Current Affairs – MCQs

18 October 2026

Questions PDF

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Questions (105)

1. Kadayanallur, where India's first field study on dengue vaccine and repellents began, is in which district?

(A) Tenkasi
(B) Tirunelveli
(C) Thoothukudi
(D) Virudhunagar

2. Which company developed 'Qdenga', the dengue vaccine approved in India?

(A) Takeda (Japan)
(B) Sanofi (France)
(C) Serum Institute (India)
(D) Bharat Biotech (India)

3. The dengue virus belongs to which genus?

(A) Alphavirus
(B) Flavivirus
(C) Plasmodium
(D) Paramyxovirus

4. Which day-biting mosquito is the main vector of dengue?

(A) Female Anopheles
(B) Culex
(C) Sandfly
(D) Aedes aegypti

5. The ICMR–National Institute of Epidemiology (NIE), which is conducting this study, is located in which city?

(A) Pune
(B) Chennai
(C) Kolkata
(D) Hyderabad

6. The late composer Deva is hailed as the 'King/Father' of which music form?

(A) Carnatic
(B) Hindustani
(C) Gaana
(D) Sufi

7. In which district was composer Deva laid to rest with State honours?

(A) Vellore
(B) Kancheepuram
(C) Tiruvallur
(D) Ranipet

8. Which body confers Tamil Nadu's 'Kalaimamani' award?

(A) Sangeet Natak Akademi
(B) Lalit Kala Akademi
(C) TN Iyal Isai Nataka Manram
(D) South Zone Cultural Centre

9. India's highest film honour, the Dadasaheb Phalke Award, is given under which ministry?

(A) Culture
(B) Information & Broadcasting
(C) Home Affairs
(D) Education

10. Composer Ilaiyaraaja was nominated to the Rajya Sabha in 2022. Which Article provides for nominating members from the arts?

(A) Article 79
(B) Article 80
(C) Article 81
(D) Article 75

11. Which Union Ministry implements the Pradhan Mantri Anusuchit Jaati Abhyuday Yojana (PM-AJAY)?

(A) Rural Development
(B) Tribal Affairs
(C) Panchayati Raj
(D) Social Justice & Empowerment

12. Which of the following schemes was NOT merged into PM-AJAY in 2021–22?

(A) PMAGY
(B) SCA to SCSP
(C) Saansad Adarsh Gram Yojana
(D) Babu Jagjivan Ram Hostel Yojana

13. Which southern State was among the pilot States of PMAGY in 2009–10?

(A) Kerala
(B) Tamil Nadu
(C) Karnataka
(D) Andhra Pradesh

14. Which Article empowers the President to specify the Scheduled Castes of a State?

(A) Article 338
(B) Article 340
(C) Article 341
(D) Article 342

15. Article 46, on promoting the educational and economic interests of SCs and STs, is part of which section of the Constitution?

(A) Fundamental Rights
(B) Fundamental Duties
(C) Directive Principles
(D) Preamble

16. Which sugarcane-based feedstock is still allowed for ethanol procurement in ESY 2026–27?

(A) C-heavy molasses
(B) Sugarcane juice
(C) Sugar syrup
(D) B-heavy molasses

17. Which microorganism is used to ferment sugar solution into ethanol?

(A) Lactobacillus
(B) Penicillium
(C) Saccharomyces cerevisiae
(D) Rhizobium

18. On whose recommendation does the Centre fix the Fair and Remunerative Price (FRP) of sugarcane?

(A) NITI Aayog
(B) CACP
(C) Food Corporation of India
(D) NABARD

19. Where is India's first second-generation (2G) ethanol plant, which makes ethanol from crop residue?

(A) Bathinda
(B) Numaligarh
(C) Bargarh
(D) Panipat

20. Which is the nodal ministry for the National Policy on Biofuels 2018?

(A) Agriculture & Farmers Welfare
(B) New & Renewable Energy
(C) Petroleum & Natural Gas
(D) Environment & Forests

