

# PSC CHRONICLES

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## Monthly Current Affairs Digest

**MAY 2026**

31 exam-ready articles + 20 practice MCQs with explanations  
Curated for APPSC and TGPSC Group 1, 2 and 3 aspirants

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How to use this digest: read the articles section-wise, revise with the one-liners, then attempt the 20 MCQs in one sitting before checking the explanations. Revisit the one-liners a day before your exam for rapid recall.

## 1. Polity & Governance

### Supreme Court Judge Strength Raised from 34 to 38

- The Union Cabinet approved increasing the sanctioned strength of Supreme Court judges from **34 to 38**, including the Chief Justice of India.
- The decision aims to tackle judicial pendency - nearly **92,000 cases** are pending before the Supreme Court.
- The strength of the Supreme Court is fixed by Parliament by law under **Article 124(1)** of the Constitution; the last increase (31 to 34) was made in 2019.
- A larger bench strength is expected to speed up constitution bench matters and reduce waiting time for regular appeals.
- Parliament must amend the Supreme Court (Number of Judges) Act to give effect to the proposal.

### Balakrishnan Commission on SC Status for Dalit Converts Extended

- The Union Government extended, for the **third time**, the tenure of the Commission of Inquiry headed by former Chief Justice of India **Justice K. G. Balakrishnan**.
- The Commission was constituted in **October 2022** to examine whether Scheduled Caste status can be extended to Dalits who convert to religions **other than Hinduism, Sikhism or Buddhism**.
- The issue links to the **Constitution (Scheduled Castes) Order, 1950**, which currently restricts SC status to these three religions.
- The question has major implications for reservation policy, religious freedom and social justice jurisprudence.
- Petitions seeking SC status for Dalit Christians and Dalit Muslims are pending before the Supreme Court, which awaits the Commission's findings.

### New Chief Ministers Take Office After the 2026 Assembly Elections

- Following the 2026 round of state assembly elections, several states saw new Chief Ministers sworn in during May.
- **West Bengal:** Suvendu Adhikari took oath as Chief Minister.
- **Tamil Nadu:** Actor-politician **Vijay** was sworn in as Chief Minister.
- **Kerala:** **V. D. Satheesan** was elected Chief Minister.
- **Karnataka:** **D. K. Shivakumar** replaced Siddaramaiah as Chief Minister in a leadership change.
- Chief Ministers are appointed under **Article 164**; the Governor appoints the leader who commands majority support in the Legislative Assembly.

## NTA Cancels NEET-UG 2026 Over Question Paper Leak

- The **National Testing Agency (NTA)** ordered the cancellation of the **NEET-UG 2026** examination after evidence of a question paper leak.
- The exam, conducted in early May, is the single national gateway for undergraduate medical admissions across India.
- The episode renews focus on the **Public Examinations (Prevention of Unfair Means) Act, 2024**, which prescribes strict punishment for paper leaks and organised cheating.
- Exam-integrity reform, NTA restructuring and digital question-paper delivery are key governance themes flowing from the incident.

## 2. National Schemes & Missions

### PMGSY-IV Launched as the Scheme Completes 25 Years

- The Union Rural Development Minister launched the **fourth phase of the Pradhan Mantri Gram Sadak Yojana (PMGSY-IV)** from Sehore, Madhya Pradesh.
- The launch coincides with the **silver jubilee (25 years)** of PMGSY, which was originally launched in December 2000.
- PMGSY provides all-weather road connectivity to unconnected rural habitations; PMGSY-IV targets the remaining eligible habitations with upgraded design standards.
- The scheme is centrally sponsored and implemented by state rural roads agencies with geotagged monitoring.

### Arunachal Kiwi Mission Launched

- The Centre launched the **Arunachal Kiwi Mission** to develop Arunachal Pradesh as India's kiwi hub.
- Focus areas: **exports, cold-storage infrastructure and branding** of Arunachal kiwis.
- Arunachal Pradesh is already India's largest kiwi producer, and its organic kiwis have received GI-style branding pushes in recent years.
- The mission supports the broader agenda of horticulture-led growth in the North-Eastern Region.

