

Part 1: National Polity & Governance

Q1. The Union Government is set to introduce the Constitution (131st Amendment) Bill, 2026. What is the newly proposed maximum strength of the Lok Sabha under this bill?

- A) 750
- B) 800
- C) 850
- D) 900

Answer: C) 850

- **Detailed Explanation:** The Union Government has proposed the Constitution (131st Amendment) Bill, 2026, which aims to expand the maximum capacity of the Lok Sabha from its current limit of 550 to 850 seats. Under the new matrix, 815 seats are planned to be allocated to the States and 35 seats to the Union Territories. This structural expansion is intended to realign parliamentary representation with India's modern population distribution ahead of upcoming delimitation exercises.

Q2. Under the proposed Constitution (131st Amendment) Bill, 2026, which article of the Indian Constitution allows immediate delimitation using existing census data by removing the post-2026 freeze?

- A) Article 81
- B) Article 82
- C) Article 110
- D) Article 324

Answer: B) Article 82

- **Detailed Explanation:** Article 82 provides for the readjustment of seats in the Lok Sabha after each census. Previously, the 84th

Amendment Act of 2001 had frozen the delimitation of constituencies until the first census taken after the year 2026. The new 131st Amendment Bill seeks to amend Article 82 to remove this restriction, enabling immediate delimitation based on the latest available verified census data (the 2011 Census metrics).

Q3. In an important judgment on April 16, 2026, regarding electoral rights, a Supreme Court bench headed by Chief Justice Surya Kant ruled that:

- A) Voting must be made a mandatory statutory duty for all citizens.
- B) Eligible voters cannot be penalised or "arrested" for choosing not to vote.
- C) Postal ballots should be entirely phased out for civil servants.
- D) Digital voting via Aadhaar-linked devices should be introduced immediately.

Answer: B) Eligible voters cannot be penalised or "arrested" for choosing not to vote.

- **Detailed Explanation:** While hearing a public interest litigation (PIL) filed by Ajay Goel seeking penal actions/sanctions against registered electors who skip voting, a Supreme Court Bench led by CJI Surya Kant categorically dismissed the plea. The apex court ruled that the decision to exercise or abstain from the ballot rests purely with the individual elector, and citizens cannot be face legal punishment or detention for choosing not to go to the polling booth.

Part 2: Economics, Banking & Corporate

Q4. The Ministry of Commerce and Industry (MoC&I) has notified the establishment of "Startup India Fund of Funds 2.0" (Startup India

FoF 2.0). What is the total corpus allocated to this scheme?

- A) ₹5,000 crore
- B) ₹10,000 crore
- C) ₹15,000 crore
- D) ₹20,000 crore

Answer: B) ₹10,000 crore

- **Detailed Explanation:** The Department for Promotion of Industry and Internal Trade (DPIIT), acting under the Ministry of Commerce and Industry, officially notified the creation of "Startup India Fund of Funds 2.0" with a dedicated corpus of ₹10,000 crore. This second-generation fund specifically targets deep tech and manufacturing startups, providing capital through Alternative Investment Funds (AIFs) to accelerate high-end indigenous technical innovation.

Q5. Who chairs the Empowered Committee (EC) tasked with monitoring the implementation and investment performance of the newly notified Startup India FoF 2.0?

- A) The Union Finance Minister
- B) The Governor of the Reserve Bank of India
- C) The Secretary of the Department for Promotion of Industry and Internal Trade (DPIIT)
- D) The CEO of NITI Aayog

Answer: C) The Secretary of the Department for Promotion of Industry and Internal Trade (DPIIT)

- **Detailed Explanation:** The implementation, selection frameworks, and overarching performance tracking of the Startup India FoF 2.0 will be managed by an Empowered Committee (EC). This high-level committee

is chaired by Amardeep Singh Bhatia, the Secretary of DPIIT. A separate Venture Capital Investment Committee (VCIC), comprising veteran financial industry experts, will handle the direct screening of the participating AIFs.

