# Current Affairs – MCQs

## 6 October 2026

**Questions PDF**

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# Questions (80)

**1.** In October 2026 an inscription dated 1801 was found at which place in Tenkasi district?
(A) Puliyangudi
(B) Sankarankovil
(C) Ilanji
(D) Kadayanallur

**2.** Which event took place in 1801, the year of this inscription?
(A) Execution of Veerapandiya Kattabomman
(B) Vellore Mutiny
(C) Treaty of Seringapatam
(D) Execution of the Marudhu brothers at Tiruppattur

**3.** Below the text are a vel (spear) and a peacock holding a serpent in relief. These are symbols of which deity?
(A) Ayyanar
(B) Murugan
(C) Thirumal
(D) Kotravai

**4.** Tenkasi district was carved out in 2019 from which district?
(A) Thoothukudi
(B) Virudhunagar
(C) Tirunelveli
(D) Kanyakumari

**5.** Statements – which is/are correct?
1. Tenkasi temple – Parakrama Pandya.
2. Chittar river – Courtallam.
3. Malayadipatti – 5th-c. hero stone.
(A) 1 and 2 only
(B) 2 and 3 only
(C) 1 and 3 only
(D) 1, 2 and 3

**6.** What is the capacity of the turbine planned for India's first offshore wind prototype off Thoothukudi?
(A) 2.5 MW
(B) 6.25 MW
(C) 12 MW
(D) 500 MW

**7.** Which company has floated the tender for this prototype?
(A) NTPC Green Energy
(B) Indian Port Rail & Ropeway Corporation (IPRCL)
(C) Solar Energy Corporation of India
(D) POWERGRID

**8.** Where is the National Institute of Wind Energy (NIWE) located?
(A) Bengaluru
(B) Pune
(C) Chennai
(D) Gandhinagar

**9.** The 2024 offshore wind VGF scheme split 1 GW between which two States?
(A) Tamil Nadu and Andhra Pradesh
(B) Gujarat and Maharashtra
(C) Odisha and Kerala
(D) Tamil Nadu and Gujarat (500 MW each)

**10.** In which year did V.O. Chidambaram Pillai, after whom Thoothukudi port is named, start the Swadeshi Steam Navigation Company?
(A) 1885
(B) 1911
(C) 1906
(D) 1920

**11.** Who heads Tamil Nadu's Revenue Augmentation Committee set up in July 2026?
(A) Raghuram Rajan
(B) Montek Singh Ahluwalia
(C) Esther Duflo
(D) Arvind Subramanian

**12.** Which Tamil Nadu ratio fell to a 20-year low of 5.45% in 2025-26?
(A) Fiscal deficit to GSDP
(B) Debt to GSDP
(C) Capital expenditure to total spending
(D) State's Own Tax Revenue to GSDP

**13.** Which Article of the Constitution deals with a State's Annual Financial Statement (budget)?
(A) Article 112
(B) Article 266
(C) Article 280
(D) Article 202

**14.** In which year was the Tamil Nadu Fiscal Responsibility Act enacted?
(A) 1991
(B) 2003
(C) 2008
(D) 2012

**15.** Assertion (A): Higher committed spending cuts capital spending.
Reason (R): Salaries, pensions, interest are committed.
(A) Both true; (R) explains (A)
(B) Both true; (R) does not explain (A)
(C) (A) true, (R) false
(D) (A) false, (R) true

**16.** Under the national guidelines, a board of how many doctors certifies brain stem death?
(A) 2
(B) 3
(C) 4
(D) 5

**17.** For adults, what is the minimum gap between the two sets of clinical tests?
(A) 1 hour
(B) 24 hours
(C) 48 hours
(D) 6 hours

**18.** In which year was the Transplantation of Human Organs Act, which gave legal recognition to brain death, enacted?
(A) 1984
(B) 2002
(C) 1994
(D) 2014

**19.** Which body keeps the national organ donation registry and issued these guidelines?
(A) ICMR
(B) National Medical Commission
(C) National Health Authority
(D) NOTTO

**20.** Statements – which is/are correct?
1. 2008 – TN State organ donation scheme.
2. Since 2023 donors get State honours.
3. Hearts come from living donors.
(A) 1 and 2 only
(B) 2 and 3 only
(C) 1 and 3 only
(D) 1, 2 and 3