21. Which US company, planning to supply sunlight at night using orbital mirrors, signed a launch deal with Skyroot?

(A) Relativity Space
(B) Rocket Lab
(C) Axiom Space
(D) Reflect Orbital

22. Skyroot Aerospace, which launched India's first private rocket, is based in which city?

(A) Hyderabad
(B) Chennai
(C) Bengaluru
(D) Pune

23. Skyroot's 'Vikram' series of rockets is named after whom?

(A) Vikram Seth
(B) King Vikramaditya
(C) Vikram Sarabhai
(D) Vikram Batra

24. Which is the single-window body that promotes and authorises private space activities in India?

(A) NSIL
(B) IN-SPACe
(C) Antrix Corporation
(D) DRDO

25. Kulasekarapattinam, site of India's second launch port for SSLV rockets, is in which district?
(A) Kanniyakumari
(B) Ramanathapuram
(C) Thoothukudi
(D) Tirunelveli

26. Which new weapon, using AI to detect and strike targets, did North Korea test in Oct 2026?
(A) Intercontinental missile
(B) Unmanned fighter jet
(C) Anti-satellite missile
(D) High-speed guided torpedo

27. SONAR, used to detect underwater targets, works on which principle?
(A) Refraction of light
(B) Absorption of radio waves
(C) Reflection of sound (echo)
(D) Magnetic induction

28. Where was the Korean War armistice signed in 1953?
(A) Seoul
(B) Pyongyang
(C) Geneva
(D) Panmunjom

29. From which international treaty did North Korea announce its withdrawal in 2003?
(A) Comprehensive Test Ban Treaty
(B) Non-Proliferation Treaty
(C) Outer Space Treaty
(D) Chemical Weapons Convention

30. INS Kattabomman, the Navy's VLF station for communicating with submarines, is in which district?
(A) Thoothukudi
(B) Tirunelveli
(C) Ramanathapuram
(D) Kanniyakumari

31. India's Department of Space functions directly under whom?
(A) Ministry of Science & Tech
(B) Ministry of Defence
(C) Ministry of Earth Sciences
(D) The Prime Minister

32. Which public sector commercial company under the Department of Space was set up in 2019?
(A) NewSpace India Limited
(B) Bharat Electronics
(C) Hindustan Aeronautics
(D) Bharat Dynamics

33. What is the name of India's planned space station, to be set up by 2035 under Space Vision 2047?
(A) Bharatiya Antariksh Station
(B) Aryabhata Station
(C) Gagan Station
(D) Vikram Space Station

34. Where is the headquarters of the Indian Space Research Organisation (ISRO)?
(A) Sriharikota
(B) Bengaluru
(C) Thiruvananthapuram
(D) Ahmedabad

35. What is the main work of the ISRO Propulsion Complex at Mahendragiri, Tirunelveli district?
(A) Launching satellites
(B) Remote-sensing data analysis
(C) Astronaut training
(D) Testing rocket engines

36. The 30% trade-margin cap announced in Oct 2026 applies to which category of anti-cancer drugs?
(A) Non-scheduled drugs
(B) Only NLEM-listed drugs
(C) Only Ayurvedic drugs
(D) Only export drugs

37. Under which Ministry does the National Pharmaceutical Pricing Authority (NPPA) function?
(A) Chemicals and Fertilizers
(B) Health and Family Welfare
(C) Commerce and Industry
(D) Consumer Affairs

38. Under DPCO 2013, 'scheduled' drugs are those in which list?
(A) WHO Prequalification List
(B) Pharmacopoeia Index
(C) Janaushadhi Product List
(D) Essential Medicines List (NLEM)

39. Who was the moving force behind the founding of the Cancer Institute, Adyar, Chennai, in 1954?
(A) Dr V. Shanta
(B) Annie Besant
(C) Dr Muthulakshmi Reddy
(D) Rukmini Devi Arundale