## 3. Andhra Pradesh

## South Coast Railway Zone - India's 18th Railway Zone

- The Ministry of Railways issued a gazette notification creating the **South Coast Railway (SCoR)**, India's **18th railway zone**, headquartered at **Visakhapatnam**.
- The zone is scheduled to become fully operational from **June 1, 2026**.
- It has been carved out by reorganising parts of the **South Central Railway** and **East Coast Railway** zones.
- The creation fulfils a long-pending commitment made under the **Andhra Pradesh Reorganisation Act, 2014**.
- The restructuring is expected to improve railway operations, connectivity and regional development across coastal Andhra Pradesh.

## India's First Autonomous Maritime Shipyard at Nellore

- The Andhra Pradesh government approved India's **first dedicated autonomous maritime shipyard** at **Juvvaladinne Fishing Harbour, Bogole mandal, Nellore district**.
- The facility will be developed by **Sagar Defence Engineering Pvt Ltd**.
- It will manufacture **autonomous surface vessels, maritime surveillance systems and defence-oriented unmanned platforms**.
- The project positions AP in the emerging unmanned maritime systems segment and complements India's coastal security architecture.

## AP FIRST Innovation Platform Approved at Tirupati

- The AP Cabinet approved **AP FIRST** - Andhra Pradesh Futuristic Innovation and Research in Science and Technology - at **Tirupati**.
- It will be developed in collaboration with **IIT-Tirupati and IISER-Tirupati**.
- Focus areas: **Artificial Intelligence, aerospace, defence R&D, semiconductors, cyber security and quantum technology**.
- The platform aims to bridge industry and academia and build a sustainable research ecosystem for youth in the state.

## AMCA Defence Hub at Puttaparthi

- The foundation stone was laid for the **AMCA Defence Hub** at **Puttaparthi, Andhra Pradesh**.
- A new **Aircraft Integration and Flight Testing Complex** will serve as the central facility for testing and certifying India's **Advanced Medium Combat Aircraft (AMCA)**.
- AMCA is India's proposed **indigenous fifth-generation stealth fighter**, developed under the Atmanirbhar Bharat defence-manufacturing push.
- The hub strengthens AP's growing aerospace and defence corridor alongside projects in Visakhapatnam and Anantapur districts.

## Mee Intiki Mee Doctor - Doorstep Healthcare Initiative

- The AP Governor launched **Mee Intiki Mee Doctor**, coinciding with **World Red Cross Day and World Thalassemia Day**.
- The programme delivers **doorstep primary healthcare** to poor families in remote and inaccessible regions.
- Coverage target: **5 lakh families across 7 districts over 3 years**.
- Priority groups: **pregnant women, children aged 0-6 years and bedridden persons** unable to visit health centres.
- The initiative complements Family Doctor and village health clinic models already operating in the state.

## 4. Telangana

### Devadula Lift Irrigation Scheme - December 2027 Deadline

- The Telangana government fixed **December 2027** as the completion deadline for the **J. Chokka Rao Devadula Lift Irrigation Scheme (JCRDLIS)**.
- Water source: **Godavari river**, with the intake point at **Devadula village, Mulugu district**.
- Estimated cost: **Rs 18,400 crore** - one of the largest lift irrigation projects in the state.
- Target ayacut: about **5.57 to 6.21 lakh acres**, besides drinking water supply to drought-prone upland regions.
- The scheme distributes Godavari water across multiple districts through a large network of lifts, reservoirs and pipelines.

### India's First Functional PM MITRA Park Inaugurated at Warangal

- India's **first functional PM MITRA Park** was inaugurated at **Warangal, Telangana**.
- Scheme: **PM Mega Integrated Textile Region and Apparel (PM MITRA)**, under the **Ministry of Textiles**.
- Project cost **Rs 1,695.54 crore**; area **1,327 acres**; expected investment above **Rs 6,000 crore**; employment potential around **24,400 jobs**.
- The park integrates the entire textile value chain, operationalising the government's **5F vision**: Farm to Fibre to Factory to Fashion to Foreign.
- It is expected to make Telangana a major hub in India's technical textiles and apparel exports.