**21.** Where was Surya, the first indigenous Fleet Support Ship, launched?
(A) MDL, Mumbai
(B) GRSE, Kolkata
(C) HSL, Visakhapatnam
(D) CSL, Kochi

**22.** What is the main job of a Fleet Support Ship?
(A) Anti-submarine warfare
(B) Mine clearance
(C) Refuelling and resupplying warships at sea
(D) Landing troops ashore

**23.** Roughly what is Surya's displacement?
(A) 4,350 tonnes
(B) 13,500 tonnes
(C) 90,000 tonnes
(D) 43,500 tonnes

**24.** Who founded the Visakhapatnam shipyard (today's HSL) in 1941 for the Scindia Steam Navigation Company?

(A) Jamsetji Tata
(B) G.D. Birla
(C) Arthur Cotton
(D) Walchand Hirachand

**25.** Under the 2023 contract, how many Fleet Support Ships is HSL building?

(A) 5
(B) 2
(C) 3
(D) 8

**26.** What altitude did DRDO's indigenous High-Altitude Platform System reach in the October 2026 trial?

(A) 21 km
(B) 8 km
(C) 36 km
(D) 100 km

**27.** Which DRDO laboratory developed the HAPS?

(A) CVRDE, Avadi
(B) DRDL, Hyderabad
(C) ADRDE, Agra
(D) ADE, Bengaluru

**28.** At 20 km, the HAPS operates in which layer of the atmosphere?

(A) Troposphere
(B) Mesosphere
(C) Stratosphere
(D) Thermosphere

**29.** Where did DRDO's Advanced High-Altitude Parachute (AHAP) make its first live jump from 16,000 ft the same week?

(A) Nyoma, Ladakh
(B) Tawang, Arunachal Pradesh
(C) Pokhran, Rajasthan
(D) Siachen

**30.** Statements on HAPS – which is/are correct?

1. It is a jet aircraft.
2. It is lighter than air.
3. It can serve surveillance and communications.

(A) 1 and 2 only
(B) 2 and 3 only
(C) 1 and 3 only
(D) 1, 2 and 3

**31.** Which institute launched the AVNI app to help children learn about plants and crops?

(A) IIT Madras
(B) IIT Ropar
(C) IIT Kharagpur
(D) IISc Bengaluru

**32.** How does the AVNI app teach?

(A) Crop insurance enrolment
(B) Drone spraying of fertiliser
(C) AI-supported, observation-based activities
(D) Farm loan disbursal

**33.** In which languages is AVNI available?

(A) Hindi and English
(B) Punjabi only
(C) All 22 Scheduled languages
(D) English only

**34.** What is the name of IIT Ropar's Centre of Excellence for AI in agriculture?

(A) Kisan Sarathi
(B) AgriStack
(C) ANNAM.AI
(D) Bhashini

**35.** Where is Tamil Nadu Agricultural University located?

(A) Coimbatore
(B) Madurai
(C) Thanjavur
(D) Tiruchirappalli

**36.** In which city is the 153rd Inter-Parliamentary Union Assembly (5-9 Oct 2026) being held?
(A) Dodoma (B) Arusha
(C) Nairobi (D) Kampala

**37.** Who led the Indian parliamentary delegation?
(A) Om Birla, Lok Sabha Speaker (B) C.P. Radhakrishnan, Vice-President
(C) Kiren Rijiju, Parliamentary Affairs Minister (D) Harivansh, Deputy Chairman, Rajya Sabha

**38.** Statements – which is/are correct?
1. Cremer and Passy founded the IPU in 1889.
2. Its HQ is Geneva.
3. It is a UN specialised agency.
(A) 1 and 2 only (B) 2 and 3 only
(C) 1 and 3 only (D) 1, 2 and 3

**39.** In 1964 Tanganyika united with which island to form Tanzania?
(A) Madagascar (B) Zanzibar
(C) Mauritius (D) Seychelles

**40.** Which is Africa's highest peak, near Arusha?
(A) Kilimanjaro (B) Mount Kenya
(C) Rwenzori (D) Atlas Mountains

**41.** Who conducted India's first National Household Travel Survey (July 2025 – June 2026)?
(A) NITI Aayog (B) Reserve Bank of India
(C) National Statistics Office (NSO) (D) Registrar General of India

