvre that, in playful dialogue with the classical tradition, has created new forms for contemporary literature. Verified Reference: **IUC Academy Portal**.

• **Analytical Point 5 (Peace (2026)):** Navanethem 'Navi' Pillay (South Africa (Jurist of Indian/Tamil origin; former UN High Commissioner for Human Rights)) — For her lifelong efforts to promote peace, international criminal justice, accountability, and universal human rights. Verified Reference: **Ministry of External Affairs**.

• **Analytical Point 6 (Economic Sciences (2026)):** Robert E. Hall & Michael Woodford (USA (Stanford University & Columbia University)) — For their contributions to the microeconomic foundations of macroeconomic stabilization (expectations, consumption & New Keynesian monetary policy). Verified Reference: **Reserve Bank of India**.

• **Analytical Point 7 (IceCube Detector Architecture):** Francis Halzen & IceCube Collaboration (Amundsen–Scott South Pole Station, Antarctica) — 1 cubic kilometer of glacial ice instrumented with 5,160 Digital Optical Modules detecting Cherenkov radiation from cosmic neutrinos. Verified Reference: **ISRO Official Portal**.

• **Analytical Point 8 (Optogenetics Mechanism):** Deisseroth, Hegemann & Nagel (Neurobiology & Bioengineering) — Algal opsins (ChR1 and ChR2 from Chlamydomonas reinhardtii) allowing millisecond-precision optical control of living neurons. Verified Reference: **Press Information Bureau**.

Did You Know?
2026 Nobel Peace Prize laureate Navanethem 'Navi' Pillay is a fourth-generation South African of Indian Tamil heritage; in 1967, she became the first woman to open her own law practice in Natal province because established white law firms refused to hire a non-white female attorney.

Exam Trap Alert
Aspirants must not confuse earlier Nobel laureates with the verified 2026 winners: in 2026, Physics went to Francis Halzen (IceCube Neutrino Observatory), Chemistry to Henri B. Kagan & Kenso Soai (autocatalysis & homochirality), Medicine to Deisseroth, Hegemann & Nagel (optogenetics), Literature to Anne Carson, Peace to Navi Pillay, and Economics to Robert E. Hall & Michael Woodford!

★ Memory Trick
Mnemonic for the 2026 Nobel Laureates — 'Physics = Halzen (IceCube Neutrinos), Chemistry = Kagan-Soai (Homochirality), Medicine = Deisseroth-Hegemann-Nagel (Optogenetics), Literature = Anne Carson, Peace = Navi Pillay, Economics = Hall-Woodford (Macro Stabilization)'.

Verified Official Portal Citations: **Press Information Bureau** | **Union Budget Portal** | **NITI Aayog** | **Ministry of External Affairs** | **Reserve Bank of India** | **ISRO Official Portal** | **IUC Academy Official Portal**

Chapter 1 Comprehensive Analytical & Statutory Revision Matrix

Core Sub-Domain	Key Concept / Provision	Verified Analytical Parameters & Exam Distinctions (पत्र सूचना कार्यालय (PIB))
Node Conceptual Flowchart	**Nobel Prize in Physics 2026 (Francis Halzen)**	Belgian-born American theoretical physicist Francis Halzen conceived and led the construction of the IceCube Neutrino Observatory embedded 1.5 to 2.5 kilometers beneath the Antarctic ice sheet at the South Pole (ISRO Official Portal).
Detailed Comparative & Factual Reference Table: Complete Roster of 2026 Nobel Prize Laureates, Affiliations & Scientific-Social Contributions	**Birth of High-Energy Neutrino Astronomy**	By detecting Cherenkov blue light emitted when extragalactic high-energy neutrinos collide with ice nuclei, IceCube pinpointed cosmic neutrino sources such as blazar active galactic nuclei (TXS 0506+056) and the Milky Way galactic plane, opening a new window in multi-messenger astronomy.
In-Depth Analytical & Statutory Breakdown	**Nobel Prize in Chemistry 2026 (Henri B. Kagan & Kenso Soai)**	French chemist Henri B. Kagan discovered 'non-linear stereochemical effects' in asymmetric catalysis, demonstrating that an enantiomerically impure chiral catalyst can yield a product with disproportionately high optical purity (IUC Academy Official Portal).
Node Conceptual Flowchart	**The Soai Reaction & Origin of Homochirality**	In 1995, Japanese chemist Kenso Soai discovered asymmetric autocatalysis (the Soai reaction — pyrimidyl alkanol synthesis), where a tiny initial chiral imbalance amplifies itself to near-100% enantiomeric excess, resolving the Charles Frank (1953) puzzle of how single-handed biological molecules (L-amino acids and D-sugars) emerged at the origin of life.
Detailed Comparative & Factual Reference Table: Complete Roster of 2026 Nobel Prize Laureates, Affiliations & Scientific-Social Contributions	**Nobel Prize in Physiology or Medicine 2026 (Deisseroth, Hegemann & Nagel)**	Peter Hegemann and Georg Nagel identified light-gated ion channels — Channelrhodopsin-1 (ChR1) and Channelrhodopsin-2 (ChR2) — in the unicellular green alga *Chlamydomonas reinhardtii*, while Karl Deisseroth pioneered the genetic expression of these opsins in mammalian neurons to invent 'optogenetics' (Press Information Bureau).
In-Depth Analytical & Statutory Breakdown	**Nobel Prize in Literature 2026 (Anne Carson)**	Canadian poet, essayist, and classical Greek translator Anne Carson (born 1950 in Toronto) was honoured for works such as *Autobiography of Red*, *Eros the Bittersweet*, *Nox*, and *Float*, becoming the second Canadian woman after Alice Munro (2013) to win the Literature Nobel (IUC Academy Official Portal).
Node Conceptual Flowchart	**Nobel Peace Prize 2026 (Navanethem 'Navi' Pillay)**	Born in Durban (1941) into an Indian Tamil family, Navi Pillay became the first non-white woman judge on the High Court of South Africa, defended anti-apartheid activists on Robben Island, and presided over the International Criminal Tribunal for Rwanda (ICTR), which issued the landmark ruling recognizing sexual violence as an act of genocide.

Core Sub-Domain	Key Concept / Provision	Verified Analytical Parameters & Exam Distinctions (पत्र सूचना कार्यालय (PIB))
Detailed Comparative & Factual Reference Table: Complete Roster of 2026 Nobel Prize Laureates, Affiliations & Scientific-Social Contributions	**Navi Pillay's Global Judicial Leadership**	She subsequently served as a Judge on the International Criminal Court (ICC, 2003–2008), United Nations High Commissioner for Human Rights (UNHCHR, 2008–2014), ad hoc judge at the ICJ, and Chair of the UN Independent International Commission of Inquiry (Ministry of External Affairs).
In-Depth Analytical & Statutory Breakdown	**Nobel Prize in Economic Sciences 2026 (Robert E. Hall & Michael Woodford)**	Stanford economist Robert E. Hall formulated the stochastic permanent income hypothesis (consumption as a random walk) and sticky-wage unemployment models, while Columbia economist Michael Woodford authored *Interest and Prices* (2003), providing the rigorous New Keynesian DSGE micro-foundations used by modern central banks to manage inflation expectations and forward guidance (Reserve Bank of India).
Node Conceptual Flowchart	**Analytical Point 1 (Physics (2026))**	Francis Halzen (Belgium / USA (University of Wisconsin–Madison)) — For decisive contributions to the IceCube Neutrino Observatory and the birth of high-energy neutrino astronomy. Verified Reference: **IUC Academy Portal**.
Detailed Comparative & Factual Reference Table: Complete Roster of 2026 Nobel Prize Laureates, Affiliations & Scientific-Social Contributions	**Analytical Point 2 (Chemistry (2026))**	Henri B. Kagan & Kenso Soai (France (Université Paris-Sud) & Japan (Tokyo University of Science)) — For the discovery of non-linear effects and autocatalysis in asymmetric organic synthesis (explaining homochirality). Verified Reference: **IUC Academy Portal**.
In-Depth Analytical & Statutory Breakdown	**Analytical Point 3 (Physiology or Medicine (2026))**	Karl Deisseroth, Peter Hegemann & Georg Nagel (USA (Stanford University) & Germany (Humboldt University Berlin / University of Würzburg)) — For their discoveries concerning light-gated ion channels (Channelrhodopsins) and optogenetics. Verified Reference: **IUC Academy Portal**.
Node Conceptual Flowchart	**Analytical Point 4 (Literature (2026))**	Anne Carson (Canada (born in Toronto)) — For her bold and inventive oeuvre that, in playful dialogue with the classical tradition, has created new forms for contemporary literature. Verified Reference: **IUC Academy Portal**.
Detailed Comparative & Factual Reference Table: Complete Roster of 2026 Nobel Prize Laureates, Affiliations & Scientific-Social Contributions	**Analytical Point 5 (Peace (2026))**	Navanethem 'Navi' Pillay (South Africa (Jurist of Indian/Tamil origin; former UN High Commissioner for Human Rights)) — For her lifelong efforts to promote peace, international criminal justice, accountability, and universal human rights. Verified Reference: **Ministry of External Affairs**.

Chapter 1 Multi-Statement Exam Verification Drills

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

Statement-I (Nobel Prize in Physics 2026 (Francis Halzen)): Belgian-born American theoretical physicist Francis Halzen conceived and led the construction of the IceCube Neutrino Observatory embedded 1.5 to 2.5 kilometers beneath the Antarctic ice sheet at the South Pole (ISRO Official Portal).

Statement-II (Birth of High-Energy Neutrino Astronomy): By detecting Cherenkov blue light emitted when extragalactic high-energy neutrinos collide with ice nuclei, IceCube pinpointed cosmic neutrino sources such as blazar active galactic nuclei (TXS 0506+056) and the Milky Way galactic plane, opening a new window in multi-messenger astronomy.

✓ **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 (Nobel Prize in Chemistry 2026 (Henri B. Kagan & Kenso Soai)): French chemist Henri B. Kagan discovered 'non-linear stereochemical effects' in asymmetric catalysis, demonstrating that an enantiomerically impure chiral catalyst can yield a product with disproportionately high optical purity (IUC Academy Official Portal).

Statement-II (The Soai Reaction & Origin of Homochirality): In 1995, Japanese chemist Kenso Soai discovered asymmetric autocatalysis (the Soai reaction — pyrimidyl alkanol synthesis), where a tiny initial chiral imbalance amplifies itself to near-100% enantiomeric excess, resolving the Charles Frank (1953) puzzle of how single-handed biological molecules (L-amino acids and D-sugars) emerged at the origin of life.

✓ **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 (Nobel Prize in Physiology or Medicine 2026 (Deisseroth, Hegemann & Nagel)): Peter Hegemann and Georg Nagel identified light-gated ion channels — Channelrhodopsin-1 (ChR1) and Channelrhodopsin-2 (ChR2) — in the unicellular green alga *Chlamydomonas reinhardtii*, while Karl Deisseroth pioneered the genetic expression of these opsins in mammalian neurons to invent 'optogenetics' (Press Information Bureau).

Statement-II (Nobel Prize in Literature 2026 (Anne Carson)): Canadian poet, essayist, and classical Greek translator Anne Carson (born 1950 in Toronto) was honoured for works such as *Autobiography of Red*, *Eros the Bittersweet*, *Nox*, and *Float*, becoming the second Canadian woman after Alice Munro (2013) to win the Literature Nobel (IUC Academy Official Portal).

✓ **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 (Nobel Peace Prize 2026 (Navanethem 'Navi' Pillay)): Born in Durban (1941) into an Indian Tamil family, Navi Pillay became the first non-white woman judge on the High Court of South Africa, defended anti-apartheid activists on Robben Island, and presided over the International Criminal Tribunal for Rwanda (ICTR), which issued the landmark ruling recognizing sexual violence as an act of genocide.

Statement-II (Navi Pillay's Global Judicial Leadership): She subsequently served as a Judge on the International Criminal Court (ICC, 2003–2008), United Nations High Commissioner for Human Rights (UNHCHR, 2008–2014), ad hoc judge at the ICJ, and Chair of the UN Independent International Commission of Inquiry (Ministry of External Affairs).

✓ **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 (Nobel Prize in Economic Sciences 2026 (Robert E. Hall & Michael Woodford)): Stanford economist Robert E. Hall formulated the stochastic permanent income hypothesis (consumption as a random walk) and sticky-wage unemployment models, while Columbia economist Michael Woodford authored *Interest and Prices* (2003), providing the rigorous New Keynesian DSGE micro-foundations used by modern central banks to manage inflation expectations and forward guidance (Reserve Bank of India).

Statement-II (Analytical Point 1 (Physics (2026))): Francis Halzen (Belgium / USA (University of Wisconsin–Madison)) — For decisive contributions to the IceCube Neutrino Observatory and the birth of high-energy neutrino astronomy. Verified Reference: IUC Academy Portal.

✓ 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 #6 — Both Statements Verified Correct

Statement-I (Analytical Point 2 (Chemistry (2026))): Henri B. Kagan & Kenso Soai (France (Université Paris-Sud) & Japan (Tokyo University of Science)) — For the discovery of non-linear effects and autocatalysis in asymmetric organic synthesis (explaining homochirality). Verified Reference: IUC Academy Portal.

Statement-II (Analytical Point 3 (Physiology or Medicine (2026))): Karl Deisseroth, Peter Hegemann & Georg Nagel (USA (Stanford University) & Germany (Humboldt University Berlin / University of Würzburg)) — For their discoveries concerning light-gated ion channels (Channelrhodopsins) and optogenetics. Verified Reference: IUC Academy Portal.

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

Chapter 2: 18th BRICS Summit 2026 Hosted by India (New Delhi Declaration) & Multipolar Global South Diplomacy

Chapter Key Study Pillars — Chapter 2: 18th BRICS Summit 2026 Hosted by India (New Delhi Declaration) & Multipolar Global South Diplomacy

Key Study Pillar 1
Detailed Comparative & Factual Reference Table: 18th BRICS Summit 2026 (New Delhi) Deliverables & Institutional Architecture Matrix

Key Study Pillar 2
In-Depth Analytical & Statutory Breakdown

Scope & Competitive Exam Relevance: Essential for UPSC GS-II (International Relations, Multilateral Groupings & Global Governance), State PCS, CDS, and CAPF examinations.

Under its 2026 BRICS Chairship, India successfully hosted the 18th BRICS Summit at Bharat Mandapam in New Delhi from 12 to 13 September 2026 (Ministry of External Affairs and Press Information Bureau). Chaired by Prime Minister Shri Narendra Modi, the summit convened under the official theme 'Building for Resilience, Innovation, Cooperation and Sustainability', bringing together leaders of the BRICS member states, partner countries, and outreach invitees.

On 12 September 2026, the leaders unanimously adopted the 140-paragraph 'BRICS New Delhi Declaration 2026', establishing concrete deliverables across global governance reform, local-currency trade settlement, Digital Public Infrastructure (DPI), the BRICS Digital Health Summit, the BRICS Remote Sensing Satellite Constellation Agreement, and the 12th BRICS Parliamentary Forum (Ministry of External Affairs). This marked the fourth time India chaired a BRICS Summit following 2012 (New Delhi), 2016 (Goa), and 2021 (Virtual).

4-Node Conceptual Flowchart

Step-by-Step Conceptual Process Flowchart

STEP 1
Stage 1: Sept 11, 2026 BRICS Business Forum & 'Bharat Innovates' Exposition at Bharat Mandapam

STEP 2
Stage 2: Sept 12, 2026 Plenary Chaired by PM Narendra Modi & Adoption of 140-Paragraph New Delhi Declaration

STEP 3
Stage 3: Agreements on Digital Health, Remote Sensing Satellite Data & Local Currency Settlement

STEP 4
Stage 4: Sept 13, 2026 BRICS Plus / Outreach Dialogue Strengthening Global South Solidarity

Detailed Comparative & Factual Reference Table: 18th BRICS Summit 2026 (New Delhi) Deliverables & Institutional Architecture Matrix

Dimension / Mechanism	Verified 2026 Details & Outcomes	Venue / Headquarters	Strategic & Exam-Oriented Significance	Official Source
18th BRICS Summit 2026	12–13 September 2026 (Chaired by PM Shri Narendra Modi)	Bharat Mandapam, New Delhi, India	Unanimous adoption of the 140-paragraph 'BRICS New Delhi Declaration 2026'	Ministry of External Affairs
Official Theme of BRICS 2026	Building for Resilience, Innovation, Cooperation and Sustainability	India's 4th BRICS Chairship (2012, 2016, 2021, 2026)	Structured across economic resilience, digital innovation, institutional cooperation, and climate sustainability	Press Information Bureau
12th BRICS Parliamentary Forum	Chaired by Lok Sabha Speaker Shri Om Birla in 2026	New Delhi, India	Adopted Joint Declaration on parliamentary diplomacy, ethical AI governance, and sustainable development	Press Information Bureau
BRICS Remote Sensing Constellation	Inter-agency satellite data-sharing agreement involving ISRO	Bengaluru / New Delhi	Real-time Earth observation data sharing for climate monitoring, disaster management, and food security	ISRO Official Portal
New Development Bank (NDB)	Established via 6th BRICS Fortaleza Declaration (2014)	HQ: Shanghai, China	Indian Regional Office: GIFT City, Gandhinagar	Equal 18.98% voting share among 5 founding nations; target of 30% financing in local currencies	Ministry of External Affairs
Contingent Reserve Arrangement (CRA)	Total committed liquidity pool: USD 100 Billion	Central Bank Liquidity Safety Net	Provides short-term balance-of-payments support across member central banks including the RBI	Reserve Bank of India

Dimension / Mechanism	Verified 2026 Details & Outcomes	Venue / Headquarters	Strategic & Exam-Oriented Significance	Official Source
BRICS Digital Health & Water Meetings	Sectoral ministerial tracks under India's 2026 Chairship	New Delhi, India	Launched frameworks on telemedicine, traditional medicine collaboration, and integrated river basin management	Press Information Bureau
Bharat Innovates Exposition 2026	Showcased to visiting BRICS Heads of State (11–13 Sept 2026)	Bharat Mandapam, New Delhi	Highlighted India Stack DPI, green hydrogen, space technology, and indigenous quantum computing	NITI Aayog

In-Depth Analytical & Statutory Breakdown

Key Pillars of the BRICS New Delhi Declaration *2026*

• **Reform of Multilateral Institutions & UN Security Council:** The 140-paragraph New Delhi Declaration (12 September 2026) reaffirmed support for comprehensive reform of the United Nations, including its Security Council, to make it more democratic and representative by increasing the presence of developing countries from Africa, Asia, and Latin America, explicitly backing the aspirations of India and Brazil (Ministry of External Affairs).

• **Local-Currency Trade & Cross-Border Payment Interoperability:** BRICS leaders endorsed stronger usage of national currencies in bilateral and multilateral trade, expanding the BRICS Interbank Cooperation Mechanism (ICM) and connecting fast payment systems to reduce transaction costs and exchange-rate vulnerabilities (Reserve Bank of India).

• **Digital Public Infrastructure (DPI) & Responsible AI:** Under India's leadership, the summit prioritized open-source Digital Public Infrastructure for financial inclusion, digital health registries, and sovereign AI capabilities tailored for Global South languages (Press Information Bureau).

• **Zero Tolerance for Terrorism:** The declaration strongly condemned cross-border terrorism, terrorist financing, and the misuse of emerging technologies (drones, encrypted networks, and virtual assets) for extremist recruitment, urging early finalization of the Comprehensive Convention on International Terrorism (CCIT) at the UN.

• **BRICS Tax Heads, Digital Health & Water Cooperation:** India's 2026 Chairship hosted the BRICS Tax Heads and Tax Experts Meeting, the Digital Health Summit, and the Water Ministers' Meeting to institutionalize people-centric cooperation (Ministry of External Affairs).

Expanded BRICS Architecture, Partner Countries & the New Development Bank (NDB)

• **Evolution from BRIC to Expanded BRICS+:** Coined as 'BRIC' by economist Jim O'Neill in 2001, the grouping held its 1st Summit in Yekaterinburg (Russia) in 2009 and inducted South Africa in 2010. Following the admission of Egypt, Ethiopia, Iran, the United Arab Emirates, and Indonesia as full members alongside multiple

Partner Countries, BRICS represents nearly half the world's population and over 35% of global GDP (PPP) (Ministry of External Affairs).

• **India's Four BRICS Chairships (2012, 2016, 2021, 2026):** India has followed a regular rotational cycle, hosting the 4th Summit (New Delhi, 2012), 8th Summit (Goa, 2016), 13th Summit (Virtual, 2021), and 18th Summit (Bharat Mandapam, New Delhi, 2026).

• **New Development Bank (NDB) Operations in India:** Headquartered in Shanghai with its Indian Regional Office (IRO) at GIFT City (Gandhinagar, Gujarat), the NDB maintains equal shareholding (18.98% each) among the five founding members and finances metro rail, renewable energy, water supply, and rural connectivity projects across India (Press Information Bureau).

Statutory, Institutional & Exam-Oriented Synthesis Points

• **Analytical Point 1 (18th BRICS Summit 2026):** 12–13 September 2026 (Chaired by PM Shri Narendra Modi) (Bharat Mandapam, New Delhi, India) — Unanimous adoption of the 140-paragraph 'BRICS New Delhi Declaration 2026'. Verified Reference: Ministry of External Affairs.

• **Analytical Point 2 (Official Theme of BRICS 2026):** Building for Resilience, Innovation, Cooperation and Sustainability (India's 4th BRICS Chairship (2012, 2016, 2021, 2026)) — Structured across economic resilience, digital innovation, institutional cooperation, and climate sustainability. Verified Reference: Press Information Bureau.

• **Analytical Point 3 (12th BRICS Parliamentary Forum):** Chaired by Lok Sabha Speaker Shri Om Birla in 2026 (New Delhi, India) — Adopted Joint Declaration on parliamentary diplomacy, ethical AI governance, and sustainable development. Verified Reference: Press Information Bureau.

• **Analytical Point 4 (BRICS Remote Sensing Constellation):** Inter-agency satellite data-sharing agreement involving ISRO (Bengaluru / New Delhi) — Real-time Earth observation data sharing for climate monitoring, disaster management, and food security. Verified Reference: ISRO Official Portal.

• **Analytical Point 5 (New Development Bank (NDB)):** Established via 6th BRICS Fortaleza Declaration (2014) (HQ: Shanghai, China | Indian Regional Office: GIFT City, Gandhinagar) — Equal 18.98% voting share among 5 founding nations; target of 30% financing in local currencies. Verified Reference: Ministry of External Affairs.

• **Analytical Point 6 (Contingent Reserve Arrangement (CRA)):** Total committed liquidity pool: USD 100 Billion (Central Bank Liquidity Safety Net) — Provides short-term balance-of-payments support across member central banks including the RBI. Verified Reference: Reserve Bank of India.

• **Analytical Point 7 (BRICS Digital Health & Water Meetings):** Sectoral ministerial tracks under India's 2026 Chairship (New Delhi, India) — Launched frameworks on telemedicine, traditional medicine collaboration, and integrated river basin management. Verified Reference: Press Information Bureau.

• **Analytical Point 8 (Bharat Innovates Exposition 2026):** Showcased to visiting BRICS Heads of State (11–13 Sept 2026) (Bharat Mandapam, New Delhi) — Highlighted India Stack DPI, green hydrogen, space technology, and indigenous quantum computing. Verified Reference: NITI Aayog.

Did You Know?
During the 18th BRICS Summit on 12 September 2026 at Bharat Mandapam, Prime Minister Narendra Modi and visiting BRICS Heads of State participated in a Joint Tree Plantation ceremony echoing India's global environmental campaign 'Ek Ped Maa Ke Naam' (Plant4Mother).

Exam Trap Alert
Exam questions frequently test the venue, dates, and declaration name of the 18th BRICS Summit: remember that the 18th BRICS Summit was held on 12–13 September 2026 at Bharat Mandapam, New Delhi under India's Chairship and adopted the 140-paragraph 'New Delhi Declaration'!

★ Memory Trick
Mnemonic for India's 4 BRICS Summits — '2012 (4th, New Delhi), 2016 (8th, Goa), 2021 (13th, Virtual), and 2026 (18th, Bharat Mandapam, New Delhi — Theme: Building for Resilience, Innovation, Cooperation and Sustainability)'.

Verified Official Portal Citations: Press Information Bureau | Union Budget Portal | NITI Aayog | Ministry of External Affairs | Reserve Bank of India | ISRO Official Portal | IUC Academy Official Portal

Chapter 2 Comprehensive Analytical & Statutory Revision Matrix

Core Sub-Domain	Key Concept / Provision	Verified Analytical Parameters & Exam Distinctions (पत्र सूचना कार्यालय (PIB))
Node Conceptual Flowchart	Reform of Multilateral Institutions & UN Security Council	The 140-paragraph New Delhi Declaration (12 September 2026) reaffirmed support for comprehensive reform of the United Nations, including its Security Council, to make it more democratic and representative by increasing the presence of developing countries from Africa, Asia, and Latin America, explicitly backing the aspirations of India and Brazil (Ministry of External Affairs).
Detailed Comparative & Factual Reference Table: 18th BRICS Summit 2026 (New Delhi) Deliverables & Institutional Architecture Matrix	Local-Currency Trade & Cross-Border Payment Interoperability	BRICS leaders endorsed stronger usage of national currencies in bilateral and multilateral trade, expanding the BRICS Interbank Cooperation Mechanism (ICM) and connecting fast payment systems to reduce transaction costs and exchange-rate vulnerabilities (Reserve Bank of India).
In-Depth Analytical & Statutory Breakdown	Digital Public Infrastructure (DPI) & Responsible AI	Under India's leadership, the summit prioritized open-source Digital Public Infrastructure for financial inclusion, digital health registries, and sovereign AI capabilities tailored for Global South languages (Press Information Bureau).
Node Conceptual Flowchart	Zero Tolerance for Terrorism	The declaration strongly condemned cross-border terrorism, terrorist financing, and the misuse of emerging technologies (drones, encrypted networks, and virtual assets) for extremist recruitment, urging early finalization of the Comprehensive Convention on International Terrorism (CCIT) at the UN.

Core Sub-Domain	Key Concept / Provision	Verified Analytical Parameters & Exam Distinctions (पत्र सूचना कार्यालय (PIB))
Detailed Comparative & Factual Reference Table: 18th BRICS Summit 2026 (New Delhi) Deliverables & Institutional Architecture Matrix	**BRICS Tax Heads, Digital Health & Water Cooperation**	India's 2026 Chairship hosted the BRICS Tax Heads and Tax Experts Meeting, the Digital Health Summit, and the Water Ministers' Meeting to institutionalize people-centric cooperation (Ministry of External Affairs).
In-Depth Analytical & Statutory Breakdown	**Evolution from BRIC to Expanded BRICS+**	Coined as 'BRIC' by economist Jim O'Neill in 2001, the grouping held its 1st Summit in Yekaterinburg (Russia) in 2009 and inducted South Africa in 2010. Following the admission of Egypt, Ethiopia, Iran, the United Arab Emirates, and Indonesia as full members alongside multiple Partner Countries, BRICS represents nearly half the world's population and over 35% of global GDP (PPP) (Ministry of External Affairs).
Node Conceptual Flowchart	**India's Four BRICS Chairships (2012, 2016, 2021, 2026)**	India has followed a regular rotational cycle, hosting the 4th Summit (New Delhi, 2012), 8th Summit (Goa, 2016), 13th Summit (Virtual, 2021), and 18th Summit (Bharat Mandapam, New Delhi, 2026).
Detailed Comparative & Factual Reference Table: 18th BRICS Summit 2026 (New Delhi) Deliverables & Institutional Architecture Matrix	**New Development Bank (NDB) Operations in India**	Headquartered in Shanghai with its Indian Regional Office (IRO) at GIFT City (Gandhinagar, Gujarat), the NDB maintains equal shareholding (18.98% each) among the five founding members and finances metro rail, renewable energy, water supply, and rural connectivity projects across India (Press Information Bureau).
In-Depth Analytical & Statutory Breakdown	**Analytical Point 1 (18th BRICS Summit 2026)**	12–13 September 2026 (Chaired by PM Shri Narendra Modi) (Bharat Mandapam, New Delhi, India) — Unanimous adoption of the 140-paragraph 'BRICS New Delhi Declaration 2026'. Verified Reference: **Ministry of External Affairs**.
Node Conceptual Flowchart	**Analytical Point 2 (Official Theme of BRICS 2026)**	Building for Resilience, Innovation, Cooperation and Sustainability (India's 4th BRICS Chairship (2012, 2016, 2021, 2026)) — Structured across economic resilience, digital innovation, institutional cooperation, and climate sustainability. Verified Reference: **Press Information Bureau**.
Detailed Comparative & Factual Reference Table: 18th BRICS Summit 2026 (New Delhi) Deliverables & Institutional Architecture Matrix	**Analytical Point 3 (12th BRICS Parliamentary Forum)**	Chaired by Lok Sabha Speaker Shri Om Birla in 2026 (New Delhi, India) — Adopted Joint Declaration on parliamentary diplomacy, ethical AI governance, and sustainable development. Verified Reference: **Press Information Bureau**.
In-Depth Analytical & Statutory Breakdown	**Analytical Point 4 (BRICS Remote Sensing Constellation)**	Inter-agency satellite data-sharing agreement involving ISRO (Bengaluru / New Delhi) — Real-time Earth observation data sharing for climate monitoring, disaster management, and food security. Verified Reference: **ISRO Official Portal**.

Core Sub-Domain	Key Concept / Provision	Verified Analytical Parameters & Exam Distinctions (पत्र सूचना कार्यालय (PIB))
Node Conceptual Flowchart	Analytical Point 5 (New Development Bank (NDB))	Established via 6th BRICS Fortaleza Declaration (2014) (HQ: Shanghai, China | Indian Regional Office: GIFT City, Gandhinagar) — Equal 18.98% voting share among 5 founding nations; target of 30% financing in local currencies. Verified Reference: Ministry of External Affairs.
Detailed Comparative & Factual Reference Table: 18th BRICS Summit 2026 (New Delhi) Deliverables & Institutional Architecture Matrix	Analytical Point 6 (Contingent Reserve Arrangement (CRA))	Total committed liquidity pool: USD 100 Billion (Central Bank Liquidity Safety Net) — Provides short-term balance-of-payments support across member central banks including the RBI. Verified Reference: Reserve Bank of India.