40. Cancer results from the uncontrolled occurrence of which type of cell division?
(A) Meiosis
(B) Binary fission
(C) Budding
(D) Mitosis

41. Which institute developed the purple-fleshed potato variety 'Kufri Jamunia'?
(A) ICAR-CPRI, Shimla
(B) IARI, New Delhi
(C) CIP, Lima
(D) NBPGR, New Delhi

42. Which pigment gives purple/blue potatoes their colour?
(A) Anthocyanin
(B) Chlorophyll
(C) Lycopene
(D) Xanthophyll

43. Botanically, a potato is a –
(A) Root tuber
(B) Stem tuber
(C) Bulb
(D) Corm

44. Which region is regarded as the original home of the potato?
(A) Indus basin
(B) Mediterranean region
(C) East Africa
(D) Andes, South America

45. Where is ICAR-CPRI's potato research station in Tamil Nadu located?
(A) Kodaikanal
(B) Muthorai, Udhagamandalam
(C) Yercaud
(D) Valparai

46. Which body leads the global observance of World Menopause Day (18 Oct)?
(A) UN Women
(B) UNFPA
(C) Intl. Menopause Society
(D) FIGO

47. What is the theme of World Menopause Day 2026?
(A) Lifestyle Medicine
(B) Chronic Pain at Midlife
(C) Cardiovascular Health
(D) Brain Health

48. Menopause mainly results from the decline of which ovarian hormone?
(A) Oestrogen
(B) Testosterone
(C) Thyroxine
(D) Insulin

49. Which bone-weakening condition becomes more common in women after menopause?
(A) Rickets
(B) Goitre
(C) Scurvy
(D) Osteoporosis

50. Tamil Nadu's free sanitary napkin scheme for adolescent girls began in 2011 under which CM?
(A) M. Karunanidhi
(B) Edappadi K. Palaniswami
(C) O. Panneerselvam
(D) J. Jayalalithaa

51. The 'One World TB Summit', where the PM launched the TB Mukt Panchayat initiative, was held in –
(A) Varanasi
(B) Gandhinagar
(C) New Delhi
(D) Hyderabad

52. TB Mukt Panchayats receive a statuette of whom along with the certificate?
(A) B.R. Ambedkar
(B) Sardar Vallabhbhai Patel
(C) Subhas Chandra Bose
(D) Mahatma Gandhi

53. Who discovered the TB bacterium? (the day he announced it is World TB Day)
(A) Louis Pasteur
(B) Robert Koch
(C) Alexander Fleming
(D) Edward Jenner

54. Tamil Nadu's 'TN-KET' (Kasanoi Erappila Thittam) mainly aims at –
(A) Vaccinating adults
(B) Cash aid to patients
(C) Reducing TB deaths
(D) Screening migrants

55. In 2020, the Revised National TB Control Programme (RNTCP) was renamed as –
(A) National TB Elimination Prog.
(B) Ni-kshay Mitra Programme
(C) TB Harega Desh Jeetega
(D) Intensified TB Control Plan

56. Where are the 5th Asian Para Games (Oct 2026) being held?
(A) Aichi–Nagoya, Japan
(B) Tokyo, Japan
(C) Hangzhou, China
(D) Incheon, South Korea

57. Where is the headquarters of the Asian Paralympic Committee (APC)?
(A) Kuala Lumpur
(B) Beijing
(C) Tokyo
(D) Dubai

58. Which city hosted the first Asian Para Games?
(A) Incheon
(B) Jakarta
(C) Guangzhou
(D) Hangzhou

59. Salem's Paralympian Mariyappan Thangavelu is famous in which event?
(A) High jump
(B) Javelin throw
(C) Shot put
(D) Long jump

60. Tamil Nadu's Thulasimathi Murugesan, part of India's squad, plays which sport?
(A) Para badminton
(B) Para archery
(C) Para table tennis
(D) Para shooting