**42.** Which mode do most workers use to commute to a fixed workplace?
(A) Bus (B) Walking
(C) Car (D) Two-wheeler (42.6%)

**43.** Which mode carried the largest share of overnight trips?
(A) Bus (55.8%) (B) Rail
(C) Car (D) Air

**44.** NSO was formed in 2019 by merging which two bodies?
(A) CSO and Indian Statistical Institute (B) NSSO and Registrar General
(C) CSO and NSSO (D) NSSO and Labour Bureau

**45.** Whose birthday, 29 June, is observed as National Statistics Day?
(A) C.R. Rao (B) P.C. Mahalanobis
(C) V.K.R.V. Rao (D) P.V. Sukhatme

**46.** ITLA will monitor infrastructure projects above what value?
(A) ₹50 crore (B) ₹500 crore
(C) ₹5,000 crore (D) ₹1 lakh crore

**47.** What is ITLA's main task?
(A) Collecting road tolls (B) Fixing railway fares
(C) Licensing airlines (D) One integrated plan for all transport modes

**48.** In which year was the PM Gati Shakti National Master Plan for multimodal connectivity launched?
(A) 2015 (B) 2021
(C) 2019 (D) 2023

**49.** Who publishes the LEADS report that ranks States on logistics?
(A) Commerce Ministry (DPIIT)
(B) NITI Aayog
(C) Road Transport Ministry
(D) Reserve Bank of India

**50.** Which was India's first corporatised major port?
(A) Jawaharlal Nehru Port
(B) Paradip Port
(C) Kamarajar Port, Ennore
(D) Deendayal Port, Kandla

**51.** On 6 Oct 2026, the keel of which ship was laid at HSL?
(A) INS Vikrant-2
(B) The fifth Scorpene submarine
(C) The fifth Fleet Support Ship (FSS-5)
(D) The first nuclear submarine

**52.** The upgraded Slipway-4 can build ships of up to how many deadweight tonnes?
(A) 5,000 DWT
(B) 15,000 DWT
(C) 2,00,000 DWT
(D) 45,000 DWT

**53.** What is the lifting capacity of the Goliath crane opened at HSL?
(A) 300 tonnes
(B) 30 tonnes
(C) 100 tonnes
(D) 1,000 tonnes

**54.** In which year was HSL brought under the Ministry of Defence?
(A) 1952
(B) 2010
(C) 1961
(D) 1999

**55.** Where is the headquarters of the Indian Navy's Eastern Naval Command?
(A) Chennai
(B) Visakhapatnam
(C) Kolkata
(D) Port Blair

**56.** A 'nuclear triad' means the ability to deliver nuclear weapons from:
(A) Land, air and sea
(B) Land, space and cyberspace
(C) Air, space and sea
(D) Land, sea and space

**57.** Which is India's third nuclear ballistic-missile submarine (SSBN), commissioned in April 2026?
(A) INS Arihant
(B) INS Aridhaman
(C) INS Arighaat
(D) INS Chakra

**58.** What is the approximate range of the K-4 submarine-launched missile?
(A) 750 km
(B) 3,500 km
(C) 1,500 km
(D) 8,000 km

**59.** What is the core principle of India's nuclear doctrine (2003)?
(A) Pre-emptive strike
(B) First Use
(C) No First Use
(D) Nuclear sharing

**60.** In which district is INS Kattabomman, the Navy's Very Low Frequency station for talking to submarines?
(A) Ramanathapuram
(B) Thoothukudi
(C) Kanyakumari
(D) Tirunelveli

**61.** Who developed eSanjeevani, the national telemedicine service?
(A) National Informatics Centre
(B) C-DAC, Mohali
(C) ISRO
(D) AIIMS, Delhi

**62.** Statements – which is/are correct?
1. AB-HWC – links Arogya Mandirs.
2. OPD – consult from home.
3. English only.

