

Schemes (2)

• SVAMITVA & rural property rights

Scheme: Survey of Villages and Mapping with Improved Technology in Village Areas; launched **24 April 2020** on National Panchayati Raj Day
Body: Ministry of Panchayati Raj (nodal) + **Survey of India** (technology) + State Revenue Departments
Detail: Maps **abadi** (inhabited) land, historically unsurveyed, using **drones** + **CORS** for centimetre accuracy; output is a **Property Card / Record of Rights**. **3.30 lakh villages** surveyed, **3.24 crore cards** prepared, ~2.72 crore distributed
Exam hook: de Soto's "**dead capital**"; India uses **presumptive, not conclusive, titling**. eGramSwaraj is a separate Panchayat planning/accounting platform

• GOBARDHAN & India's compressed biogas push

Scheme: GOBARDHAN National Circular Bioenergy Scheme, Cabinet approval **6 Aug 2026**, **Rs 23,731 crore**, FY 2026-27 to FY 2035-36 — targets a near **ten-fold** rise in CBG output via assured offtake, stable pricing, capital assistance, pipeline connectivity and credit
Detail: Biogas = **55-65% methane** + 35-45% CO₂ by **anaerobic digestion** (hydrolysis → acidogenesis → acetogenesis → **methanogenesis**); upgraded beyond **90% methane** it becomes **CBG**, equivalent to CNG. By-product: fermented organic manure
Lineage: **SATAT** (2018, MoPNG); original **GOBAR-DHAN** (2018) under SBM-Grameen
Exam hook: India imports ~85% of **crude** and ~50% of **gas**; **methane** is ~25x CO₂ as a greenhouse gas

Welfare (2)

• Indian Organ Donation Day & the THOTA framework

Law: Transplantation of Human Organs and Tissues Act, **1994** (in force 4 Feb 1995; amended 2011 to cover tissues) — regulates transplantation, **bans organ trade**
Detail: **Brain-stem death** is legal death, certified by a board of **4 doctors**; near-relative route vs Authorisation Committee route; **swap transplantation** permitted
Body: Three tiers — **NOTTO** (apex, MoHFW) → **ROTTO** (regional) → **SOTTO** (State)
Exam hook: 16th Indian Organ Donation Day, 3 Aug 2026; **20,138 transplants** in 2025, India **3rd overall** and **1st in living-donor** transplants

• Chandipura virus & outbreak response machinery

Detail: Genus **Vesiculovirus**, family **Rhabdoviridae** (like rabies) — bullet-shaped, enveloped, single-stranded **negative-sense RNA**; first isolated **1965** at Chandipura village, Nagpur district, Maharashtra
Detail: Vector is the **phlebotomine sandfly**, which also spreads **kala-azar**; causes **Acute Encephalitis Syndrome** mainly in under-15s, high case fatality, **no specific antiviral or licensed vaccine**
Body: Response via **NJORT** (NCDC + ICMR + DAHD), **IDSP** surveillance (2004, through IHIP), NCDC **PHEOC** activated; **NIV Pune** is the reference virology lab
Exam hook: ICMR founded **1911**; **One Health** links human, animal and environmental health

Polity/Bodies (3)

• Seven years since the abrogation of Article 370

Law: Article 370 sat in **Part XXI** (Temporary, Transitional and Special Provisions), drafted by **N. Gopalaswami Ayyangar**, rooted in the **Instrument of Accession** signed by Maharaja Hari Singh on **26 Oct 1947** (defence, external affairs, communications)
Detail: **Article 35A** was inserted by the **Presidential Order of 1954**. Abrogated **5 Aug 2019** via **Constitutional Orders 272 and 273**
Detail: J&K Reorganisation Act 2019, effective **31 Oct 2019** (National Unity Day) — **J&K UT with a legislature, Ladakh UT without one**; the **first conversion of a State into UTs**
Exam hook: Upheld by a **five-judge Constitution Bench** on **11 Dec 2023**, which held Article 370 **temporary** and directed **restoration of statehood**; Assembly set at **90 seats**