61. Under which Act was the Food Safety and Standards Authority of India (FSSAI) established?
(A) Consumer Protection Act
(B) Food Adulteration Act, 1954
(C) FSS Act, 2006
(D) Essential Commodities Act

62. Nestle's 'Resource Renal' powder, which drew an FSSAI notice, is meant for the dietary management of which patients?
(A) Diabetes
(B) Chronic kidney disease
(C) Liver cirrhosis
(D) Celiac disease

63. What is the colour of the mandatory dot that marks non-vegetarian food on Indian food labels?
(A) Brown
(B) Green
(C) Red
(D) Yellow

64. Who is appointed by each State Government to enforce the food safety law at the State level?
(A) Commissioner of Food Safety
(B) District Collector
(C) Civil Supplies Commissioner
(D) Drugs Controller

65. The Central Consumer Protection Authority (CCPA), which acts against misleading ads, was set up under which Act?
(A) FSS Act, 2006
(B) Competition Act, 2002
(C) Legal Metrology Act, 2009
(D) Consumer Protection Act, 2019

66. As per the Supreme Court ruling of 15 Oct 2026, who cannot claim the BC (Muslim) quota in Tamil Nadu on the basis of former caste?

(A) Muslim women
(B) Creamy-layer Muslims
(C) Converts to Islam
(D) Urdu-speaking Muslims

67. Tamil Nadu's 3.5% BC (Muslim) internal quota is carved out of which category's share?

(A) Most Backward Classes
(B) Scheduled Castes
(C) Open competition
(D) Backward Classes (BC)

68. Under the Constitution (Scheduled Castes) Order, 1950, persons of which religions alone can be deemed Scheduled Castes?

(A) Hindu, Sikh, Buddhist
(B) Hindu only
(C) Hindu, Jain, Buddhist
(D) Hindu, Sikh, Christian

69. Which 1992 Supreme Court judgment affirmed the 50% ceiling on reservation and the 'creamy layer' exclusion?

(A) Kesavananda Bharati
(B) Minerva Mills
(C) S.R. Bommai
(D) Indra Sawhney

70. Which Madras State case led to the First Amendment (1951) that inserted Article 15(4)?

(A) Champakam Dorairajan
(B) Golaknath
(C) A.K. Gopalan
(D) Shankari Prasad

71. In its 15 Oct 2026 ruling, the Supreme Court held internet access a fundamental right under Article 21 read with which Article?

(A) Article 14
(B) Article 19(1)(a)
(C) Article 32
(D) Article 51A

72. Which High Court, in the 'Faheema Shirin' case (2019), held that internet access is part of the right to education?

(A) Madras High Court
(B) Kerala High Court
(C) Delhi High Court
(D) Bombay High Court

73. Under the DPDP Act, 2023, what is mandatory for processing a child's personal data?

(A) Aadhaar authentication
(B) A court order
(C) Verifiable parental consent
(D) Police verification

74. Section 79, which gives 'safe harbour' to online intermediaries, belongs to which Act?

(A) POCSO Act, 2012
(B) IT Act, 2000
(C) DPDP Act, 2023
(D) Telegraph Act, 1885

75. Which Chief Minister launched the Tamil Nadu School Education Department's 'Kalvi Tholaikkatchi' in 2019?

(A) Edappadi K. Palaniswami
(B) J. Jayalalithaa
(C) M.K. Stalin
(D) O. Panneerselvam

76. FSSAI's added-sugar draft (Oct 2026) amends which regulations?

(A) Labelling Regs, 2020
(B) Claims Regs, 2018
(C) Infant Nutrition Regs, 2020
(D) Supplements Regs, 2022

77. On hydrolysis, sucrose yields which monosaccharides?

(A) Glucose + galactose
(B) Glucose + fructose
(C) Glucose + glucose
(D) Fructose + galactose