(A) 1 and 2 only
(B) 2 and 3 only
(C) 1 and 3 only
(D) 1, 2 and 3

**63.** Roughly what share of eSanjeevani consultations are by women?
(A) 27%
(B) 57%
(C) 40%
(D) 75%

**64.** Which body implements the Ayushman Bharat Digital Mission (ABDM)?
(A) ICMR
(B) NITI Aayog
(C) MeitY
(D) National Health Authority (NHA)

**65.** Which Tamil Nadu scheme, begun in Krishnagiri in 2021, brings diabetes and BP drugs home?
(A) Varumun Kappom
(B) Innuyir Kappom
(C) CM's Comprehensive Health Insurance
(D) Makkalai Thedi Maruthuvam

**66.** For what was the 2026 Nobel Prize in Physics awarded to Francis Halzen?
(A) IceCube and high-energy cosmic neutrinos
(B) Detecting gravitational waves
(C) Quantum computing
(D) The Higgs boson

**67.** Where is IceCube, a cubic kilometre of ice fitted with light sensors?
(A) Greenland
(B) Lake Baikal, Russia
(C) South Pole, Antarctica
(D) Atacama Desert, Chile

**68.** Statements on neutrinos – which is/are correct?
1. They carry no electric charge.
2. Their mass is extremely tiny.
3. They interact strongly with matter.

(A) 1 and 2 only
(B) 2 and 3 only
(C) 1 and 3 only
(D) 1, 2 and 3

**69.** Pottipuram (Bodi West Hills), the proposed site of the India-based Neutrino Observatory, is in which district?
(A) Nilgiris
(B) Dindigul
(C) Kanyakumari
(D) Theni

**70.** Which Belgian scientist shared the 2013 Physics Nobel with Peter Higgs?
(A) François Englert
(B) Georges Lemaître
(C) Ilya Prigogine
(D) Christian de Duve

**71.** Tukaram Mundhe, hailed as a 'rock star' by The New York Times, holds which post?
(A) Maharashtra FDA Commissioner
(B) Commissioner, Mumbai municipal corporation
(C) CEO, FSSAI
(D) Chief Secretary, Maharashtra

**72.** Under which ministry does the Food Safety and Standards Authority of India (FSSAI) work?
(A) Agriculture
(B) Consumer Affairs
(C) Food Processing Industries
(D) Health and Family Welfare

**73.** The Food Safety and Standards Act, which replaced the Prevention of Food Adulteration Act 1954, was passed in:

(A) 1986 (B) 2011

(C) 2019 (D) 2006

**74.** Marathwada, the region of Mundhe's home district Beed, was part of which princely state until 1948?

(A) Baroda (B) Hyderabad (Nizam)

(C) Kolhapur (D) Mysore

**75.** Which Directive Principle makes raising nutrition and public health a primary duty of the State?

(A) Article 39 (B) Article 47

(C) Article 43 (D) Article 48

**76.** The 'Cotton-4' countries that proposed World Cotton Day on 7 October belong to which continent?

(A) Africa (B) Asia

(C) South America (D) Europe

**77.** Where is the official World Cotton Day 2026 event held?

(A) Geneva, Switzerland (B) New Delhi, India

(C) Cairo, Egypt (D) Tashkent, Uzbekistan

**78.** Black (regur) soil, ideal for cotton, is formed mainly from which rock?

(A) Granite (B) Alluvium

(C) Deccan Trap basalt (D) Limestone

**79.** Which body started the World Day for Decent Work (7 October) in 2008?

(A) International Trade Union Confederation (ITUC) (B) International Labour Organization (ILO)

(C) World Trade Organization (D) UNDP

**80.** Match:

a. Coimbatore

b. Tiruppur

c. Karur – 1. Knitwear capital 2. Manchester of South India 3. Home-textile city

(A) a-1, b-2, c-3 (B) a-3, b-1, c-2

(C) a-2, b-1, c-3 (D) a-2, b-3, c-1

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# Answer key at a glance

| | | | | | | | | | |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| 1 **C** | 2 **D** | 3 **B** | 4 **C** | 5 **D** | 6 **B** | 7 **B** | 8 **C** | 9 **D** | 10 **C** |
| 11 **B** | 12 **D** | 13 **D** | 14 **B** | 15 **A** | 16 **C** | 17 **D** | 18 **C** | 19 **D** | 20 **A** |
| 21 **C** | 22 **C** | 23 **D** | 24 **D** | 25 **A** | 26 **A** | 27 **C** | 28 **C** | 29 **A** | 30 **B** |
| 31 **B** | 32 **C** | 33 **A** | 34 **C** | 35 **A** | 36 **B** | 37 **D** | 38 **A** | 39 **B** | 40 **A** |
| 41 **C** | 42 **D** | 43 **A** | 44 **C** | 45 **B** | 46 **B** | 47 **D** | 48 **B** | 49 **A** | 50 **C** |
| 51 **C** | 52 **D** | 53 **A** | 54 **B** | 55 **B** | 56 **A** | 57 **B** | 58 **B** | 59 **C** | 60 **D** |
| 61 **B** | 62 **A** | 63 **B** | 64 **D** | 65 **D** | 66 **A** | 67 **C** | 68 **A** | 69 **D** | 70 **A** |
| 71 **A** | 72 **D** | 73 **D** | 74 **B** | 75 **B** | 76 **A** | 77 **D** | 78 **C** | 79 **A** | 80 **C** |