## 5. Economy & Banking

## RBI and European Central Bank Renew Cooperation MoU

- The **Reserve Bank of India** and the **European Central Bank (ECB)** renewed their Memorandum of Understanding during meetings of the **Bank for International Settlements (BIS)**.
- The MoU covers **central banking cooperation, information exchange, policy dialogue and technical collaboration**.
- Such MoUs help align supervisory practices and support coordination on payment systems, digital currency research and financial stability.
- The BIS, headquartered in Basel, Switzerland, is often called the 'bank for central banks'.

## 6. Science & Technology

### Skyroot Aerospace Becomes India's First Space-Tech Unicorn

- Hyderabad-based **Skyroot Aerospace** became India's **first space-tech unicorn**, crossing a valuation of **USD 1.1 billion** after a funding round of nearly **USD 60 million**.
- The milestone comes ahead of the expected launch of **Vikram-1**, India's first privately developed orbital rocket.
- Skyroot earlier made history with **Vikram-S (2022)**, India's first privately built suborbital rocket, under mission Prarambh.
- The rise of private players like Skyroot reflects the reforms driven by **IN-SPACE** and the Indian Space Policy, 2023.

### Mission Drishti - India's Largest Private Earth Observation Satellite

- Bengaluru-based startup **GalaxEye** launched **Mission Drishti**, India's **largest privately developed Earth observation satellite**.
- It was launched aboard a SpaceX **Falcon 9** rocket from Vandenberg, California.
- Drishti is the **first satellite globally to combine Synthetic Aperture Radar (SAR) and Electro-Optical (EO) sensors** - a hybrid called **OptoSAR**.
- OptoSAR enables high-quality imaging in **all weather conditions, day and night** - useful for agriculture, disaster management and defence surveillance.

## 7. Defence & Security

## BrahMos Missile Talks with Vietnam

- During the state visit of Vietnamese President **To Lam** to India, the government confirmed discussions on the possible sale of the **BrahMos supersonic cruise missile** to Vietnam.
- BrahMos is a joint venture between India's **DRDO** and Russia's **NPO Mashinostroyenia**; its name combines the **Brahmaputra and Moskva** rivers.
- The **Philippines** became the first export customer of BrahMos; Vietnam would be the second major Southeast Asian buyer.
- Defence exports to ASEAN partners support India's Act East policy and its target of expanding defence exports.

## Army Inducts ULPGM and AGNIKAA VTOL-1 at Hyderabad

- The Indian Army formally inducted two advanced indigenous combat platforms - the **ULPGM** (UAV-Launched Precision Guided Munition) and the **AGNIKAA VTOL-1** - at a ceremony in **Hyderabad**.
- Both systems were developed by **Adani Defence & Aerospace**, with the ULPGM co-developed with **DRDO**.
- ULPGM allows drones to deliver precision-guided strikes; VTOL-1 is a vertical take-off and landing unmanned aerial system.
- The induction underscores the growing role of the private sector in India's defence manufacturing ecosystem.

## 8. Environment & Ecology

### India - Global Leader in Nagoya Protocol Compliance Certificates

- India emerged as the **global leader in issuing Internationally Recognized Certificates of Compliance (IRCCs)** under the **Nagoya Protocol on Access and Benefit Sharing (ABS)**.
- The Nagoya Protocol is a supplementary agreement to the **Convention on Biological Diversity (CBD)**.
- Objective: **fair and equitable sharing of benefits** arising from the utilisation of genetic resources and associated traditional knowledge.
- In India, the protocol is implemented through the **Biological Diversity Act, 2002** and the National Biodiversity Authority.
- IRCC leadership signals India's strong regulatory framework for bio-resources and community benefit sharing.

## India to Host the Inaugural International Big Cat Alliance Summit

- India will host the **first International Big Cat Alliance (IBCA) Summit** in **New Delhi**, with around **95 countries** expected to participate.
- The summit is likely to adopt the **Delhi Declaration** - the first-ever global declaration on big cat conservation.
- IBCA is a **treaty-based intergovernmental organisation headquartered in New Delhi**, launched on the lines of the International Solar Alliance.
- It covers **seven big cat species**: tiger, lion, leopard, snow leopard, cheetah, jaguar and puma.
- Goals: cross-border cooperation, landscape-based conservation and better protection of big cat habitats.