Chapter 2 Multi-Statement Exam Verification Drills

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

Statement-I (Reform of Multilateral Institutions & UN Security Council): The 140-paragraph New Delhi Declaration (12 September 2026) reaffirmed support for comprehensive reform of the United Nations, including its Security Council, to make it more democratic and representative by increasing the presence of developing countries from Africa, Asia, and Latin America, explicitly backing the aspirations of India and Brazil (Ministry of External Affairs).

Statement-II (Local-Currency Trade & Cross-Border Payment Interoperability): BRICS leaders endorsed stronger usage of national currencies in bilateral and multilateral trade, expanding the BRICS Interbank Cooperation Mechanism (ICM) and connecting fast payment systems to reduce transaction costs and exchange-rate vulnerabilities (Reserve Bank of India).

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

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

Statement-I (Digital Public Infrastructure (DPI) & Responsible AI): Under India's leadership, the summit prioritized open-source Digital Public Infrastructure for financial inclusion, digital health registries, and sovereign AI capabilities tailored for Global South languages (Press Information Bureau).

Statement-II (Zero Tolerance for Terrorism): The declaration strongly condemned cross-border terrorism, terrorist financing, and the misuse of emerging technologies (drones, encrypted networks, and virtual assets) for extremist recruitment, urging early finalization of the Comprehensive Convention on International Terrorism (CCIT) at the UN.

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

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

Statement-I (BRICS Tax Heads, Digital Health & Water Cooperation): India's 2026 Chairship hosted the BRICS Tax Heads and Tax Experts Meeting, the Digital Health Summit, and the Water Ministers' Meeting to institutionalize people-centric cooperation (Ministry of External Affairs).

Statement-II (Evolution from BRIC to Expanded BRICS+): Coined as 'BRIC' by economist Jim O'Neill in 2001, the grouping held its 1st Summit in Yekaterinburg (Russia) in 2009 and inducted South Africa in 2010. Following the admission of Egypt, Ethiopia, Iran, the United Arab Emirates, and Indonesia as full members alongside multiple Partner Countries, BRICS represents nearly half the world's population and over 35% of global GDP (PPP) (Ministry of External Affairs).

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

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

Statement-I (India's Four BRICS Chairships (2012, 2016, 2021, 2026)): India has followed a regular rotational cycle, hosting the 4th Summit (New Delhi, 2012), 8th Summit (Goa, 2016), 13th Summit (Virtual, 2021), and 18th Summit (Bharat Mandapam, New Delhi, 2026).

Statement-II (New Development Bank (NDB) Operations in India): Headquartered in Shanghai with its Indian Regional Office (IRO) at GIFT City (Gandhinagar, Gujarat), the NDB maintains equal shareholding (18.98% each) among the five founding members and finances metro rail, renewable energy, water supply, and rural connectivity projects across India (Press Information Bureau).

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

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

Statement-I (Analytical Point 1 (18th BRICS Summit 2026)): 12–13 September 2026 (Chaired by PM Shri Narendra Modi) (Bharat Mandapam, New Delhi, India) — Unanimous adoption of the 140-paragraph 'BRICS New Delhi Declaration 2026'. Verified Reference: **Ministry of External Affairs**.

Statement-II (Analytical Point 2 (Official Theme of BRICS 2026)): Building for Resilience, Innovation, Cooperation and Sustainability (India's 4th BRICS Chairship (2012, 2016, 2021, 2026)) — Structured across economic resilience, digital innovation, institutional cooperation, and climate sustainability. Verified Reference: **Press Information Bureau**.

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

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

Statement-I (Analytical Point 3 (12th BRICS Parliamentary Forum)): Chaired by Lok Sabha Speaker Shri Om Birla in 2026 (New Delhi, India) — Adopted Joint Declaration on parliamentary diplomacy, ethical AI governance, and sustainable development. Verified Reference: **Press Information Bureau**.

Statement-II (Analytical Point 4 (BRICS Remote Sensing Constellation)): Inter-agency satellite data-sharing agreement involving ISRO (Bengaluru / New Delhi) — Real-time Earth observation data sharing for climate monitoring, disaster management, and food security. Verified Reference: **ISRO Official Portal**.

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

Chapter 3: 20th Asian Games 2026 (Aichi-Nagoya, Japan) & ICC T20 World Cups 2026 — India's Sporting Triumphs

Chapter Key Study Pillars — Chapter 3: 20th Asian Games 2026 (Aichi-Nagoya, Japan) & ICC T20 World Cups 2026 — India's Sporting Triumphs

Key Study Pillar 1
Detailed Comparative & Factual Reference Table: 20th Asian Games 2026 (Aichi-Nagoya) & Major 2026 Sporting Tournaments Reference Table

Key Study Pillar 2
In-Depth Analytical & Statutory Breakdown

Scope & Competitive Exam Relevance: Crucial for UPSC Prelims, State PCS, SSC CGL/CHSL, Railway, Banking, and Police recruitment examinations.

From 19 September to 4 October 2026, Aichi Prefecture and the city of Nagoya in Japan co-hosted the 20th Asian Games (officially the XX Asian Games / Aichi-Nagoya 2026) under the governance of the Olympic Council of Asia (**Press Information Bureau** and **IUC Academy Official Portal**). Featuring 46 nations competing across 43 sports

and 469 gold medal events, the continental games saw India finish fourth in the overall medal table with 85 medals — comprising 21 Gold, 27 Silver, and 37 Bronze medals.

Earlier in 2026, India scripted cricket history by winning the 10th ICC Men's T20 World Cup 2026 (co-hosted by India and Sri Lanka), defeating New Zealand in the final at the Narendra Modi Stadium in Ahmedabad after posting a record-shattering 255/5 (**IUC Academy Official Portal**). Meanwhile, in the 10th ICC Women's T20 World Cup 2026 hosted by England and Wales, Australia defeated England in the final at Lord's, London on 5 July 2026.

4-Node Conceptual Flowchart

Step-by-Step Conceptual Process Flowchart

STEP 1
Stage 1: 1st Asian Games (1951, New Delhi) to 20th Asian Games 2026 (Aichi-Nagoya, Japan)

STEP 2
Stage 2: Sept 19 – Oct 4, 2026 Competition Across 46 Nations, 43 Sports & 469 Gold Events

STEP 3
Stage 3: India Secures 4th Rank Overall with 85 Medals (21 Gold, 27 Silver, 37 Bronze)

STEP 4
Stage 4: India Wins ICC Men's T20 World Cup 2026 with Record 255/5 in Ahmedabad Final

Detailed Comparative & Factual Reference Table*: 20*th Asian Games *2026* (Aichi-Nagoya*)* & Major *2026* Sporting Tournaments Reference Table

Tournament / Event (2026)	Host Venue & Dates (2026)	Champion / India's Standing	Medal Breakdown & Historic Records (2026)	Official Source
20th Asian Games 2026	Aichi Prefecture & Nagoya, Japan (19 Sept – 4 Oct 2026)	India Ranked 4th (Top 3: China, Japan, South Korea)	India won 85 medals: 21 Gold, 27 Silver & 37 Bronze across 46 nations, 43 sports & 469 events	Press Information Bureau
Asian Games 2026 Mascot & Motto	Paloma Mizuho Stadium, Nagoya, Japan	Mascot: Honohon (inspired by Shachihoko & flame)	Official Slogan: 'Imagine One Asia'	IUC Academy Portal
10th ICC Men's T20 World Cup 2026	Co-hosts: India & Sri Lanka (Final: Narendra Modi Stadium, Ahmedabad)	Champion: India (Runner-up: New Zealand)	India scored 255/5 in the final (highest total in any T20WC final) to become consecutive champions	IUC Academy Portal
10th ICC Women's T20 World Cup 2026	Host: England & Wales (Final: Lord's, London — 5 July 2026)	Champion: Australia (Runner-up: England)	Beth Mooney (Player of the Match) and Phoebe Litchfield powered Australia's victorious run chase	IUC Academy Portal
Compound Archery at Asian Games 2026	Aichi-Nagoya, Japan (September 2026)	Clean sweep of gold medals by Indian archers	Indian compound archery contingent broke world records en route to sweeping team and individual titles	Press Information Bureau

Tournament / Event (2026)	Host Venue & Dates (2026)	Champion / India's Standing	Medal Breakdown & Historic Records (2026)	Official Source
Athletics & Shooting at Asian Games 2026	Aichi-Nagoya Main Stadium & Shooting Ranges	Core contributors to India's 21 Gold medals	Multiple national records broken; notable medallists include Gulveer Singh (Silver) and Manpreet Kaur (Shot Put Bronze)	Press Information Bureau
Padma Awards 2026 (Sports Category)	Rashtrapati Bhavan, New Delhi (Announced 25 Jan 2026)	9 sports legends and athletes honoured	Vijay Amritraj (Padma Bhushan); Rohit Sharma, Harmanpreet Kaur, Savita Punia, Praveen Kumar et al. (Padma Shri)	Press Information Bureau
Upcoming Asian Games Editions	21st Asian Games: Doha, Qatar (2030)	22nd: Riyadh, Saudi Arabia (2034)	Olympic Council of Asia (OCA) HQ: Kuwait City	Aichi-Nagoya 2026 was the third Asian Games hosted by Japan after Tokyo (1958) and Hiroshima (1994)	IUC Academy Portal

In-Depth Analytical & Statutory Breakdown

Analytical Review of India's Campaign at the 20th Asian Games 2026 (Aichi-Nagoya)

• **Japan's Third Hosting of the Asian Games:** Following the 3rd Asian Games in Tokyo (1958) and the 12th Asian Games in Hiroshima (1994), Japan hosted the 20th Asian Games in Aichi Prefecture and Nagoya from 19 September to 4 October 2026 (IUC Academy Official Portal).

• **India's 85-Medal Haul & Fourth-Place Finish:** Competing against 46 Asian nations across 43 sports and 469 gold medal events, India secured 21 Gold, 27 Silver, and 37 Bronze medals (85 total) to finish fourth overall behind China, host nation Japan, and South Korea (Press Information Bureau).

• **Dominance in Compound Archery, Shooting & Athletics:** Indian compound archers executed a clean sweep accompanied by world-record scores, while track-and-field athletes established multiple national records (including distance runner Gulveer Singh's silver and shot putter Manpreet Kaur's bronze) alongside strong podium finishes in shooting, wrestling, boxing, squash, and cricket.

• **Impact of TOPS & Khelo India Ecosystem:** Over 70% of India's medallists at Aichi-Nagoya 2026 were supported under the Ministry of Youth Affairs and Sports' Target Olympic Podium Scheme (TOPS) and Khelo India National Centres of Excellence (Press Information Bureau).

ICC Men's & Women's T20 World Cups 2026 and Sports Honours

• **India Crowned Consecutive ICC Men's T20 World Cup Champions (2026):** In the final of the 10th ICC Men's T20 World Cup played at the Narendra Modi Stadium in Ahmedabad, India hammered 255/5 in 20 overs against New Zealand — the highest team total ever recorded in a T20 World Cup final or knockout match (IUC Academy Official Portal).

• **Three Historic Firsts for Indian Men's Cricket:** With titles in 2007 (South Africa), 2024 (West Indies/USA), and 2026 (India/Sri Lanka), India became the first nation to win three Men's T20 World Cup trophies, the first

team to successfully defend a Men's T20 World Cup crown, and the first host nation to win the Men's T20 World Cup on home soil.

• **ICC Women's T20 World Cup 2026 (England & Wales):** Held from 12 June to 5 July 2026, the 10th Women's T20 World Cup concluded at Lord's in London where Australia chased down England's target behind a match-defining partnership between Beth Mooney and Phoebe Litchfield.

• **Sports Awardees in the 2026 Padma Honours:** On 25 January 2026, tennis icon Vijay Amritraj was conferred the Padma Bhushan, while Padma Shri honours were awarded to Rohit Sharma, Harmanpreet Kaur, Savita Punia, Paralympic high-jumper Praveen Kumar, hockey coach Baldev Singh, Bundeli martial arts exponent Bhagwandas Raikwar, Silambam master K. Pajanivel, and wrestling coach Vladimir Mestvirishvili (Posthumous) (**Press Information Bureau**).

Statutory, Institutional & Exam-Oriented Synthesis Points

• **Analytical Point 1 (20th Asian Games 2026):** Aichi Prefecture & Nagoya, Japan (19 Sept – 4 Oct 2026) (India Ranked 4th (Top 3: China, Japan, South Korea)) — India won 85 medals: 21 Gold, 27 Silver & 37 Bronze across 46 nations, 43 sports & 469 events. Verified Reference: **Press Information Bureau**.

• **Analytical Point 2 (Asian Games 2026 Mascot & Motto):** Paloma Mizuho Stadium, Nagoya, Japan (Mascot: Honohon (inspired by Shachihoko & flame)) — Official Slogan: 'Imagine One Asia'. Verified Reference: **IUC Academy Portal**.

• **Analytical Point 3 (10th ICC Men's T20 World Cup 2026):** Co-hosts: India & Sri Lanka (Final: Narendra Modi Stadium, Ahmedabad) (Champion: India (Runner-up: New Zealand)) — India scored 255/5 in the final (highest total in any T20WC final) to become consecutive champions. Verified Reference: **IUC Academy Portal**.

• **Analytical Point 4 (10th ICC Women's T20 World Cup 2026):** Host: England & Wales (Final: Lord's, London — 5 July 2026) (Champion: Australia (Runner-up: England)) — Beth Mooney (Player of the Match) and Phoebe Litchfield powered Australia's victorious run chase. Verified Reference: **IUC Academy Portal**.

• **Analytical Point 5 (Compound Archery at Asian Games 2026):** Aichi-Nagoya, Japan (September 2026) (Clean sweep of gold medals by Indian archers) — Indian compound archery contingent broke world records en route to sweeping team and individual titles. Verified Reference: **Press Information Bureau**.

• **Analytical Point 6 (Athletics & Shooting at Asian Games 2026):** Aichi-Nagoya Main Stadium & Shooting Ranges (Core contributors to India's 21 Gold medals) — Multiple national records broken; notable medallists include Gulveer Singh (Silver) and Manpreet Kaur (Shot Put Bronze). Verified Reference: **Press Information Bureau**.

• **Analytical Point 7 (Padma Awards 2026 (Sports Category)):** Rashtrapati Bhavan, New Delhi (Announced 25 Jan 2026) (9 sports legends and athletes honoured) — Vijay Amritraj (Padma Bhushan); Rohit Sharma, Harmanpreet Kaur, Savita Punia, Praveen Kumar et al. (Padma Shri). Verified Reference: **Press Information Bureau**.

• **Analytical Point 8 (Upcoming Asian Games Editions):** 21st Asian Games: Doha, Qatar (2030) | 22nd: Riyadh, Saudi Arabia (2034) (Olympic Council of Asia (OCA) HQ: Kuwait City) — Aichi-Nagoya 2026 was the third Asian Games hosted by Japan after Tokyo (1958) and Hiroshima (1994). Verified Reference: **IUC Academy Portal**.

Did You Know?
India's 255/5 against New Zealand in the 2026 ICC Men's T20 World Cup Final at Ahmedabad shattered the previous T20 World Cup final record and made India the first team in history to win back-to-back Men's T20 World Cup titles (2024 and 2026).

Exam Trap Alert
Do not confuse India's Hangzhou tally (107 medals) with the 20th Asian Games 2026 in Aichi-Nagoya, Japan: at Aichi-Nagoya 2026, India finished 4th in the medal table with 85 medals (21 Gold, 27 Silver, and 37 Bronze) across 46 nations and 469 events!

★ Memory Trick
Mnemonic for India's Asian Games 2026 Tally & T20WC 2026 — 'Aichi-Nagoya 2026: Rank 4 = 21 Gold + 27 Silver + 37 Bronze = 85 Medals; Men's T20WC 2026 Final in Ahmedabad: India 255/5 beats New Zealand'.

Verified Official Portal Citations: Press Information Bureau | Union Budget Portal | NITI Aayog | Ministry of External Affairs | Reserve Bank of India | ISRO Official Portal | IUC Academy Official Portal

Chapter 3 Comprehensive Analytical & Statutory Revision Matrix

Core Sub-Domain	Key Concept / Provision	Verified Analytical Parameters & Exam Distinctions (पत्र सूचना कार्यालय (PIB))
Node Conceptual Flowchart	Japan's Third Hosting of the Asian Games	Following the 3rd Asian Games in Tokyo (1958) and the 12th Asian Games in Hiroshima (1994), Japan hosted the 20th Asian Games in Aichi Prefecture and Nagoya from 19 September to 4 October 2026 (IUC Academy Official Portal).
Detailed Comparative & Factual Reference Table: 20th Asian Games 2026 (Aichi-Nagoya) & Major 2026 Sporting Tournaments Reference Table	India's 85-Medal Haul & Fourth-Place Finish	Competing against 46 Asian nations across 43 sports and 469 gold medal events, India secured 21 Gold, 27 Silver, and 37 Bronze medals (85 total) to finish fourth overall behind China, host nation Japan, and South Korea (Press Information Bureau).
In-Depth Analytical & Statutory Breakdown	Dominance in Compound Archery, Shooting & Athletics	Indian compound archers executed a clean sweep accompanied by world-record scores, while track-and-field athletes established multiple national records (including distance runner Gulveer Singh's silver and shot putter Manpreet Kaur's bronze) alongside strong podium finishes in shooting, wrestling, boxing, squash, and cricket.
Node Conceptual Flowchart	Impact of TOPS & Khelo India Ecosystem	Over 70% of India's medallists at Aichi-Nagoya 2026 were supported under the Ministry of Youth Affairs and Sports' Target Olympic Podium Scheme (TOPS) and Khelo India National Centres of Excellence (Press Information Bureau).

Core Sub-Domain	Key Concept / Provision	Verified Analytical Parameters & Exam Distinctions (पत्र सूचना कार्यालय (PIB))
Detailed Comparative & Factual Reference Table: 20th Asian Games 2026 (Aichi-Nagoya) & Major 2026 Sporting Tournaments Reference Table	India Crowned Consecutive ICC Men's T20 World Cup Champions (2026)	In the final of the 10th ICC Men's T20 World Cup played at the Narendra Modi Stadium in Ahmedabad, India hammered 255/5 in 20 overs against New Zealand — the highest team total ever recorded in a T20 World Cup final or knockout match (IUC Academy Official Portal).
In-Depth Analytical & Statutory Breakdown	Three Historic Firsts for Indian Men's Cricket	With titles in 2007 (South Africa), 2024 (West Indies/USA), and 2026 (India/ Sri Lanka), India became the first nation to win three Men's T20 World Cup trophies, the first team to successfully defend a Men's T20 World Cup crown, and the first host nation to win the Men's T20 World Cup on home soil.
Node Conceptual Flowchart	ICC Women's T20 World Cup 2026 (England & Wales)	Held from 12 June to 5 July 2026, the 10th Women's T20 World Cup concluded at Lord's in London where Australia chased down England's target behind a match-defining partnership between Beth Mooney and Phoebe Litchfield.
Detailed Comparative & Factual Reference Table: 20th Asian Games 2026 (Aichi-Nagoya) & Major 2026 Sporting Tournaments Reference Table	Sports Awardees in the 2026 Padma Honours	On 25 January 2026, tennis icon Vijay Amritraj was conferred the Padma Bhushan, while Padma Shri honours were awarded to Rohit Sharma, Harmanpreet Kaur, Savita Punia, Paralympic high-jumper Praveen Kumar, hockey coach Baldev Singh, Bundeli martial arts exponent Bhagwandas Raikwar, Silambam master K. Pajanivel, and wrestling coach Vladimir Mestvirishvili (Posthumous) (Press Information Bureau).
In-Depth Analytical & Statutory Breakdown	Analytical Point 1 (20th Asian Games 2026)	Aichi Prefecture & Nagoya, Japan (19 Sept – 4 Oct 2026) (India Ranked 4th (Top 3: China, Japan, South Korea)) — India won 85 medals: 21 Gold, 27 Silver & 37 Bronze across 46 nations, 43 sports & 469 events. Verified Reference: Press Information Bureau.
Node Conceptual Flowchart	Analytical Point 2 (Asian Games 2026 Mascot & Motto)	Paloma Mizuho Stadium, Nagoya, Japan (Mascot: Honohon (inspired by Shachihoko & flame)) — Official Slogan: 'Imagine One Asia'. Verified Reference: IUC Academy Portal.
Detailed Comparative & Factual Reference Table: 20th Asian Games 2026 (Aichi-Nagoya) & Major 2026 Sporting Tournaments Reference Table	Analytical Point 3 (10th ICC Men's T20 World Cup 2026)	Co-hosts: India & Sri Lanka (Final: Narendra Modi Stadium, Ahmedabad) (Champion: India (Runner-up: New Zealand)) — India scored 255/5 in the final (highest total in any T20WC final) to become consecutive champions. Verified Reference: IUC Academy Portal.
In-Depth Analytical & Statutory Breakdown	Analytical Point 4 (10th ICC Women's T20 World Cup 2026)	Host: England & Wales (Final: Lord's, London — 5 July 2026) (Champion: Australia (Runner-up: England)) — Beth Mooney (Player of the Match) and Phoebe Litchfield powered Australia's victorious run chase. Verified Reference: IUC Academy Portal.

Core Sub-Domain	Key Concept / Provision	Verified Analytical Parameters & Exam Distinctions (पत्र सूचना कार्यालय (PIB))
Node Conceptual Flowchart	Analytical Point 5 (Compound Archery at Asian Games 2026)	Aichi-Nagoya, Japan (September 2026) (Clean sweep of gold medals by Indian archers) — Indian compound archery contingent broke world records en route to sweeping team and individual titles. Verified Reference: Press Information Bureau.
Detailed Comparative & Factual Reference Table: 20th Asian Games 2026 (Aichi-Nagoya) & Major 2026 Sporting Tournaments Reference Table	Analytical Point 6 (Athletics & Shooting at Asian Games 2026)	Aichi-Nagoya Main Stadium & Shooting Ranges (Core contributors to India's 21 Gold medals) — Multiple national records broken; notable medallists include Gulveer Singh (Silver) and Manpreet Kaur (Shot Put Bronze). Verified Reference: Press Information Bureau.

Chapter 3 Multi-Statement Exam Verification Drills

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

Statement-I (Japan's Third Hosting of the Asian Games): Following the 3rd Asian Games in Tokyo (1958) and the 12th Asian Games in Hiroshima (1994), Japan hosted the 20th Asian Games in Aichi Prefecture and Nagoya from 19 September to 4 October 2026 (IUC Academy Official Portal).

Statement-II (India's 85-Medal Haul & Fourth-Place Finish): Competing against 46 Asian nations across 43 sports and 469 gold medal events, India secured 21 Gold, 27 Silver, and 37 Bronze medals (85 total) to finish fourth overall behind China, host nation Japan, and South Korea (Press Information Bureau).

✔ 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 (Dominance in Compound Archery, Shooting & Athletics): Indian compound archers executed a clean sweep accompanied by world-record scores, while track-and-field athletes established multiple national records (including distance runner Gulveer Singh's silver and shot putter Manpreet Kaur's bronze) alongside strong podium finishes in shooting, wrestling, boxing, squash, and cricket.

Statement-II (Impact of TOPS & Khelo India Ecosystem): Over 70% of India's medallists at Aichi-Nagoya 2026 were supported under the Ministry of Youth Affairs and Sports' Target Olympic Podium Scheme (TOPS) and Khelo India National Centres of Excellence (Press Information Bureau).

✔ 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 (India Crowned Consecutive ICC Men's T20 World Cup Champions (2026)): In the final of the 10th ICC Men's T20 World Cup played at the Narendra Modi Stadium in Ahmedabad, India hammered 255/5 in 20 overs against New Zealand — the highest team total ever recorded in a T20 World Cup final or knockout match (IUC Academy Official Portal).

Statement-II (Three Historic Firsts for Indian Men's Cricket): With titles in 2007 (South Africa), 2024 (West Indies/USA), and 2026 (India/Sri Lanka), India became the first nation to win three Men's T20 World Cup trophies, the first team to successfully defend a Men's T20 World Cup crown, and the first host nation to win the Men's T20 World Cup on home soil.

✔ 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 (ICC Women's T20 World Cup 2026 (England & Wales)): Held from 12 June to 5 July 2026, the 10th Women's T20 World Cup concluded at Lord's in London where Australia chased down England's target behind a match-defining partnership between Beth Mooney and Phoebe Litchfield.

Statement-II (Sports Awardees in the 2026 Padma Honours): On 25 January 2026, tennis icon Vijay Amritraj was conferred the Padma Bhushan, while Padma Shri honours were awarded to Rohit Sharma, Harmanpreet Kaur, Savita Punia, Paralympic high-jumper Praveen Kumar, hockey coach Baldev Singh, Bundeli martial arts exponent Bhagwandas Raikwar, Silambam master K. Pajanivel, and wrestling coach Vladimir Mestvirishvili (Posthumous) (Press Information Bureau).

✔ **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 #5 — Both Statements Verified Correct

Statement-I (Analytical Point 1 (20th Asian Games 2026)): Aichi Prefecture & Nagoya, Japan (19 Sept – 4 Oct 2026) (India Ranked 4th (Top 3: China, Japan, South Korea)) — India won 85 medals: 21 Gold, 27 Silver & 37 Bronze across 46 nations, 43 sports & 469 events. Verified Reference: **Press Information Bureau**.

Statement-II (Analytical Point 2 (Asian Games 2026 Mascot & Motto)): Paloma Mizuho Stadium, Nagoya, Japan (Mascot: Honohon (inspired by Shachihoko & flame)) — Official Slogan: 'Imagine One Asia'. Verified Reference: **IUC Academy 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 #6 — Both Statements Verified Correct

Statement-I (Analytical Point 3 (10th ICC Men's T20 World Cup 2026)): Co-hosts: India & Sri Lanka (Final: Narendra Modi Stadium, Ahmedabad) (Champion: India (Runner-up: New Zealand)) — India scored 255/5 in the final (highest total in any T20WC final) to become consecutive champions. Verified Reference: **IUC Academy Portal**.

Statement-II (Analytical Point 4 (10th ICC Women's T20 World Cup 2026)): Host: England & Wales (Final: Lord's, London — 5 July 2026) (Champion: Australia (Runner-up: England)) — Beth Mooney (Player of the Match) and Phoebe Litchfield powered Australia's victorious run chase. Verified Reference: **IUC Academy Portal**.

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

Chapter 4: Indigenous Defence Tech & ISRO Space Missions 2026 — RudraM-II, Pralay Missile & NGLV Engine Test

Chapter Key Study Pillars — Chapter 4: Indigenous Defence Tech & ISRO Space Missions 2026 — RudraM-II, Pralay Missile & NGLV Engine Test

Key Study Pillar 1	Key Study Pillar 2
Detailed Comparative & Factual Reference Table: Technical Matrix of DRDO Defence Trials & ISRO Space Missions in 2026	**In-Depth Analytical & Statutory Breakdown**

Scope & Competitive Exam Relevance: Essential for UPSC GS-III (Defence Indigenization & Space Technology), NDA, CDS, CAPF, and State PCS examinations.

In 2026, the Defence Research and Development Organisation (DRDO) and the Indian Space Research Organisation (ISRO) achieved major technological milestones reinforcing strategic autonomy (**Press Information Bureau** and **ISRO Official Portal**). On 2 June 2026, DRDO and the Indian Air Force (IAF) successfully flight-tested the indigenous 'RudraM-II' air-to-surface anti-radiation missile from a Su-30 MKI fighter aircraft off the coast of

Odisha. Subsequently, on 5 November 2026, DRDO conducted a successful user evaluation flight-test of the indigenously developed 'Pralay' quasi-ballistic missile from Dr. APJ Abdul Kalam Island.

In the space sector, on 9 October 2026, ISRO successfully carried out the first full ignition test of the 'LME-1100' Gas Generator Cycle engine (110-tonne thrust Liquid Oxygen–Liquid Methane engine) developed for India's Next Generation Launch Vehicle (NGLV — 'Soorya'), with over 70% of its components manufactured via 3D printing (ISRO Official Portal). Simultaneously, ISRO completed human-rating validations for the uncrewed Gaganyaan G1 orbital test flight carrying the half-humanoid robot 'Vyommitra'.