Q6. As per the latest operational guidelines issued by the Reserve Bank of India (RBI), deposit-taking Non-Banking Financial Companies (NBFCs) must maintain what minimum Net Owned Fund (NOF) and credit rating to expand their branches nationwide without prior RBI approval?

- A) NOF above ₹25 crore and BBB rating
- B) NOF above ₹50 crore and AA rating
- C) NOF above ₹100 crore and A+ rating
- D) NOF above ₹150 crore and AAA rating

Answer: B) NOF above ₹50 crore and AA rating

- **Detailed Explanation:** To foster ease of doing business and eliminate administrative bottlenecks, the RBI liberalised branch expansion rules for NBFCs. Under the new frameworks, deposit-taking NBFCs that possess a Net Owned Fund (NOF) exceeding ₹50 crore and maintain a highly secure credit rating of 'AA' or above are completely exempted from seeking prior regulatory approval from the RBI before opening new physical branches across India, provided they are not otherwise restricted.

Q7. The Securities and Exchange Board of India (SEBI) has introduced a temporary relaxation allowing companies to modify their initial public offering (IPO) size by up to what percentage without refiling their Draft Red Herring Prospectus (DRHP)?

- A) 20%
- B) 30%

C) 50%

D) 60%

Answer: C) 50%

- **Detailed Explanation:** In a major move to assist companies navigating volatile public market conditions, SEBI announced that issuing firms can alter or scale their proposed IPO size up to a maximum threshold of 50% without having to execute a cumbersome refiling of their core Draft Red Herring Prospectus (DRHP). This regulatory relaxation is a temporary buffer valid until September 30, 2026.

Q8. A massive investment commitment of ₹54,000 crore over two years was finalized by a prominent Vietnamese industrial entity. This single-state investment is directed toward which Indian state?

A) Gujarat

B) Tamil Nadu

C) Karnataka

D) Maharashtra

Answer: D) Maharashtra

- **Detailed Explanation:** In one of the single largest foreign direct investment (FDI) commitments by a Vietnamese entity in India, a multi-sector capital injection worth ₹54,000 crore (\$6.5 billion approx.) was signed to deploy industrial operations in Maharashtra. The investment spans multiple emerging sectors and acts as a major driver for Maharashtra's state roadmap to achieve a \$1 trillion provincial economy.

Q9. Which global organization serves as the official secretariat for the newly highlighted 'Borrowers' Platform', designed to enhance the collective voice of developing debtor nations?

A) International Monetary Fund (IMF)

B) World Bank

C) United Nations Conference on Trade and Development (UNCTAD)

D) World Trade Organization (WTO)

Answer: C) United Nations Conference on Trade and Development (UNCTAD)

- **Detailed Explanation:** The Borrowers' Platform is a targeted institutional coalition designed to give sovereign borrowing nations a structured, unified voice during macroeconomic and debt-restructuring negotiations. UNCTAD functions as the technical secretariat for this body, offering administrative coordination, research, and data translation assets, ensuring it acts as a complement rather than a hostile replacement to standard IMF/World Bank lines.

Part 3: International Affairs

Q10. The ongoing Sudanese Civil War has entered its fourth catastrophic year. Which of the following is the immediate structural trigger that caused the conflict between the SAF and the RSF?

A) Dispute over oil extraction rights in the Red Sea maritime zone.

B) Disagreement over the timeline and command structure for integrating the Rapid Support Forces (RSF) into the national army.

C) An unconstitutional suspension of agricultural subsidies on gum arabic.

D) Geopolitical boundary disputes with neighbouring South Sudan.

Answer: B) Disagreement over the timeline and command structure for integrating the Rapid Support Forces (RSF) into the national army.



- **Detailed Explanation:** The civil war in Sudan—which entered its fourth year in mid-April 2026—initially erupted due to intense political friction regarding how the paramilitary Rapid Support Forces (RSF) would be absorbed into the formal Sudanese Armed Forces (SAF). The key flashpoints were the speed of integration and deciding whether the unified military command structure would ultimately report to a civilian leader or a military head of state.