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## Answers & explanations

**1. (C) Ilanji** – A half-buried stone in farmer Thangadurai's field at Ilanji was studied by the Thenpothigai archives team; it records a gift linked to the Ilanji Murugan temple.

**2. (D) Execution of the Marudhu brothers at Tiruppattur** – The Marudhu brothers were hanged on 24 October 1801. Kattabomman: 16 Oct 1799 (Kayathar); Vellore Mutiny: 10 July 1806; Seringapatam: 1792.

**3. (B) Murugan** – The vel and peacock are Murugan's emblems; the Tolkappiyam names Seyon (Murugan) as the god of Kurinji (hills). Mullai has Mayon (Thirumal), Palai has Kotravai.

**4. (C) Tirunelveli** – Tenkasi became Tamil Nadu's 33rd district on 22 November 2019, carved out of Tirunelveli.

**5. (D) 1, 2 and 3** – All three are correct. Parakrama Pandya built the temple in the 15th century; the Chittar rises in the Courtallam hills and joins the Thamirabarani; the Malayadipatti hero stone (Aug 2026) is in a Tamil-Brahmi to Vattezhuthu transition script.

**6. (B) 6.25 MW** – One 6.25 MW turbine, about 1,650 m from the inner harbour's southern breakwater, at an estimated ₹77 crore (tender open till 29 Oct 2026).

**7. (B) Indian Port Rail & Ropeway Corporation (IPRCL)** – IPRCL works under the Ministry of Ports, Shipping and Waterways. The VOC Port prototype is a learning base for large offshore wind farms.

**8. (C) Chennai** – NIWE (formerly C-WET, 1998) is at Velachery, Chennai, under the Ministry of New and Renewable Energy; it leads offshore wind resource assessment.

**9. (D) Tamil Nadu and Gujarat (500 MW each)** – In June 2024 the Cabinet approved a ₹7,453 crore VGF scheme: 500 MW each off Gujarat and Tamil Nadu, the two coasts with the strongest offshore winds.

**10. (C) 1906** – 'Kappalottiya Thamizhan' VOC launched the Swadeshi Steam Navigation Company in 1906 on the Thoothukudi–Colombo route to rival a British firm (ships: SS Gallia and SS Lawoe).

**11. (B) Montek Singh Ahluwalia** – A six-member panel under former Planning Commission Deputy Chairman Ahluwalia (GO of 24 July 2026) will suggest ways to plug leakages and raise revenue; now a high-level advisory panel follows on cutting expenditure.

**12. (D) State's Own Tax Revenue to GSDP** – With SOTR/GSDP at 5.45%, the revenue foregone was estimated at about ₹1.23 lakh crore a year; panels on revenue, staff rationalisation and spending followed.

**13. (D) Article 202** – Art. 202: State budget; Art. 112: Union budget; Art. 266: Consolidated Funds; Art. 280: Finance Commission.

**14. (B) 2003** – Tamil Nadu passed its Act in 2003, the same year as the Union FRBM Act; both aim to hold the fiscal deficit near 3% of GDP/GSDP.

**15. (A) Both true; (R) explains (A)** – Salaries, pensions and interest cannot be skipped; when they eat most revenue, less is left for asset-creating capital spending such as roads and schools. So R explains A.

**16. (C) 4** – Four doctors under the transplant rules: the hospital's medical in-charge, an independent expert from an approved panel, a neurologist/neurosurgeon and the treating doctor. On 5 Oct 2026 the Centre asked States to enforce this.

**17. (D) 6 hours** – The National Brain Stem Death Certification Guidelines (Edition I, Aug 2026): two sets of tests at least 6 hours apart for adults, including the apnoea test.