4-Node Conceptual Flowchart

Step-by-Step Conceptual Process Flowchart

STEP 1
Stage 1: Indigenous Propulsion, Seeker & Avionics R&D Across DRDO and ISRO Centres

STEP 2
Stage 2: June 2, 2026 Successful Flight-Test of RudraM-II Anti-Radiation Missile from Su-30 MKI

STEP 3
Stage 3: Oct 9, 2026 First Full Ignition Test of ISRO's 3D-Printed LME-1100 Methane Engine for NGLV

STEP 4
Stage 4: Nov 5, 2026 User Evaluation Trial of 'Pralay' Quasi-Ballistic Missile at Abdul Kalam Island

Detailed Comparative & Factual Reference Table: Technical Matrix of DRDO Defence Trials & ISRO Space Missions in 2026

Missile / Space System (2026)	Developing Agency	2026 Test Date & Location	Range & Core Technical Specifications	Official Source
RudraM-II Anti-Radiation Missile	DRDO & Indian Air Force (IAF)	2 June 2026 (Off Odisha coast, launched from Su-30 MKI)	Air-to-surface missile; ~300 km range; near-hypersonic speed; Passive Homing Head for SEAD radar suppression	Press Information Bureau
Pralay Quasi-Ballistic Missile	DRDO (Research Centre Imarat & Labs)	5 November 2026 (Dr. APJ Abdul Kalam Island, ITR Chandipur)	Surface-to-surface tactical missile; 150–500 km range; solid propellant; mid-air maneuverability to evade interceptors	Press Information Bureau
NGLV ('Soorya') LME-1100 Engine	ISRO (Liquid Propulsion Systems Centre)	9 October 2026 (Mahendragiri Propulsion Complex)	110-tonne thrust LOX-Methane Gas Generator Cycle engine; >70% components built via additive manufacturing	ISRO Official Portal
Gaganyaan Uncrewed Mission (G1)	ISRO (Human Space Flight Centre, Bengaluru)	2026 Integration & Qualification (Sriharikota)	Human-rated LVM3 (HLVM3), Crew Escape System (CES), ECLSS & half-humanoid robot 'Vyommitra'	ISRO Official Portal
Zorawar Indigenous Light Tank	DRDO (CVRDE) & Larsen & Toubro (L&T)	2026 High-Altitude Trials (Ladakh Sector)	25-tonne class amphibious mountain tank; 105 mm gun, loitering munition integration & AI fire control	Press Information Bureau
Project Kusha (Long-Range SAM)	DRDO & Bharat Electronics Limited (BEL)	2026 Development & Subsystem Qualification	Three-tier indigenous Long-Range Surface-to-Air Missile air defence system with 350–400 km interception range	Press Information Bureau

Missile / Space System (2026)	Developing Agency	2026 Test Date & Location	Range & Core Technical Specifications	Official Source
Agni-5 MIRV (Mission Divyastra)	DRDO (Strategic Forces Command)	Dr. APJ Abdul Kalam Island, Odisha	5,000+ km ICBM equipped with Multiple Independently Targetable Re-entry Vehicle (MIRV) warheads	Press Information Bureau
Bharatiya Antariksh Station & Chandrayaan-4	Indian Space Research Organisation (ISRO)	2026 Engineering & Module Architecture	5-module orbital space station (target 2035) and lunar south-pole sample return mission architecture	ISRO Official Portal

In-Depth Analytical & Statutory Breakdown

Strategic Analysis of DRDO's RudraM-II and Pralay Missile Flight-Tests *(2026)*

• **RudraM-II Air-to-Surface Missile Test (2 June 2026):** DRDO and the Indian Air Force successfully flight-tested the RudraM-II missile from a Sukhoi Su-30 MKI fighter jet off the Odisha coast at 11:30 AM on 2 June 2026, validating its solid-propelled pulse motor, INS-GPS navigation, and indigenous Passive Homing Head (Press Information Bureau).

• **Suppression of Enemy Air Defences (SEAD):** Capable of striking targets up to 300 km away at near-hypersonic speeds, RudraM-II locks onto radio-frequency emissions from enemy surveillance radars, communication nodes, and surface-to-air missile batteries — even if the radar shuts down mid-flight.

• **Pralay Quasi-Ballistic Missile User Trial (5 November 2026):** On 5 November 2026 at 11:10 AM, DRDO successfully flight-tested the 'Pralay' missile from Dr. APJ Abdul Kalam Island off the Odisha coast as part of user evaluation trials, paving the way for its induction into the Indian Army and Indian Air Force (Press Information Bureau).

• **Technical Superiority of Pralay:** Pralay is a 150–500 km range solid-fuel surface-to-surface missile carrying a 350–700 kg conventional warhead; its quasi-ballistic low-apogee trajectory allows it to perform mid-air maneuvers to defeat ballistic missile defence (BMD) shields.

• **Zorawar Light Tank & VL-SRSAM:** Named after legendary Dogra General Zorawar Singh, the 25-tonne Zorawar light tank underwent high-altitude user evaluations in 2026, while the Vertical Launch Short Range Surface-to-Air Missile (VL-SRSAM) was validated for Indian Navy warships.

ISRO's *2026* Propulsion Breakthroughs, Gaganyaan Roadmap & Second Spaceport

• **First Full Ignition Test of LME-1100 Engine (9 October 2026):** ISRO achieved a major propulsion milestone on 9 October 2026 with the first full ignition test of the LME-1100 Gas Generator Cycle engine designed for the Next Generation Launch Vehicle (NGLV — 'Soorya') (ISRO Official Portal).

• **70%+ Additive Manufacturing (3D Printing):** Over 70% of the LME-1100 engine components were fabricated through additive manufacturing by Indian industry partners, utilizing clean Liquid Oxygen (LOX) and Liquid Methane propellants essential for reusable first-stage recovery.

• **Gaganyaan Human Spaceflight Programme (2026):** ISRO completed human-rating of the LVM3 launch vehicle (HLVM3), Crew Escape System (CES) pad-abort and high-altitude tests, and integration of the uncrewed G1 orbital module housing the half-humanoid robot 'Vyommitra' (ISRO Official Portal).

• **Kulasekarapattinam Second Spaceport (Tamil Nadu):** Located in Thoothukudi district, ISRO's second spaceport is dedicated to commercial and polar launches of the Small Satellite Launch Vehicle (SSLV), allowing direct southward trajectories over the Indian Ocean without the fuel-intensive dog-leg maneuver across Sri Lanka.

Statutory, Institutional & Exam-Oriented Synthesis Points

• **Analytical Point 1 (RudraM-II Anti-Radiation Missile):** DRDO & Indian Air Force (IAF) (2 June 2026 (Off Odisha coast, launched from Su-30 MKI)) — Air-to-surface missile; ~300 km range; near-hypersonic speed; Passive Homing Head for SEAD radar suppression. Verified Reference: **Press Information Bureau**.

• **Analytical Point 2 (Pralay Quasi-Ballistic Missile):** DRDO (Research Centre Imarat & Labs) (5 November 2026 (Dr. APJ Abdul Kalam Island, ITR Chandipur)) — Surface-to-surface tactical missile; 150–500 km range; solid propellant; mid-air maneuverability to evade interceptors. Verified Reference: **Press Information Bureau**.

• **Analytical Point 3 (NGLV ('Soorya') LME-1100 Engine):** ISRO (Liquid Propulsion Systems Centre) (9 October 2026 (Mahendragiri Propulsion Complex)) — 110-tonne thrust LOX-Methane Gas Generator Cycle engine; >70% components built via additive manufacturing. Verified Reference: **ISRO Official Portal**.

• **Analytical Point 4 (Gaganyaan Uncrewed Mission (G1)):** ISRO (Human Space Flight Centre, Bengaluru) (2026 Integration & Qualification (Sriharikota)) — Human-rated LVM3 (HLVM3), Crew Escape System (CES), ECLSS & half-humanoid robot 'Vyommitra'. Verified Reference: **ISRO Official Portal**.

• **Analytical Point 5 (Zorawar Indigenous Light Tank):** DRDO (CVRDE) & Larsen & Toubro (L&T) (2026 High-Altitude Trials (Ladakh Sector)) — 25-tonne class amphibious mountain tank; 105 mm gun, loitering munition integration & AI fire control. Verified Reference: **Press Information Bureau**.

• **Analytical Point 6 (Project Kusha (Long-Range SAM)):** DRDO & Bharat Electronics Limited (BEL) (2026 Development & Subsystem Qualification) — Three-tier indigenous Long-Range Surface-to-Air Missile air defence system with 350–400 km interception range. Verified Reference: **Press Information Bureau**.

• **Analytical Point 7 (Agni-5 MIRV (Mission Divyastra)):** DRDO (Strategic Forces Command) (Dr. APJ Abdul Kalam Island, Odisha) — 5,000+ km ICBM equipped with Multiple Independently Targetable Re-entry Vehicle (MIRV) warheads. Verified Reference: **Press Information Bureau**.

• **Analytical Point 8 (Bharatiya Antariksh Station & Chandrayaan-4):** Indian Space Research Organisation (ISRO) (2026 Engineering & Module Architecture) — 5-module orbital space station (target 2035) and lunar south-pole sample return mission architecture. Verified Reference: **ISRO Official Portal**.

Did You Know?
ISRO's Next Generation Launch Vehicle (NGLV — 'Soorya') is designed with a reusable first stage and will lift up to 30 tonnes to Low Earth Orbit (LEO) in expendable mode — nearly three times the payload capacity of the current LVM3 ('Bahubali') rocket.

Exam Trap Alert
Exam questions often test the distinction between RudraM-II and Pralay tested in 2026: remember that RudraM-II (tested 2 June 2026 from Su-30 MKI) is an 'air-to-surface anti-radiation missile', whereas Pralay (tested 5 November 2026 from Abdul Kalam Island) is a 'surface-to-surface quasi-ballistic missile'!

★ **Memory Trick**
Mnemonic for 2026 Defence & Space Dates — 'June 2, 2026 = RudraM-II (Air-to-Surface Anti-Radiation); October 9, 2026 = ISRO LME-1100 Methane Engine (NGLV); November 5, 2026 = Pralay (Quasi-Ballistic Surface-to-Surface)'.

Verified Official Portal Citations: Press Information Bureau | Union Budget Portal | NITI Aayog | Ministry of External Affairs | Reserve Bank of India | ISRO Official Portal | IUC Academy Official Portal

Chapter 4 Comprehensive Analytical & Statutory Revision Matrix

Core Sub-Domain	Key Concept / Provision	Verified Analytical Parameters & Exam Distinctions (पत्र सूचना कार्यालय (PIB))
Node Conceptual Flowchart	RudraM-II Air-to-Surface Missile Test (2 June 2026)	DRDO and the Indian Air Force successfully flight-tested the RudraM-II missile from a Sukhoi Su-30 MKI fighter jet off the Odisha coast at 11:30 AM on 2 June 2026, validating its solid-propelled pulse motor, INS-GPS navigation, and indigenous Passive Homing Head (Press Information Bureau).
Detailed Comparative & Factual Reference Table: Technical Matrix of DRDO Defence Trials & ISRO Space Missions in 2026	Suppression of Enemy Air Defences (SEAD)	Capable of striking targets up to 300 km away at near-hypersonic speeds, RudraM-II locks onto radio-frequency emissions from enemy surveillance radars, communication nodes, and surface-to-air missile batteries — even if the radar shuts down mid-flight.
In-Depth Analytical & Statutory Breakdown	Pralay Quasi-Ballistic Missile User Trial (5 November 2026)	On 5 November 2026 at 11:10 AM, DRDO successfully flight-tested the 'Pralay' missile from Dr. APJ Abdul Kalam Island off the Odisha coast as part of user evaluation trials, paving the way for its induction into the Indian Army and Indian Air Force (Press Information Bureau).
Node Conceptual Flowchart	Technical Superiority of Pralay	Pralay is a 150–500 km range solid-fuel surface-to-surface missile carrying a 350–700 kg conventional warhead; its quasi-ballistic low-apogee trajectory allows it to perform mid-air maneuvers to defeat ballistic missile defence (BMD) shields.
Detailed Comparative & Factual Reference Table: Technical Matrix of DRDO Defence Trials & ISRO Space Missions in 2026	Zorawar Light Tank & VL-SRSAM	Named after legendary Dogra General Zorawar Singh, the 25-tonne Zorawar light tank underwent high-altitude user evaluations in 2026, while the Vertical Launch Short Range Surface-to-Air Missile (VL-SRSAM) was validated for Indian Navy warships.
In-Depth Analytical & Statutory Breakdown	First Full Ignition Test of LME-1100 Engine (9 October 2026)	ISRO achieved a major propulsion milestone on 9 October 2026 with the first full ignition test of the LME-1100 Gas Generator Cycle engine designed for the Next Generation Launch Vehicle (NGLV — 'Soorya') (ISRO Official Portal).
Node Conceptual Flowchart	70%+ Additive Manufacturing (3D Printing)	Over 70% of the LME-1100 engine components were fabricated through additive manufacturing by Indian industry partners, utilizing clean Liquid Oxygen (LOX) and Liquid Methane propellants essential for reusable first-stage recovery.

Core Sub-Domain	Key Concept / Provision	Verified Analytical Parameters & Exam Distinctions (पत्र सूचना कार्यालय (PIB))
Detailed Comparative & Factual Reference Table: Technical Matrix of DRDO Defence Trials & ISRO Space Missions in 2026	**Gaganyaan Human Spaceflight Programme (2026)**	ISRO completed human-rating of the LVM3 launch vehicle (HLVM3), Crew Escape System (CES) pad-abort and high-altitude tests, and integration of the uncrewed G1 orbital module housing the half-humanoid robot 'Vyommitra' (ISRO Official Portal).
In-Depth Analytical & Statutory Breakdown	**Kulasekarapattinam Second Spaceport (Tamil Nadu)**	Located in Thoothukudi district, ISRO's second spaceport is dedicated to commercial and polar launches of the Small Satellite Launch Vehicle (SSLV), allowing direct southward trajectories over the Indian Ocean without the fuel-intensive dog-leg maneuver across Sri Lanka.
Node Conceptual Flowchart	**Analytical Point 1 (RudraM-II Anti-Radiation Missile)**	DRDO & Indian Air Force (IAF) (2 June 2026 (Off Odisha coast, launched from Su-30 MKI)) — Air-to-surface missile; ~300 km range; near-hypersonic speed; Passive Homing Head for SEAD radar suppression. Verified Reference: **Press Information Bureau**.
Detailed Comparative & Factual Reference Table: Technical Matrix of DRDO Defence Trials & ISRO Space Missions in 2026	**Analytical Point 2 (Pralay Quasi-Ballistic Missile)**	DRDO (Research Centre Imarat & Labs) (5 November 2026 (Dr. APJ Abdul Kalam Island, ITR Chandipur)) — Surface-to-surface tactical missile; 150–500 km range; solid propellant; mid-air maneuverability to evade interceptors. Verified Reference: **Press Information Bureau**.
In-Depth Analytical & Statutory Breakdown	**Analytical Point 3 (NGLV ('Soorya') LME-1100 Engine)**	ISRO (Liquid Propulsion Systems Centre) (9 October 2026 (Mahendragiri Propulsion Complex)) — 110-tonne thrust LOX-Methane Gas Generator Cycle engine; >70% components built via additive manufacturing. Verified Reference: **ISRO Official Portal**.
Node Conceptual Flowchart	**Analytical Point 4 (Gaganyaan Uncrewed Mission (G1))**	ISRO (Human Space Flight Centre, Bengaluru) (2026 Integration & Qualification (Sriharikota)) — Human-rated LVM3 (HLVM3), Crew Escape System (CES), ECLSS & half-humanoid robot 'Vyommitra'. Verified Reference: **ISRO Official Portal**.
Detailed Comparative & Factual Reference Table: Technical Matrix of DRDO Defence Trials & ISRO Space Missions in 2026	**Analytical Point 5 (Zorawar Indigenous Light Tank)**	DRDO (CVRDE) & Larsen & Toubro (L&T) (2026 High-Altitude Trials (Ladakh Sector)) — 25-tonne class amphibious mountain tank; 105 mm gun, loitering munition integration & AI fire control. Verified Reference: **Press Information Bureau**.

Chapter 4 Multi-Statement Exam Verification Drills

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

Statement-I (RudraM-II Air-to-Surface Missile Test (2 June 2026)): DRDO and the Indian Air Force successfully flight-tested the RudraM-II missile from a Sukhoi Su-30 MKI fighter jet off the Odisha coast at 11:30 AM on 2 June 2026, validating its solid-propelled pulse motor, INS-GPS navigation, and indigenous Passive Homing Head (Press Information Bureau).

Statement-II (Suppression of Enemy Air Defences (SEAD)): Capable of striking targets up to 300 km away at near-hypersonic speeds, RudraM-II locks onto radio-frequency emissions from enemy surveillance radars, communication nodes, and surface-to-air missile batteries — even if the radar shuts down mid-flight.

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

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

Statement-I (Pralay Quasi-Ballistic Missile User Trial (5 November 2026)): On 5 November 2026 at 11:10 AM, DRDO successfully flight-tested the 'Pralay' missile from Dr. APJ Abdul Kalam Island off the Odisha coast as part of user evaluation trials, paving the way for its induction into the Indian Army and Indian Air Force (Press Information Bureau).

Statement-II (Technical Superiority of Pralay): Pralay is a 150–500 km range solid-fuel surface-to-surface missile carrying a 350–700 kg conventional warhead; its quasi-ballistic low-apogee trajectory allows it to perform mid-air maneuvers to defeat ballistic missile defence (BMD) shields.

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

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

Statement-I (Zorawar Light Tank & VL-SRSAM): Named after legendary Dogra General Zorawar Singh, the 25-tonne Zorawar light tank underwent high-altitude user evaluations in 2026, while the Vertical Launch Short Range Surface-to-Air Missile (VL-SRSAM) was validated for Indian Navy warships.

Statement-II (First Full Ignition Test of LME-1100 Engine (9 October 2026)): ISRO achieved a major propulsion milestone on 9 October 2026 with the first full ignition test of the LME-1100 Gas Generator Cycle engine designed for the Next Generation Launch Vehicle (NGLV — 'Soorya') (ISRO Official Portal).

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

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

Statement-I (70%+ Additive Manufacturing (3D Printing)): Over 70% of the LME-1100 engine components were fabricated through additive manufacturing by Indian industry partners, utilizing clean Liquid Oxygen (LOX) and Liquid Methane propellants essential for reusable first-stage recovery.

Statement-II (Gaganyaan Human Spaceflight Programme (2026)): ISRO completed human-rating of the LVM3 launch vehicle (HLVM3), Crew Escape System (CES) pad-abort and high-altitude tests, and integration of the uncrewed G1 orbital module housing the half-humanoid robot 'Vyommitra' (ISRO Official Portal).

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

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

Statement-I (Kulasekarapattinam Second Spaceport (Tamil Nadu)): Located in Thoothukudi district, ISRO's second spaceport is dedicated to commercial and polar launches of the Small Satellite Launch Vehicle (SSLV), allowing direct southward trajectories over the Indian Ocean without the fuel-intensive dog-leg maneuver across Sri Lanka.

Statement-II (Analytical Point 1 (RudraM-II Anti-Radiation Missile)): DRDO & Indian Air Force (IAF) (2 June 2026 (Off Odisha coast, launched from Su-30 MKI)) — Air-to-surface missile; ~300 km range; near-hypersonic speed; Passive Homing Head for SEAD radar suppression. Verified Reference: **Press Information Bureau**.

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

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

Statement-I (Analytical Point 2 (Pralay Quasi-Ballistic Missile)): DRDO (Research Centre Imarat & Labs) (5 November 2026 (Dr. APJ Abdul Kalam Island, ITR Chandipur)) — Surface-to-surface tactical missile; 150–500 km range; solid propellant; mid-air maneuverability to evade interceptors. Verified Reference: **Press Information Bureau**.

Statement-II (Analytical Point 3 (NGLV ('Soorya') LME-1100 Engine)): ISRO (Liquid Propulsion Systems Centre) (9 October 2026 (Mahendragiri Propulsion Complex)) — 110-tonne thrust LOX-Methane Gas Generator Cycle engine; >70% components built via additive manufacturing. Verified Reference: **ISRO Official Portal**.

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

Chapter 5: Reserve Bank of India (RBI) Monetary Policy 2026 — October 2026 Repo Rate Revision, GDP Outlook & Digital Rupee

Chapter Key Study Pillars — Chapter 5: Reserve Bank of India (RBI) Monetary Policy 2026 — October 2026 Repo Rate Revision, GDP Outlook & Digital Rupee

Key Study Pillar 1
Detailed Comparative & Factual Reference Table: RBI Monetary Policy 2026 Rates, Liquidity Corridor & FinTech Initiatives Reference Table

Key Study Pillar 2
In-Depth Analytical & Statutory Breakdown

Scope & Competitive Exam Relevance: Core reference for UPSC GS-III (Indian Economy & Monetary Policy), RBI Grade B, SBI/IBPS PO, SSC CGL, and State PCS examinations.

In its bi-monthly Monetary Policy Committee (MPC) resolution held from 5 to 7 October 2026, the Reserve Bank of India (RBI) increased the policy repo rate under the Liquidity Adjustment Facility (LAF) by 25 basis points from 5.25% to 5.50% (**Reserve Bank of India** and **Press Information Bureau**). Prior to the October 2026 review, the MPC had maintained the policy repo rate at 5.25% during its June and August 2026 meetings.

Constituted under Section 45ZB of the Reserve Bank of India Act, 1934, the six-member Monetary Policy Committee projected India's real Gross Domestic Product (GDP) growth for FY 2026–27 in the robust range of 6.9% to 7.1%, while aligning its monetary policy stance toward calibrated tightening to anchor Consumer Price Index (CPI) headline inflation within the statutory 4% ± 2% target band (**Reserve Bank of India**).

4-Node Conceptual Flowchart

Step-by-Step Conceptual Process Flowchart

STEP 1
Stage 1: Statutory 6-Member MPC Meeting Under Section 45ZB of RBI Act, 1934 (Oct 5–7, 2026)

STEP 2
Stage 2: Policy Repo Rate Raised by 25 bps from 5.25% to 5.50% to Anchor Inflation Expectations

STEP 3
Stage 3: Standing Deposit Facility (SDF) Adjusted to 5.25% & MSF / Bank Rate to 5.75%

STEP 4
Stage 4: FY 2026–27 Real GDP Growth Projected at 6.9%–7.1% Alongside ULI & CBDC Expansion

Detailed Comparative & Factual Reference Table: RBI Monetary Policy *2026* Rates, Liquidity Corridor & FinTech Initiatives Reference Table

Monetary Policy Instrument / Metric	October 2026 Resolution Level	Statutory Basis / Previous Level	Macroeconomic & Banking Transmission Impact	Official Source
Policy Repo Rate	5.50% (Raised by 25 bps on 7 October 2026)	Held at 5.25% in June & August 2026 reviews	Primary benchmark rate at which RBI lends short-term funds to commercial banks against government securities	Reserve Bank of India
Standing Deposit Facility (SDF) Rate	5.25% (25 bps below the Policy Repo Rate)	Section 17 of RBI Act (introduced in April 2022)	Collateral-free liquidity absorption window forming the floor of the LAF policy corridor	Reserve Bank of India
Marginal Standing Facility (MSF) & Bank Rate	5.75% (25 bps above the Policy Repo Rate)	Penal / overnight emergency liquidity rate	Forms the upper ceiling of the Liquidity Adjustment Facility (LAF) corridor	Reserve Bank of India
Real GDP Growth Projection (FY 2026–27)	6.9% to 7.1% (RBI MPC 2026 estimates)	Driven by domestic consumption & public capex	Positions India as the fastest-growing major economy globally in 2026–27	Press Information Bureau
Flexible Inflation Targeting (FIT) Band	4.0% CPI Target (±2% tolerance band: 2% to 6%)	Section 45ZA of RBI Act, 1934 (Amended 2016)	Measured via CPI-Combined released monthly by the National Statistical Office (NSO)	Reserve Bank of India
Operating Target of Monetary Policy	Weighted Average Call Rate (WACR)	Overnight inter-bank money market rate	Maintained close to the policy repo rate via Variable Rate Repo (VRR) & VRRR auctions	Reserve Bank of India
Unified Lending Interface (ULI)	Nationwide digital public credit infrastructure	Modelled on UPI's plug-and-play architecture	Integrates land records, GST data, and milk-cooperative data for frictionless MSME & agricultural loans	Reserve Bank of India
MuleHunter.AI Fraud Detection	Developed by Reserve Bank Innovation Hub (RBIH, Bengaluru)	Rolled out across commercial banks in 2026	AI/ML engine identifying mule bank accounts to curb cyber financial fraud in real time	Reserve Bank of India

In-Depth Analytical & Statutory Breakdown

Analysis of the October *2026* Monetary Policy Resolution & LAF Framework

• **October 2026 Repo Rate Adjustment to 5.50%:** Following consecutive pauses at 5.25% during mid-2026, the MPC voted in its 5–7 October 2026 review to increase the policy repo rate by 25 bps to 5.50% to preempt secondary effects of food and commodity volatility (Reserve Bank of India).

• **Symmetric 50-bps LAF Corridor:** With the policy repo rate at 5.50%, the Standing Deposit Facility (SDF — which requires no government securities collateral from RBI) sits 25 bps lower at 5.25%, while the Marginal Standing Facility (MSF) and Bank Rate stand 25 bps higher at 5.75%.

• **Composition of the 6-Member MPC:** Under Section 45ZB of the RBI Act, 1934, the committee comprises 3 internal RBI members (the Governor as ex-officio Chairperson, the Deputy Governor in charge of monetary

policy, and one officer nominated by the Central Board) and 3 external members appointed by the Central Government for a four-year non-renewable term (Press Information Bureau).

• **Statutory Definition of Inflation Failure:** Under Section 45ZN of the RBI Act, 'failure to maintain the inflation target' occurs only if average CPI-Combined inflation exceeds the 6.0% upper tolerance limit or falls below the 2.0% lower limit for three consecutive quarters (nine months).

Digital Rupee (e₹), Unified Lending Interface (ULI) & Project Nexus (2026)

• **Programmable & Offline Central Bank Digital Currency (e₹):** In 2026, the RBI expanded retail Digital Rupee (e₹-R) and wholesale Digital Rupee (e₹-W) pilots with 'programmability' (enabling targeted direct benefit transfers, fertilizer subsidies, and corporate CSR disbursements) and offline near-field communication (NFC) capabilities (Reserve Bank of India).

• **Unified Lending Interface (ULI):** Positioned as the 'New Trinity' of JAM-UPI-ULI, the Unified Lending Interface uses standardized APIs to fetch digitized state land records, satellite crop data, and GST filings, cutting turnacross times for rural and MSME credit.

• **Project Nexus for Multilateral Cross-Border Instant Payments:** The RBI collaborated with the Bank for International Settlements (BIS) and ASEAN central banks (Malaysia, Philippines, Singapore, Thailand) under 'Project Nexus' to interlink domestic Fast Payment Systems (UPI) multilaterally (Reserve Bank of India).

Statutory, Institutional & Exam-Oriented Synthesis Points

• **Analytical Point 1 (Policy Repo Rate):** 5.50% (Raised by 25 bps on 7 October 2026) (Held at 5.25% in June & August 2026 reviews) — Primary benchmark rate at which RBI lends short-term funds to commercial banks against government securities. Verified Reference: Reserve Bank of India.

• **Analytical Point 2 (Standing Deposit Facility (SDF) Rate):** 5.25% (25 bps below the Policy Repo Rate) (Section 17 of RBI Act (introduced in April 2022)) — Collateral-free liquidity absorption window forming the floor of the LAF policy corridor. Verified Reference: Reserve Bank of India.

• **Analytical Point 3 (Marginal Standing Facility (MSF) & Bank Rate):** 5.75% (25 bps above the Policy Repo Rate) (Penal / overnight emergency liquidity rate) — Forms the upper ceiling of the Liquidity Adjustment Facility (LAF) corridor. Verified Reference: Reserve Bank of India.

• **Analytical Point 4 (Real GDP Growth Projection (FY 2026–27)):** 6.9% to 7.1% (RBI MPC 2026 estimates) (Driven by domestic consumption & public capex) — Positions India as the fastest-growing major economy globally in 2026–27. Verified Reference: Press Information Bureau.

• **Analytical Point 5 (Flexible Inflation Targeting (FIT) Band):** 4.0% CPI Target (±2% tolerance band: 2% to 6%) (Section 45ZA of RBI Act, 1934 (Amended 2016)) — Measured via CPI-Combined released monthly by the National Statistical Office (NSO). Verified Reference: Reserve Bank of India.

• **Analytical Point 6 (Operating Target of Monetary Policy):** Weighted Average Call Rate (WACR) (Overnight inter-bank money market rate) — Maintained close to the policy repo rate via Variable Rate Repo (VRR) & VRRR auctions. Verified Reference: Reserve Bank of India.

• **Analytical Point 7 (Unified Lending Interface (ULI)):** Nationwide digital public credit infrastructure (Modelled on UPI's plug-and-play architecture) — Integrates land records, GST data, and milk-cooperative data for frictionless MSME & agricultural loans. Verified Reference: Reserve Bank of India.

• **Analytical Point 8 (MuleHunter.AI Fraud Detection):** Developed by Reserve Bank Innovation Hub (RBIH, Bengaluru) (Rolled out across commercial banks in 2026) — AI/ML engine identifying mule bank accounts to curb cyber financial fraud in real time. Verified Reference: Reserve Bank of India.

Did You Know?
In the six-member Monetary Policy Committee (MPC), each member has one vote, and in the event of an equality of votes (a 3–3 tie), the RBI Governor exercises a second or 'casting vote' under Section 45ZI of the RBI Act, 1934.

Exam Trap Alert
Be careful with 2026 repo rate questions: while the repo rate stood at 5.25% in the June and August 2026 reviews, the RBI MPC raised it by 25 basis points to 5.50% in the October 5–7, 2026 resolution!

★ Memory Trick
Mnemonic for October 2026 RBI Policy Corridor — 'SDF 5.25% (Floor) ◄— Policy Repo Rate 5.50% (Anchor) ---> MSF & Bank Rate 5.75% (Ceiling); FY27 Real GDP Growth = 6.9%–7.1%'.

Verified Official Portal Citations: Press Information Bureau | Union Budget Portal | NITI Aayog | Ministry of External Affairs | Reserve Bank of India | ISRO Official Portal | IUC Academy Official Portal

Chapter 5 Comprehensive Analytical & Statutory Revision Matrix

Core Sub-Domain	Key Concept / Provision	Verified Analytical Parameters & Exam Distinctions (पत्र सूचना कार्यालय (PIB))
Node Conceptual Flowchart	October 2026 Repo Rate Adjustment to 5.50%	Following consecutive pauses at 5.25% during mid-2026, the MPC voted in its 5–7 October 2026 review to increase the policy repo rate by 25 bps to 5.50% to preempt secondary effects of food and commodity volatility (Reserve Bank of India).
Detailed Comparative & Factual Reference Table: RBI Monetary Policy 2026 Rates, Liquidity Corridor & FinTech Initiatives Reference Table	Symmetric 50-bps LAF Corridor	With the policy repo rate at 5.50%, the Standing Deposit Facility (SDF — which requires no government securities collateral from RBI) sits 25 bps lower at 5.25%, while the Marginal Standing Facility (MSF) and Bank Rate stand 25 bps higher at 5.75%.
In-Depth Analytical & Statutory Breakdown	Composition of the 6-Member MPC	Under Section 45ZB of the RBI Act, 1934, the committee comprises 3 internal RBI members (the Governor as ex-officio Chairperson, the Deputy Governor in charge of monetary policy, and one officer nominated by the Central Board) and 3 external members appointed by the Central Government for a four-year non-renewable term (Press Information Bureau).
Node Conceptual Flowchart	Statutory Definition of Inflation Failure	Under Section 45ZN of the RBI Act, 'failure to maintain the inflation target' occurs only if average CPI-Combined inflation exceeds the 6.0% upper tolerance limit or falls below the 2.0% lower limit for three consecutive quarters (nine months).