Q11. Which international coalition, known as the "Sudan Quad", presented the peace roadmap that both warring factions in Sudan have tentatively accepted for dialogue?

- A) US, UK, France, and Germany
- B) US, Russia, China, and Saudi Arabia
- C) US, Egypt, Saudi Arabia, and the UAE
- D) India, Brazil, South Africa, and Egypt

Answer: C) US, Egypt, Saudi Arabia, and the UAE

- **Detailed Explanation:** The diplomatic peace architecture known as the "Sudan Quad"—comprising the United States, Egypt, Saudi Arabia, and the United Arab Emirates—formulated a joint peace framework. Both the SAF leadership and the RSF high command have tentatively accepted this roadmap as a base layer for localized ceasefires and delivering humanitarian aid across the country.

Q12. India chaired the crucial BRICS Health Working Group Meeting under its 2026 Presidency. Which major healthcare system proposal pushed by India received unanimous endorsement from the member states?

- A) The creation of a unified BRICS vaccine patent pool.

B) Integrating Traditional, Complementary, and Integrative Medicine (TCIM) like AYUSH into formal healthcare systems.

C) A complete ban on cross-border pharmaceutical e-commerce.

D) The establishment of a dollar-denominated emergency health insurance fund.

Answer: B) Integrating Traditional, Complementary, and Integrative Medicine (TCIM) like AYUSH into formal healthcare systems.

- **Detailed Explanation:** India currently holds the rotating BRICS Presidency for the year 2026. While chairing the BRICS Health Working Group session, India proposed a major integration blueprint focused on Traditional, Complementary, and Integrative Medicine (TCIM) systems (such as India's AYUSH frameworks). The proposal was unanimously accepted by the enlarged BRICS bloc to enhance holistic healthcare delivery and lower public health out-of-pocket costs.

Part 4: Science, Technology & Environment

Q13. Andhra Pradesh Chief Minister N. Chandrababu Naidu inaugurated India's first open-access quantum reference facility. Where is this advanced system located?

- A) Visakhapatnam
- B) Amaravati
- C) Tirupati
- D) Vijayawada

Answer: B) Amaravati

- **Detailed Explanation:** India's first open-access quantum computing asset, named the "Amaravati Quantum Reference Facility,"

was officially inaugurated in Amaravati, Andhra Pradesh. Built through an extensive domestic multi-institutional consortium (including TIFR, IISc Bengaluru, DRDO, and IIT Bombay), this installation features nearly 85% indigenously manufactured hardware components and operates at ultra-low cryogenic limits near minus 273°C to maintain qubit coherence.

Q14. NITI Aayog released two key reports to boost India's domestic innovation architecture: "Ease of Doing Research & Development in India" and its accompanying survey. How many foundational pillars were identified to evaluate the R&D ecosystem?

- A) Three (3)
- B) Four (4)
- C) Five (5)
- D) Six (6)

Answer: B) Four (4)

- **Detailed Explanation:** The policy reports issued by NITI Aayog establish a structured baseline to improve intellectual property creation and scientific output. The analysis isolates four essential structural pillars:
 1. **Funding** (expanding venture capital and institutional grants)
 2. **Governance** (improving university autonomy)
 3. **Regulatory Frameworks** (simplifying lab clearances and imports)
 4. **Research Translation** (commercializing academic laboratory breakthroughs into the consumer market)

Q15. A new species of bent-toed gecko, named "Cyrtodactylus raimonaensis", was discovered

by scientists in Northeast India. This species is named after which national park?

- A) Kaziranga National Park
- B) Manas National Park
- C) Raimona National Park
- D) Namdapha National Park

Answer: C) Raimona National Park

- **Detailed Explanation:** Discovered in the moist, deciduous leaf litters of Assam, the newly identified insectivorous reptile *Cyrtodactylus raimonaensis* (the Raimona bent-toed gecko) has been named after Assam's Raimona National Park. Published in the taxonomic journal *Zootaxa*, this discovery highlights the unique evolutionary traits of bent-toed geckos, whose curved digits lack the broad adhesive pads found in urban wall geckos.