• The Forest Rights Act & Community Forest Rights

Law: Scheduled Tribes and Other Traditional Forest Dwellers (Recognition of Forest Rights) Act, **2006**; nodal ministry **Tribal Affairs**, implemented by States/UTs; **cut-off 13 December 2005**; OTFDs need **75 years / three generations**
Detail: Rights = **Individual Forest Rights** (max **4 hectares**, heritable but **not alienable**, joint in both spouses' names), **Community Rights** (grazing, minor forest produce incl. **bamboo**), **Community Forest Resource** rights, and development rights (**13 categories**)
Detail: Process — **Gram Sabha** + **Forest Rights Committee** → **Sub-Divisional Level Committee** → **District Level Committee (final)**; **no statutory time limit** for disposal
Exam hook: Pair with **PESA 1996**, Indian Forest Act **1927**, Forest (Conservation) Act **1980** (renamed **Van Adhiniyam 2023**), Articles **342** and **338A**

• How India investigates an air incident

Body: **DGCA** = regulator (licensing, airworthiness, rules); **AAIB** = independent investigator of accidents and serious incidents, set up **2012**; **BCAS** = aviation security; **AAI** = airports and air navigation services
Detail: **ICAO** — UN specialised agency, HQ **Montreal**, from the **Chicago Convention 1944**, with **Annex 13** on investigation
Detail: **Accident** = death, serious injury or substantial damage; **incident** = affects or could affect safety; **serious incident** = an accident nearly occurred
Exam hook: The **black box** is **FDR** + **CVR**, painted **orange**, with an underwater locator beacon. **Clear-air turbulence** occurs near **jet streams**, is **invisible to radar**, and causes most in-flight injuries

Economy (5)

• Near-universal banking coverage & financial inclusion

Detail: **99.92%** of inhabited villages (6,00,868 of 6,01,328) within **5 km** of a banking outlet; an outlet = branch, **Business Correspondent** or **IPPB** centre — **1.81 lakh branches**, **17.36 lakh BCs**, **1.65 lakh IPPB centres**
Scheme: **PMJDY**, launched **28 Aug 2014** — **58.77 crore** accounts, **Rs 3,12,414 crore**; tracked on the **Jan Dhan Darshak** app
Exam hook: **Payments banks cannot lend or issue credit cards**; **Small Finance Banks can** — the standard trap. **JAM** = Jan Dhan + Aadhaar + Mobile → **DBT**; RBI publishes the **Financial Inclusion Index**

• Shipbuilding finance & the Maritime Development Fund

Scheme: **SBFAS Rs 24,736 crore** (extends SBFAP, guidelines 26 Dec 2025) offsets the shipyard cost disadvantage
Scheme: **Maritime Development Fund Rs 25,000 crore** = **MIF Rs 20,000 cr** (49% GoI, equity) + **IIF Rs 5,000 cr** (cheaper debt); SBI Ventures fund manager from 26 May 2026
Detail: ~95% of **India's trade by volume** and ~70% by value moves by sea; global shipbuilding is dominated by China, South Korea and Japan — **India ~1%**
Exam hook: **Cabotage** = coastal trade reserved for the Indian flag; **12 major ports** under the Major Port Authorities Act **2021**; **INS Vikrant** built at **Cochin Shipyard**

• GeM at ten: public procurement and Rs 20 lakh crore

Body: **Government e Marketplace**, launched **August 2016** under the Department of Commerce; completed **ten years** on **9 Aug 2026**
Detail: Cumulative **GMV over Rs 20 lakh crore** across **3.78 crore+** orders; annual **GMV Rs 422 crore (FY17)** → **over Rs 5 lakh crore (FY25/FY26)**. The first Rs 10 lakh crore took **8+ years**, the next **under 2**
Detail: Sellers **3,339** → **25.45 lakh**; buyers **1,707** → **1.37 lakh**; IIT Delhi estimates **Rs 1.76 lakh crore** net social savings
Exam hook: Tools — direct purchase, **L1 bidding**, e-bidding, **reverse auction**; **Womaniya** for women sellers; Public Procurement Policy for MSEs (2012) with SC/ST and women sub-quotas

• UPI, MDR and who pays for digital payments

Detail: **MDR** = **Merchant Discount Rate**, paid by the **merchant**, **never the consumer**, split between the issuing bank (**interchange**), the acquiring bank and the network
Detail: **Zero-MDR** on UPI and RuPay debit from **January 2020**. The **8 Aug 2026** clarification — **no consumer charges, P2P free**, any MDR only on limited merchant transactions above a threshold at nominal rates
Law: Enabling amendment to the **Payment and Settlement Systems Act, 2007**
Exam hook: **NPCI** — founded **2008**, a **not-for-profit Section 8 company** promoted by **RBI and IBA**; runs UPI, RuPay, IMPS, AePS, NACH, NETC/FASTag. **NIPL** takes UPI abroad (Singapore PayNow, Nepal, UAE, France)