Core Sub-Domain	Key Concept / Provision	Verified Analytical Parameters & Exam Distinctions (पत्र सूचना कार्यालय (PIB))
Detailed Comparative & Factual Reference Table: RBI Monetary Policy 2026 Rates, Liquidity Corridor & FinTech Initiatives Reference Table	**Programmable & Offline Central Bank Digital Currency (e₹)**	In 2026, the RBI expanded retail Digital Rupee (e₹-R) and wholesale Digital Rupee (e₹-W) pilots with 'programmability' (enabling targeted direct benefit transfers, fertilizer subsidies, and corporate CSR disbursements) and offline near-field communication (NFC) capabilities (Reserve Bank of India).
In-Depth Analytical & Statutory Breakdown	**Unified Lending Interface (ULI)**	Positioned as the 'New Trinity' of JAM-UPI-ULI, the Unified Lending Interface uses standardized APIs to fetch digitized state land records, satellite crop data, and GST filings, cutting turnacross times for rural and MSME credit.
Node Conceptual Flowchart	**Project Nexus for Multilateral Cross-Border Instant Payments**	The RBI collaborated with the Bank for International Settlements (BIS) and ASEAN central banks (Malaysia, Philippines, Singapore, Thailand) under 'Project Nexus' to interlink domestic Fast Payment Systems (UPI) multilaterally (Reserve Bank of India).
Detailed Comparative & Factual Reference Table: RBI Monetary Policy 2026 Rates, Liquidity Corridor & FinTech Initiatives Reference Table	**Analytical Point 1 (Policy Repo Rate)**	5.50% (Raised by 25 bps on 7 October 2026) (Held at 5.25% in June & August 2026 reviews) — Primary benchmark rate at which RBI lends short-term funds to commercial banks against government securities. Verified Reference: **Reserve Bank of India**.
In-Depth Analytical & Statutory Breakdown	**Analytical Point 2 (Standing Deposit Facility (SDF) Rate)**	5.25% (25 bps below the Policy Repo Rate) (Section 17 of RBI Act (introduced in April 2022)) — Collateral-free liquidity absorption window forming the floor of the LAF policy corridor. Verified Reference: **Reserve Bank of India**.
Node Conceptual Flowchart	**Analytical Point 3 (Marginal Standing Facility (MSF) & Bank Rate)**	5.75% (25 bps above the Policy Repo Rate) (Penal / overnight emergency liquidity rate) — Forms the upper ceiling of the Liquidity Adjustment Facility (LAF) corridor. Verified Reference: **Reserve Bank of India**.
Detailed Comparative & Factual Reference Table: RBI Monetary Policy 2026 Rates, Liquidity Corridor & FinTech Initiatives Reference Table	**Analytical Point 4 (Real GDP Growth Projection (FY 2026–27))**	6.9% to 7.1% (RBI MPC 2026 estimates) (Driven by domestic consumption & public capex) — Positions India as the fastest-growing major economy globally in 2026–27. Verified Reference: **Press Information Bureau**.
In-Depth Analytical & Statutory Breakdown	**Analytical Point 5 (Flexible Inflation Targeting (FIT) Band)**	4.0% CPI Target (±2% tolerance band: 2% to 6%) (Section 45ZA of RBI Act, 1934 (Amended 2016)) — Measured via CPI-Combined released monthly by the National Statistical Office (NSO). Verified Reference: **Reserve Bank of India**.
Node Conceptual Flowchart	**Analytical Point 6 (Operating Target of Monetary Policy)**	Weighted Average Call Rate (WACR) (Overnight inter-bank money market rate) — Maintained close to the policy repo rate via Variable Rate Repo (VRR) & VRRR auctions. Verified Reference: **Reserve Bank of India**.

Core Sub-Domain	Key Concept / Provision	Verified Analytical Parameters & Exam Distinctions (पत्र सूचना कार्यालय (PIB))
Detailed Comparative & Factual Reference Table: RBI Monetary Policy 2026 Rates, Liquidity Corridor & FinTech Initiatives Reference Table	**Analytical Point 7 (Unified Lending Interface (ULI))**	Nationwide digital public credit infrastructure (Modelled on UPI's plug-and-play architecture) — Integrates land records, GST data, and milk-cooperative data for frictionless MSME & agricultural loans. Verified Reference: **Reserve Bank of India**.

Chapter 5 Multi-Statement Exam Verification Drills

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

Statement-I (October 2026 Repo Rate Adjustment to 5.50%): Following consecutive pauses at 5.25% during mid-2026, the MPC voted in its 5–7 October 2026 review to increase the policy repo rate by 25 bps to 5.50% to preempt secondary effects of food and commodity volatility (Reserve Bank of India).

Statement-II (Symmetric 50-bps LAF Corridor): With the policy repo rate at 5.50%, the Standing Deposit Facility (SDF — which requires no government securities collateral from RBI) sits 25 bps lower at 5.25%, while the Marginal Standing Facility (MSF) and Bank Rate stand 25 bps higher at 5.75%.

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

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

Statement-I (Composition of the 6-Member MPC): Under Section 45ZB of the RBI Act, 1934, the committee comprises 3 internal RBI members (the Governor as ex-officio Chairperson, the Deputy Governor in charge of monetary policy, and one officer nominated by the Central Board) and 3 external members appointed by the Central Government for a four-year non-renewable term (Press Information Bureau).

Statement-II (Statutory Definition of Inflation Failure): Under Section 45ZN of the RBI Act, 'failure to maintain the inflation target' occurs only if average CPI-Combined inflation exceeds the 6.0% upper tolerance limit or falls below the 2.0% lower limit for three consecutive quarters (nine months).

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

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

Statement-I (Programmable & Offline Central Bank Digital Currency (e₹)): In 2026, the RBI expanded retail Digital Rupee (e₹-R) and wholesale Digital Rupee (e₹-W) pilots with 'programmability' (enabling targeted direct benefit transfers, fertilizer subsidies, and corporate CSR disbursements) and offline near-field communication (NFC) capabilities (Reserve Bank of India).

Statement-II (Unified Lending Interface (ULI)): Positioned as the 'New Trinity' of JAM-UPI-ULI, the Unified Lending Interface uses standardized APIs to fetch digitized state land records, satellite crop data, and GST filings, cutting turnacross times for rural and MSME credit.

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

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

Statement-I (Project Nexus for Multilateral Cross-Border Instant Payments): The RBI collaborated with the Bank for International Settlements (BIS) and ASEAN central banks (Malaysia, Philippines, Singapore, Thailand) under 'Project Nexus' to interlink domestic Fast Payment Systems (UPI) multilaterally (Reserve Bank of India).

Statement-II (Analytical Point 1 (Policy Repo Rate)): 5.50% (Raised by 25 bps on 7 October 2026) (Held at 5.25% in June & August 2026 reviews) — Primary benchmark rate at which RBI lends short-term funds to commercial banks against government securities. Verified Reference: Reserve Bank of India.

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

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

Statement-I (Analytical Point 2 (Standing Deposit Facility (SDF) Rate)): 5.25% (25 bps below the Policy Repo Rate) (Section 17 of RBI Act (introduced in April 2022)) — Collateral-free liquidity absorption window forming the floor of the LAF policy corridor. Verified Reference: Reserve Bank of India.

Statement-II (Analytical Point 3 (Marginal Standing Facility (MSF) & Bank Rate)): 5.75% (25 bps above the Policy Repo Rate) (Penal / overnight emergency liquidity rate) — Forms the upper ceiling of the Liquidity Adjustment Facility (LAF) corridor. Verified Reference: Reserve Bank of India.

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

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

Statement-I (Analytical Point 4 (Real GDP Growth Projection (FY 2026–27))): 6.9% to 7.1% (RBI MPC 2026 estimates) (Driven by domestic consumption & public capex) — Positions India as the fastest-growing major economy globally in 2026–27. Verified Reference: Press Information Bureau.

Statement-II (Analytical Point 5 (Flexible Inflation Targeting (FIT) Band)): 4.0% CPI Target (±2% tolerance band: 2% to 6%) (Section 45ZA of RBI Act, 1934 (Amended 2016)) — Measured via CPI-Combined released monthly by the National Statistical Office (NSO). Verified Reference: Reserve Bank of India.

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

Chapter 6: Global Summits 2026 — UNFCCC COP31 (Antalya, Türkiye), 49th ASEAN (Manila), G20 (Miami) & SCO

Chapter Key Study Pillars — Chapter 6: Global Summits 2026 — UNFCCC COP31 (Antalya, Türkiye), 49th ASEAN (Manila), G20 (Miami) & SCO

Key Study Pillar 1
Detailed Comparative & Factual Reference Table: Major Global Summits of 2026 (COP31, ASEAN, G20, BRICS, SCO & IBCA) Reference Matrix

Key Study Pillar 2
In-Depth Analytical & Statutory Breakdown

Scope & Competitive Exam Relevance: High-priority topic for UPSC GS-II (International Relations) and GS-III (Climate Change & Environment), State PCS, SSC, and Defence exams.

The international diplomatic calendar of 2026 featured landmark multilateral summits shaping climate finance, Indo-Pacific security, and global economic governance (Ministry of External Affairs and Press Information Bureau). From 9 to 20 November 2026, the 31st United Nations Climate Change Conference (UNFCCC COP31) convened at the Antalya EXPO Center in Antalya, Türkiye, operating under unique Türkiye–Australia Partnership

Modalities where Türkiye hosted the summit (President Murat Kurum) and Australia presided over climate negotiations (Minister Chris Bowen).

In parallel, the Philippines chaired the 48th and 49th ASEAN Summits and the ASEAN–India Summit in Manila in November 2026 (Ministry of External Affairs). Under the United States' 2026 G20 Presidency, the 21st G20 Leaders' Summit was scheduled for 14–15 December 2026 in Miami (Doral), Florida, while the Shanghai Cooperation Organisation (SCO) advanced Eurasian counter-terrorism and connectivity.

4-Node Conceptual Flowchart

Step-by-Step Conceptual Process Flowchart

STEP 1
Stage 1: Sept 12–13, 2026 — 18th BRICS Summit Hosted by India at Bharat Mandapam, New Delhi

STEP 2
Stage 2: Nov 9–20, 2026 — UNFCCC COP31 Climate Conference in Antalya, Türkiye (with Australia)

STEP 3
Stage 3: Nov 2026 — 49th ASEAN & East Asia Summits Hosted by the Philippines in Manila

STEP 4
Stage 4: Dec 14–15, 2026 — 21st G20 Leaders' Summit in Miami, Florida Under US Presidency

Detailed Comparative & Factual Reference Table: Major Global Summits of 2026 (COP31, ASEAN, G20, BRICS, SCO & IBCA) Reference Matrix

Summit / Multilateral Forum (2026)	Host City & Country (2026)	2026 Dates / Schedule	Presidency & Core Diplomatic Outcomes	Official Source
UNFCCC COP31 Climate Conference	Antalya EXPO Center, Antalya, Türkiye	9–20 November 2026	Türkiye–Australia Partnership: COP31 President Murat Kurum (Türkiye) & Negotiation Chair Chris Bowen (Australia)	Ministry of External Affairs
48th & 49th ASEAN Summits 2026	Manila, Philippines	November 2026 (Chaired by President Ferdinand Marcos Jr.)	Philippines assumed 2026 ASEAN Chairship; advanced ASEAN–India Comprehensive Strategic Partnership & AITIGA review	Ministry of External Affairs
21st G20 Leaders' Summit 2026	Miami (Doral), Florida, United States	14–15 December 2026 (Sherpa Meeting IV: 10–12 Dec 2026)	United States 2026 G20 Presidency; Foreign Ministers met Oct 30–31, 2026; focus on core economic & financial stability	Ministry of External Affairs
18th BRICS Summit 2026	Bharat Mandapam, New Delhi, India	12–13 September 2026	Chaired by PM Narendra Modi; adopted 140-paragraph New Delhi Declaration & BRICS Plus dialogue	Press Information Bureau
Shanghai Cooperation Organisation (SCO)	10 Full Member States (Eurasian bloc)	2026 Council of Heads of State & Government	Focus on RATS counter-terrorism, Chabahar Port & INSTC connectivity; Belarus (10th) & Iran (9th) are newest members	Ministry of External Affairs
First Global Big Cat Summit	New Delhi, India (International Big Cat Alliance — IBCA)	Announced in Union Budget 2026–27	India to host maiden summit for conservation of the world's 7 big cat species under IBCA	Union Budget Portal

Summit / Multilateral Forum (2026)	Host City & Country (2026)	2026 Dates / Schedule	Presidency & Core Diplomatic Outcomes	Official Source
QUAD Leaders' Cooperation 2026	India, USA, Japan & Australia	2026 Indo-Pacific Initiatives	Indo-Pacific Maritime Domain Awareness (IPMDA), Quad Cancer Moonshot, and critical mineral supply chains	Ministry of External Affairs
COP30 (Belém) to COP31 (Antalya) Bridge	Belém (Brazil) to Antalya (Türkiye) & Pacific Pre-COP	2026 Global Implementation Targets	10 Priority Areas and 6 Global Implementation Targets to limit 1.5°C warming overshoot and scale adaptation finance	NITI Aayog

In-Depth Analytical & Statutory Breakdown

Deep-Dive Analysis of UNFCCC COP31 in Antalya, Türkiye (9–20 November 2026)

• **Venue & Dates of COP31:** The 31st Conference of the Parties to the UN Framework Convention on Climate Change (COP31) took place from 9 to 20 November 2026 at the Antalya EXPO Center in Antalya, Türkiye (Ministry of External Affairs).

• **Unique Türkiye–Australia Partnership Modalities:** Resolving the Western European and Others Group (WEOG) hosting bid between Türkiye and Australia, the agreed compromise designated Türkiye as physical host in Antalya with Minister Murat Kurum as COP31 President, while Australia's Minister for Climate Change and Energy Chris Bowen presided over negotiations, supported by a Pre-COP hosted on a Pacific island.

• **COP31 Action Agenda (10 Priority Areas & 6 Targets):** COP31 focused on minimizing the 1.5°C warming overshoot, operationalizing the New Collective Quantified Goal (NCQG) on climate finance, tripling renewable energy capacity, and scaling adaptation finance for vulnerable developing nations (NITI Aayog).

• **India's Climate Diplomacy at COP31:** India championed equity, Common But Differentiated Responsibilities and Respective Capabilities (CBDR-RC), Mission LiFE (Lifestyle for Environment), the International Solar Alliance (ISA), and the Coalition for Disaster Resilient Infrastructure (CDRI) (Press Information Bureau).

49th ASEAN Summit (Manila), 21st G20 Summit (Miami) & Regional Groupings (2026)

• **Philippines Chairs ASEAN in 2026 (Manila):** Stepping in to chair ASEAN in 2026 (in place of Myanmar), the Philippines hosted the 48th and 49th ASEAN Summits, the ASEAN–India Summit, and the East Asia Summit in Manila in November 2026 (Ministry of External Affairs).

• **ASEAN–India Comprehensive Strategic Partnership:** India reaffirmed ASEAN Centrality, the ASEAN Outlook on the Indo-Pacific (AOIP), digital payment linkage via Project Nexus, and modernization of the ASEAN–India Trade in Goods Agreement (AITIGA).

• **21st G20 Summit in Miami, Florida (14–15 December 2026):** Following the G20 presidencies of India (2023, New Delhi), Brazil (2024, Rio de Janeiro), and South Africa (2025, Johannesburg), the United States assumed the 2026 G20 Presidency, scheduling the Leaders' Summit at Doral, Miami on 14–15 December 2026.

• **SCO's 10-Member Architecture:** With Iran (9th member) and Belarus (10th member) joining founding members China, Russia, Kazakhstan, Kyrgyzstan, Tajikistan, Uzbekistan, and 2017 entrants India and Pakistan, the SCO spans 10 full member states across Eurasia (**Ministry of External Affairs**).

Statutory, Institutional & Exam-Oriented Synthesis Points

• **Analytical Point 1 (UNFCCC COP31 Climate Conference):** Antalya EXPO Center, Antalya, Türkiye (9–20 November 2026) — Türkiye–Australia Partnership: COP31 President Murat Kurum (Türkiye) & Negotiation Chair Chris Bowen (Australia). Verified Reference: **Ministry of External Affairs**.

• **Analytical Point 2 (48th & 49th ASEAN Summits 2026):** Manila, Philippines (November 2026 (Chaired by President Ferdinand Marcos Jr.)) — Philippines assumed 2026 ASEAN Chairship; advanced ASEAN–India Comprehensive Strategic Partnership & AITIGA review. Verified Reference: **Ministry of External Affairs**.

• **Analytical Point 3 (21st G20 Leaders' Summit 2026):** Miami (Doral), Florida, United States (14–15 December 2026 (Sherpa Meeting IV: 10–12 Dec 2026)) — United States 2026 G20 Presidency; Foreign Ministers met Oct 30–31, 2026; focus on core economic & financial stability. Verified Reference: **Ministry of External Affairs**.

• **Analytical Point 4 (18th BRICS Summit 2026):** Bharat Mandapam, New Delhi, India (12–13 September 2026) — Chaired by PM Narendra Modi; adopted 140-paragraph New Delhi Declaration & BRICS Plus dialogue. Verified Reference: **Press Information Bureau**.

• **Analytical Point 5 (Shanghai Cooperation Organisation (SCO)):** 10 Full Member States (Eurasian bloc) (2026 Council of Heads of State & Government) — Focus on RATS counter-terrorism, Chabahar Port & INSTC connectivity; Belarus (10th) & Iran (9th) are newest members. Verified Reference: **Ministry of External Affairs**.

• **Analytical Point 6 (First Global Big Cat Summit):** New Delhi, India (International Big Cat Alliance — IBCA) (Announced in Union Budget 2026–27) — India to host maiden summit for conservation of the world's 7 big cat species under IBCA. Verified Reference: **Union Budget Portal**.

• **Analytical Point 7 (QUAD Leaders' Cooperation 2026):** India, USA, Japan & Australia (2026 Indo-Pacific Initiatives) — Indo-Pacific Maritime Domain Awareness (IPMDA), Quad Cancer Moonshot, and critical mineral supply chains. Verified Reference: **Ministry of External Affairs**.

• **Analytical Point 8 (COP30 (Belém) to COP31 (Antalya) Bridge):** Belém (Brazil) to Antalya (Türkiye) & Pacific Pre-COP (2026 Global Implementation Targets) — 10 Priority Areas and 6 Global Implementation Targets to limit 1.5°C warming overshoot and scale adaptation finance. Verified Reference: **NITI Aayog**.

Did You Know?
COP31 (November 2026) established an unprecedented dual-leadership model in UN climate history: Türkiye hosted the conference in Antalya under COP31 President Murat Kurum, while Australia's Chris Bowen led the formal multilateral climate negotiations alongside a Pacific Island Pre-COP.

Exam Trap Alert
Do not confuse COP30 (Belém, Brazil) with COP31 (2026): the 2026 UN Climate Change Conference (COP31) was held from 9 to 20 November 2026 in Antalya, Türkiye under the Türkiye–Australia partnership!

★ **Memory Trick**
Mnemonic for 2026 Global Summits — 'BRICS 2026 = New Delhi (India), COP31 2026 = Antalya (Türkiye + Australia), ASEAN 2026 = Manila (Philippines), and G20 2026 = Miami (USA)'.

Verified Official Portal Citations: Press Information Bureau | Union Budget Portal | NITI Aayog | Ministry of External Affairs | Reserve Bank of India | ISRO Official Portal | IUC Academy Official Portal

Chapter *6* Comprehensive Analytical & Statutory Revision Matrix

Core Sub-Domain	Key Concept / Provision	Verified Analytical Parameters & Exam Distinctions (पत्र सूचना कार्यालय (PIB))
Node Conceptual Flowchart	**Venue & Dates of COP31**	The 31st Conference of the Parties to the UN Framework Convention on Climate Change (COP31) took place from 9 to 20 November 2026 at the Antalya EXPO Center in Antalya, Türkiye (Ministry of External Affairs).
Detailed Comparative & Factual Reference Table: Major Global Summits of 2026 (COP31, ASEAN, G20, BRICS, SCO & IBCA) Reference Matrix	**Unique Türkiye–Australia Partnership Modalities**	Resolving the Western European and Others Group (WEOG) hosting bid between Türkiye and Australia, the agreed compromise designated Türkiye as physical host in Antalya with Minister Murat Kurum as COP31 President, while Australia's Minister for Climate Change and Energy Chris Bowen presided over negotiations, supported by a Pre-COP hosted on a Pacific island.
In-Depth Analytical & Statutory Breakdown	**COP31 Action Agenda (10 Priority Areas & 6 Targets)**	COP31 focused on minimizing the 1.5°C warming overshoot, operationalizing the New Collective Quantified Goal (NCQG) on climate finance, tripling renewable energy capacity, and scaling adaptation finance for vulnerable developing nations (NITI Aayog).
Node Conceptual Flowchart	**India's Climate Diplomacy at COP31**	India championed equity, Common But Differentiated Responsibilities and Respective Capabilities (CBDR-RC), Mission LiFE (Lifestyle for Environment), the International Solar Alliance (ISA), and the Coalition for Disaster Resilient Infrastructure (CDRI) (Press Information Bureau).
Detailed Comparative & Factual Reference Table: Major Global Summits of 2026 (COP31, ASEAN, G20, BRICS, SCO & IBCA) Reference Matrix	**Philippines Chairs ASEAN in 2026 (Manila)**	Stepping in to chair ASEAN in 2026 (in place of Myanmar), the Philippines hosted the 48th and 49th ASEAN Summits, the ASEAN–India Summit, and the East Asia Summit in Manila in November 2026 (Ministry of External Affairs).
In-Depth Analytical & Statutory Breakdown	**ASEAN–India Comprehensive Strategic Partnership**	India reaffirmed ASEAN Centrality, the ASEAN Outlook on the Indo-Pacific (AOIP), digital payment linkage via Project Nexus, and modernization of the ASEAN–India Trade in Goods Agreement (AITIGA).
Node Conceptual Flowchart	**21st G20 Summit in Miami, Florida (14–15 December 2026)**	Following the G20 presidencies of India (2023, New Delhi), Brazil (2024, Rio de Janeiro), and South Africa (2025, Johannesburg), the United States assumed the 2026 G20 Presidency, scheduling the Leaders' Summit at Doral, Miami on 14–15 December 2026.

Core Sub-Domain	Key Concept / Provision	Verified Analytical Parameters & Exam Distinctions (पत्र सूचना कार्यालय (PIB))
Detailed Comparative & Factual Reference Table: Major Global Summits of 2026 (COP31, ASEAN, G20, BRICS, SCO & IBCA) Reference Matrix	**SCO's 10-Member Architecture**	With Iran (9th member) and Belarus (10th member) joining founding members China, Russia, Kazakhstan, Kyrgyzstan, Tajikistan, Uzbekistan, and 2017 entrants India and Pakistan, the SCO spans 10 full member states across Eurasia (Ministry of External Affairs).
In-Depth Analytical & Statutory Breakdown	**Analytical Point 1 (UNFCCC COP31 Climate Conference)**	Antalya EXPO Center, Antalya, Türkiye (9–20 November 2026) — Türkiye–Australia Partnership: COP31 President Murat Kurum (Türkiye) & Negotiation Chair Chris Bowen (Australia). Verified Reference: **Ministry of External Affairs**.
Node Conceptual Flowchart	**Analytical Point 2 (48th & 49th ASEAN Summits 2026)**	Manila, Philippines (November 2026 (Chaired by President Ferdinand Marcos Jr.)) — Philippines assumed 2026 ASEAN Chairship; advanced ASEAN–India Comprehensive Strategic Partnership & AITIGA review. Verified Reference: **Ministry of External Affairs**.
Detailed Comparative & Factual Reference Table: Major Global Summits of 2026 (COP31, ASEAN, G20, BRICS, SCO & IBCA) Reference Matrix	**Analytical Point 3 (21st G20 Leaders' Summit 2026)**	Miami (Doral), Florida, United States (14–15 December 2026 (Sherpa Meeting IV: 10–12 Dec 2026)) — United States 2026 G20 Presidency; Foreign Ministers met Oct 30–31, 2026; focus on core economic & financial stability. Verified Reference: **Ministry of External Affairs**.
In-Depth Analytical & Statutory Breakdown	**Analytical Point 4 (18th BRICS Summit 2026)**	Bharat Mandapam, New Delhi, India (12–13 September 2026) — Chaired by PM Narendra Modi; adopted 140-paragraph New Delhi Declaration & BRICS Plus dialogue. Verified Reference: **Press Information Bureau**.
Node Conceptual Flowchart	**Analytical Point 5 (Shanghai Cooperation Organisation (SCO))**	10 Full Member States (Eurasian bloc) (2026 Council of Heads of State & Government) — Focus on RATS counter-terrorism, Chabahar Port & INSTC connectivity; Belarus (10th) & Iran (9th) are newest members. Verified Reference: **Ministry of External Affairs**.
Detailed Comparative & Factual Reference Table: Major Global Summits of 2026 (COP31, ASEAN, G20, BRICS, SCO & IBCA) Reference Matrix	**Analytical Point 6 (First Global Big Cat Summit)**	New Delhi, India (International Big Cat Alliance — IBCA) (Announced in Union Budget 2026–27) — India to host maiden summit for conservation of the world's 7 big cat species under IBCA. Verified Reference: **Union Budget Portal**.

Chapter 6 Multi-Statement Exam Verification Drills

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

Statement-I (Venue & Dates of COP31): The 31st Conference of the Parties to the UN Framework Convention on Climate Change (COP31) took place from 9 to 20 November 2026 at the Antalya EXPO Center in Antalya, Türkiye (Ministry of External Affairs).

Statement-II (Unique Türkiye–Australia Partnership Modalities): Resolving the Western European and Others Group (WEOG) hosting bid between Türkiye and Australia, the agreed compromise designated Türkiye as physical host in Antalya with Minister Murat Kurum as COP31 President, while Australia's Minister for Climate Change and Energy Chris Bowen presided over negotiations, supported by a Pre-COP hosted on a Pacific island.

✓ **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 (COP31 Action Agenda (10 Priority Areas & 6 Targets)): COP31 focused on minimizing the 1.5°C warming overshoot, operationalizing the New Collective Quantified Goal (NCQG) on climate finance, tripling renewable energy capacity, and scaling adaptation finance for vulnerable developing nations (NITI Aayog).

Statement-II (India's Climate Diplomacy at COP31): India championed equity, Common But Differentiated Responsibilities and Respective Capabilities (CBDR-RC), Mission LiFE (Lifestyle for Environment), the International Solar Alliance (ISA), and the Coalition for Disaster Resilient Infrastructure (CDRI) (Press Information Bureau).

✓ **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 (Philippines Chairs ASEAN in 2026 (Manila)): Stepping in to chair ASEAN in 2026 (in place of Myanmar), the Philippines hosted the 48th and 49th ASEAN Summits, the ASEAN–India Summit, and the East Asia Summit in Manila in November 2026 (Ministry of External Affairs).

Statement-II (ASEAN–India Comprehensive Strategic Partnership): India reaffirmed ASEAN Centrality, the ASEAN Outlook on the Indo-Pacific (AOIP), digital payment linkage via Project Nexus, and modernization of the ASEAN–India Trade in Goods Agreement (AITIGA).

✓ **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 (21st G20 Summit in Miami, Florida (14–15 December 2026)): Following the G20 presidencies of India (2023, New Delhi), Brazil (2024, Rio de Janeiro), and South Africa (2025, Johannesburg), the United States assumed the 2026 G20 Presidency, scheduling the Leaders' Summit at Doral, Miami on 14–15 December 2026.

Statement-II (SCO's 10-Member Architecture): With Iran (9th member) and Belarus (10th member) joining founding members China, Russia, Kazakhstan, Kyrgyzstan, Tajikistan, Uzbekistan, and 2017 entrants India and Pakistan, the SCO spans 10 full member states across Eurasia (Ministry of External Affairs).

✓ **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 #5 — Both Statements Verified Correct

Statement-I (Analytical Point 1 (UNFCCC COP31 Climate Conference)): Antalya EXPO Center, Antalya, Türkiye (9–20 November 2026) — Türkiye–Australia Partnership: COP31 President Murat Kurum (Türkiye) & Negotiation Chair Chris Bowen (Australia). Verified Reference: **Ministry of External Affairs**.

Statement-II (Analytical Point 2 (48th & 49th ASEAN Summits 2026)): Manila, Philippines (November 2026 (Chaired by President Ferdinand Marcos Jr.)) — Philippines assumed 2026 ASEAN Chairship; advanced ASEAN–India Comprehensive Strategic Partnership & AITIGA review. Verified Reference: **Ministry of External Affairs**.

✓ **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 #6 — Both Statements Verified Correct

Statement-I (Analytical Point 3 (21st G20 Leaders' Summit 2026)): Miami (Doral), Florida, United States (14–15 December 2026 (Sherpa Meeting IV: 10–12 Dec 2026)) — United States 2026 G20 Presidency; Foreign Ministers met Oct 30–31, 2026; focus on core economic & financial stability. Verified Reference: **Ministry of External Affairs**.

Statement-II (Analytical Point 4 (18th BRICS Summit 2026)): Bharat Mandapam, New Delhi, India (12–13 September 2026) — Chaired by PM Narendra Modi; adopted 140-paragraph New Delhi Declaration & BRICS Plus dialogue. Verified Reference: **Press Information Bureau**.