Q16. Taxonomists described "Calamaria garoensis", a small, non-venomous burrowing reed snake discovered in which Indian state?

- A) Arunachal Pradesh
- B) Nagaland
- C) Mizoram
- D) Meghalaya

Answer: D) Meghalaya

- **Detailed Explanation:** The newly classified species *Calamaria garoensis* is a non-venomous burrowing reed snake found in the humid leaf litter zones of the West Garo Hills district in Meghalaya. Reed snakes are highly secretive, sub-fossorial reptiles that play a key ecological role in processing forest soil biomes throughout South and Southeast Asia.

Q17. According to a specialized domestic wildlife census tracking ecosystem health, what estimated percentage of bat species in India are currently classified under the "Data Deficient" category of conservation status?

- A) 10%
- B) 20%
- C) 40%
- D) 60%

Answer: C) 40%

- **Detailed Explanation:** Environmental tracking data shared by ecological research bodies reveals that approximately 40% of all indigenous bat species across India remain classified as "Data Deficient". This lack of baseline population data severely limits targeted conservation programs and leaves these nocturnal mammals vulnerable to habitat loss from deforestation and urban expansion.

Q18. The Potomac River was declared the most endangered river in its region due to severe infrastructure failures, untreated sewage discharges, and rapid industrial data center development. Which capital city is situated on its course?

- A) London
- B) Washington, D.C.
- C) Ottawa
- D) Canberra

Answer: B) Washington, D.C.

- **Detailed Explanation:** The Potomac River flows directly through Washington, D.C., before emptying into the Chesapeake Bay (the largest estuary in the United States). It was flagged as highly endangered following a massive pipeline failure that leaked raw,

untreated sewage into the waterway. The ecosystem faces further challenges from high water consumption and runoff associated with the dense clustering of technology data centers in Northern Virginia.

Part 5: Defence & Security

Q19. Hindustan Aeronautics Limited (HAL) finalized a major \$1 billion (approx. ₹8,870 crore) defense procurement contract with GE Aerospace. This deal is for the procurement of how many jet engines?

- A) 75 F414 engines
- B) 90 F404 engines
- C) 113 F404 engines
- D) 150 F414 engines

Answer: C) 113 F404 engines

- **Detailed Explanation:** HAL solidified its production roadmap for the domestic Light Combat Aircraft (LCA) Tejas Mark-1A by signing a \$1 billion defense procurement agreement with GE Aerospace. The contract secures 113 F404-GE-IN20 turbofan engines, ensuring a reliable supply chain for the Indian Air Force's frontline tactical fighter squadrons.

Q20. To support the domestic deployment and maintenance of combat aircraft powerplants, the Indian Air Force (IAF) signed a separate agreement with GE Aerospace to establish a specialized Engine Depot Facility in India. Which engine will this facility service?

- A) RD-33 Engines
- B) AL-31FP Engines
- C) F404 Engines
- D) Adour Mk 811 Engines

Answer: C) F404 Engines

- **Detailed Explanation:** Complementing HAL's large procurement deal, the IAF and GE Aerospace signed a separate Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) to establish an authorized F404 Engine Depot Facility within India. This facility allows for complex overhauls, localized component engineering, and testing to be done domestically, significantly reducing turnaround times for the LCA Tejas fleet.

Q21. The Indian Army expanded its border area connectivity and local community outreach operations by launching a new dedicated community radio station. What is the name of this station?

- A) Radio Sangam
- B) Radio Sikkim Sundari
- C) Ibex Tarana
- D) Radio Trishul

Answer: B) Radio Sikkim Sundari

- **Detailed Explanation:** The Indian Army launched "Radio Sikkim Sundari" to improve communication infrastructure and connect with remote civilian populations along the strategic Sikkim border. This builds on similar military-civilian initiatives, including Radio Sangam (88.8 FM) in Rajouri, Jammu & Kashmir, and Ibex Tarana (88.4 FM) in Jyotirmath, Uttarakhand.