**18. (C) 1994** – The 1994 Act recognised brain death as death; a 2011 amendment added tissues (THOTA), with rules in 2014.

**19. (D) NOTTO** – The National Organ and Tissue Transplant Organisation (NOTTO), New Delhi, works under the DGHS. One deceased donor can save up to eight lives.

**20. (A) 1 and 2 only** – 1 and 2 are correct. After the Hitendran case (2008) Tamil Nadu's deceased-donor programme (now TRANSTAN) became the national model. Hearts and lungs come only from deceased donors, so 3 is wrong.

**21. (C) HSL, Visakhapatnam** – Defence Minister Rajnath Singh launched Surya (FSS-1) at HSL on 6 October 2026; it leads a five-ship series.

**22. (C) Refuelling and resupplying warships at sea** – Fleet Support Ships keep task groups at sea longer without returning to port (replenishment at sea); they carry a helicopter deck, repair workshops and self-defence systems.

**23. (D) 43,500 tonnes** – At 43,500 tonnes Surya is among the largest ships HSL has built; for comparison the carrier INS Vikrant is about 45,000 tonnes.

**24. (D) Walchand Hirachand** – Walchand Hirachand set it up in 1941; its first ship was Jala Usha (1948). Nationalised in 1961 as Hindustan Shipyard.

**25. (A) 5** – A roughly ₹19,000 crore contract for five FSS was signed in August 2023; at the same event the keel of the fifth (FSS-5) was laid.

**26. (A) 21 km** – On 6 Oct 2026 the HAPS climbed to 21 km above sea level, held about 20 km for over 30 minutes and was recovered safely, streaming live video to the ground station.

**27. (C) ADRDE, Agra** – The Aerial Delivery R&D Establishment (ADRDE), Agra, handles parachutes and airships. CVRDE at Avadi in Tamil Nadu designed the Arjun tank.

**28. (C) Stratosphere** – The stratosphere runs from about 12 to 50 km and holds the ozone layer; with little weather it suits long, satellite-like (pseudo-satellite) surveillance.

**29. (A) Nyoma, Ladakh** – AHAP's first live jump was at Nyoma in Ladakh, also home to one of the IAF's highest airfields (Mudh–Nyoma).

**30. (B) 2 and 3 only** – The HAPS is a lighter-than-air, airship-type platform, not a jet, so only 2 and 3 are correct. In May 2025 DRDO had flown a stratospheric airship to about 17 km at Sheopur (MP).

**31. (B) IIT Ropar** – IIT Ropar (2008), at Rupnagar in Punjab, launched AVNI in October 2026.

**32. (C) AI-supported, observation-based activities** – Children observe and photograph leaf shape, colour and veins while computer-vision AI helps identify the plant, with human checks to avoid errors.

**33. (A) Hindi and English** – It launched in Hindi and English. The Eighth Schedule lists 22 languages; Tamil became India's first classical language in 2004.

**34. (C) ANNAM.AI** – ANNAM.AI has set up 100 AI weather stations in Punjab. AgriStack is the farmers' digital registry; Bhashini is a language-translation platform.

**35. (A) Coimbatore** – TNAU was formed in Coimbatore in 1971, tracing back to the 1868 Saidapet farm school. Tamil Nadu's 'Uzhavan' farmers' app came in 2018.

**36. (B) Arusha** – Arusha, Tanzania, hosts delegates of 183 member parliaments on the theme of good governance through inclusivity, trust and opportunity. Tanzania's capital is Dodoma.

**37. (D) Harivansh, Deputy Chairman, Rajya Sabha** – Harivansh led a nine-member team including Anurag Thakur, Aparajita Sarangi, Sasmit Patra and N.K. Premachandran. The Rajya Sabha's Chairman is Vice-President C.P. Radhakrishnan, from Tiruppur, Tamil Nadu.

**38. (A) 1 and 2 only** – 1 and 2 are correct. The IPU is an independent body with UN observer status, not a specialised agency. Both founders won the Peace Nobel (Passy 1901, Cremer 1903). India joined in 1949.

**39. (B) Zanzibar** – Tanganyika and Zanzibar united as Tanzania on 26 April 1964 under Julius Nyerere. India has long trade ties with this Indian Ocean nation.

**40. (A) Kilimanjaro** – Kilimanjaro (5,895 m) in Tanzania is a dormant volcano and the world's highest free-standing mountain; Mount Kenya is Africa's second highest.