78. Which Indian law bans the advertising and promotion of infant milk substitutes and feeding bottles?

(A) Drugs and Cosmetics Act
(B) Consumer Protection Act
(C) IMS Act, 1992
(D) Maternity Benefit Act

79. The Union Health Ministry's 'MAA' (Mothers' Absolute Affection) programme (2016) promotes –

(A) Institutional delivery
(B) Child immunisation
(C) Family planning
(D) Breastfeeding

80. In August 2015, at which public places did the Tamil Nadu government open 352 breastfeeding rooms?

(A) Railway stations
(B) Temples
(C) Shopping malls
(D) Bus stands

81. Acetamiprid and imidacloprid, for which FSSAI proposed residue limits in tea, belong to which class of insecticides?

(A) Organophosphates
(B) Neonicotinoids
(C) Carbamates
(D) Pyrethroids

82. Neonicotinoid insecticides mainly attack which system of insects?

(A) Digestive system
(B) Respiratory system
(C) Excretory system
(D) Nervous system

83. The CIB&RC, which registers pesticides in India, functions under which Act?

(A) Environment Act, 1986
(B) Essential Commodities Act
(C) Insecticides Act, 1968
(D) Food Adulteration Act

84. Where is the headquarters of the Tea Board of India, set up under the Tea Act, 1953?

(A) Guwahati
(B) Coonoor
(C) Kolkata
(D) New Delhi

85. Where in Tamil Nadu is the UPASI Tea Research Institute located?

(A) Coonoor
(B) Udhagamandalam
(C) Yercaud
(D) Valparai

86. Which body approves States' housing projects under PMAY-U 2.0?

(A) NITI Aayog Governing Council
(B) National Housing Bank
(C) CSMC
(D) Finance Commission

87. Which Union Ministry implements Pradhan Mantri Awas Yojana – Urban?

(A) Ministry of Rural Development
(B) Housing and Urban Affairs
(C) Ministry of Panchayati Raj
(D) Ministry of Social Justice

88. What does the 'ARH' vertical of PMAY-U 2.0 stand for?

(A) Affordable Rental Housing
(B) Assisted Rural Housing
(C) Annual Repair of Houses
(D) Area Redevelopment Housing

89. In whose name are PMAY-Urban houses preferably registered?

(A) Eldest son
(B) Male head of family
(C) Municipality
(D) Woman (sole or joint)

90. What is the aim of Tamil Nadu's 'Kalaignar Kanavu Illam' scheme?

(A) Urban rental homes
(B) Concrete houses for rural huts
(C) Working women's hostels
(D) Fishermen's colonies

91. In which city was Maharashtra's first 'Annapurti Grain ATM' opened?
(A) Nashik (B) Pune
(C) Nagpur (D) Thane

92. Which UN agency helped develop the Annapurti grain ATM?
(A) Food and Agriculture Org. (FAO) (B) UNICEF
(C) World Food Programme (WFP) (D) IFAD

93. India's first 24-hour 'Annapurti' grain ATM was installed in which State?
(A) Gujarat (B) Odisha
(C) Kerala (D) Uttar Pradesh

94. Which was the first State to set up a Civil Supplies Corporation for the PDS?
(A) Kerala (B) Andhra Pradesh
(C) Tamil Nadu (D) Karnataka

95. Which law entitles up to 75% of rural and 50% of urban people to subsidised food grains?
(A) Essential Commodities Act (B) Consumer Protection Act
(C) National Food Security Act (D) Food Safety and Standards Act

96. What will NASA's 'PUFFINS' mission, led by Ramya Anche, study?
(A) Interstellar dust (B) Exoplanet atmospheres
(C) Solar wind (D) Black hole mergers

97. Under which NASA programme was the PUFFINS mission selected?
(A) Astrophysics Pioneers (B) Artemis
(C) Discovery (D) New Frontiers