Part 6: Government Schemes & Digital Initiatives

Q22. The Union Government has initiated testing for a new real-time digital tracking system for agricultural fertilizers. What is the primary objective of this program?

- A) To completely eliminate organic nitrogen use in farming.
- B) To stop the illegal diversion and misuse of highly subsidized agricultural fertilizers in non-agricultural industrial sectors.
- C) To automate the export clearance mechanism for chemical companies.
- D) To track real-time soil moisture using chemical markers.

Answer: B) To stop the illegal diversion and misuse of highly subsidized agricultural fertilizers in non-agricultural industrial sectors.

- **Detailed Explanation:** The Indian government provides substantial subsidies to make agricultural fertilizers affordable for farmers. However, significant amounts are regularly diverted illegally for industrial applications (such as commercial chemical manufacturing). The new digital tracking system uses real-time monitoring and supply-chain logging to ensure these subsidized supplies are used exclusively for domestic agriculture.

Q23. What secure verification method is mandated for farmers at point-of-sale terminals under the newly deployed digital fertilizer tracking system?

- A) PAN Card physical verification
- B) Passport validation
- C) Aadhaar-based biometric or One-Time Password (OTP) authentication
- D) Driving License log entry

Answer: C) Aadhaar-based biometric or One-Time Password (OTP) authentication

- **Detailed Explanation:** To prevent proxy purchases and black-marketing, the digital tracking architecture requires end-user

authentication at the point of sale. Farmers must complete an Aadhaar-linked biometric scan (fingerprint/iris) or an OTP verification sent to their registered mobile numbers to unlock and purchase their subsidized fertilizer quota.

Q24. The National Career Service (NCS) portal, managed by the Ministry of Labour and Employment (MoL&E), reached a new milestone in April 2026. Approximately how many active job seekers are registered on this unified platform?

- A) 2 crore
- B) 4 crore
- C) 6 crore
- D) 8 crore

Answer: C) 6 crore

- **Detailed Explanation:** According to the latest operational performance report from the Ministry of Labour and Employment, the National Career Service (NCS) portal has scaled up significantly. The platform now features over 7 lakh active vacancies, nearly 59 lakh registered corporate and industrial establishments, and an active user base of approximately 6 crore registered job seekers across India.

Part 7: Memorandums of Understanding (MoUs)

Q25. The Department of Posts (DoP) signed an MoU with the Prime Ministers' Museum and Library (PMML) in New Delhi. What is the primary objective of this agreement?

- A) To print international commercial currencies.

B) To preserve, document, and showcase India's rich democratic heritage through philatelic exhibitions.

C) To build automated logistics warehouses inside national museums.

D) To digitize income tax return records.

Answer: B) To preserve, document, and showcase India's rich democratic heritage through philatelic exhibitions.

- **Detailed Explanation:** The Department of Posts partnered with the PMML to leverage philatelic assets (postage stamps and postal records) to document India's socio-political history. The collaboration launched with an inaugural exhibition titled "*Ek Bharat, Shreshtha Bharat: Celebrating India's Unity and Democracy through Postage Stamps*" at the Teen Murti Estate.

Q26. The Ministry of Labour and Employment (MoL&E) signed a strategic MoU with logistics aggregator Porter and gig platform Gigin Technologies. What is the annual employment target for this partnership through the National Career Service (NCS)?

- A) To generate 1 lakh job opportunities annually
- B) To generate approximately 6 lakh opportunities annually via Porter and 2-3 lakh opportunities via Gigin Technologies
- C) To completely replace public sector employment exams
- D) To hire 50,000 corporate managers

Answer: B) To generate approximately 6 lakh opportunities annually via Porter and 2-3 lakh opportunities via Gigin Technologies

- **Detailed Explanation:** Designed to formalize and scale livelihoods in the blue-collar and gig economies, these MoUs integrate market

demand directly with the NCS portal. The initiative aims to create roughly 6 lakh structured logistics opportunities annually through Porter (targeting 30 lakh by 2030) and 2 to 3 lakh verified gig engagements through Gigin Technologies.