**41. (C) National Statistics Office (NSO)** – MoSPI's NSO, at the request of the Railways Ministry, covered 4.92 lakh households and 20.34 lakh persons.

**42. (D) Two-wheeler (42.6%)** – Two-wheelers 42.6% (urban 52.3%, rural 37.1%). Average monthly commute cost ₹785 (urban ₹1,044, rural ₹612); average time 25 minutes.

**43. (A) Bus (55.8%)** – Bus 55.8% plus rail 17.7% make 73.5%; cars 15.1%. Social and religious purposes account for 70.2% of trips, leisure only 7.4%.

**44. (C) CSO and NSSO** – Central Statistics Office (CSO, 1951) plus National Sample Survey Office (NSSO, 1950) became the NSO in 2019. The ISI is a separate institute.

**45. (B) P.C. Mahalanobis** – Mahalanobis founded the ISI in Kolkata (1931), framed the Second Five-Year Plan model (1956) and set up the NSS.

**46. (B) ₹500 crore** – Approved by the Union Cabinet under the PM on 6 Oct 2026, ITLA will monitor projects above ₹500 crore and give a common platform to resolve hold-ups.

**47. (D) One integrated plan for all transport modes** – A national apex body (special purpose vehicle) to draw up one long-term plan across roads, rail, ports, aviation, inland waterways, coastal shipping, urban mobility and logistics.

**48. (B) 2021** – Launched on 13 Oct 2021 with seven engines: roads, railways, airports, ports, mass transport, waterways and logistics infrastructure. The National Logistics Policy followed on 17 Sept 2022.

**49. (A) Commerce Ministry (DPIIT)** – LEADS (Logistics Ease Across Different States) is published since 2018 by DPIIT under the Ministry of Commerce and Industry.

**50. (C) Kamarajar Port, Ennore** – Ennore Port near Chennai began in 2001 as a company, later renamed Kamarajar Port. Tamil Nadu has three major ports: Chennai, Kamarajar and V.O. Chidambaranar.

**51. (C) The fifth Fleet Support Ship (FSS-5)** – Three firsts at one event: Surya (FSS-1) launched, FSS-5's keel laid, and the upgraded Slipway-4 and 300-tonne Goliath crane opened. Keel laying marks the formal start of a ship's construction.

**52. (D) 45,000 DWT** – The lengthened, strengthened Slipway-4 plus the new crane let HSL build and launch ships of up to 45,000 DWT; DWT is the total weight a ship can carry.

**53. (A) 300 tonnes** – The 300-tonne Goliath (gantry) crane lifts large ship blocks in one go, cutting build time.

**54. (B) 2010** – Nationalised in 1961 under the Shipping Ministry, moved to the Defence Ministry in 2010, and made Miniratna Category-I in 2025.

**55. (B) Visakhapatnam** – Naval commands: Western – Mumbai, Eastern – Visakhapatnam, Southern – Kochi. Chennai hosts the Coast Guard's Eastern Region HQ.

**56. (A) Land, air and sea** – Land: Agni missiles; air: Rafale, Mirage-2000, Su-30MKI; sea: K-4/K-15 missiles on Arihant-class nuclear submarines.

**57. (B) INS Aridhaman** – INS Aridhaman (3 Apr 2026, Visakhapatnam): about 7,000 t, 8 launch tubes (8 K-4 or 24 K-15). With three SSBNs one can always be on patrol: continuous at-sea deterrence. Arihant 2016, Arighaat 2024; Chakra was a leased Russian SSN.

**58. (B) 3,500 km** – K-4: about 3,500 km; K-15 (Sagarika): 750 km. The 'K' series honours Dr A.P.J. Abdul Kalam of Rameswaram.

**59. (C) No First Use** – Credible minimum deterrence, No First Use and 'massive' retaliation; the Nuclear Command Authority's Political Council is chaired by the PM. Tests: Pokhran 1974 and 1998.

**60. (D) Tirunelveli** – INS Kattabomman at Vijayanarayanam, Tirunelveli district (since 1990), sends messages to submerged submarines; a second VLF station is coming up at Damagundam, Telangana.

**61. (B) C-DAC, Mohali** – Built by C-DAC Mohali for the Health Ministry (November 2019). It crossed 50,00,92,730 consultations on 15 Sept 2026, the world's largest primary-care telemedicine service.