## 9. International Relations

### India-Sweden Ties Elevated to a Strategic Partnership

- India and Sweden elevated their bilateral relationship to a **Strategic Partnership**.
- Sweden conferred the **Royal Order of the Polar Star** on the Indian Prime Minister - one of Sweden's highest honours for foreign dignitaries.
- Both sides endorsed a **Joint Action Plan 2026-2030** to implement the partnership across trade, green technology, innovation and defence.
- India-Sweden cooperation already runs through platforms such as **LeadIT** (Leadership Group for Industry Transition), co-founded by the two countries in 2019.

### Expanded Abraham Accords Framework Proposed

- The US President proposed that **Saudi Arabia, Qatar, Egypt, Turkiye and Pakistan** normalise relations with Israel under an expanded **Abraham Accords** framework.
- The proposal was linked to broader negotiations aimed at ending the **Iran-Israel conflict** in West Asia.
- The original Abraham Accords (2020), brokered by the United States, normalised Israel's ties with the **UAE and Bahrain**, later joined by Morocco and Sudan.
- For India, West Asian stability matters for energy security, diaspora welfare and connectivity projects such as **IMEC** (India-Middle East-Europe Economic Corridor).

## Lipulekh Pass Dispute Resurfaces

- Nepal objected to India and China conducting the **Kailash Mansarovar Yatra through the Lipulekh Pass**.
- The dispute stems from differing interpretations of the **India-Nepal boundary** in the **Kalapani-Lipulekh-Limpiyadhura** region.
- Lipulekh is a strategic **tri-junction** between India (Uttarakhand), Nepal and China (Tibet).
- Nepal's 2020 political map claims the region; India administers it as part of Uttarakhand's Pithoragarh district.
- The issue combines treaty interpretation (Treaty of Sugauli, 1816) with modern strategic road-building in the Himalayas.

## India Hosts BRICS Foreign Ministers' Meeting in New Delhi

- India hosted the **BRICS Foreign Ministers' Meeting in New Delhi** under its **2026 BRICS chairmanship**.
- The expanded BRICS now includes new members beyond Brazil, Russia, India, China and South Africa, giving the grouping a larger Global South footprint.
- Agenda items typically include reform of multilateral institutions, local-currency trade, counter-terrorism and development finance.
- The FM meeting sets the stage for the annual BRICS Summit hosted by the chair country.

## 10. History, Culture & Heritage

### Komagata Maru Incident (1914) Back in Focus

- Renewed public attention came after singer **Diljit Dosanjh** highlighted the **1914 Komagata Maru incident**.
- The Japanese steamship, carrying mainly Sikh passengers from Punjab, was **denied entry at Vancouver, Canada** under exclusionary immigration laws and forced to return to India.
- On return, a confrontation with colonial police at **Budge Budge (Bengal)** turned deadly.
- The episode galvanised the **Ghadar movement** and remains a landmark in the history of Indian migration and the freedom struggle.
- Canada formally apologised for the incident in 2016.

## Sacred Piprahwa Relics of Buddha Exhibited in Leh

- The sacred **Piprahwa relics of Lord Buddha** arrived in **Leh, Ladakh** - the first time they are being exhibited outside their permanent home.
- The relics were originally discovered at **Piprahwa, Uttar Pradesh**, a site associated with ancient **Kapilavastu** of the Sakya clan.
- Buddha relic diplomacy has become a soft-power instrument - earlier exhibitions travelled to Thailand and Vietnam.
- The exhibition strengthens Ladakh's Buddhist cultural circuit and pilgrimage tourism.

## UNESCO-Sikkim Partnership to Document Ru-Soam Cane Bridges

- UNESCO partnered with the **Sikkim government** to document **Ru-Soam** - traditional cane suspension footbridges of the **Lepcha community**.
- The bridges lie within the **Khangchendzonga Biosphere Reserve**, a UNESCO World Heritage (mixed) site.
- The project aims to preserve indigenous engineering knowledge before it is lost to modernisation.
- It highlights the global push to safeguard intangible cultural heritage and living traditions of indigenous communities.