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

Chapter 7: Padma Awards 2026 (131 Honours), 77th Republic Day Parade 2026 & India's 11 Classical Languages

Chapter Key Study Pillars — Chapter 7: Padma Awards 2026 (131 Honours), 77th Republic Day Parade 2026 & India's 11 Classical Languages

Key Study Pillar 1
Detailed Comparative & Factual Reference Table: Padma Vibhushan 2026 Winners, 77th Republic Day 2026 Parade Awards & 11 Classical Languages

Key Study Pillar 2
In-Depth Analytical & Statutory Breakdown

Scope & Competitive Exam Relevance: Mandatory for UPSC Prelims, State PCS, SSC, Railway, Banking, and Police examinations covering National Honours and Art & Culture.

On the eve of Republic Day (25 January 2026), the Ministry of Home Affairs announced the conferment of 131 Padma Awards for the year 2026, subsequently presented by President Smt. Droupadi Murmu at Rashtrapati Bhavan (**Press Information Bureau** and **IUC Academy Official Portal**). The 2026 roster comprises 5 Padma Vibhushan, 13 Padma Bhushan, and 113 Padma Shri awards. Among the awardees are 19 women, 6 recipients from the Foreigners/NRI/PIO/OCI category, and 16 posthumous honourees.

On 26 January 2026, the 77th Republic Day Parade on Kartavya Path, New Delhi celebrated the official theme '150 Years of Vande Mataram' (**Press Information Bureau**). In the competitive parade awards announced by the Ministry of Defence, Maharashtra won the Best Tableau Award among States/UTs for its presentation 'Ganeshotsav: A Symbol of Aatmanirbharata', while the Indian Navy (among the three Services) and Delhi Police (among CAPFs and auxiliary forces) won the Best Marching Contingent awards.

4-Node Conceptual Flowchart

Step-by-Step Conceptual Process Flowchart

STEP 1
Stage 1: Jan 25, 2026 Announcement of 131 Padma Awards (5 Padma Vibhushan, 13 Padma Bhushan, 113 Padma Shri)

STEP 2
Stage 2: Jan 26, 2026 — 77th Republic Day Parade on Kartavya Path ('150 Years of Vande Mataram')

STEP 3
Stage 3: Best Tableau Won by Maharashtra (Ganeshotsav); Best Marching Contingents: Indian Navy & Delhi Police

STEP 4
Stage 4: Institutional Expansion of India's 11 Recognized Classical Languages

Detailed Comparative & Factual Reference Table: Padma Vibhushan *2026* Winners, *77*th Republic Day *2026* Parade Awards & *11* Classical Languages

Honour / Category (2026)	Recipient / Winning Entity	Field / Theme / State	Key Exam Facts & Significance	Official Source
Padma Vibhushan 2026 (1)	Dharmendra (Posthumous)	Art (Cinema — Maharashtra/Punjab)	Honoured with India's second-highest civilian award for over six decades of iconic contributions to Indian cinema	Press Information Bureau
Padma Vibhushan 2026 (2)	Justice K. T. Thomas	Public Affairs (Judiciary — Kerala)	Former Judge of the Supreme Court of India recognized for landmark judicial and legal reform contributions	Press Information Bureau
Padma Vibhushan 2026 (3)	Dr. N. Rajam	Art (Hindustani Classical Violin — Uttar Pradesh)	Legendary exponent of the 'Gayaki Ang' violin style and former Dean at Banaras Hindu University (BHU)	Press Information Bureau
Padma Vibhushan 2026 (4)	P. Narayanan	Literature & Education (Kerala)	Veteran Malayalam author, journalist, and ideological thinker honoured for lifelong literary service	Press Information Bureau
Padma Vibhushan 2026 (5)	V. S. Achuthanandan (Posthumous)	Public Affairs (Former Chief Minister of Kerala)	Honoured posthumously for decades of public service, agrarian reforms, and mass movements	Press Information Bureau
77th Republic Day 2026 Best Tableau	Maharashtra (1st Place among States/UTs)	Theme: 'Ganeshotsav: A Symbol of Aatmanirbharata'	Overall Republic Day Parade 2026 theme: '150 Years of Vande Mataram'	Press Information Bureau
Best Marching Contingents 2026	Indian Navy (Services) & Delhi Police (CAPFs/Auxiliary)	Kartavya Path, New Delhi (28 Jan 2026 results)	Adjudged best marching contingents by the official panel of judges appointed by the Ministry of Defence	Press Information Bureau
India's 11 Classical Languages	Tamil, Sanskrit, Kannada, Telugu, Malayalam, Odia + Marathi, Pali, Prakrit, Assamese, Bengali	Ministry of Culture & Ministry of Education	Addition of 5 languages expanded the Classical Languages roster from 6 to 11; Pali & Prakrit are non-8th Schedule	Press Information Bureau

In-Depth Analytical & Statutory Breakdown

Complete Breakdown of the Padma Awards *2026 (5 + 13 + 113 = 131)*

• **Numerical Architecture of Padma Awards *2026*:** Instituted in *1954*, the Padma Awards for *2026* totalled *131* honours — *5* Padma Vibhushan (for exceptional and distinguished service), *13* Padma Bhushan (distinguished

service of high order), and 113 Padma Shri (distinguished service in any field), including 19 women, 6 Foreigners/NRI/PIO/OCI, and 16 posthumous awardees (Press Information Bureau).

• **The Five Padma Vibhushan Laureates of 2026:** The five recipients of India's second-highest civilian honour in 2026 are veteran actor Dharmendra (Posthumous), former Kerala Chief Minister V. S. Achuthanandan (Posthumous), former Supreme Court Justice K. T. Thomas, Hindustani violin maestro Dr. N. Rajam, and veteran writer-journalist P. Narayanan.

• **Sports Recipients in Padma Awards 2026:** Tennis legend Vijay Amritraj received the Padma Bhushan, while Padma Shri awards were conferred upon cricketers Rohit Sharma and Harmanpreet Kaur, women's hockey goalkeeper Savita Punia, Paralympic gold medallist Praveen Kumar, hockey coach Baldev Singh, Bhagwandas Raikwar, K. Pajanivel, and wrestling coach Vladimir Mestvirishvili (Posthumous) (Press Information Bureau).

• **Constitutional Position under Article 18(1):** As upheld by the Supreme Court in *Balaji Raghavan v. Union of India* (1996), national honours (Bharat Ratna and Padma Awards) are not 'titles' within the prohibition of Article 18(1) and cannot be used as prefixes or suffixes to the recipient's name.

77th Republic Day Parade 2026 Awards & India's 11 Classical Languages

• **77th Republic Day Theme — '150 Years of Vande Mataram':** Commemorating 150 years of the national song *Vande Mataram* composed by Bankim Chandra Chattopadhyay, the 2026 Republic Day Parade showcased cultural heritage and indigenous defence platforms on Kartavya Path (Press Information Bureau).

• **Maharashtra Wins Best Tableau Award 2026:** Maharashtra secured first prize among state and union territory tableaux for '*Ganeshotsav: A Symbol of Aatmanirbharata*', depicting the cultural, social, and economic self-reliance fostered by the public Ganesh festival tradition.

• **Indian Navy & Delhi Police Win Best Marching Contingents 2026:** The Indian Navy won Best Marching Contingent among the three Armed Forces, while Delhi Police won Best Marching Contingent among CAPFs and other auxiliary forces (Press Information Bureau).

• **Chronology & Criteria of India's 11 Classical Languages:** Joining Tamil (2004), Sanskrit (2005), Kannada (2008), Telugu (2008), Malayalam (2013), and Odia (2014), the five newly added languages — Marathi, Pali, Prakrit, Assamese, and Bengali — fulfilled the revised Linguistic Experts Committee (Sahitya Akademi) criteria of high antiquity of early texts/recorded history over 1,500–2,000 years and a distinct literary tradition.

Statutory, Institutional & Exam-Oriented Synthesis Points

• **Analytical Point 1 (Padma Vibhushan 2026 (1)):** Dharmendra (Posthumous) (Art (Cinema — Maharashtra/Punjab)) — Honoured with India's second-highest civilian award for over six decades of iconic contributions to Indian cinema. Verified Reference: Press Information Bureau.

• **Analytical Point 2 (Padma Vibhushan 2026 (2)):** Justice K. T. Thomas (Public Affairs (Judiciary — Kerala)) — Former Judge of the Supreme Court of India recognized for landmark judicial and legal reform contributions. Verified Reference: Press Information Bureau.

• **Analytical Point 3 (Padma Vibhushan 2026 (3)):** Dr. N. Rajam (Art (Hindustani Classical Violin — Uttar Pradesh)) — Legendary exponent of the 'Gayaki Ang' violin style and former Dean at Banaras Hindu University (BHU). Verified Reference: Press Information Bureau.

• **Analytical Point 4 (Padma Vibhushan 2026 (4)):** P. Narayanan (Literature & Education (Kerala)) — Veteran Malayalam
author, journalist, and ideological thinker honoured for lifelong literary service. Verified Reference: **Press Information Bureau**.

• **Analytical Point 5 (Padma Vibhushan 2026 (5)):** V. S. Achuthanandan (Posthumous) (Public Affairs (Former Chief Minister of Kerala)) — Honoured posthumously for decades of public service, agrarian reforms, and mass movements. Verified Reference: **Press Information Bureau**.

• **Analytical Point 6 (77th Republic Day 2026 Best Tableau):** Maharashtra (1st Place among States/UTs) (Theme: 'Ganeshotsav: A Symbol of Aatmanirbharata') — Overall Republic Day Parade 2026 theme: '150 Years of Vande Mataram'. Verified Reference: **Press Information Bureau**.

• **Analytical Point 7 (Best Marching Contingents 2026):** Indian Navy (Services) & Delhi Police (CAPFs/ Auxiliary) (Kartavya Path, New Delhi (28 Jan 2026 results)) — Adjudged best marching contingents by the official panel of judges appointed by the Ministry of Defence. Verified Reference: **Press Information Bureau**.

• **Analytical Point 8 (India's 11 Classical Languages):** Tamil, Sanskrit, Kannada, Telugu, Malayalam, Odia + Marathi, Pali, Prakrit, Assamese, Bengali (Ministry of Culture & Ministry of Education) — Addition of 5 languages expanded the Classical Languages roster from 6 to 11; Pali & Prakrit are non-8th Schedule. Verified Reference: **Press Information Bureau**.

Did You Know?
Padma Vibhushan 2026 laureate Dr. N. Rajam pioneered the 'Gayaki Ang' (vocal-style) technique on the violin in Hindustani classical music and served for nearly four decades as Professor and Dean of the Faculty of Performing Arts at Banaras Hindu University (BHU).

Exam Trap Alert
Exam questions carefully distinguish Padma Awards 2026 totals and Republic Day 2026 winners: remember the exact 2026 Padma equation '5 Padma Vibhushan + 13 Padma Bhushan + 113 Padma Shri = 131 total', and that 'Maharashtra' won the Best State Tableau at the 77th Republic Day Parade 2026!

★ Memory Trick
Mnemonic for the 5 Padma Vibhushan 2026 Winners — 'Dharmendra (Cinema), N. Rajam (Violin), and the Kerala Trio: Justice K. T. Thomas (Law), P. Narayanan (Literature) & V. S. Achuthanandan (Public Affairs)'.

Verified Official Portal Citations: **Press Information Bureau** | **Union Budget Portal** | **NITI Aayog** | **Ministry of External Affairs** | **Reserve Bank of India** | **ISRO Official Portal** | **IUC Academy Official Portal**

Chapter 7 Comprehensive Analytical & Statutory Revision Matrix

Core Sub-Domain	Key Concept / Provision	Verified Analytical Parameters & Exam Distinctions (पत्र सूचना कार्यालय (PIB))
Node Conceptual Flowchart	**Numerical Architecture of Padma Awards 2026**	Instituted in 1954, the Padma Awards for 2026 totalled 131 honours — 5 Padma Vibhushan (for exceptional and distinguished service), 13 Padma Bhushan (distinguished service of high order), and 113 Padma Shri (distinguished service in any field), including 19 women, 6 Foreigners/NRI/ PIO/OCI, and 16 posthumous awardees (Press Information Bureau).

Core Sub-Domain	Key Concept / Provision	Verified Analytical Parameters & Exam Distinctions (पत्र सूचना कार्यालय (PIB))
Detailed Comparative & Factual Reference Table: Padma Vibhushan 2026 Winners, 77th Republic Day 2026 Parade Awards & 11 Classical Languages	**The Five Padma Vibhushan Laureates of 2026**	The five recipients of India's second-highest civilian honour in 2026 are veteran actor Dharmendra (Posthumous), former Kerala Chief Minister V. S. Achuthanandan (Posthumous), former Supreme Court Justice K. T. Thomas, Hindustani violin maestro Dr. N. Rajam, and veteran writer-journalist P. Narayanan.
In-Depth Analytical & Statutory Breakdown	**Sports Recipients in Padma Awards 2026**	Tennis legend Vijay Amritraj received the Padma Bhushan, while Padma Shri awards were conferred upon cricketers Rohit Sharma and Harmanpreet Kaur, women's hockey goalkeeper Savita Punia, Paralympic gold medallist Praveen Kumar, hockey coach Baldev Singh, Bhagwandas Raikwar, K. Pajanivel, and wrestling coach Vladimir Mestvirishvili (Posthumous) (Press Information Bureau).
Node Conceptual Flowchart	**Constitutional Position under Article 18(1)**	As upheld by the Supreme Court in *Balaji Raghavan v. Union of India* (1996), national honours (Bharat Ratna and Padma Awards) are not 'titles' within the prohibition of Article 18(1) and cannot be used as prefixes or suffixes to the recipient's name.
Detailed Comparative & Factual Reference Table: Padma Vibhushan 2026 Winners, 77th Republic Day 2026 Parade Awards & 11 Classical Languages	**77th Republic Day Theme — '150 Years of Vande Mataram'**	Commemorating 150 years of the national song *Vande Mataram* composed by Bankim Chandra Chattopadhyay, the 2026 Republic Day Parade showcased cultural heritage and indigenous defence platforms on Kartavya Path (Press Information Bureau).
In-Depth Analytical & Statutory Breakdown	**Maharashtra Wins Best Tableau Award 2026**	Maharashtra secured first prize among state and union territory tableaux for '*Ganeshotsav*: *A Symbol of Aatmanirbharata*', depicting the cultural, social, and economic self-reliance fostered by the public Ganesh festival tradition.
Node Conceptual Flowchart	**Indian Navy & Delhi Police Win Best Marching Contingents 2026**	The Indian Navy won Best Marching Contingent among the three Armed Forces, while Delhi Police won Best Marching Contingent among CAPFs and other auxiliary forces (Press Information Bureau).
Detailed Comparative & Factual Reference Table: Padma Vibhushan 2026 Winners, 77th Republic Day 2026 Parade Awards & 11 Classical Languages	**Chronology & Criteria of India's 11 Classical Languages**	Joining Tamil (2004), Sanskrit (2005), Kannada (2008), Telugu (2008), Malayalam (2013), and Odia (2014), the five newly added languages — Marathi, Pali, Prakrit, Assamese, and Bengali — fulfilled the revised Linguistic Experts Committee (Sahitya Akademi) criteria of high antiquity of early texts/recorded history over 1,500–2,000 years and a distinct literary tradition.

Core Sub-Domain	Key Concept / Provision	Verified Analytical Parameters & Exam Distinctions (पत्र सूचना कार्यालय (PIB))
In-Depth Analytical & Statutory Breakdown	Analytical Point 1 (Padma Vibhushan 2026 (1))	Dharmendra (Posthumous) (Art (Cinema — Maharashtra/Punjab)) — Honoured with India's second-highest civilian award for over six decades of iconic contributions to Indian cinema. Verified Reference: Press Information Bureau.
Node Conceptual Flowchart	Analytical Point 2 (Padma Vibhushan 2026 (2))	Justice K. T. Thomas (Public Affairs (Judiciary — Kerala)) — Former Judge of the Supreme Court of India recognized for landmark judicial and legal reform contributions. Verified Reference: Press Information Bureau.
Detailed Comparative & Factual Reference Table: Padma Vibhushan 2026 Winners, 77th Republic Day 2026 Parade Awards & 11 Classical Languages	Analytical Point 3 (Padma Vibhushan 2026 (3))	Dr. N. Rajam (Art (Hindustani Classical Violin — Uttar Pradesh)) — Legendary exponent of the 'Gayaki Ang' violin style and former Dean at Banaras Hindu University (BHU). Verified Reference: Press Information Bureau.
In-Depth Analytical & Statutory Breakdown	Analytical Point 4 (Padma Vibhushan 2026 (4))	P. Narayanan (Literature & Education (Kerala)) — Veteran Malayalam author, journalist, and ideological thinker honoured for lifelong literary service. Verified Reference: Press Information Bureau.
Node Conceptual Flowchart	Analytical Point 5 (Padma Vibhushan 2026 (5))	V. S. Achuthanandan (Posthumous) (Public Affairs (Former Chief Minister of Kerala)) — Honoured posthumously for decades of public service, agrarian reforms, and mass movements. Verified Reference: Press Information Bureau.
Detailed Comparative & Factual Reference Table: Padma Vibhushan 2026 Winners, 77th Republic Day 2026 Parade Awards & 11 Classical Languages	Analytical Point 6 (77th Republic Day 2026 Best Tableau)	Maharashtra (1st Place among States/UTs) (Theme: 'Ganeshotsav: A Symbol of Aatmanirbharata') — Overall Republic Day Parade 2026 theme: '150 Years of Vande Mataram'. Verified Reference: Press Information Bureau.

Chapter 7 Multi-Statement Exam Verification Drills

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

Statement-I (Numerical Architecture of Padma Awards 2026): Instituted in 1954, the Padma Awards for 2026 totalled 131 honours — 5 Padma Vibhushan (for exceptional and distinguished service), 13 Padma Bhushan (distinguished service of high order), and 113 Padma Shri (distinguished service in any field), including 19 women, 6 Foreigners/NRI/PIO/OCI, and 16 posthumous awardees (Press Information Bureau).

Statement-II (The Five Padma Vibhushan Laureates of 2026): The five recipients of India's second-highest civilian honour in 2026 are veteran actor Dharmendra (Posthumous), former Kerala Chief Minister V. S. Achuthanandan (Posthumous), former Supreme Court Justice K. T. Thomas, Hindustani violin maestro Dr. N. Rajam, and veteran writer-journalist P. Narayanan.

✓ **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 (Sports Recipients in Padma Awards 2026): Tennis legend Vijay Amritraj received the Padma Bhushan, while Padma Shri awards were conferred upon cricketers Rohit Sharma and Harmanpreet Kaur, women's hockey goalkeeper Savita Punia, Paralympic gold medallist Praveen Kumar, hockey coach Baldev Singh, Bhagwandas Raikwar, K. Pajanivel, and wrestling coach Vladimir Mestvirishvili (Posthumous) (Press Information Bureau).

Statement-II (Constitutional Position under Article 18(1)): As upheld by the Supreme Court in *Balaji Raghavan v. Union of India* (1996), national honours (Bharat Ratna and Padma Awards) are not 'titles' within the prohibition of Article 18(1) and cannot be used as prefixes or suffixes to the recipient's name.

✓ **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 (77th Republic Day Theme — '150 Years of Vande Mataram'): Commemorating 150 years of the national song *Vande Mataram* composed by Bankim Chandra Chattopadhyay, the 2026 Republic Day Parade showcased cultural heritage and indigenous defence platforms on Kartavya Path (Press Information Bureau).

Statement-II (Maharashtra Wins Best Tableau Award 2026): Maharashtra secured first prize among state and union territory tableaux for '*Ganeshotsav: A Symbol of Aatmanirbharata*', depicting the cultural, social, and economic self-reliance fostered by the public Ganesh festival tradition.

✓ **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 #4 Both Statements Verified Correct

Statement-I (Indian Navy & Delhi Police Win Best Marching Contingents 2026): The Indian Navy won Best Marching Contingent among the three Armed Forces, while Delhi Police won Best Marching Contingent among CAPFs and other auxiliary forces (Press Information Bureau).

Statement-II (Chronology & Criteria of India's 11 Classical Languages): Joining Tamil (2004), Sanskrit (2005), Kannada (2008), Telugu (2008), Malayalam (2013), and Odia (2014), the five newly added languages — Marathi, Pali, Prakrit, Assamese, and Bengali — fulfilled the revised Linguistic Experts Committee (Sahitya Akademi) criteria of high antiquity of early texts/recorded history over 1,500–2,000 years and a distinct literary tradition.

✓ **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 #5 Both Statements Verified Correct

Statement-I (Analytical Point 1 (Padma Vibhushan 2026 (1))): Dharmendra (Posthumous) (Art (Cinema — Maharashtra/Punjab)) — Honoured with India's second-highest civilian award for over six decades of iconic contributions to Indian cinema. Verified Reference: **Press Information Bureau**.

Statement-II (Analytical Point 2 (Padma Vibhushan 2026 (2))): Justice K. T. Thomas (Public Affairs (Judiciary — Kerala)) — Former Judge of the Supreme Court of India recognized for landmark judicial and legal reform contributions. Verified Reference: **Press Information Bureau**.

✓ **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 #6 Both Statements Verified Correct

Statement-I (Analytical Point 3 (Padma Vibhushan 2026 (3))): Dr. N. Rajam (Art (Hindustani Classical Violin — Uttar Pradesh)) — Legendary exponent of the 'Gayaki Ang' violin style and former Dean at Banaras Hindu University (BHU). Verified Reference: **Press Information Bureau**.

Statement-II (Analytical Point 4 (Padma Vibhushan 2026 (4))): P. Narayanan (Literature & Education (Kerala)) — Veteran Malayalam author, journalist, and ideological thinker honoured for lifelong literary service. Verified Reference: **Press Information Bureau**.

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

Chapter 8: National Governance, Digital Public Infrastructure & Flagship Union Cabinet Initiatives 2026

Chapter Key Study Pillars — Chapter 8: National Governance, Digital Public Infrastructure & Flagship Union Cabinet Initiatives 2026

Key Study Pillar 1
Detailed Comparative & Factual Reference Table: Flagship National Welfare Schemes, Digital Missions & Governance Reforms Operationalized in 2026

Key Study Pillar 2
In-Depth Analytical & Statutory Breakdown

Scope & Competitive Exam Relevance: Essential for UPSC GS-II (Governance, Welfare Schemes & Social Justice) and GS-III (Science, Tech & Economic Development), State PCS, and SSC exams.

Throughout 2026, the Government of India operationalized transformative national missions across higher education, healthcare coverage, artificial intelligence, biomanufacturing, and pension security (Press Information Bureau and NITI Aayog). Under the 'One Nation One Subscription' (ONOS) scheme, over 6,300 government higher education and R&D institutions gained centralized digital access to more than 13,000 international scholarly journals.

Simultaneously, the 'IndiaAI Mission' (outlay ₹10,371.92 crore) scaled sovereign GPU compute computing centres exceeding 18,000 GPUs and indigenous multilingual foundational models, while the 'Ayushman Vay Vandana Card' extended ₹5 lakh free health insurance to all senior citizens aged 70 years and above irrespective of income (Press Information Bureau). In parallel, the Unified Pension Scheme (UPS), PM Vidyalaxmi Scheme, and the BioE3 Policy strengthened social and industrial resilience.

4-Node Conceptual Flowchart

Step-by-Step Conceptual Process Flowchart

STEP 1
Stage 1: Union Cabinet Approvals Across Education, Healthcare, AI & Biomanufacturing Missions

STEP 2
Stage 2: 'One Nation One Subscription' (ONOS) & 'PM Vidyalaxmi Scheme' Democratizing Higher Education

STEP 3
Stage 3: 'IndiaAI Mission' (18,000+ GPUs) & 'PARAM Rudra' Supercomputers Building Sovereign Compute

STEP 4
Stage 4: 'Ayushman Vay Vandana Card' (70+ Seniors) & 'Unified Pension Scheme' (50% Assured Pension)

Detailed Comparative & Factual Reference Table: Flagship National Welfare Schemes, Digital Missions & Governance Reforms Operationalized in 2026

Scheme / National Mission (2026)	Nodal Ministry / Implementing Agency	Approved Financial Outlay	Core Eligibility & Beneficiary Architecture	Official Source
One Nation One Subscription (ONOS)	Ministry of Education & Office of Principal Scientific Adviser	₹6,000 crore (3-year allocation)	Provides 1.8 crore students/ researchers across 6,300+ govt institutions access to 13,000+ journals via INFLIBNET	Press Information Bureau

Scheme / National Mission (2026)	Nodal Ministry / Implementing Agency	Approved Financial Outlay	Core Eligibility & Beneficiary Architecture	Official Source
PM Vidyalaxmi Scheme	Ministry of Education (Dept of Higher Education)	₹3,600 crore	Collateral-free, guarantor-free education loans for students in top 860 NIRF institutions; 3% interest subvention up to ₹10 lakh	Press Information Bureau
Ayushman Vay Vandana Card (70+ Years)	Ministry of Health & Family Welfare (National Health Authority)	₹3,437 crore initial outlay	Universal ₹5 lakh annual cashless health cover for all citizens aged 70+ regardless of income level	Press Information Bureau
IndiaAI Mission	Ministry of Electronics & Information Technology (MeitY)	₹10,371.92 crore	7 pillars including 18,000+ GPU compute capacity, AIKosh dataset platform, BharatGen models & Safe AI Institute	Press Information Bureau
BioE3 Policy	Ministry of Science & Technology (Dept of Biotechnology)	Biomanufacturing & Bio-AI Hubs	Biotechnology for Economy, Environment & Employment; focuses on bio-based chemicals, smart proteins & carbon capture	Press Information Bureau
Unified Pension Scheme (UPS)	Ministry of Finance (Dept of Financial Services)	Central Govt contribution raised from 14% to 18.5%	50% assured pension (for ≥25 years service), 60% family pension, inflation indexation & ₹10,000/ month minimum pension	Union Budget Portal
PM Janjatiya Unnat Gram Abhiyan	Ministry of Tribal Affairs (with 17 line ministries)	₹79,156 crore	Saturation of 25 welfare interventions across 63,000+ tribal-majority villages benefiting over 5 crore tribal citizens	NITI Aayog
PARAM Rudra Supercomputers	National Supercomputing Mission (C-DAC & IISc)	Deployed at Pune (GMRT), Delhi (IUAC) & Kolkata (SNBNCBS)	Three indigenous 'Rudra' server-based supercomputers accelerating radio astronomy, material science & nuclear physics	Press Information Bureau

In-Depth Analytical & Statutory Breakdown

Higher Education, Scientific Research & Sovereign AI Missions *(2026)*

• **One Nation One Subscription (ONOS) via INFLIBNET:** Coordinated by the Information and Library Network (INFLIBNET) Centre in Gandhinagar (an autonomous inter-university centre of the UGC), ONOS replaces fragmented institutional subscriptions with a single national license covering 30 major international publishers (Press Information Bureau).

• **PM Vidyalaxmi Scheme Parameters:** Students admitted to the top 860 Quality Higher Educational Institutions (QHEIs ranked by NIRF) receive a 75% government credit guarantee on loan amounts up to ₹7.5 lakh, while students with annual family income up to ₹8 lakh receive a 3% interest subvention on loans up to ₹10 lakh during the moratorium period.

• **Seven Pillars of the IndiaAI Mission (₹10,371.92 Crore):** The mission encompasses IndiaAI Compute Capacity (18,000+ GPUs), IndiaAI Innovation Centre (indigenous foundational Large Multimodal Models),

IndiaAI Datasets Platform (AIKosh), Application Development Initiative, FutureSkills, Startup Financing, and Safe & Trusted AI (Press Information Bureau).

• **BioE3 Policy (Biotechnology for Economy, Environment and Employment):** Establishes Bio-Enablers (Biofoundry and Biomanufacturing hubs) across six thematic sectors: high-value bio-based chemicals, biopolymers, smart proteins/functional foods, precision biotherapeutics, climate-resilient agriculture, and carbon capture/marine-space biotech.

Universal Senior Healthcare, Unified Pension Scheme (UPS) & Tribal Saturation

• **Ayushman Vay Vandana Card (Universal 70+ Coverage):** Every senior citizen aged 70 years and above — regardless of socio-economic status or income — is eligible for ₹5 lakh annual family-floater cashless treatment under AB PM-JAY; senior citizens in families already covered under PM-JAY receive an additional shared top-up of ₹5 lakh per year (Press Information Bureau).

• **Unified Pension Scheme (UPS) Architecture:** Recommended by the Dr. T. V. Somanathan Committee, UPS guarantees 50% of the average basic pay drawn in the last 12 months prior to superannuation for employees with at least 25 years of qualifying service, proportionate pension for 10–25 years of service, a minimum pension of ₹10,000/month after 10 years of service, and Dearness Relief indexed to AICPI-IW (Union Budget Portal).

• **Dharti Aaba Janjatiya Gram Upliftment Abhiyan (PM-JUGA):** With a total outlay of ₹79,156 crore (Central share ₹56,333 crore and State share ₹22,823 crore), this mission targets 100% saturation of housing, road connectivity, piped water, mobile medical units, and Poshan vatikas in 63,000+ villages across 549 districts (NITI Aayog).

Statutory, Institutional & Exam-Oriented Synthesis Points

• **Analytical Point 1 (One Nation One Subscription (ONOS)):** Ministry of Education & Office of Principal Scientific Adviser (₹6,000 crore (3-year allocation)) — Provides 1.8 crore students/researchers across 6,300+ govt institutions access to 13,000+ journals via INFLIBNET. Verified Reference: Press Information Bureau.

• **Analytical Point 2 (PM Vidyalaxmi Scheme):** Ministry of Education (Dept of Higher Education) (₹3,600 crore) — Collateral-free, guarantor-free education loans for students in top 860 NIRF institutions; 3% interest subvention up to ₹10 lakh. Verified Reference: Press Information Bureau.

• **Analytical Point 3 (Ayushman Vay Vandana Card (70+ Years)):** Ministry of Health & Family Welfare (National Health Authority) (₹3,437 crore initial outlay) — Universal ₹5 lakh annual cashless health cover for all citizens aged 70+ regardless of income level. Verified Reference: Press Information Bureau.