**62. (A) 1 and 2 only** – 1 and 2 are correct. It links 1.42 lakh Arogya Mandirs, 19,473 hubs and 901 online OPDs, and works in 15 languages, so 3 is wrong.

**63. (B) 57%** – Women 57.14%; people over 46 more than 40%. It handles 2.5-3 lakh consultations a day; its AI clinical-decision support won the 2026 National e-Governance Gold Award.

**64. (D) National Health Authority (NHA)** – ABDM began on 27 Sept 2021 and gives each person a 14-digit ABHA health ID; NHA also runs PM-JAY.

**65. (D) Makkalai Thedi Maruthuvam** – Launched on 5 Aug 2021 at Samanapalli (Krishnagiri) for home care of non-communicable diseases; it won the UN Inter-Agency Task Force award in 2024.

**66. (A) IceCube and high-energy cosmic neutrinos** – 'For decisive contributions to the IceCube Neutrino Observatory and the discovery of high-energy neutrinos of astrophysical origin.' Halzen, 82, won it alone (SEK 12 million); he works at the University of Wisconsin–Madison, USA.

**67. (C) South Pole, Antarctica** – Completed in 2011 at the Amundsen–Scott South Pole Station after Halzen proposed it in 1988. UPSC Prelims 2015 asked about IceCube. Lake Baikal hosts Russia's Baikal-GVD neutrino telescope.

**68. (A) 1 and 2 only** – 1 and 2 are correct. Neutrinos rarely interact with matter, hence 'ghost particles' that pass through the Earth; Wolfgang Pauli proposed them in 1930.

**69. (D) Theni** – INO was planned under a hill at Pottipuram in Theni district but stalled over environmental objections. Atmospheric neutrinos were first detected at the Kolar Gold Fields, Karnataka, in 1965.

**70. (A) François Englert** – Englert: Higgs mechanism (2013). Lemaître pioneered the Big Bang idea (no Nobel); Prigogine won Chemistry 1977; de Duve won Medicine 1974.

**71. (A) Maharashtra FDA Commissioner** – His surprise raids on restaurants, warehouses and quick-commerce dark stores led to closures and licence suspensions. He replied: 'Good governance is not about making headlines but about making a difference.'

**72. (D) Health and Family Welfare** – FSSAI was set up in 2008, headquartered in New Delhi. State Food Safety Commissioners enforce the law; in Maharashtra the FDA Commissioner holds that role.

**73. (D) 2006** – The FSS Act 2006 merged eight food laws and came into force on 5 Aug 2011. 1986 and 2019 are Consumer Protection Acts.

**74. (B) Hyderabad (Nizam)** – Hyderabad joined India after Operation Polo in September 1948; 17 September is Marathwada Liberation Day. Mundhe is a 2005-batch IAS officer transferred 25 times in 21 years.

**75. (B) Article 47** – Art. 47 covers nutrition, living standards, public health and prohibition. Tamil Nadu leads with the Nutritious Meal Scheme (1982) and Breakfast Scheme (2022). Art. 48 deals with agriculture and animal husbandry.

**76. (A) Africa** – Benin, Burkina Faso, Chad and Mali; first marked at the WTO in 2019 and recognised by the UN General Assembly in August 2021.

**77. (D) Tashkent, Uzbekistan** – Hosted by Uzbekistan with the International Cotton Advisory Committee (ICAC); theme 'Cotton for Good: Building Prosperity Through Trade, Transformation and Partnership', with FAO as a key organiser.

**78. (C) Deccan Trap basalt** – Weathered basalt gives moisture-holding black soil that cracks when dry. In Tamil Nadu the karisal lands of Kovilpatti, Virudhunagar and Thoothukudi are known for rain-fed cotton.

**79. (A) International Trade Union Confederation (ITUC)** – ITUC (2006, Brussels) started the day. The ILO coined 'decent work' in 1999; it is UN SDG 8. The ILO dates from 1919, is in Geneva and won the 1969 Peace Nobel.

**80. (C) a-2, b-1, c-3** – Coimbatore: spinning mills, 'Manchester of South India'; Tiruppur: knitwear exports ('Dollar City'); Karur: home textiles such as bed linen and curtains. India has the world's largest cotton area.

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