• Urban cooperative banks & the NUCFDC umbrella

Body: NUCFDC — the RBI-recognised umbrella organisation for ~1,400 UCBs, providing shared technology, training, compliance and **MuleHunter** software; **'Bank in a Box'** bundles core banking, digital payments, cloud and compliance

Detail: Cooperative principle = **one member, one vote**. UCBs are urban; rural credit runs **State Cooperative Bank** → **DCCB** → **PACS**, with **NABARD (1982) refinancing, not lending directly**

Detail: **Dual control** — RBI for banking under the Banking Regulation Act 1949, **Registrar of Cooperative Societies** for management; the BR (Amendment) Act 2020 strengthened RBI powers after **PMC Bank**

Exam hook: **DICGC** insures deposits up to **Rs 5 lakh**; **97th Amendment (2011)** — Article 19(1)(c), Article 43B, **Part IXB**; Ministry of Cooperation created 2021

IR/Diplomacy (1)

• Extradition, INTERPOL notices & BHARATPOL

Detail: 274 fugitives brought back from 36 countries (2019-2026); **401 Red Corner Notices** in three years; **BHARATPOL** links 1,400+ agencies, cutting sharing to **3-10 days**

Law: Extradition Act 1962, MEA nodal. **Extradition ≠ deportation** — deportation is unilateral, under immigration law

Detail: Limits — **dual criminality, rule of speciality**, political-offence exception, human-rights bar

Exam hook: INTERPOL founded 1923, HQ **Lyon**, **190+** members, **no arrest powers**; India's NCB is the **CBI**. Notices: **Red** (arrest for extradition), **Blue**, **Green**, **Yellow**, **Black**, **Orange**, **Purple**, **UNSC Special**

Environment (1)

• India crosses 300 GW non-fossil power capacity

Detail: **300.50 GW** non-fossil installed capacity as on **31 July 2026** — Solar **164.59**, Wind **58.14**, Hydro **57.24**, Bio **11.75**, Nuclear **8.78 GW**; total capacity ~552 GW, non-fossil share **over 54%**

Detail: **Capacity ≠ generation** — CUF is ~20-25% for solar and ~25-30% for wind against **60-70% for coal**, so coal still supplies the bulk of units generated. This is the single most-missed point on the topic

Detail: Intermittency needs **BESS**, pumped storage, grid flexibility (**One Nation One Grid**, unified 31 Dec 2013), green hydrogen and nuclear base load

Exam hook: **Panchamrit** (COP26 Glasgow 2021) — 500 GW non-fossil, 50% renewables, 1 bn-tonne cut, **45% emission-intensity cut by 2030**, **net-zero by 2070**. ISA is headquartered at **Gurugram**

Infra (3)

• Namo Bharat RRTS & regional rapid transit

Detail: Design speed **180 km/h**, stations **5-10 km** apart — distinct from **metro** (~80 km/h, ~1 km spacing) and from intercity rail

Detail: India's first corridor **Delhi-Ghaziabad-Meerut**, **82.15 km** including 23 km of Meerut metro on the same infrastructure, fully operational **February 2026**; 3.8 crore+ riders, 99%+ punctuality

Body: Implemented by **NCRTC**, a Centre-State joint venture with Delhi, Haryana, Rajasthan and UP; Phase-I corridors — Delhi-Ghaziabad-Meerut, Delhi-Gurugram-Alwar, Delhi-Panipat

Exam hook: **Kolkata Metro (1984)** was India's first; **Metro Rail Policy 2017** requires last-mile connectivity and **TOD**; **PM Gati Shakti (2021)** for multi-modal planning

• USBRL & the Chenab Bridge

Detail: **Udhampur-Srinagar-Baramulla Rail Link**, 272 km, commissioned — through Udhampur, Reasi, Ramban, Srinagar, Anantnag, Pulwama, Budgam, Baramulla

Detail: **Chenab Bridge** (Reasi) is the **world's highest railway bridge** — 1,315 m long, arch span **467 m**, **359 m** above the riverbed (taller than the **Eiffel Tower**), steel arch, **Zone-V** seismic design

Detail: **Anji Khad** is India's **first cable-stayed railway bridge**, ~473 m, single pylon