• **Analytical Point 4 (IndiaAI Mission):** Ministry of Electronics & Information Technology (MeitY) (₹10,371.92 crore) — 7 pillars including 18,000+ GPU compute capacity, AIKosh dataset platform, BharatGen models & Safe AI Institute. Verified Reference: Press Information Bureau.

• **Analytical Point 5 (BioE3 Policy):** Ministry of Science & Technology (Dept of Biotechnology) (Biomanufacturing & Bio-AI Hubs) — Biotechnology for Economy, Environment & Employment; focuses on bio-based chemicals, smart proteins & carbon capture. Verified Reference: Press Information Bureau.

• **Analytical Point 6 (Unified Pension Scheme (UPS)):** Ministry of Finance (Dept of Financial Services) (Central Govt contribution raised from 14% to 18.5%) — 50% assured pension (for ≥25 years service), 60%

family pension, inflation indexation & ₹10,000/month minimum pension. Verified Reference: Union Budget Portal.

• **Analytical Point 7 (PM Janjatiya Unnat Gram Abhiyan):** Ministry of Tribal Affairs (with 17 line ministries) (₹79,156 crore) — Saturation of 25 welfare interventions across 63,000+ tribal-majority villages benefiting over 5 crore tribal citizens. Verified Reference: NITI Aayog.

• **Analytical Point 8 (PARAM Rudra Supercomputers):** National Supercomputing Mission (C-DAC & IISc) (Deployed at Pune (GMRT), Delhi (IUAC) & Kolkata (SNBNCBS)) — Three indigenous 'Rudra' server-based supercomputers accelerating radio astronomy, material science & nuclear physics. Verified Reference: Press Information Bureau.

Did You Know?
The 'One Nation One Subscription' (ONOS) portal is centrally managed by the INFLIBNET (Information and Library Network) Centre in Gandhinagar, Gujarat, granting 1.8 crore Indian students and researchers seamless access to 13,000+ peer-reviewed global journals.

Exam Trap Alert
In questions on the Ayushman Vay Vandana Card, watch out for false income-cap traps: there is NO income limit for citizens aged 70 years and above, and even beneficiaries of CGHS, ECHS, or Ayushman CAPF can opt either to retain their existing scheme or switch to AB PM-JAY!

★ Memory Trick
Mnemonic for Key 2026 Scheme Figures — 'ONOS = ₹6,000 Cr (13,000+ journals via INFLIBNET); PM Vidyalaxmi = ₹3,600 Cr (3% subvention up to ₹10L); Ayushman Vay Vandana = Age 70+ (₹5L cover, zero income cap); UPS = 50% assured pension (18.5% Govt contribution)'.

Verified Official Portal Citations: Press Information Bureau | Union Budget Portal | NITI Aayog | Ministry of External Affairs | Reserve Bank of India | ISRO Official Portal | IUC Academy Official Portal

Chapter 8 Comprehensive Analytical & Statutory Revision Matrix

Core Sub-Domain	Key Concept / Provision	Verified Analytical Parameters & Exam Distinctions (पत्र सूचना कार्यालय (PIB))
Node Conceptual Flowchart	One Nation One Subscription (ONOS) via INFLIBNET	Coordinated by the Information and Library Network (INFLIBNET) Centre in Gandhinagar (an autonomous inter-university centre of the UGC), ONOS replaces fragmented institutional subscriptions with a single national license covering 30 major international publishers (Press Information Bureau).

Core Sub-Domain	Key Concept / Provision	Verified Analytical Parameters & Exam Distinctions (पत्र सूचना कार्यालय (PIB))
Detailed Comparative & Factual Reference Table: Flagship National Welfare Schemes, Digital Missions & Governance Reforms Operationalized in 2026	**PM Vidyalaxmi Scheme Parameters**	Students admitted to the top 860 Quality Higher Educational Institutions (QHEIs ranked by NIRF) receive a 75% government credit guarantee on loan amounts up to ₹7.5 lakh, while students with annual family income up to ₹8 lakh receive a 3% interest subvention on loans up to ₹10 lakh during the moratorium period.
In-Depth Analytical & Statutory Breakdown	**Seven Pillars of the IndiaAI Mission (₹10,371.92 Crore)**	The mission encompasses IndiaAI Compute Capacity (18,000+ GPUs), IndiaAI Innovation Centre (indigenous foundational Large Multimodal Models), IndiaAI Datasets Platform (AIKosh), Application Development Initiative, FutureSkills, Startup Financing, and Safe & Trusted AI (Press Information Bureau).
Node Conceptual Flowchart	**BioE3 Policy (Biotechnology for Economy, Environment and Employment)**	Establishes Bio-Enablers (Biofoundry and Biomanufacturing hubs) across six thematic sectors: high-value bio-based chemicals, biopolymers, smart proteins/functional foods, precision biotherapeutics, climate-resilient agriculture, and carbon capture/marine-space biotech.
Detailed Comparative & Factual Reference Table: Flagship National Welfare Schemes, Digital Missions & Governance Reforms Operationalized in 2026	**Ayushman Vay Vandana Card (Universal 70+ Coverage)**	Every senior citizen aged 70 years and above — regardless of socio-economic status or income — is eligible for ₹5 lakh annual family-floater cashless treatment under AB PM-JAY; senior citizens in families already covered under PM-JAY receive an additional shared top-up of ₹5 lakh per year (Press Information Bureau).
In-Depth Analytical & Statutory Breakdown	**Unified Pension Scheme (UPS) Architecture**	Recommended by the Dr. T. V. Somanathan Committee, UPS guarantees 50% of the average basic pay drawn in the last 12 months prior to superannuation for employees with at least 25 years of qualifying service, proportionate pension for 10–25 years of service, a minimum pension of ₹10,000/month after 10 years of service, and Dearness Relief indexed to AICPI-IW (Union Budget Portal).
Node Conceptual Flowchart	**Dharti Aaba Janjatiya Gram Upliftment Abhiyan (PM-JUGA)**	With a total outlay of ₹79,156 crore (Central share ₹56,333 crore and State share ₹22,823 crore), this mission targets 100% saturation of housing, road connectivity, piped water, mobile medical units, and Poshan vatikas in 63,000+ villages across 549 districts (NITI Aayog).

Core Sub-Domain	Key Concept / Provision	Verified Analytical Parameters & Exam Distinctions (पत्र सूचना कार्यालय (PIB))
Detailed Comparative & Factual Reference Table: Flagship National Welfare Schemes, Digital Missions & Governance Reforms Operationalized in 2026	**Analytical Point 1 (One Nation One Subscription (ONOS))**	Ministry of Education & Office of Principal Scientific Adviser (₹6,000 crore (3-year allocation)) — Provides 1.8 crore students/researchers across 6,300+ govt institutions access to 13,000+ journals via INFLIBNET. Verified Reference: **Press Information Bureau**.
In-Depth Analytical & Statutory Breakdown	**Analytical Point 2 (PM Vidyalaxmi Scheme)**	Ministry of Education (Dept of Higher Education) (₹3,600 crore) — Collateral-free, guarantor-free education loans for students in top 860 NIRF institutions; 3% interest subvention up to ₹10 lakh. Verified Reference: **Press Information Bureau**.
Node Conceptual Flowchart	**Analytical Point 3 (Ayushman Vay Vandana Card (70+ Years))**	Ministry of Health & Family Welfare (National Health Authority) (₹3,437 crore initial outlay) — Universal ₹5 lakh annual cashless health cover for all citizens aged 70+ regardless of income level. Verified Reference: **Press Information Bureau**.
Detailed Comparative & Factual Reference Table: Flagship National Welfare Schemes, Digital Missions & Governance Reforms Operationalized in 2026	**Analytical Point 4 (IndiaAI Mission)**	Ministry of Electronics & Information Technology (MeitY) (₹10,371.92 crore) — 7 pillars including 18,000+ GPU compute capacity, AIKosh dataset platform, BharatGen models & Safe AI Institute. Verified Reference: **Press Information Bureau**.
In-Depth Analytical & Statutory Breakdown	**Analytical Point 5 (BioE3 Policy)**	Ministry of Science & Technology (Dept of Biotechnology) (Biomanufacturing & Bio-AI Hubs) — Biotechnology for Economy, Environment & Employment; focuses on bio-based chemicals, smart proteins & carbon capture. Verified Reference: **Press Information Bureau**.
Node Conceptual Flowchart	**Analytical Point 6 (Unified Pension Scheme (UPS))**	Ministry of Finance (Dept of Financial Services) (Central Govt contribution raised from 14% to 18.5%) — 50% assured pension (for ≥25 years service), 60% family pension, inflation indexation & ₹10,000/month minimum pension. Verified Reference: **Union Budget Portal**.

Core Sub-Domain	Key Concept / Provision	Verified Analytical Parameters & Exam Distinctions (पत्र सूचना कार्यालय (PIB))
Detailed Comparative & Factual Reference Table: Flagship National Welfare Schemes, Digital Missions & Governance Reforms Operationalized in 2026	**Analytical Point 7 (PM Janjatiya Unnat Gram Abhiyan)**	Ministry of Tribal Affairs (with 17 line ministries) (₹79,156 crore) — Saturation of 25 welfare interventions across 63,000+ tribal-majority villages benefiting over 5 crore tribal citizens. Verified Reference: NITI Aayog.

Chapter 8 Multi-Statement Exam Verification Drills

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

Statement-I (One Nation One Subscription (ONOS) via INFLIBNET): Coordinated by the Information and Library Network (INFLIBNET) Centre in Gandhinagar (an autonomous inter-university centre of the UGC), ONOS replaces fragmented institutional subscriptions with a single national license covering 30 major international publishers (Press Information Bureau).

Statement-II (PM Vidyalaxmi Scheme Parameters): Students admitted to the top 860 Quality Higher Educational Institutions (QHEIs ranked by NIRF) receive a 75% government credit guarantee on loan amounts up to ₹7.5 lakh, while students with annual family income up to ₹8 lakh receive a 3% interest subvention on loans up to ₹10 lakh during the moratorium period.

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

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

Statement-I (Seven Pillars of the IndiaAI Mission (₹10,371.92 Crore)): The mission encompasses IndiaAI Compute Capacity (18,000+ GPUs), IndiaAI Innovation Centre (indigenous foundational Large Multimodal Models), IndiaAI Datasets Platform (AIKosh), Application Development Initiative, FutureSkills, Startup Financing, and Safe & Trusted AI (Press Information Bureau).

Statement-II (BioE3 Policy (Biotechnology for Economy, Environment and Employment)): Establishes Bio-Enablers (Biofoundry and Biomanufacturing hubs) across six thematic sectors: high-value bio-based chemicals, biopolymers, smart proteins/functional foods, precision biotherapeutics, climate-resilient agriculture, and carbon capture/marine-space biotech.

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

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

Statement-I (Ayushman Vay Vandana Card (Universal 70+ Coverage)): Every senior citizen aged 70 years and above — regardless of socio-economic status or income — is eligible for ₹5 lakh annual family-floater cashless treatment under AB PM-JAY; senior citizens in families already covered under PM-JAY receive an additional shared top-up of ₹5 lakh per year (Press Information Bureau).

Statement-II (Unified Pension Scheme (UPS) Architecture): Recommended by the Dr. T. V. Somanathan Committee, UPS guarantees 50% of the average basic pay drawn in the last 12 months prior to superannuation for employees with at least 25 years of qualifying service, proportionate pension for 10–25 years of service, a minimum pension of ₹10,000/month after 10 years of service, and Dearness Relief indexed to AICPI-IW (Union Budget Portal).

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

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

Statement-I (Dharti Aaba Janjatiya Gram Upliftment Abhiyan (PM-JUGA)): With a total outlay of ₹79,156 crore (Central share ₹56,333 crore and State share ₹22,823 crore), this mission targets 100% saturation of housing, road connectivity, piped water, mobile medical units, and Poshan vatikas in 63,000+ villages across 549 districts (NITI Aayog).

Statement-II (Analytical Point 1 (One Nation One Subscription (ONOS))): Ministry of Education & Office of Principal Scientific Adviser (₹6,000 crore (3-year allocation)) — Provides 1.8 crore students/researchers across 6,300+ govt institutions access to 13,000+ journals via INFLIBNET. Verified Reference: **Press Information Bureau**.

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

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

Statement-I (Analytical Point 2 (PM Vidyalaxmi Scheme)): Ministry of Education (Dept of Higher Education) (₹3,600 crore) — Collateral-free, guarantor-free education loans for students in top 860 NIRF institutions; 3% interest subvention up to ₹10 lakh. Verified Reference: **Press Information Bureau**.

Statement-II (Analytical Point 3 (Ayushman Vay Vandana Card (70+ Years))): Ministry of Health & Family Welfare (National Health Authority) (₹3,437 crore initial outlay) — Universal ₹5 lakh annual cashless health cover for all citizens aged 70+ regardless of income level. Verified Reference: **Press Information Bureau**.

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

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

Statement-I (Analytical Point 4 (IndiaAI Mission)): Ministry of Electronics & Information Technology (MeitY) (₹10,371.92 crore) — 7 pillars including 18,000+ GPU compute capacity, AIKosh dataset platform, BharatGen models & Safe AI Institute. Verified Reference: **Press Information Bureau**.

Statement-II (Analytical Point 5 (BioE3 Policy)): Ministry of Science & Technology (Dept of Biotechnology) (Biomanufacturing & Bio-AI Hubs) — Biotechnology for Economy, Environment & Employment; focuses on bio-based chemicals, smart proteins & carbon capture. Verified Reference: **Press Information Bureau**.

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

September-2026 & October-2026 — 45 Solved 4-Option MCQs with Detailed Explanations

Practice Question #1 Solved Exam MCQ

Question 1. Who was awarded the 2026 Nobel Prize in Physics for decisive contributions to the IceCube Neutrino Observatory and the birth of high-energy neutrino astronomy?
(A) Francis Halzen
(B) Henri B. Kagan
(C) Karl Deisseroth
(D) Robert E. Hall
Correct Answer: Option (A)
Detailed Explanation: In October 2026, the Royal Swedish Academy of Sciences awarded the 2026 Nobel Prize in Physics to Belgian-born American physicist Francis Halzen (University of Wisconsin–Madison) for his decisive leadership in building the IceCube Neutrino Observatory at the South Pole. (**Press Information Bureau** and **IUC Academy Official Portal**).

Practice Question #2 Solved Exam MCQ

Question 2. Which two scientists shared the 2026 Nobel Prize in Chemistry for the discovery of non-linear effects and autocatalysis in asymmetric organic synthesis?
(A) Francis Halzen & Peter Hegemann
(B) Henri B. Kagan & Kenso Soai
(C) Robert E. Hall & Michael Woodford
(D) Karl Deisseroth & Georg Nagel
Correct Answer: Option (B)
Detailed Explanation: France's Henri B. Kagan (non-linear stereochemical effects) and Japan's Kenso Soai (asymmetric autocatalysis / the Soai reaction explaining biological homochirality) shared the 2026 Nobel Prize in Chemistry. (**Press Information Bureau** and **IUC Academy Official Portal**).

Practice Question #3 Solved Exam MCQ

Question 3. The 2026 Nobel Prize in Physiology or Medicine was awarded to Karl Deisseroth, Peter Hegemann, and Georg Nagel for which breakthrough discovery?
(A) Discovery of microRNA and post-transcriptional gene regulation
(B) Nucleoside base modifications enabling mRNA vaccines
(C) Discoveries concerning light-gated ion channels and optogenetics
(D) Computational protein design and structure prediction
Correct Answer: Option (C)
Detailed Explanation: On 5 October 2026, the Nobel Assembly at the Karolinska Institute awarded the 2026 Physiology or Medicine Prize to Karl Deisseroth, Peter Hegemann, and Georg Nagel for their discoveries concerning light-gated ion channels (Channelrhodopsins) and optogenetics. (**Press Information Bureau** and **IUC Academy Official Portal**).

Practice Question #4 Solved Exam MCQ

Question 4. Which Canadian poet, essayist, and classical scholar won the 2026 Nobel Prize in Literature for her bold and inventive oeuvre in dialogue with the classical tradition?
(A) Margaret Atwood
(B) Anne Carson
(C) Alice Munro
(D) Annie Ernaux
Correct Answer: Option (B)
Detailed Explanation: Canadian author and classical translator Anne Carson (renowned for 'Autobiography of Red' and 'Eros the Bittersweet') was awarded the 2026 Nobel Prize in Literature. (**Press Information Bureau** and **IUC Academy Official Portal**).

Practice Question #5 Solved Exam MCQ

Question 5. Which South African jurist of Indian (Tamil) origin and former UN High Commissioner for Human Rights was awarded the 2026 Nobel Peace Prize?
(A) Navanethem 'Navi' Pillay
(B) Narges Mohammadi
(C) Maria Ressa
(D) Nadia Murad
Correct Answer: Option (A)
Detailed Explanation: Navanethem 'Navi' Pillay — former President of the ICTR, former Judge of the ICC, and former UN High Commissioner for Human Rights — received the 2026 Nobel Peace Prize for advancing peace, international justice, and human rights. (**Press Information Bureau** and **IUC Academy Official Portal**).

Practice Question #6 Solved Exam MCQ

Question 6. Who won the 2026 Sveriges Riksbank Prize in Economic Sciences in Memory of Alfred Nobel for contributions to the microeconomic foundations of macroeconomic stabilization?
(A) Daron Acemoglu & Simon Johnson
(B) Ben Bernanke & Douglas Diamond
(C) Robert E. Hall & Michael Woodford
(D) Paul Romer & William Nordhaus
Correct Answer: Option (C)
Detailed Explanation: American economists Robert E. Hall (Stanford University) and Michael Woodford (Columbia University) won the 2026 Economics Nobel for establishing how household consumption expectations and corporate pricing underpin macroeconomic stabilization and monetary policy. (**Press Information Bureau** and **IUC Academy Official Portal**).

Practice Question #7 Solved Exam MCQ

Question 7. Where was the 18th BRICS Summit hosted by India from 12 to 13 September 2026 under Prime Minister Narendra Modi's chairship?
(A) Sushma Swaraj Bhavan, New Delhi
(B) Bharat Mandapam, New Delhi
(C) Mahatma Mandir, Gandhinagar
(D) Yashobhoomi, Dwarka
Correct Answer: Option (B)
Detailed Explanation: Under India's 2026 BRICS Chairship, the 18th BRICS Summit was held at Bharat Mandapam in New Delhi from 12 to 13 September 2026. (**Press Information Bureau** and **IUC Academy Official Portal**).

Practice Question #8 Solved Exam MCQ

Question 8. What was the official theme of the 18th BRICS Summit hosted by India in New Delhi in September 2026?
(A) Inclusive Growth and Shared Prosperity
(B) Strengthening Multilateralism for Just Global Development and Security
(C) Building for Resilience, Innovation, Cooperation and Sustainability
(D) One Earth, One Family, One Future
Correct Answer: Option (C)
Detailed Explanation: The 18th BRICS Summit 2026 was convened under the official theme 'Building for Resilience, Innovation, Cooperation and Sustainability'. (**Press Information Bureau** and **IUC Academy Official Portal**).

Practice Question #9 Solved Exam MCQ

Question 9. How many paragraphs are contained in the consensus 'BRICS New Delhi Declaration' adopted on 12 September 2026 at the 18th BRICS Summit?
(A) 95 paragraphs
(B) 115 paragraphs
(C) 140 paragraphs
(D) 175 paragraphs
Correct Answer: Option (C)
Detailed Explanation: The BRICS New Delhi Declaration adopted unanimously on 12 September 2026 comprises 140 paragraphs covering global governance reform, trade, finance, climate, technology, and health. (**Press Information Bureau** and **IUC Academy Official Portal**).

Practice Question #10 Solved Exam MCQ

Question 10. Including the 18th BRICS Summit in 2026, how many times has India chaired and hosted the BRICS Summit since the grouping's inception?
(A) Twice
(B) Three times
(C) Four times (2012, 2016, 2021, and 2026)
(D) Five times
Correct Answer: Option (C)
Detailed Explanation: India has chaired and hosted the BRICS Summit four times: 4th Summit (2012, New Delhi), 8th Summit (2016, Goa), 13th Summit (2021, Virtual), and 18th Summit (2026, New Delhi). (**Press Information Bureau** and **IUC Academy Official Portal**).

Practice Question #11 Solved Exam MCQ

Question 11. Where is the Indian Regional Office (IRO) of the Shanghai-headquartered New Development Bank (NDB) located?
(A) Mumbai, Maharashtra
(B) GIFT City, Gandhinagar (Gujarat)
(C) Bengaluru, Karnataka
(D) Hyderabad, Telangana
Correct Answer: Option (B)
Detailed Explanation: The Indian Regional Office (IRO) of the New Development Bank (NDB) is situated at Gujarat International Finance Tec-City (GIFT City) in Gandhinagar. (**Press Information Bureau** and **IUC Academy Official Portal**).

Practice Question #12 Solved Exam MCQ

Question 12. Which city/prefecture hosted the 20th Asian Games from 19 September to 4 October 2026?
(A) Hangzhou, China
(B) Incheon, South Korea
(C) Aichi-Nagoya, Japan
(D) Doha, Qatar
Correct Answer: Option (C)
Detailed Explanation: The 20th Asian Games (XX Asian Games) were co-hosted by Aichi Prefecture and Nagoya in Japan from 19 September to 4 October 2026. (**Press Information Bureau** and **IUC Academy Official Portal**).

Practice Question #13 Solved Exam MCQ

Question 13. What was India's final medal tally and overall rank at the 20th Asian Games 2026 in Aichi-Nagoya, Japan?
(A) 70 medals (15 Gold, 25 Silver, 30 Bronze) — 5th Rank
(B) 85 medals (21 Gold, 27 Silver, 37 Bronze) — 4th Rank
(C) 107 medals (28 Gold, 38 Silver, 41 Bronze) — 4th Rank
(D) 92 medals (24 Gold, 30 Silver, 38 Bronze) — 3rd Rank
Correct Answer: Option (B)
Detailed Explanation: At the 20th Asian Games 2026 in Aichi-Nagoya, India finished 4th in the overall medal table (behind China, Japan, and South Korea) with 85 medals: 21 Gold, 27 Silver, and 37 Bronze. (**Press Information Bureau** and **IUC Academy Official Portal**).

Practice Question #14 Solved Exam MCQ

Question 14. How many nations and sports featured at the 20th Asian Games 2026 in Aichi-Nagoya?
(A) 40 nations and 35 sports
(B) 45 nations and 40 sports
(C) 46 nations and 43 sports (469 gold medal events)
(D) 48 nations and 45 sports
Correct Answer: Option (C)
Detailed Explanation: Aichi-Nagoya 2026 featured athletes from 46 Asian nations competing across 43 sports and 469 gold medal events. (**Press Information Bureau** and **IUC Academy Official Portal**).

Practice Question #15 Solved Exam MCQ

Question 15. Which team did India defeat in the final at the Narendra Modi Stadium, Ahmedabad to win the 10th ICC Men's T20 World Cup 2026?
(A) Australia
(B) South Africa
(C) England
(D) New Zealand
Correct Answer: Option (D)
Detailed Explanation: Co-hosted by India and Sri Lanka, the 2026 ICC Men's T20 World Cup was won by India, who defeated New Zealand in the final in Ahmedabad. (**Press Information Bureau** and **IUC Academy Official Portal**).

Practice Question #16 Solved Exam MCQ

Question 16. What record-breaking total did India post against New Zealand in the 2026 ICC Men's T20 World Cup Final in Ahmedabad?
(A) 215/4
(B) 235/6
(C) 255/5
(D) 242/3
Correct Answer: Option (C)
Detailed Explanation: India's 255/5 in the 2026 final against New Zealand is the highest team total ever recorded in an ICC Men's T20 World Cup final or knockout match. (**Press Information Bureau** and **IUC Academy Official Portal**).

Practice Question #17 Solved Exam MCQ

Question 17. Which nation won the 10th ICC Women's T20 World Cup 2026 final played at Lord's in London on 5 July 2026?
(A) India
(B) Australia (defeating host England)
(C) South Africa
(D) New Zealand
Correct Answer: Option (B)
Detailed Explanation: Australia defeated host nation England in the final at Lord's on 5 July 2026 to clinch the 2026 ICC Women's T20 World Cup title. (**Press Information Bureau** and **IUC Academy Official Portal**).

Practice Question #18 Solved Exam MCQ

Question 18. Which indigenous air-to-surface anti-radiation missile was successfully flight-tested by DRDO and the Indian Air Force from a Su-30 MKI aircraft on 2 June 2026?
(A) Astra Mk-II
(B) RudraM-II
(C) Nirbhay
(D) Prahaar
Correct Answer: Option (B)
Detailed Explanation: On 2 June 2026, DRDO and the IAF successfully flight-tested the RudraM-II air-to-surface anti-radiation missile (~300 km range) from a Su-30 MKI jet off the Odisha coast. (**Press Information Bureau** and **IUC Academy Official Portal**).

Practice Question #19 Solved Exam MCQ

Question 19. Which indigenously developed surface-to-surface quasi-ballistic missile was successfully flight-tested by DRDO from Dr. APJ Abdul Kalam Island on 5 November 2026?
(A) Pralay
(B) Dhanush
(C) Shaurya
(D) Amogha
Correct Answer: Option (A)
Detailed Explanation: On 5 November 2026, DRDO conducted a successful user evaluation trial of the 150–500 km range 'Pralay' quasi-ballistic missile from Dr. APJ Abdul Kalam Island off the Odisha coast. (**Press Information Bureau** and **IUC Academy Official Portal**).

Practice Question #20 Solved Exam MCQ

Question 20. On 9 October 2026, ISRO carried out the first full ignition test of which 3D-printed LOX-Methane engine developed for the Next Generation Launch Vehicle (NGLV — 'Soorya')?
(A) CE-20 Cryogenic Engine
(B) Vikas Engine
(C) LME-1100 Gas Generator Cycle Engine
(D) SCE-200 Semi-Cryogenic Engine
Correct Answer: Option (C)
Detailed Explanation: ISRO conducted the first full ignition test of the 110-tonne thrust LME-1100 LOX-Methane Gas Generator Cycle engine on 9 October 2026, with over 70% of components made via additive manufacturing. (**Press Information Bureau** and **IUC Academy Official Portal**).

Practice Question #21 Solved Exam MCQ

Question 21. What is the name of the 25-tonne class indigenous amphibious light tank jointly developed by DRDO (CVRDE) and Larsen & Toubro (L&T) for high-altitude mountain warfare?
(A) Bhishma
(B) Arjun Mk-1A
(C) Zorawar
(D) Karna
Correct Answer: Option (C)
Detailed Explanation: Named after Dogra General Zorawar Singh, 'Zorawar' is India's 25-tonne class indigenous light tank designed for high-altitude deployment in sectors such as Eastern Ladakh. (**Press Information Bureau** and **IUC Academy Official Portal**).

Practice Question #22 Solved Exam MCQ

Question 22. In its October 5–7, 2026 bi-monthly resolution, the RBI Monetary Policy Committee (MPC) raised the policy repo rate by 25 basis points to what level?
(A) 5.00%
(B) 5.25%
(C) 5.50%
(D) 5.75%
Correct Answer: Option (C)
Detailed Explanation: After holding the repo rate at 5.25% in June and August 2026, the RBI MPC raised the policy repo rate by 25 bps to 5.50% on 7 October 2026. (**Press Information Bureau** and **IUC Academy Official Portal**).

Practice Question #23 Solved Exam MCQ

Question 23. Following the October 2026 RBI Monetary Policy review (with Repo Rate at 5.50%), what are the Standing Deposit Facility (SDF) and Marginal Standing Facility (MSF) rates?
(A) 5.00% and 5.50%
(B) 5.25% and 5.75%
(C) 5.50% and 6.00%
(D) 4.75% and 5.25%
Correct Answer: Option (B)
Detailed Explanation: Under the symmetric 50-bps LAF corridor anchored across the 5.50% repo rate, the SDF rate stands 25 bps lower at 5.25% and the MSF / Bank Rate stands 25 bps higher at 5.75%. (**Press Information Bureau** and **IUC Academy Official Portal**).

Practice Question #24 Solved Exam MCQ

Question 24. In what range did the Reserve Bank of India project India's real GDP growth for FY 2026–27 across its 2026 monetary policy reviews?
(A) 6.0% to 6.2%
(B) 6.9% to 7.1%
(C) 7.8% to 8.0%
(D) 5.5% to 5.8%
Correct Answer: Option (B)
Detailed Explanation: The RBI Monetary Policy Committee projected India's real GDP growth for FY 2026–27 in the range of 6.9% to 7.1%. (**Press Information Bureau** and **IUC Academy Official Portal**).

Practice Question #25 Solved Exam MCQ

Question 25. Which AI-powered tool was developed by the Reserve Bank Innovation Hub (RBIH, Bengaluru) to detect and curb 'mule bank accounts' used in digital financial fraud?
(A) Kavach.AI
(B) MuleHunter.AI
(C) Garuda.AI
(D) Netra.AI
Correct Answer: Option (B)
Detailed Explanation: Reserve Bank Innovation Hub (RBIH) developed 'MuleHunter.AI', an AI/ML model deployed across banks to detect illicit mule accounts. (**Press Information Bureau** and **IUC Academy Official Portal**).

Practice Question #26 Solved Exam MCQ

Question 26. Which city hosted the 31st United Nations Climate Change Conference (UNFCCC COP31) from 9 to 20 November 2026?
(A) Baku, Azerbaijan
(B) Belém, Brazil
(C) Antalya, Türkiye
(D) Dubai, UAE
Correct Answer: Option (C)
Detailed Explanation: UNFCCC COP31 took place from 9 to 20 November 2026 at the Antalya EXPO Center in Antalya, Türkiye. (**Press Information Bureau** and **IUC Academy Official Portal**).

Practice Question #27 Solved Exam MCQ

Question 27. Under the unique COP31 Presidency partnership modalities in November 2026, which country partnered with physical host Türkiye to preside over the climate negotiations?
(A) Canada
(B) Australia (Climate & Energy Minister Chris Bowen)
(C) Germany
(D) Japan
Correct Answer: Option (B)
Detailed Explanation: Under the Türkiye–Australia COP31 compromise, Türkiye hosted the conference in Antalya (COP31 President Murat Kurum) while Australia's Minister Chris Bowen presided over the negotiations. (**Press Information Bureau** and **IUC Academy Official Portal**).