## Kumbhalgarh Fort Recognised as World's Second-Longest Continuous Wall

- **Kumbhalgarh Fort** in Rajasthan received recognition as having the **world's second-longest continuous wall**, after the Great Wall of China.
- The fort's massive wall runs approximately **36 km**, earning it the nickname 'The Great Wall of India'.
- Built in the 15th century by **Rana Kumbha** of Mewar, it is part of the UNESCO World Heritage listing of the **Hill Forts of Rajasthan**.
- Kumbhalgarh is also the birthplace of **Maharana Pratap**.

## 11. Awards & Sports

### National Florence Nightingale Awards 2026 Conferred

- President **Droupadi Murmu** conferred the **National Florence Nightingale Awards 2026** on **15 nursing professionals** at Rashtrapati Bhavan.
- The awards were presented on **International Nurses Day (May 12)** - the birth anniversary of Florence Nightingale.
- The award is the highest national distinction for nurses and nursing professionals, instituted in 1973 by the Ministry of Health and Family Welfare.
- It recognises meritorious service in hospitals, community health and nursing education.

## **INCOIS Wins Subhas Chandra Bose Aapda Prabandhan Puraskar**

- The **Indian National Centre for Ocean Information Services (INCOIS)**, Hyderabad, won the **Subhas Chandra Bose Aapda Prabandhan Puraskar** in the institutional category.
- The award honours its **early warning systems for ocean hazards** - tsunami, storm surge, high waves and marine heat waves.
- The award is announced every year on **January 23, Netaji's birth anniversary**.
- INCOIS functions under the **Ministry of Earth Sciences** and hosts the Indian Tsunami Early Warning Centre.

## **Royal Challengers Bengaluru Win Back-to-Back IPL Titles**

- **Royal Challengers Bengaluru (RCB)** defeated **Gujarat Titans** by 5 wickets in the IPL 2026 final at the **Narendra Modi Stadium, Ahmedabad**.
- Chasing 156, RCB reached 161/5 in 18 overs, anchored by **Virat Kohli's 75 off 42 balls**.
- RCB became only the **third team in IPL history to successfully defend the title**, after CSK and MI.
- This is RCB's second consecutive championship, following their maiden title in 2025.

## 12. Quick Revision - 40 One-Liners

- Supreme Court sanctioned judge strength: approved to rise from **34 to 38** (including the CJI).
- Pending cases before the Supreme Court: nearly **92,000**.
- Supreme Court judge strength is fixed by Parliament under **Article 124(1)**.
- Balakrishnan Commission examines **SC status for Dalit converts**; constituted October 2022.
- Constitution (Scheduled Castes) Order, **1950** currently limits SC status to Hindus, Sikhs and Buddhists.
- New Chief Ministers: **Suvendu Adhikari** (West Bengal), **Vijay** (Tamil Nadu), **V. D. Satheesan** (Kerala), **D. K. Shivakumar** (Karnataka).
- Chief Ministers are appointed by the Governor under **Article 164**.
- **NEET-UG 2026** cancelled by NTA following a question paper leak.
- **PMGSY-IV** launched from Sehore, Madhya Pradesh; PMGSY completed **25 years** (launched December 2000).
- **Arunachal Kiwi Mission**: exports, cold storage and branding of kiwis from Arunachal Pradesh.
- **South Coast Railway**: India's 18th railway zone; HQ **Visakhapatnam**; operational from June 1, 2026.
- SCoR fulfils a commitment under the **AP Reorganisation Act, 2014**.
- India's first **autonomous maritime shipyard**: Juvvaladinne, Nellore district (Sagar Defence Engineering).
- **AP FIRST** innovation platform: Tirupati, with IIT-Tirupati and IISER-Tirupati.
- **AMCA** (fifth-generation stealth fighter) testing complex: **Puttaparthi**, Andhra Pradesh.
- **Mee Intiki Mee Doctor**: doorstep healthcare; 5 lakh families, 7 districts, 3 years.
- **Devadula LIS** (JCRDLIS): Godavari water, intake at Mulugu district; cost Rs 18,400 crore; deadline December 2027.
- India's first functional **PM MITRA Park**: Warangal, Telangana (Ministry of Textiles).
- PM MITRA 5F vision: **Farm to Fibre to Factory to Fashion to Foreign**.
- **RBI-ECB MoU** renewed during BIS meetings; BIS HQ: Basel, Switzerland.
- India's first **space-tech unicorn**: Skyroot Aerospace (Hyderabad), valuation USD 1.1 billion.
- **Vikram-1**: India's first privately developed orbital rocket (Skyroot).
- **Mission Drishti** (GalaxEye): world's first **OptoSAR** satellite - SAR + Electro-Optical sensors.
- Drishti is India's **largest privately developed Earth observation satellite**; launched on SpaceX Falcon 9.
- **BrahMos**: India-Russia JV; first export customer **Philippines**; talks underway with **Vietnam**.
- **ULPGM** (with DRDO) and **AGNIKAA VTOL-1** inducted by the Army at Hyderabad (Adani Defence).