Exam hook: **Cable-stayed** = cables run to the tower; **suspension** = hangers off a main cable. Built through the **young fold Himalaya** in **Seismic Zone V**

• E-Samudra & seafarer welfare

Detail: Launched **8 Aug 2026** by **MoPSW** at Mumbai — a single-window digital platform for seafarers, shipping companies and ports, with **24×7 grievance redressal**

Body: **DG Shipping** (Mumbai) is the apex merchant-shipping regulator under MoPSW; the **Merchant Shipping Act** is the parent law; **Indian Maritime University** (2008, Chennai)

Detail: **IMO** — UN specialised agency, founded **1948**, operational **1959**, HQ **London**

Exam hook: The four conventions — **SOLAS 1974** (safety, post-Titanic), **MARPOL 1973/78** (pollution), **STCW** (training), **MLC 2006** (seafarers' rights). **UNCLOS 1982** — 12/24/200 nm

Culture/Sport (4)

• Gyan Bharatam Mission & manuscript heritage

Body: Ministry of Culture

Detail: Announced in Union Budget 2025-26, **Rs 491.66 crore for 2025-2031**; National Manuscript Survey launched March 2026 in all States/UTs; covers digitisation, survey, cataloguing, conservation and a National Digital Repository

Detail: A **manuscript** is handwritten, usually **75+ years** old — an **inscription is carved, so not a manuscript**; materials include palm leaf, birch bark (bhurja patra), handmade paper, cloth

Lineage: Succeeds the National Mission for Manuscripts (2003); allied bodies **IGNCA**, **ASI** (1861), National Archives (1891)

Exam hook: **UNESCO Memory of the World Register** lists the **Rigveda** and **Gilgit** manuscripts

• Intangible cultural heritage & the UNESCO 2003 Convention

Detail: The **2003 Convention** covers **intangible/living** heritage; the **1972 Convention** covers **tangible World Heritage** — the distinction most often confused

Detail: **20.COM** hosted by India at the **Red Fort**, New Delhi, **8-13 Dec 2025** — India's first time — ~1,200 delegates from ~130 countries

Detail: India has **16 inscribed elements**. **Kutiyattam** (Kerala Sanskrit theatre) was the **first**; **Yoga 2016**, **Kumbh Mela 2017**, **Durga Puja of Kolkata 2021**, **Garba of Gujarat 2023**

Exam hook: Nodal agency is the **Sangeet Natak Akademi**; three lists — **Representative**, **Urgent Safeguarding**, **Good Safeguarding Practices**

• Quit India at 84

Detail: AICC resolution passed at **Gowalia Tank, Bombay**, **8 Aug 1942**; Gandhi's **"Do or Die" (Karo ya Maro)** the same night; leaders arrested **pre-dawn 9 Aug 1942** under the **Defence of India Rules**

Detail: Gandhi held at **Aga Khan Palace, Poona** (where **Kasturba** and **Mahadev Desai** died); others at **Ahmednagar Fort**, where **Nehru** wrote ***The Discovery of India***

Detail: **Aruna Asaf Ali** hoisted the flag on 9 Aug — hence **August Kranti Maidan** and **August Kranti Diwas**. Trigger: failure of the **Cripps Mission (1942)** — "a post-dated cheque on a crashing bank"

Exam hook: Parallel governments at **Ballia** (Chittu Pandey), **Tamluk** (Tamlralipta Jatiya Sarkar, Matangini Hazra) and **Satara** (Nana Patil); **Usha Mehta** ran the underground **Congress Radio**; the Muslim League, Hindu Mahasabha and CPI stayed out

• Commonwealth Games 2026 & India's sporting ecosystem

Detail: Quadrennial; first held **1930 at Hamilton, Canada** as the **British Empire Games**; run by the **Commonwealth Games Federation**, with **para events integrated** into the main programme. India hosted **Delhi 2010**;

the **2026** edition was at **Glasgow**

Detail: Ministry of Youth Affairs and Sports is nodal, **but sport is a State subject** (Entry 33)

Body: **Khelo India (2018)** for grassroots and talent identification; **SAI (1984)**, founded after the 1982 Asian Games; **TOPS** for elite funding via the Mission Olympic Cell; **NADA** and the **National Anti-Doping Act 2022** align with **WADA**

Exam hook: Awards — **Major Dhyan Chand Khel Ratna** (highest), **Arjuna** (performance), **Dronacharya** (coaches), **Dhyan Chand** (lifetime)