Part 8: Appointments, Awards, Festivals & Days

Q27. In international political appointments, Nizar Amedi secured a strong lead in the initial parliamentary voting rounds to contest the presidency of which sovereign nation?

- A) Iraq
- B) Iran
- C) Syria
- D) Lebanon

Answer: A) Iraq

- **Detailed Explanation:** In the first round of voting within the Iraqi Parliament, Nizar Amedi emerged as the leading candidate for the presidency, securing 208 votes. He finished well ahead of rivals Muthanna Amin (17 votes) and Fuad Hussein (16 votes), sending the election into a decisive second round to secure the required two-thirds legislative majority.

Q28. The International Day for Street Children (IDSC) is celebrated annually to advocate for the safety and social security of vulnerable children worldwide. What was the global theme for the day?

- A) "Education for Every Child"
- B) "Protect, not Punish"
- C) "Digital Access for Youth"
- D) "Zero Hunger in Cities"

Answer: B) "Protect, not Punish"

- **Detailed Explanation:** Celebrated globally in mid-April (officially marked on April 12 and highlighted through subsequent international reports on April 16), the 2026 International Day for Street Children centered on the theme "*Protect, not Punish*". The campaign urges global governments to dismantle punitive municipal laws that criminalize homeless children, advocating instead for systemic investments in public housing, healthcare, and education.

Q29. The historic Sree Siddaganga Mutt in Tumakuru, Karnataka, was highlighted in the news for its "Tridasohi" socio-cultural philosophy. This spiritual center is traditionally rooted in which sampradaya?

- A) Pushtimarg Sampradaya
- B) Natha Sampradaya
- C) Veerashaiva-Lingayat / Natha Sampradaya links
- D) Ramanuja Sampradaya

Answer: B) Natha Sampradaya

- **Detailed Explanation:** The Siddaganga Mutt—famed for its humanitarian "Tridasohi" mission of providing free food (*Anna*), education (*Akshara*), and shelter (*Aashraya*) to millions of children—retains historical and philosophical links with the syncretic Natha Sampradaya tradition. Founded by Matsyendranath and popularized by Guru Gorakhnath, this Shaivite tradition integrates elements of Hatha Yoga and Jogi monastic structures.

Q30. April 14–16 marks a major period of socio-religious celebrations, harvest festivals, and foundational birth anniversaries across India. Which of the following correct combinations

was officially commemorated during the PMML events?

- A) 150th Birth Anniversary of Mahatma Gandhi
- B) 4th Foundation Day of PMML and the Birth Anniversary of Dr. B. R. Ambedkar
- C) Centenary of the Indian National Army
- D) The establishment of the Supreme Court of India

Answer: B) 4th Foundation Day of PMML and the Birth Anniversary of Dr. B. R. Ambedkar

- **Detailed Explanation:** During the national events held at Teen Murti Estate, the Ministry of Communications and the Ministry of Culture co-commemorated the 4th Foundation Day of the restructured Prime Ministers' Museum and Library (PMML) alongside the birth anniversary of Dr. B.R. Ambedkar (April 14). To celebrate these milestones, the government released special sets of picture postcards and philatelic collections highlighting India's constitutional journey.

Core Analytical Takeaways for Competitive Exams:

- **UPSC/State PSC:** Focus closely on the constitutional implications of the **131st Amendment Bill (Article 82)** and the operational dynamics of the **BRICS TCIM framework**.
- **Banking/RBI Grade B:** Pay careful attention to the new **NBFC branch liberalisation metrics** (₹50 Crore NOF / AA rating) and the structure of **Startup India FoF 2.0**.
- **SSC/Railways/Def:** Memorize the **HAL-GE F404 engine deal counts (113 engines)** and the names of new ecological discoveries like **Cyrtodactylus raimonaensis**.