- India is the **global leader in IRCCs** under the Nagoya Protocol (Access and Benefit Sharing).
- Nagoya Protocol supplements the **Convention on Biological Diversity**; Indian law: Biological Diversity Act, 2002.
- **IBCA**: HQ New Delhi; covers **7 big cats**; inaugural summit to adopt the **Delhi Declaration**.
- India-Sweden ties elevated to a **Strategic Partnership**; Joint Action Plan **2026-2030**.
- Sweden conferred the **Royal Order of the Polar Star** on India's Prime Minister.
- Original **Abraham Accords (2020)**: Israel with UAE and Bahrain; expansion proposed to 5 more countries.
- **Lipulekh Pass**: India-Nepal-China tri-junction in Uttarakhand; disputed Kalapani-Limpiyadhura region.
- India hosted the **BRICS Foreign Ministers' Meeting** in New Delhi under its 2026 chairmanship.
- **Komagata Maru (1914)**: ship denied entry at Vancouver; Budge Budge firing; linked to the Ghadar movement.
- **Piprahwa relics** of Buddha (linked to ancient Kapilavastu) exhibited in **Leh** for the first time.
- **Ru-Soam**: Lepcha cane bridges in Khangchendzonga Biosphere Reserve; UNESCO-Sikkim documentation project.
- **Kumbhalgarh Fort** (Rana Kumbha, Mewar): world's second-longest continuous wall (~36 km).
- **Florence Nightingale Awards**: conferred by the President to 15 nurses on International Nurses Day (May 12).
- **IPL 2026**: RCB beat Gujarat Titans; Kohli 75 (42); third team ever to defend the title.

## 13. Practice MCQs - Test Yourself (20 Questions)

Attempt all questions, then check the Answers & Explanations section that follows.

**Q1.** The sanctioned strength of Supreme Court judges has been approved to increase from 34 to:

- A. 36
- B. 38
- C. 40
- D. 42

**Q2.** The Commission examining Scheduled Caste status for Dalit converts is headed by:

- A. Justice D. Y. Chandrachud
- B. Justice K. G. Balakrishnan
- C. Justice U. U. Lalit
- D. Justice Ranjan Gogoi

**Q3.** India's 18th railway zone, the South Coast Railway, is headquartered at:

- A. Vijayawada
- B. Visakhapatnam
- C. Guntur
- D. Tirupati

**Q4.** India's first dedicated autonomous maritime shipyard is coming up at:

- A. Kakinada
- B. Machilipatnam
- C. Juvvaladinne (Nellore district)
- D. Krishnapatnam