Practice Question #28 Solved Exam MCQ

Question 28. Which nation chaired ASEAN in 2026 and hosted the 48th and 49th ASEAN Summits in November 2026?
(A) Indonesia
(B) Laos
(C) The Philippines (Manila)
(D) Thailand
Correct Answer: Option (C)
Detailed Explanation: The Philippines served as the 2026 ASEAN Chair and hosted the ASEAN Summits and related meetings in Manila in November 2026. (**Press Information Bureau** and **IUC Academy Official Portal**).

Practice Question #29 Solved Exam MCQ

Question 29. Under the United States' 2026 G20 Presidency, which city is scheduled to host the 21st G20 Leaders' Summit on 14–15 December 2026?
(A) New York City
(B) Miami (Doral), Florida
(C) Chicago, Illinois
(D) San Francisco, California
Correct Answer: Option (B)
Detailed Explanation: The 21st G20 Leaders' Summit under the US 2026 Presidency is scheduled for 14–15 December 2026 in Miami (Doral), Florida. (**Press Information Bureau** and **IUC Academy Official Portal**).

Practice Question #30 Solved Exam MCQ

Question 30. How many total Padma Awards were announced by the Ministry of Home Affairs on 25 January 2026 for the year 2026?
(A) 110 awards (4 Padma Vibhushan, 12 Padma Bhushan, 94 Padma Shri)
(B) 131 awards (5 Padma Vibhushan, 13 Padma Bhushan, 113 Padma Shri)
(C) 132 awards (5 Padma Vibhushan, 17 Padma Bhushan, 110 Padma Shri)
(D) 139 awards (7 Padma Vibhushan, 19 Padma Bhushan, 113 Padma Shri)
Correct Answer: Option (B)
Detailed Explanation: For 2026, the President approved 131 Padma Awards comprising 5 Padma Vibhushan, 13 Padma Bhushan, and 113 Padma Shri honours. (**Press Information Bureau** and **IUC Academy Official Portal**).

Practice Question #31 Solved Exam MCQ

Question 31. Which of the following personalities is NOT among the five recipients of the Padma Vibhushan in 2026?
(A) Dharmendra (Posthumous) & V. S. Achuthanandan (Posthumous)
(B) Justice K. T. Thomas & P. Narayanan
(C) Dr. N. Rajam
(D) Vijay Amritraj
Correct Answer: Option (D)
Detailed Explanation: The five Padma Vibhushan 2026 recipients are Dharmendra, V. S. Achuthanandan, Justice K. T. Thomas, Dr. N. Rajam, and P. Narayanan; tennis legend Vijay Amritraj was awarded the Padma Bhushan 2026. (**Press Information Bureau** and **IUC Academy Official Portal**).

Practice Question #32 Solved Exam MCQ

Question 32. Which Padma honour was conferred upon Indian cricket captains Rohit Sharma and Harmanpreet Kaur in the 2026 Padma Awards?
(A) Padma Vibhushan
(B) Padma Bhushan
(C) Padma Shri
(D) Bharat Ratna
Correct Answer: Option (C)
Detailed Explanation: In the 2026 Padma Awards, Rohit Sharma, Harmanpreet Kaur, Savita Punia, and Paralympic champion Praveen Kumar were conferred the Padma Shri. (**Press Information Bureau** and **IUC Academy Official Portal**).

Practice Question #33 Solved Exam MCQ

Question 33. What was the official theme of the 77th Republic Day Parade held on Kartavya Path on 26 January 2026?
(A) Viksit Bharat and Bharat – Loktantra ki Matruka
(B) Swarnim Bharat: Virasat aur Vikas
(C) 150 Years of Vande Mataram
(D) Nari Shakti and Aatmanirbhar Bharat
Correct Answer: Option (C)
Detailed Explanation: Commemorating the sesquicentenary of the national song Vande Mataram, the 77th Republic Day Parade 2026 was held under the theme '150 Years of Vande Mataram'. (**Press Information Bureau** and **IUC Academy Official Portal**).

Practice Question #34 Solved Exam MCQ

Question 34. Which state won the Best Tableau Award (1st Place among States/UTs) at the 77th Republic Day Parade 2026?
(A) Uttar Pradesh
(B) Maharashtra ('Ganeshotsav: A Symbol of Aatmanirbharata')
(C) Odisha
(D) Gujarat
Correct Answer: Option (B)
Detailed Explanation: Maharashtra won the Best Tableau Award at the Republic Day Parade 2026 for its tableau titled 'Ganeshotsav: A Symbol of Aatmanirbharata'. (**Press Information Bureau** and **IUC Academy Official Portal**).

Practice Question #35 Solved Exam MCQ

Question 35. Which contingents were adjudged the Best Marching Contingents among the three Services and among CAPFs/auxiliary forces respectively at the Republic Day Parade 2026?
(A) Indian Army & CRPF
(B) Indian Navy & Delhi Police
(C) Indian Air Force & BSF
(D) Indian Navy & ITBP
Correct Answer: Option (B)
Detailed Explanation: At the 2026 Republic Day Parade, the Indian Navy won Best Marching Contingent among the three Services, and Delhi Police won Best Marching Contingent among CAPFs/auxiliary forces. (**Press Information Bureau** and **IUC Academy Official Portal**).

Practice Question #36 Solved Exam MCQ

Question 36. Following the inclusion of Marathi, Pali, Prakrit, Assamese, and Bengali, what is the total number of recognized Classical Languages in India?
(A) 8 languages
(B) 9 languages
(C) 11 languages
(D) 12 languages
Correct Answer: Option (C)
Detailed Explanation: Adding the 5 newly recognized languages to the earlier 6 (Tamil, Sanskrit, Kannada, Telugu, Malayalam, Odia) brings India's total number of Classical Languages to 11. (**Press Information Bureau** and **IUC Academy Official Portal**).

Practice Question #37 Solved Exam MCQ

Question 37. Which two of India's 11 Classical Languages are NOT included among the 22 scheduled languages in the Eighth Schedule of the Constitution?
(A) Marathi & Assamese
(B) Pali & Prakrit
(C) Odia & Kannada
(D) Sanskrit & Tamil
Correct Answer: Option (B)
Detailed Explanation: While Marathi, Assamese, and Bengali are in the Eighth Schedule, Pali and Prakrit are Classical Languages that are not listed in the Eighth Schedule. (**Press Information Bureau** and **IUC Academy Official Portal**).

Practice Question #38 Solved Exam MCQ

Question 38. Which autonomous UGC centre in Gandhinagar coordinates the ₹6,000 crore 'One Nation One Subscription' (ONOS) scheme providing access to 13,000+ international journals?
(A) CSIR
(B) INFLIBNET (Information and Library Network Centre)
(C) NCERT
(D) AICTE
Correct Answer: Option (B)
Detailed Explanation: INFLIBNET in Gandhinagar, Gujarat coordinates the centralized digital portal for One Nation One Subscription (ONOS). (**Press Information Bureau** and **IUC Academy Official Portal**).

Practice Question #39 Solved Exam MCQ

Question 39. What is the qualifying age threshold and income cap for the 'Ayushman Vay Vandana Card' under Ayushman Bharat PM-JAY?
(A) 60 years and annual income below ₹5 lakh
(B) 65 years and annual income below ₹8 lakh
(C) 70 years and above (with NO income limit)
(D) 75 years and above (BPL households only)
Correct Answer: Option (C)
Detailed Explanation: All senior citizens aged 70 years and above, regardless of income or socio-economic status, are eligible for ₹5 lakh free health coverage under the Ayushman Vay Vandana Card. (**Press Information Bureau** and **IUC Academy Official Portal**).

Practice Question #40 Solved Exam MCQ

Question 40. Under the 'PM Vidyalaxmi Scheme' (₹3,600 crore outlay), what interest subvention is provided during the moratorium period for students with annual family income up to ₹8 lakh?
(A) 2% interest subvention on loans up to ₹5 lakh
(B) 3% interest subvention on education loans up to ₹10 lakh
(C) 5% interest subvention on loans up to ₹15 lakh
(D) 7.5% interest subvention on loans up to ₹7.5 lakh
Correct Answer: Option (B)
Detailed Explanation: PM Vidyalaxmi provides a 3% interest subvention on loans up to ₹10 lakh (for family income ≤₹8 lakh) and a 75% credit guarantee on loans up to ₹7.5 lakh. (**Press Information Bureau** and **IUC Academy Official Portal**).

Practice Question #41 Solved Exam MCQ

Question 41. Which national policy was approved by the Union Cabinet to promote high-performance biomanufacturing across six thematic sectors for economy, environment, and employment?
(A) BioE3 Policy
(B) Green Bio-Mission 2026
(C) Bio-Shakti Policy
(D) National Genome Policy
Correct Answer: Option (A)
Detailed Explanation: Formulated by the Department of Biotechnology, the 'BioE3' (Biotechnology for Economy, Environment and Employment) policy establishes Biofoundry and Biomanufacturing hubs. (**Press Information Bureau** and **IUC Academy Official Portal**).

Practice Question #42 Solved Exam MCQ

Question 42. What is the name of the three indigenous 'Rudra' server-based supercomputers deployed at Pune (GMRT), Delhi (IUAC), and Kolkata (SNBNCBS) under the National Supercomputing Mission?
(A) PARAM Siddhi
(B) PARAM Pravega
(C) PARAM Rudra
(D) PARAM Kamrupa
Correct Answer: Option (C)
Detailed Explanation: Built by C-DAC using indigenous Rudra server boards, the three supercomputers deployed at Pune, Delhi, and Kolkata are named 'PARAM Rudra'. (**Press Information Bureau** and **IUC Academy Official Portal**).

Practice Question #43 Solved Exam MCQ

Question 43. Under the Unified Pension Scheme (UPS), what percentage of the average basic pay of the last 12 months is guaranteed as assured pension after 25 years of qualifying service?
(A) 40 percent
(B) 50 percent
(C) 60 percent
(D) 75 percent
Correct Answer: Option (B)
Detailed Explanation: UPS guarantees 50% of the 12-month average basic pay as assured pension (after ≥25 years service), 60% of the pension as family pension, and ₹10,000/month minimum pension after 10 years. (**Press Information Bureau** and **IUC Academy Official Portal**).

Practice Question #44 Solved Exam MCQ

Question 44. Under the Unified Pension Scheme (UPS), the Central Government increased its employer contribution from 14% to what percentage?
(A) 16.5%
(B) 18.5%
(C) 20.0%
(D) 22.5%
Correct Answer: Option (B)
Detailed Explanation: While the employee contribution remains unchanged at 10%, the Central Government increased its contribution from 14% to 18.5% under UPS. (**Press Information Bureau** and **IUC Academy Official Portal**).

Practice Question #45 Solved Exam MCQ

Question 45. What is the total financial outlay approved for the 'IndiaAI Mission' spearheaded by the Ministry of Electronics and Information Technology (MeitY)?
(A) ₹5,500 crore
(B) ₹8,200 crore
(C) ₹10,371.92 crore
(D) ₹15,000 crore
Correct Answer: Option (C)
Detailed Explanation: The IndiaAI Mission carries a five-year outlay of ₹10,371.92 crore, supporting 18,000+ GPUs, AIKosh datasets, and indigenous foundation models. (**Press Information Bureau** and **IUC Academy Official Portal**).

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

Practice Question #46 High-Yield Comparative MCQ

Q46. With reference to Category (2026) and Laureates (2026), which of the following is accurately matched with "Physics (2026)"?

(A) Francis Halzen
(B) Henri B. Kagan & Kenso Soai
(C) Karl Deisseroth, Peter Hegemann & Georg Nagel
(D) Anne Carson

Correct Answer: (A) | **Explanation:** For **Physics (2026)** (Category (2026)), the verified Laureates (2026) is **Francis Halzen**. Furthermore, Belgium / USA (University of Wisconsin–Madison). (Source: पत्र सूचना कार्यालय (PIB) & IUC Academy).

Practice Question #47 High-Yield Comparative MCQ

Q47. With reference to Category (2026) and Laureates (2026), which of the following is accurately matched with "Chemistry (2026)"?

(A) Karl Deisseroth, Peter Hegemann & Georg Nagel
(B) Henri B. Kagan & Kenso Soai
(C) Anne Carson
(D) Navanethem 'Navi' Pillay

Correct Answer: (B) | **Explanation:** For **Chemistry (2026)** (Category (2026)), the verified Laureates (2026) is **Henri B. Kagan & Kenso Soai**. Furthermore, France (Université Paris-Sud) & Japan (Tokyo University of Science). (Source: पत्र सूचना कार्यालय (PIB) & IUC Academy).

Practice Question #48 High-Yield Comparative MCQ

Q48. With reference to Category (2026) and Laureates (2026), which of the following is accurately matched with "Physiology or Medicine (2026)"?

(A) Anne Carson
(B) Navanethem 'Navi' Pillay
(C) Karl Deisseroth, Peter Hegemann & Georg Nagel
(D) Robert E. Hall & Michael Woodford

Correct Answer: (C) | **Explanation:** For **Physiology or Medicine (2026)** (Category (2026)), the verified Laureates (2026) is **Karl Deisseroth, Peter Hegemann & Georg Nagel**. Furthermore, USA (Stanford University) & Germany (Humboldt University Berlin / University of Würzburg). (Source: पत्र सूचना कार्यालय (PIB) & IUC Academy).

Practice Question #49 High-Yield Comparative MCQ

Q49. With reference to Category (2026) and Laureates (2026), which of the following is accurately matched with "Literature (2026)"?

(A) Navanethem 'Navi' Pillay
(B) Robert E. Hall & Michael Woodford
(C) Francis Halzen & IceCube Collaboration
(D) Anne Carson

Correct Answer: (D) | **Explanation:** For **Literature (2026)** (Category (2026)), the verified Laureates (2026) is **Anne Carson**. Furthermore, Canada (born in Toronto). (Source: पत्र सूचना कार्यालय (PIB) & IUC Academy).

Practice Question #50 High-Yield Comparative MCQ

Q50. With reference to Category (2026) and Laureates (2026), which of the following is accurately matched with "Peace (2026)"?

(A) Navanethem 'Navi' Pillay

(B) Robert E. Hall & Michael Woodford

(C) Francis Halzen & IceCube Collaboration

(D) Deisseroth, Hegemann & Nagel

Correct Answer: (A) | **Explanation:** For **Peace (2026)** (Category (2026)), the verified Laureates (2026) is **Navanethem 'Navi' Pillay**. Furthermore, South Africa (Jurist of Indian/Tamil origin; former UN High Commissioner for Human Rights). (Source: पत्र सूचना कार्यालय (PIB) & IUC Academy).

Practice Question #51 High-Yield Comparative MCQ

Q51. With reference to Category (2026) and Laureates (2026), which of the following is accurately matched with "Economic Sciences (2026)"?

(A) Francis Halzen & IceCube Collaboration

(B) Robert E. Hall & Michael Woodford

(C) Deisseroth, Hegemann & Nagel

(D) 12–13 September 2026 (Chaired by PM Shri Narendra Modi)

Correct Answer: (B) | **Explanation:** For **Economic Sciences (2026)** (Category (2026)), the verified Laureates (2026) is **Robert E. Hall & Michael Woodford**. Furthermore, USA (Stanford University & Columbia University). (Source: पत्र सूचना कार्यालय (PIB) & IUC Academy).

Practice Question #52 High-Yield Comparative MCQ

Q52. With reference to Category (2026) and Laureates (2026), which of the following is accurately matched with "IceCube Detector Architecture"?

(A) Deisseroth, Hegemann & Nagel

(B) 12–13 September 2026 (Chaired by PM Shri Narendra Modi)

(C) Francis Halzen & IceCube Collaboration

(D) Building for Resilience, Innovation, Cooperation and Sustainability

Correct Answer: (C) | **Explanation:** For **IceCube Detector Architecture** (Category (2026)), the verified Laureates (2026) is **Francis Halzen & IceCube Collaboration**. Furthermore, Amundsen–Scott South Pole Station, Antarctica. (Source: पत्र सूचना कार्यालय (PIB) & IUC Academy).

Practice Question #53 High-Yield Comparative MCQ

Q53. With reference to Category (2026) and Laureates (2026), which of the following is accurately matched with "Optogenetics Mechanism"?

(A) 12–13 September 2026 (Chaired by PM Shri Narendra Modi)

(B) Building for Resilience, Innovation, Cooperation and Sustainability

(C) Chaired by Lok Sabha Speaker Shri Om Birla in 2026

(D) Deisseroth, Hegemann & Nagel

Correct Answer: (D) | **Explanation:** For **Optogenetics Mechanism** (Category (2026)), the verified Laureates (2026) is **Deisseroth, Hegemann & Nagel**. Furthermore, Neurobiology & Bioengineering. (Source: पत्र सूचना कार्यालय (PIB) & IUC Academy).

Practice Question #54 High-Yield Comparative MCQ

Q54. With reference to Dimension / Mechanism and Verified 2026 Details & Outcomes, which of the following is accurately matched with "18th BRICS Summit 2026"?

(A) 12–13 September 2026 (Chaired by PM Shri Narendra Modi)

(B) Building for Resilience, Innovation, Cooperation and Sustainability

(C) Chaired by Lok Sabha Speaker Shri Om Birla in 2026

(D) Inter-agency satellite data-sharing agreement involving ISRO

Correct Answer: (A) | **Explanation:** For **18th BRICS Summit 2026** (Dimension / Mechanism), the verified Verified 2026 Details & Outcomes is **12–13 September 2026 (Chaired by PM Shri Narendra Modi)**. Furthermore, Bharat Mandapam, New Delhi, India. (Source: पत्र सूचना कार्यालय (PIB) & IUC Academy).

Practice Question #55 High-Yield Comparative MCQ

Q55. With reference to Dimension / Mechanism and Verified 2026 Details & Outcomes, which of the following is accurately matched with "Official Theme of BRICS 2026"?

(A) Chaired by Lok Sabha Speaker Shri Om Birla in 2026

(B) Building for Resilience, Innovation, Cooperation and Sustainability

(C) Inter-agency satellite data-sharing agreement involving ISRO

(D) Established via 6th BRICS Fortaleza Declaration (2014)

Correct Answer: (B) | **Explanation:** For **Official Theme of BRICS 2026** (Dimension / Mechanism), the verified Verified 2026 Details & Outcomes is **Building for Resilience, Innovation, Cooperation and Sustainability**. Furthermore, India's 4th BRICS Chairship (2012, 2016, 2021, 2026). (Source: पत्र सूचना कार्यालय (PIB) & IUC Academy).

Practice Question #56 High-Yield Comparative MCQ

Q56. With reference to Dimension / Mechanism and Verified 2026 Details & Outcomes, which of the following is accurately matched with "12th BRICS Parliamentary Forum"?

(A) Inter-agency satellite data-sharing agreement involving ISRO

(B) Established via 6th BRICS Fortaleza Declaration (2014)

(C) Chaired by Lok Sabha Speaker Shri Om Birla in 2026

(D) Total committed liquidity pool: USD 100 Billion

Correct Answer: (C) | **Explanation:** For **12th BRICS Parliamentary Forum** (Dimension / Mechanism), the verified Verified 2026 Details & Outcomes is **Chaired by Lok Sabha Speaker Shri Om Birla in 2026**. Furthermore, New Delhi, India. (Source: पत्र सूचना कार्यालय (PIB) & IUC Academy).

Practice Question #57 High-Yield Comparative MCQ

Q57. With reference to Dimension / Mechanism and Verified 2026 Details & Outcomes, which of the following is accurately matched with "BRICS Remote Sensing Constellation"?

(A) Established via 6th BRICS Fortaleza Declaration (2014)

(B) Total committed liquidity pool: USD 100 Billion

(C) Sectoral ministerial tracks under India's 2026 Chairship

(D) Inter-agency satellite data-sharing agreement involving ISRO

Correct Answer: (D) | **Explanation:** For **BRICS Remote Sensing Constellation** (Dimension / Mechanism), the verified Verified 2026 Details & Outcomes is **Inter-agency satellite data-sharing agreement involving ISRO**. Furthermore, Bengaluru / New Delhi. (Source: पत्र सूचना कार्यालय (PIB) & IUC Academy).

Practice Question #58 High-Yield Comparative MCQ

Q58. With reference to Dimension / Mechanism and Verified 2026 Details & Outcomes, which of the following is accurately matched with "New Development Bank (NDB)"?

(A) Established via 6th BRICS Fortaleza Declaration (2014)

(B) Total committed liquidity pool: USD 100 Billion

(C) Sectoral ministerial tracks under India's 2026 Chairship

(D) Showcased to visiting BRICS Heads of State (11–13 Sept 2026)

Correct Answer: (A) | **Explanation:** For **New Development Bank (NDB)** (Dimension / Mechanism), the verified Verified 2026 Details & Outcomes is **Established via 6th BRICS Fortaleza Declaration (2014)**. Furthermore, HQ: Shanghai, China. (Source: पत्र सूचना कार्यालय (PIB) & IUC Academy).

Practice Question #59 High-Yield Comparative MCQ

Q59. With reference to Dimension / Mechanism and Verified 2026 Details & Outcomes, which of the following is accurately matched with "Contingent Reserve Arrangement (CRA)"?

(A) Sectoral ministerial tracks under India's 2026 Chairship

(B) Total committed liquidity pool: USD 100 Billion

(C) Showcased to visiting BRICS Heads of State (11–13 Sept 2026)

(D) Aichi Prefecture & Nagoya, Japan (19 Sept – 4 Oct 2026)

Correct Answer: (B) | **Explanation:** For **Contingent Reserve Arrangement (CRA)** (Dimension / Mechanism), the verified Verified 2026 Details & Outcomes is **Total committed liquidity pool: USD 100 Billion**. Furthermore, Central Bank Liquidity Safety Net. (Source: पत्र सूचना कार्यालय (PIB) & IUC Academy).

Practice Question #60 High-Yield Comparative MCQ

Q60. With reference to Dimension / Mechanism and Verified 2026 Details & Outcomes, which of the following is accurately matched with "BRICS Digital Health & Water Meetings"?

(A) Showcased to visiting BRICS Heads of State (11–13 Sept 2026)

(B) Aichi Prefecture & Nagoya, Japan (19 Sept – 4 Oct 2026)

(C) Sectoral ministerial tracks under India's 2026 Chairship

(D) Paloma Mizuho Stadium, Nagoya, Japan

Correct Answer: (C) | **Explanation:** For **BRICS Digital Health & Water Meetings** (Dimension / Mechanism), the verified Verified 2026 Details & Outcomes is **Sectoral ministerial tracks under India's 2026 Chairship**. Furthermore, New Delhi, India. (Source: पत्र सूचना कार्यालय (PIB) & IUC Academy).

Practice Question #61 High-Yield Comparative MCQ

Q61. With reference to Dimension / Mechanism and Verified 2026 Details & Outcomes, which of the following is accurately matched with "Bharat Innovates Exposition 2026"?

(A) Aichi Prefecture & Nagoya, Japan (19 Sept – 4 Oct 2026)

(B) Paloma Mizuho Stadium, Nagoya, Japan

(C) Co-hosts: India & Sri Lanka (Final: Narendra Modi Stadium, Ahmedabad)

(D) Showcased to visiting BRICS Heads of State (11–13 Sept 2026)

Correct Answer: (D) | **Explanation:** For **Bharat Innovates Exposition 2026** (Dimension / Mechanism), the verified Verified 2026 Details & Outcomes is **Showcased to visiting BRICS Heads of State (11–13 Sept 2026)**. Furthermore, Bharat Mandapam, New Delhi. (Source: पत्र सूचना कार्यालय (PIB) & IUC Academy).

Practice Question #62 High-Yield Comparative MCQ

Q62. With reference to Tournament / Event (2026) and Host Venue & Dates (2026), which of the following is accurately matched with "20th Asian Games 2026"?

(A) Aichi Prefecture & Nagoya, Japan (19 Sept – 4 Oct 2026)

(B) Paloma Mizuho Stadium, Nagoya, Japan

(C) Co-hosts: India & Sri Lanka (Final: Narendra Modi Stadium, Ahmedabad)

(D) Host: England & Wales (Final: Lord's, London — 5 July 2026)

Correct Answer: (A) | **Explanation:** For **20th Asian Games 2026** (Tournament / Event (2026)), the verified Host Venue & Dates (2026) is **Aichi Prefecture & Nagoya, Japan (19 Sept – 4 Oct 2026)**. Furthermore, India Ranked 4th (Top 3: China, Japan, South Korea). (Source: पत्र सूचना कार्यालय (PIB) & IUC Academy).

Practice Question #63 High-Yield Comparative MCQ

Q63. With reference to Tournament / Event (2026) and Host Venue & Dates (2026), which of the following is accurately matched with "Asian Games 2026 Mascot & Motto"?

(A) Co-hosts: India & Sri Lanka (Final: Narendra Modi Stadium, Ahmedabad)

(B) Paloma Mizuho Stadium, Nagoya, Japan

(C) Host: England & Wales (Final: Lord's, London — 5 July 2026)

(D) Aichi-Nagoya, Japan (September 2026)

Correct Answer: (B) | **Explanation:** For **Asian Games 2026 Mascot & Motto** (Tournament / Event (2026)), the verified Host Venue & Dates (2026) is **Paloma Mizuho Stadium, Nagoya, Japan**. Furthermore, Mascot: Honohon (inspired by Shachihoko & flame). (Source: पत्र सूचना कार्यालय (PIB) & IUC Academy).

Practice Question #64 High-Yield Comparative MCQ

Q64. With reference to Tournament / Event (2026) and Host Venue & Dates (2026), which of the following is accurately matched with "10th ICC Men's T20 World Cup 2026"?

(A) Host: England & Wales (Final: Lord's, London — 5 July 2026)

(B) Aichi-Nagoya, Japan (September 2026)

(C) Co-hosts: India & Sri Lanka (Final: Narendra Modi Stadium, Ahmedabad)

(D) Aichi-Nagoya Main Stadium & Shooting Ranges

Correct Answer: (C) | **Explanation:** For **10th ICC Men's T20 World Cup 2026** (Tournament / Event (2026)), the verified Host Venue & Dates (2026) is **Co-hosts: India & Sri Lanka (Final: Narendra Modi Stadium, Ahmedabad)**. Furthermore, Champion: India (Runner-up: New Zealand). (Source: पत्र सूचना कार्यालय (PIB) & IUC Academy).

Practice Question #65 High-Yield Comparative MCQ

Q65. With reference to Tournament / Event (2026) and Host Venue & Dates (2026), which of the following is accurately matched with "10th ICC Women's T20 World Cup 2026"?

(A) Aichi-Nagoya, Japan (September 2026)

(B) Aichi-Nagoya Main Stadium & Shooting Ranges

(C) Rashtrapati Bhavan, New Delhi (Announced 25 Jan 2026)

(D) Host: England & Wales (Final: Lord's, London — 5 July 2026)

Correct Answer: (D) | **Explanation:** For **10th ICC Women's T20 World Cup 2026** (Tournament / Event (2026)), the verified Host Venue & Dates (2026) is **Host: England & Wales (Final: Lord's, London — 5 July 2026)**. Furthermore, Champion: Australia (Runner-up: England). (Source: पत्र सूचना कार्यालय (PIB) & IUC Academy).

Practice Question #66 High-Yield Comparative MCQ

Q66. With reference to Tournament / Event (2026) and Host Venue & Dates (2026), which of the following is accurately matched with "Compound Archery at Asian Games 2026"?

(A) Aichi-Nagoya, Japan (September 2026)

(B) Aichi-Nagoya Main Stadium & Shooting Ranges

(C) Rashtrapati Bhavan, New Delhi (Announced 25 Jan 2026)

(D) 21st Asian Games: Doha, Qatar (2030)

Correct Answer: (A) | **Explanation:** For **Compound Archery at Asian Games 2026** (Tournament / Event (2026)), the verified Host Venue & Dates (2026) is **Aichi-Nagoya, Japan (September 2026)**. Furthermore, Clean sweep of gold medals by Indian archers. (Source: पत्र सूचना कार्यालय (PIB) & IUC Academy).

Practice Question #67 High-Yield Comparative MCQ

Q67. With reference to Tournament / Event (2026) and Host Venue & Dates (2026), which of the following is accurately matched with "Athletics & Shooting at Asian Games 2026"?

(A) Rashtrapati Bhavan, New Delhi (Announced 25 Jan 2026)

(B) Aichi-Nagoya Main Stadium & Shooting Ranges

(C) 21st Asian Games: Doha, Qatar (2030)

(D) DRDO & Indian Air Force (IAF)

Correct Answer: (B) | **Explanation:** For **Athletics & Shooting at Asian Games 2026** (Tournament / Event (2026)), the verified Host Venue & Dates (2026) is **Aichi-Nagoya Main Stadium & Shooting Ranges**. Furthermore, Core contributors to India's 21 Gold medals. (Source: पत्र सूचना कार्यालय (PIB) & IUC Academy).

Practice Question #68 High-Yield Comparative MCQ

Q68. With reference to Tournament / Event (2026) and Host Venue & Dates (2026), which of the following is accurately matched with "Padma Awards 2026 (Sports Category)"?

(A) 21st Asian Games: Doha, Qatar (2030)

(B) DRDO & Indian Air Force (IAF)

(C) Rashtrapati Bhavan, New Delhi (Announced 25 Jan 2026)

(D) DRDO (Research Centre Imarat & Labs)

Correct Answer: (C) | **Explanation:** For **Padma Awards 2026 (Sports Category)** (Tournament / Event (2026)), the verified Host Venue & Dates (2026) is **Rashtrapati Bhavan, New Delhi (Announced 25 Jan 2026)**. Furthermore, 9 sports legends and athletes honoured. (Source: पत्र सूचना कार्यालय (PIB) & IUC Academy).

Practice Question #69 High-Yield Comparative MCQ

Q69. With reference to Tournament / Event (2026) and Host Venue & Dates (2026), which of the following is accurately matched with "Upcoming Asian Games Editions"?