**Q5.** AP FIRST, approved by the Andhra Pradesh Cabinet, will be established at:

- A. Visakhapatnam
- B. Amaravati
- C. Tirupati
- D. Anantapur

**Q6.** The Aircraft Integration and Flight Testing Complex for India's AMCA programme is being set up at:

- A. Bengaluru
- B. Puttaparthi
- C. Coimbatore
- D. Nashik

**Q7.** The Mee Intiki Mee Doctor initiative of Andhra Pradesh aims to cover how many families?

- A. 1 lakh
- B. 3 lakh
- C. 5 lakh
- D. 10 lakh

**Q8.** The J. Chokka Rao Devadula Lift Irrigation Scheme lifts water from which river?

- A. Krishna
- B. Godavari
- C. Pranahita
- D. Manjeera

**Q9.** India's first functional PM MITRA Park was inaugurated at:

- A. Surat
- B. Warangal
- C. Bhiwandi
- D. Tiruppur

**Q10.** The PM MITRA scheme is implemented by which Union Ministry?

- A. Ministry of Commerce and Industry
- B. Ministry of Textiles
- C. Ministry of MSME
- D. Ministry of Skill Development

**Q11.** Which company became India's first space-technology unicorn?

- A. Agnikul Cosmos
- B. Pixxel
- C. Skyroot Aerospace
- D. GalaxEye

**Q12.** Mission Drishti, launched by GalaxEye, is notable as the first satellite globally to combine:

- A. Optical and infrared sensors
- B. SAR and Electro-Optical sensors
- C. LiDAR and SAR sensors
- D. Hyperspectral and thermal sensors

**Q13.** The first export customer of the BrahMos missile system was:

- A. Vietnam
- B. Indonesia
- C. The Philippines
- D. Egypt

**Q14.** The ULPGM precision munition inducted by the Indian Army was co-developed by Adani Defence and:

- A. ISRO
- B. DRDO
- C. HAL
- D. BEL

- Q15.** The Nagoya Protocol, under which India leads in issuing IRCCs, is a supplementary agreement to:
- A. UNFCCC
  - B. Convention on Biological Diversity
  - C. Ramsar Convention
  - D. CITES
- Q16.** The International Big Cat Alliance covers how many big cat species?
- A. 5
  - B. 6
  - C. 7
  - D. 9
- Q17.** Which country conferred the Royal Order of the Polar Star on India's Prime Minister?
- A. Norway
  - B. Denmark
  - C. Sweden
  - D. Finland
- Q18.** The Lipulekh Pass, at the centre of an India-Nepal dispute, lies in which Indian state/UT?
- A. Himachal Pradesh
  - B. Sikkim
  - C. Uttarakhand
  - D. Ladakh
- Q19.** Kumbhalgarh Fort, recognised for the world's second-longest continuous wall, was built by:
- A. Rana Sanga
  - B. Rana Kumbha
  - C. Maharana Pratap
  - D. Rao Jodha
- Q20.** Who won the IPL 2026 title?
- A. Gujarat Titans
  - B. Chennai Super Kings
  - C. Royal Challengers Bengaluru
  - D. Kolkata Knight Riders

## 14. Answers & Explanations

### Q1. Correct Answer: B. 38

The Union Cabinet approved raising the strength from 34 to 38, including the CJI, to address pendency of nearly 92,000 cases. The change requires amending the Supreme Court (Number of Judges) Act.

### Q2. Correct Answer: B. Justice K. G. Balakrishnan

The Commission of Inquiry, constituted in October 2022 under former CJI K. G. Balakrishnan, examines extending SC status to Dalits converting to religions other than Hinduism, Sikhism or Buddhism. Its tenure was extended for the third time.

### Q3. Correct Answer: B. Visakhapatnam

The South Coast Railway Zone (SCoR), notified by the Ministry of Railways, has its headquarters at Visakhapatnam and was carved out of South Central Railway and East Coast Railway, fulfilling a commitment under the AP Reorganisation Act, 2014.

### Q4. Correct Answer: C. Juvvaladinne (Nellore district)

The AP government approved the shipyard at Juvvaladinne Fishing Harbour, Bogole mandal, Nellore district, to be developed by Sagar Defence Engineering for autonomous vessels and unmanned maritime platforms.

### Q5. Correct Answer: C. Tirupati

AP FIRST (Andhra Pradesh Futuristic Innovation and Research in Science and Technology) will come up at Tirupati in collaboration with IIT-Tirupati and IISER-Tirupati, focusing on AI, aerospace, defence R&D, semiconductors and cyber security.

### Q6. Correct Answer: B. Puttaparthi

The AMCA Defence Hub at Puttaparthi, Andhra Pradesh will host the central facility for testing and certifying the Advanced Medium Combat Aircraft, India's proposed indigenous fifth-generation stealth fighter.

### Q7. Correct Answer: C. 5 lakh

The doorstep healthcare initiative targets 5 lakh poor families across 7 districts over 3 years, prioritising pregnant women, children aged 0-6 years and bedridden persons.

### Q8. Correct Answer: B. Godavari

JCRDLIS draws Godavari water from an intake at Devadula village in Mulugu district, Telangana. The Rs 18,400 crore project has a completion deadline of December 2027.

### Q9. Correct Answer: B. Warangal

The PM MITRA (Mega Integrated Textile Region and Apparel) park at Warangal, Telangana - cost Rs 1,695.54 crore, 1,327 acres, around 24,400 expected jobs - operationalises the 5F vision: Farm to Fibre to Factory to Fashion to Foreign.

**Q10. Correct Answer: B. Ministry of Textiles**

PM MITRA is a Ministry of Textiles scheme for developing integrated textile parks with plug-and-play infrastructure across the textile value chain.

**Q11. Correct Answer: C. Skyroot Aerospace**

Hyderabad-based Skyroot Aerospace crossed a USD 1.1 billion valuation, becoming India's first space-tech unicorn, ahead of the expected launch of Vikram-1, India's first privately developed orbital rocket.

**Q12. Correct Answer: B. SAR and Electro-Optical sensors**

Drishti uses OptoSAR technology - the first global combination of Synthetic Aperture Radar and Electro-Optical sensors on one satellite - enabling all-weather, day-night imaging. It is India's largest privately developed EO satellite.

**Q13. Correct Answer: C. The Philippines**

The Philippines signed the first BrahMos export deal in 2022. In May 2026, India confirmed talks with Vietnam during President To Lam's visit for a possible second major Southeast Asian sale.

**Q14. Correct Answer: B. DRDO**

The UAV-Launched Precision Guided Munition (ULPGM) was co-developed with DRDO; it was inducted along with the AGNIKAA VTOL-1 unmanned system at Hyderabad, showcasing private-sector defence manufacturing.

**Q15. Correct Answer: B. Convention on Biological Diversity**

The Nagoya Protocol on Access and Benefit Sharing supplements the CBD. India implements it through the Biological Diversity Act, 2002, and leads globally in issuing Internationally Recognized Certificates of Compliance.

**Q16. Correct Answer: C. 7**

IBCA, a treaty-based intergovernmental body headquartered in New Delhi, covers seven species: tiger, lion, leopard, snow leopard, cheetah, jaguar and puma. India hosts its inaugural summit, expected to adopt the Delhi Declaration.

**Q17. Correct Answer: C. Sweden**

Sweden conferred the honour as both countries elevated ties to a Strategic Partnership and endorsed a Joint Action Plan 2026-2030 covering trade, green technology, innovation and defence.

**Q18. Correct Answer: C. Uttarakhand**

Lipulekh is a tri-junction of India, Nepal and China (Tibet) in Uttarakhand's Pithoragarh district. Nepal objected to the Kailash Mansarovar Yatra route through the pass, citing the Kalapani-Limpiyadhura boundary claim.

**Q19. Correct Answer: B. Rana Kumbha**

The 15th-century fort in Rajasthan, built by Rana Kumbha of Mewar, has a wall of about 36 km - second only to the Great Wall of China. It is part of the UNESCO-listed Hill Forts of Rajasthan and the birthplace of Maharana Pratap.

**Q20. Correct Answer: C. Royal Challengers Bengaluru**

RCB beat Gujarat Titans by 5 wickets in the final at Narendra Modi Stadium, Ahmedabad, with Virat Kohli scoring 75 off 42 balls - becoming the third team in IPL history to defend the title, after CSK and MI.

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