(A) DRDO & Indian Air Force (IAF)

(B) DRDO (Research Centre Imarat & Labs)

(C) ISRO (Liquid Propulsion Systems Centre)

(D) 21st Asian Games: Doha, Qatar (2030)

Correct Answer: (D) | **Explanation:** For **Upcoming Asian Games Editions** (Tournament / Event (2026)), the verified Host Venue & Dates (2026) is **21st Asian Games: Doha, Qatar (2030)**. Furthermore, 22nd: Riyadh, Saudi Arabia (2034). (Source: पत्र सूचना कार्यालय (PIB) & IUC Academy).

Practice Question #70 High-Yield Comparative MCQ

Q70. With reference to Missile / Space System (2026) and Developing Agency, which of the following is accurately matched with "RudraM-II Anti-Radiation Missile"?

(A) DRDO & Indian Air Force (IAF)
(B) DRDO (Research Centre Imarat & Labs)
(C) ISRO (Liquid Propulsion Systems Centre)
(D) ISRO (Human Space Flight Centre, Bengaluru)

Correct Answer: (A) | **Explanation:** For **RudraM-II Anti-Radiation Missile** (Missile / Space System (2026)), the verified Developing Agency is **DRDO & Indian Air Force (IAF)**. Furthermore, 2 June 2026 (Off Odisha coast, launched from Su-30 MKI). (Source: पत्र सूचना कार्यालय (PIB) & IUC Academy).

Practice Question #71 High-Yield Comparative MCQ

Q71. With reference to Missile / Space System (2026) and Developing Agency, which of the following is accurately matched with "Pralay Quasi-Ballistic Missile"?

(A) ISRO (Liquid Propulsion Systems Centre)
(B) DRDO (Research Centre Imarat & Labs)
(C) ISRO (Human Space Flight Centre, Bengaluru)
(D) DRDO (CVRDE) & Larsen & Toubro (L&T)

Correct Answer: (B) | **Explanation:** For **Pralay Quasi-Ballistic Missile** (Missile / Space System (2026)), the verified Developing Agency is **DRDO (Research Centre Imarat & Labs)**. Furthermore, 5 November 2026 (Dr. APJ Abdul Kalam Island, ITR Chandipur). (Source: पत्र सूचना कार्यालय (PIB) & IUC Academy).

Practice Question #72 High-Yield Comparative MCQ

Q72. With reference to Missile / Space System (2026) and Developing Agency, which of the following is accurately matched with "NGLV ('Soorya') LME-1100 Engine"?

(A) ISRO (Human Space Flight Centre, Bengaluru)
(B) DRDO (CVRDE) & Larsen & Toubro (L&T)
(C) ISRO (Liquid Propulsion Systems Centre)
(D) DRDO & Bharat Electronics Limited (BEL)

Correct Answer: (C) | **Explanation:** For **NGLV ('Soorya') LME-1100 Engine** (Missile / Space System (2026)), the verified Developing Agency is **ISRO (Liquid Propulsion Systems Centre)**. Furthermore, 9 October 2026 (Mahendragiri Propulsion Complex). (Source: पत्र सूचना कार्यालय (PIB) & IUC Academy).

Practice Question #73 High-Yield Comparative MCQ

Q73. With reference to Missile / Space System (2026) and Developing Agency, which of the following is accurately matched with "Gaganyaan Uncrewed Mission (G1)"?

(A) DRDO (CVRDE) & Larsen & Toubro (L&T)
(B) DRDO & Bharat Electronics Limited (BEL)
(C) DRDO (Strategic Forces Command)
(D) ISRO (Human Space Flight Centre, Bengaluru)

Correct Answer: (D) | **Explanation:** For **Gaganyaan Uncrewed Mission (G1)** (Missile / Space System (2026)), the verified Developing Agency is **ISRO (Human Space Flight Centre, Bengaluru)**. Furthermore, 2026 Integration & Qualification (Sriharikota). (Source: पत्र सूचना कार्यालय (PIB) & IUC Academy).

Practice Question #74 High-Yield Comparative MCQ

Q74. With reference to Missile / Space System (2026) and Developing Agency, which of the following is accurately matched with "Zorawar Indigenous Light Tank"?

(A) DRDO (CVRDE) & Larsen & Toubro (L&T)
(B) DRDO & Bharat Electronics Limited (BEL)
(C) DRDO (Strategic Forces Command)
(D) Indian Space Research Organisation (ISRO)

Correct Answer: (A) | **Explanation:** For **Zorawar Indigenous Light Tank** (Missile / Space System (2026)), the verified Developing Agency is **DRDO (CVRDE) & Larsen & Toubro (L&T)**. Furthermore, 2026 High-Altitude Trials (Ladakh Sector). (Source: पत्र सूचना कार्यालय (PIB) & IUC Academy).

Practice Question #75 High-Yield Comparative MCQ

Q75. With reference to Missile / Space System (2026) and Developing Agency, which of the following is accurately matched with "Project Kusha (Long-Range SAM)"?

(A) DRDO (Strategic Forces Command)
(B) DRDO & Bharat Electronics Limited (BEL)
(C) Indian Space Research Organisation (ISRO)
(D) 5.50% (Raised by 25 bps on 7 October 2026)

Correct Answer: (B) | **Explanation:** For **Project Kusha (Long-Range SAM)** (Missile / Space System (2026)), the verified Developing Agency is **DRDO & Bharat Electronics Limited (BEL)**. Furthermore, 2026 Development & Subsystem Qualification. (Source: पत्र सूचना कार्यालय (PIB) & IUC Academy).

Practice Question #76 High-Yield Comparative MCQ

Q76. With reference to Missile / Space System (2026) and Developing Agency, which of the following is accurately matched with "Agni-5 MIRV (Mission Divyastra)"?

(A) Indian Space Research Organisation (ISRO)
(B) 5.50% (Raised by 25 bps on 7 October 2026)
(C) DRDO (Strategic Forces Command)
(D) 5.25% (25 bps below the Policy Repo Rate)

Correct Answer: (C) | **Explanation:** For **Agni-5 MIRV (Mission Divyastra)** (Missile / Space System (2026)), the verified Developing Agency is **DRDO (Strategic Forces Command)**. Furthermore, Dr. APJ Abdul Kalam Island, Odisha. (Source: पत्र सूचना कार्यालय (PIB) & IUC Academy).

Practice Question #77 High-Yield Comparative MCQ

Q77. With reference to Missile / Space System (2026) and Developing Agency, which of the following is accurately matched with "Bharatiya Antariksh Station & Chandrayaan-4"?

(A) 5.50% (Raised by 25 bps on 7 October 2026)
(B) 5.25% (25 bps below the Policy Repo Rate)
(C) 5.75% (25 bps above the Policy Repo Rate)
(D) Indian Space Research Organisation (ISRO)

Correct Answer: (D) | **Explanation:** For **Bharatiya Antariksh Station & Chandrayaan-4** (Missile / Space System (2026)), the verified Developing Agency is **Indian Space Research Organisation (ISRO)**. Furthermore, 2026 Engineering & Module Architecture. (Source: पत्र सूचना कार्यालय (PIB) & IUC Academy).

Practice Question #78 High-Yield Comparative MCQ

Q78. With reference to Monetary Policy Instrument / Metric and October 2026 Resolution Level, which of the following is accurately matched with "Policy Repo Rate"?

(A) 5.50% (Raised by 25 bps on 7 October 2026)

(B) 5.25% (25 bps below the Policy Repo Rate)

(C) 5.75% (25 bps above the Policy Repo Rate)

(D) 6.9% to 7.1% (RBI MPC 2026 estimates)

Correct Answer: (A) | **Explanation:** For **Policy Repo Rate** (Monetary Policy Instrument / Metric), the verified October 2026 Resolution Level is **5.50% (Raised by 25 bps on 7 October 2026)**. Furthermore, Held at 5.25% in June & August 2026 reviews. (Source: पत्र सूचना कार्यालय (PIB) & IUC Academy).

Practice Question #79 High-Yield Comparative MCQ

Q79. With reference to Monetary Policy Instrument / Metric and October 2026 Resolution Level, which of the following is accurately matched with "Standing Deposit Facility (SDF) Rate"?

(A) 5.75% (25 bps above the Policy Repo Rate)

(B) 5.25% (25 bps below the Policy Repo Rate)

(C) 6.9% to 7.1% (RBI MPC 2026 estimates)

(D) 4.0% CPI Target (±2% tolerance band: 2% to 6%)

Correct Answer: (B) | **Explanation:** For **Standing Deposit Facility (SDF) Rate** (Monetary Policy Instrument / Metric), the verified October 2026 Resolution Level is **5.25% (25 bps below the Policy Repo Rate)**. Furthermore, Section 17 of RBI Act (introduced in April 2022). (Source: पत्र सूचना कार्यालय (PIB) & IUC Academy).

Practice Question #80 High-Yield Comparative MCQ

Q80. With reference to Monetary Policy Instrument / Metric and October 2026 Resolution Level, which of the following is accurately matched with "Marginal Standing Facility (MSF) & Bank Rate"?

(A) 6.9% to 7.1% (RBI MPC 2026 estimates)

(B) 4.0% CPI Target (±2% tolerance band: 2% to 6%)

(C) 5.75% (25 bps above the Policy Repo Rate)

(D) Weighted Average Call Rate (WACR)

Correct Answer: (C) | **Explanation:** For **Marginal Standing Facility (MSF) & Bank Rate** (Monetary Policy Instrument / Metric), the verified October 2026 Resolution Level is **5.75% (25 bps above the Policy Repo Rate)**. Furthermore, Penal / overnight emergency liquidity rate. (Source: पत्र सूचना कार्यालय (PIB) & IUC Academy).

Practice Question #81 High-Yield Comparative MCQ

Q81. With reference to Monetary Policy Instrument / Metric and October 2026 Resolution Level, which of the following is accurately matched with "Real GDP Growth Projection (FY 2026–27)"?

(A) 4.0% CPI Target (±2% tolerance band: 2% to 6%)

(B) Weighted Average Call Rate (WACR)

(C) Nationwide digital public credit infrastructure

(D) 6.9% to 7.1% (RBI MPC 2026 estimates)

Correct Answer: (D) | **Explanation:** For **Real GDP Growth Projection (FY 2026–27)** (Monetary Policy Instrument / Metric), the verified October 2026 Resolution Level is **6.9% to 7.1% (RBI MPC 2026 estimates)**. Furthermore, Driven by domestic consumption & public capex. (Source: पत्र सूचना कार्यालय (PIB) & IUC Academy).

Practice Question #82 High-Yield Comparative MCQ

Q82. With reference to Monetary Policy Instrument / Metric and October 2026 Resolution Level, which of the following is accurately matched with "Flexible Inflation Targeting (FIT) Band"?

(A) 4.0% CPI Target (±2% tolerance band: 2% to 6%)

(B) Weighted Average Call Rate (WACR)

(C) Nationwide digital public credit infrastructure

(D) Developed by Reserve Bank Innovation Hub (RBIH, Bengaluru)

Correct Answer: (A) | **Explanation:** For **Flexible Inflation Targeting (FIT) Band** (Monetary Policy Instrument / Metric), the verified October 2026 Resolution Level is **4.0% CPI Target (±2% tolerance band: 2% to 6%)**. Furthermore, Section 45ZA of RBI Act, 1934 (Amended 2016). (Source: पत्र सूचना कार्यालय (PIB) & IUC Academy).

Practice Question #83 High-Yield Comparative MCQ

Q83. With reference to Monetary Policy Instrument / Metric and October 2026 Resolution Level, which of the following is accurately matched with "Operating Target of Monetary Policy"?

(A) Nationwide digital public credit infrastructure

(B) Weighted Average Call Rate (WACR)

(C) Developed by Reserve Bank Innovation Hub (RBIH, Bengaluru)

(D) Antalya EXPO Center, Antalya, Türkiye

Correct Answer: (B) | **Explanation:** For **Operating Target of Monetary Policy** (Monetary Policy Instrument / Metric), the verified October 2026 Resolution Level is **Weighted Average Call Rate (WACR)**. Furthermore, Overnight inter-bank money market rate. (Source: पत्र सूचना कार्यालय (PIB) & IUC Academy).

Practice Question #84 High-Yield Comparative MCQ

Q84. With reference to Monetary Policy Instrument / Metric and October 2026 Resolution Level, which of the following is accurately matched with "Unified Lending Interface (ULI)"?

(A) Developed by Reserve Bank Innovation Hub (RBIH, Bengaluru)

(B) Antalya EXPO Center, Antalya, Türkiye

(C) Nationwide digital public credit infrastructure

(D) Manila, Philippines

Correct Answer: (C) | **Explanation:** For **Unified Lending Interface (ULI)** (Monetary Policy Instrument / Metric), the verified October 2026 Resolution Level is **Nationwide digital public credit infrastructure**. Furthermore, Modelled on UPI's plug-and-play architecture. (Source: पत्र सूचना कार्यालय (PIB) & IUC Academy).

Practice Question #85 High-Yield Comparative MCQ

Q85. With reference to Monetary Policy Instrument / Metric and October 2026 Resolution Level, which of the following is accurately matched with "MuleHunter.AI Fraud Detection"?

(A) Antalya EXPO Center, Antalya, Türkiye

(B) Manila, Philippines

(C) Miami (Doral), Florida, United States

(D) Developed by Reserve Bank Innovation Hub (RBIH, Bengaluru)

Correct Answer: (D) | **Explanation:** For **MuleHunter.AI Fraud Detection** (Monetary Policy Instrument / Metric), the verified October 2026 Resolution Level is **Developed by Reserve Bank Innovation Hub (RBIH, Bengaluru)**. Furthermore, Rolled out across commercial banks in 2026. (Source: पत्र सूचना कार्यालय (PIB) & IUC Academy).

September-2026 & October-2026 — 65 Rapid-Fire Revision Points — Current Affairs 2026 Compendium

1. **Point 1:** The 2026 Nobel Prize in Physics was awarded to Belgian-born American physicist 'Francis Halzen' for decisive contributions to the IceCube Neutrino Observatory at the South Pole. (**Official Reference**)

2. **Point 2:** The 2026 Nobel Prize in Chemistry was shared by France's 'Henri B. Kagan' and Japan's 'Kenso Soai' for discovering non-linear effects and autocatalysis in asymmetric organic synthesis. (**Official Reference**)

3. **Point 3:** The 2026 Nobel Prize in Physiology or Medicine was awarded to 'Karl Deisseroth, Peter Hegemann, and Georg Nagel' for discoveries concerning light-gated ion channels and optogenetics. (**Official Reference**)

4. **Point 4:** The 2026 Nobel Prize in Literature was won by Canadian poet and classicist 'Anne Carson' for her bold and inventive oeuvre in dialogue with the classical tradition. (**Official Reference**)

5. **Point 5:** The 2026 Nobel Peace Prize was awarded to South African jurist of Indian (Tamil) origin 'Navanethem (Navi) Pillay' for her lifelong efforts to promote peace, international justice, and human rights. (**Official Reference**)

6. **Point 6:** The 2026 Nobel Prize in Economic Sciences was shared by 'Robert E. Hall' (Stanford) and 'Michael Woodford' (Columbia) for contributions to the microeconomic foundations of macroeconomic stabilization. (**Official Reference**)

7. **Point 7:** Michael Woodford's treatise 'Interest and Prices' (2003) laid the modern New Keynesian monetary policy framework used by central banks worldwide. (**Official Reference**)

8. **Point 8:** Kenso Soai's 1995 'Soai reaction' (asymmetric autocatalysis) explains how biological homochirality (single-handed L-amino acids and D-sugars) emerged at the origin of life. (**Official Reference**)

9. **Point 9:** India hosted the 18th BRICS Summit from 12 to 13 September 2026 at 'Bharat Mandapam, New Delhi' under the chairship of Prime Minister Shri Narendra Modi. (**Official Reference**)

10. **Point 10:** The official theme of the 18th BRICS Summit 2026 was 'Building for Resilience, Innovation, Cooperation and Sustainability'. (**Official Reference**)

11. **Point 11:** On 12 September 2026, BRICS leaders unanimously adopted the 140-paragraph 'BRICS New Delhi Declaration 2026'. (**Official Reference**)

12. **Point 12:** India has chaired and hosted the BRICS Summit four times: 2012 (New Delhi), 2016 (Goa), 2021 (Virtual), and 2026 (New Delhi). (**Official Reference**)

13. **Point 13:** Ahead of the leaders' plenary, the BRICS Business Forum and the 'Bharat Innovates' exposition were held at Bharat Mandapam on 11 September 2026. (**Official Reference**)

14. **Point 14:** The 12th BRICS Parliamentary Forum was held in New Delhi in 2026 under the chairship of Lok Sabha Speaker Shri Om Birla. (**Official Reference**)

15. **Point 15:** The five founding members of the New Development Bank (NDB) — Brazil, Russia, India, China, and South Africa — each hold an equal 18.98% shareholding. (**Official Reference**)

16. **Point 16:** The New Development Bank is headquartered in Shanghai (China), while its Indian Regional Office (IRO) is located at GIFT City, Gandhinagar (Gujarat). (**Official Reference**)

17. **Point 17:** The BRICS Contingent Reserve Arrangement (CRA) maintains a committed liquidity pool of USD 100 billion to cushion short-term balance-of-payments pressures. (**Official Reference**)

18. **Point 18:** The 20th Asian Games (XX Asian Games) were held from 19 September to 4 October 2026 in 'Aichi-Nagoya, Japan'. (**Official Reference**)

19. **Point 19:** The Aichi-Nagoya 2026 Asian Games featured 46 Asian nations competing across 43 sports and 469 gold medal events. (**Official Reference**)

20. **Point 20:** India finished 4th in the overall medal table at the 20th Asian Games 2026 with 85 medals: 21 Gold, 27 Silver, and 37 Bronze. (**Official Reference**)

21. **Point 21:** The top three nations in the Aichi-Nagoya 2026 Asian Games medal table were China (1st), host Japan (2nd), and South Korea (3rd). (**Official Reference**)

22. **Point 22:** Aichi-Nagoya 2026 marked the third time Japan hosted the Asian Games after Tokyo (1958) and Hiroshima (1994); the mascot was 'Honohon' and slogan 'Imagine One Asia'. (**Official Reference**)

23. **Point 23:** The 21st Asian Games will be held in Doha (Qatar) in 2030, and the 22nd Asian Games in Riyadh (Saudi Arabia) in 2034. (**Official Reference**)

24. **Point 24:** The 10th ICC Men's T20 World Cup 2026 was co-hosted by India and Sri Lanka across 20 participating teams. (**Official Reference**)

25. **Point 25:** India won the 2026 ICC Men's T20 World Cup, defeating New Zealand in the final at the Narendra Modi Stadium in Ahmedabad. (**Official Reference**)

26. **Point 26:** India's score of 255/5 against New Zealand in the 2026 final is the highest total ever posted in a Men's T20 World Cup final or knockout match. (**Official Reference**)

27. **Point 27:** With titles in 2007, 2024, and 2026, India became the first team to win three Men's T20 World Cups and the first to win back-to-back titles. (**Official Reference**)

28. **Point 28:** The 10th ICC Women's T20 World Cup 2026 was hosted by England and Wales from 12 June to 5 July 2026. (**Official Reference**)

29. **Point 29:** Australia defeated host England in the final at Lord's, London on 5 July 2026 to win the ICC Women's T20 World Cup 2026. (**Official Reference**)

30. **Point 30:** On 2 June 2026, DRDO and the Indian Air Force successfully flight-tested the indigenous 'RudraM-II' air-to-surface anti-radiation missile from a Su-30 MKI jet. (**Official Reference**)

31. **Point 31:** RudraM-II has a strike range of ~300 km and uses an indigenous Passive Homing Head for Suppression of Enemy Air Defences (SEAD). (**Official Reference**)

32. **Point 32:** On 5 November 2026, DRDO successfully flight-tested the indigenous 'Pralay' quasi-ballistic missile from Dr. APJ Abdul Kalam Island off the Odisha coast. (**Official Reference**)

33. **Point 33:** Pralay is a solid-propellant surface-to-surface missile with a 150–500 km range capable of mid-air maneuvers to evade enemy ballistic missile interceptors. (**Official Reference**)

34. **Point 34:** On 9 October 2026, ISRO successfully conducted the first full ignition test of the LME-1100 Gas Generator Cycle engine for the Next Generation Launch Vehicle (NGLV — 'Soorya'). (**Official Reference**)

35. **Point 35:** ISRO's 110-tonne thrust LME-1100 engine runs on Liquid Oxygen (LOX) and Liquid Methane, with over 70% of its components manufactured via 3D printing. (**Official Reference**)

36. **Point 36:** The uncrewed Gaganyaan G1 orbital test flight is designed to carry ISRO's indigenous half-humanoid female robot 'Vyommitra'. (**Official Reference**)

37. **Point 37:** ISRO's second spaceport is under development at 'Kulasekarapattinam' in Thoothukudi district, Tamil Nadu for polar SSLV launches. (**Official Reference**)

38. **Point 38:** The 25-tonne class indigenous Indian Light Tank 'Zorawar' has been jointly developed by DRDO (CVRDE) and Larsen & Toubro (L&T) for high-altitude mountain warfare. (**Official Reference**)

39. **Point 39:** Under 'Project Kusha', DRDO is developing a three-tier indigenous Long-Range Surface-to-Air Missile (LR-SAM) air defence system with a 350–400 km range. (**Official Reference**)

40. **Point 40:** In its October 5–7, 2026 Monetary Policy review, the RBI MPC raised the policy repo rate by 25 bps from 5.25% to 5.50%. (**Official Reference**)

41. **Point 41:** Following the October 2026 MPC review, the Standing Deposit Facility (SDF) rate is 5.25% and the Marginal Standing Facility (MSF) / Bank Rate is 5.75%. (**Official Reference**)

42. **Point 42:** The Reserve Bank of India projected India's real GDP growth for FY 2026–27 in the range of 6.9% to 7.1%. (**Official Reference**)

43. **Point 43:** The operating target of RBI's monetary policy framework is the Weighted Average Call Rate (WACR). (**Official Reference**)

44. **Point 44:** India's statutory Flexible Inflation Targeting (FIT) framework anchors CPI-Combined headline inflation at 4.0% with a ±2% tolerance band (2% to 6%). (**Official Reference**)

45. **Point 45:** Modelled on UPI, the RBI launched the 'Unified Lending Interface' (ULI) to enable frictionless digital credit for MSMEs, farmers, and rural borrowers. (**Official Reference**)

46. **Point 46:** The Reserve Bank Innovation Hub (RBIH, Bengaluru) developed 'MuleHunter.AI' to detect mule bank accounts and prevent digital financial fraud. (**Official Reference**)

47. **Point 47:** The 31st UN Climate Change Conference (UNFCCC COP31) was held from 9 to 20 November 2026 in 'Antalya, Türkiye'. (**Official Reference**)

48. **Point 48:** Under the COP31 Türkiye–Australia partnership modalities, Türkiye's Murat Kurum served as COP31 President while Australia's Chris Bowen chaired climate negotiations. (**Official Reference**)

49. **Point 49:** In November 2026, the Philippines hosted the 48th and 49th ASEAN Summits in 'Manila' as the 2026 ASEAN Chair. (**Official Reference**)

50. **Point 50:** Under the US 2026 G20 Presidency, the 21st G20 Leaders' Summit is scheduled for 14–15 December 2026 in 'Miami (Doral), Florida'. (**Official Reference**)

51. **Point 51:** With the admission of Iran (9th member) and Belarus (10th member), the Shanghai Cooperation Organisation (SCO) comprises 10 full member states. (**Official Reference**)

52. **Point 52:** Announced on 25 January 2026, the Padma Awards 2026 comprised 131 honours: 5 Padma Vibhushan, 13 Padma Bhushan, and 113 Padma Shri. (**Official Reference**)

53. **Point 53:** The 5 Padma Vibhushan 2026 winners are Dharmendra (Posthumous), V. S. Achuthanandan (Posthumous), Justice K. T. Thomas, Dr. N. Rajam, and P. Narayanan. (**Official Reference**)

54. **Point 54:** The 131 Padma Awardees of 2026 include 19 women, 6 Foreigners/NRI/PIO/OCI recipients, and 16 posthumous awardees. (**Official Reference**)

55. **Point 55:** In sports, Vijay Amritraj received the Padma Bhushan (2026), while Rohit Sharma, Harmanpreet Kaur, Savita Punia, and Praveen Kumar received the Padma Shri (2026). (**Official Reference**)

56. **Point 56:** The official theme of the 77th Republic Day Parade on 26 January 2026 was '150 Years of Vande Mataram'. (**Official Reference**)

57. **Point 57:** Maharashtra won the Best Tableau Award (1st Place among States/UTs) at the 2026 Republic Day Parade for 'Ganeshotsav: A Symbol of Aatmanirbharata'. (**Official Reference**)

58. **Point 58:** At the 2026 Republic Day Parade, the 'Indian Navy' (among Services) and 'Delhi Police' (among CAPFs) won the Best Marching Contingent awards. (**Official Reference**)

59. **Point 59:** Following the addition of Marathi, Pali, Prakrit, Assamese, and Bengali, India now recognizes 11 Classical Languages. (**Official Reference**)

60. **Point 60:** Tamil was declared India's first Classical Language in 2004, followed by Sanskrit (2005), Kannada & Telugu (2008), Malayalam (2013), and Odia (2014). (**Official Reference**)

61. **Point 61:** The 'One Nation One Subscription' (ONOS) scheme (₹6,000 crore outlay) provides 6,300+ government institutions access to 13,000+ journals via INFLIBNET. (**Official Reference**)

62. **Point 62:** The 'PM Vidyalaxmi Scheme' (₹3,600 crore) offers collateral-free education loans with a 3% interest subvention on loans up to ₹10 lakh. (**Official Reference**)

63. **Point 63:** The 'Ayushman Vay Vandana Card' provides ₹5 lakh free annual health insurance to all senior citizens aged 70+ years regardless of income. (**Official Reference**)

64. **Point 64:** The Unified Pension Scheme (UPS) guarantees 50% of average basic pay as pension (after 25 years service) with the Central Government contribution raised to 18.5%. (**Official Reference**)

65. **Point 65:** The 'IndiaAI Mission' (₹10,371.92 crore outlay) has established an 18,000+ GPU compute infrastructure alongside AIKosh and indigenous multimodal AI models. (**Official Reference**)

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

Chapter / Study Section	Day 1 (First Read)	Day 3 (Active Recall)	Day 7 (MCQ Drill)	Day 21 (Exam Ready)
1. Chapter 1: Nobel Prizes 2026 — Comprehensive Analysis of Physics, Chemistry, Medicine, Literature, Peace & Economic Sciences	☐ Completed (100% Concept Clarity)	☐ Flowchart & Tables Revised	☐ 75+ MCQs Solved (>85% Accuracy)	☐ **Final Rapid Recall Ready**
2. Chapter 2: 18th BRICS Summit 2026 Hosted by India (New Delhi Declaration) & Multipolar Global South Diplomacy	☐ Completed (100% Concept Clarity)	☐ Flowchart & Tables Revised	☐ 75+ MCQs Solved (>85% Accuracy)	☐ **Final Rapid Recall Ready**
3. Chapter 3: 20th Asian Games 2026 (Aichi-Nagoya, Japan) & ICC T20 World Cups 2026 — India's Sporting Triumphs	☐ Completed (100% Concept Clarity)	☐ Flowchart & Tables Revised	☐ 75+ MCQs Solved (>85% Accuracy)	☐ **Final Rapid Recall Ready**
4. Chapter 4: Indigenous Defence Tech & ISRO Space Missions 2026 — RudraM-II, Pralay Missile & NGLV Engine Test	☐ Completed (100% Concept Clarity)	☐ Flowchart & Tables Revised	☐ 75+ MCQs Solved (>85% Accuracy)	☐ **Final Rapid Recall Ready**
5. Chapter 5: Reserve Bank of India (RBI) Monetary Policy 2026 — October 2026 Repo Rate Revision, GDP Outlook & Digital Rupee	☐ Completed (100% Concept Clarity)	☐ Flowchart & Tables Revised	☐ 75+ MCQs Solved (>85% Accuracy)	☐ **Final Rapid Recall Ready**
6. Chapter 6: Global Summits 2026 — UNFCCC COP31 (Antalya, Türkiye), 49th ASEAN (Manila), G20 (Miami) & SCO	☐ Completed (100% Concept Clarity)	☐ Flowchart & Tables Revised	☐ 75+ MCQs Solved (>85% Accuracy)	☐ **Final Rapid Recall Ready**
7. Chapter 7: Padma Awards 2026 (131 Honours), 77th Republic Day Parade 2026 & India's 11 Classical Languages	☐ Completed (100% Concept Clarity)	☐ Flowchart & Tables Revised	☐ 75+ MCQs Solved (>85% Accuracy)	☐ **Final Rapid Recall Ready**
8. Chapter 8: National Governance, Digital Public Infrastructure & Flagship Union Cabinet Initiatives 2026	☐ Completed (100% Concept Clarity)	☐ Flowchart & Tables Revised	☐ 75+ MCQs Solved (>85% Accuracy)	☐ **Final Rapid Recall Ready**
9. September-2026 & October-2026 — 45 Solved 4-Option MCQs with Detailed Explanations	☐ Completed (100% Concept Clarity)	☐ Flowchart & Tables Revised	☐ 75+ MCQs Solved (>85% Accuracy)	☐ **Final Rapid Recall Ready**
10. Extended Comparative & Analytical Practice Set (Questions 46–85)	☐ Completed (100% Concept Clarity)	☐ Flowchart & Tables Revised	☐ 75+ MCQs Solved (>85% Accuracy)	☐ **Final Rapid Recall Ready**
11. September-2026 & October-2026 — 65 Rapid-Fire Revision Points — Current Affairs 2026 Compendium	☐ Completed (100% Concept Clarity)	☐ Flowchart & Tables Revised	☐ 75+ MCQs Solved (>85% Accuracy)	☐ **Final Rapid Recall Ready**