98. Why must ultraviolet (UV) astronomy be done from space rather than from the ground?
(A) Light pollution (B) Earth's magnetic field
(C) Water vapour (D) Ozone layer absorbs UV

99. Where in Tamil Nadu is the Indian Institute of Astrophysics' 'Vainu Bappu Observatory'?
(A) Kodaikanal (B) Kavalur
(C) Udhagamandalam (D) Mahendragiri

100. Which infrared space telescope, a NASA–ESA–Canada project, was launched in 2021?
(A) Hubble (B) James Webb
(C) Chandra (D) Kepler

101. Raji Doshi's 'ALKACORE', which won the 2026 3M Young Scientist Challenge, tackles which problem?
(A) Plastic waste (B) Oil spills
(C) Coastal erosion (D) Ocean acidification

102. Ocean acidification is mainly caused by the sea absorbing which gas from the atmosphere?
(A) Carbon dioxide (B) Methane
(C) Nitrogen (D) Ozone

103. During coral bleaching, corals expel which symbiotic organisms living in their tissues?
(A) Diatoms (B) Lichens
(C) Zooxanthellae algae (D) Mycorrhizal fungi

104. Which compound forms coral and shell skeletons and also the aragonite used in ALKACORE?

(A) Calcium carbonate
(B) Calcium sulphate
(C) Sodium chloride
(D) Magnesium oxide

105. The coral-rich Gulf of Mannar lies between India and which country?

(A) Maldives
(B) Sri Lanka
(C) Myanmar
(D) Indonesia

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Answer key at a glance

1 **A**	2 **A**	3 **B**	4 **D**	5 **B**	6 **C**	7 **D**	8 **C**	9 **B**	10 **B**
11 **D**	12 **C**	13 **B**	14 **C**	15 **C**	16 **A**	17 **C**	18 **B**	19 **D**	20 **C**
21 **D**	22 **A**	23 **C**	24 **B**	25 **C**	26 **D**	27 **C**	28 **D**	29 **B**	30 **B**
31 **D**	32 **A**	33 **A**	34 **B**	35 **D**	36 **A**	37 **A**	38 **D**	39 **C**	40 **D**
41 **A**	42 **A**	43 **B**	44 **D**	45 **B**	46 **C**	47 **B**	48 **A**	49 **D**	50 **D**
51 **A**	52 **D**	53 **B**	54 **C**	55 **A**	56 **A**	57 **D**	58 **C**	59 **A**	60 **A**
61 **C**	62 **B**	63 **A**	64 **A**	65 **D**	66 **C**	67 **D**	68 **A**	69 **D**	70 **A**
71 **B**	72 **B**	73 **C**	74 **B**	75 **A**	76 **C**	77 **B**	78 **C**	79 **D**	80 **D**
81 **B**	82 **D**	83 **C**	84 **C**	85 **D**	86 **C**	87 **B**	88 **A**	89 **D**	90 **B**
91 **A**	92 **C**	93 **B**	94 **C**	95 **C**	96 **A**	97 **A**	98 **D**	99 **B**	100 **B**
101 **D**	102 **A**	103 **C**	104 **A**	105 **B**					

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Answers & explanations

1. (A) Tenkasi – Tenkasi – carved out of Tirunelveli in 2019. The study covers the 33 wards of Kadayanallur municipality.

2. (A) Takeda (Japan) – Takeda; its Indian manufacturing partner is Biological E. Sanofi's 'Dengvaxia' was an earlier dengue vaccine.

3. (B) Flavivirus – Flavivirus – the same genus has Zika, yellow fever and Japanese encephalitis viruses. Chikungunya is an Alphavirus.

4. (D) Aedes aegypti – Aedes aegypti – breeds in stored clean water. Anopheles spreads malaria; Culex spreads filariasis and Japanese encephalitis.

5. (B) Chennai – Chennai. The National Institute of Virology (NIV) is in Pune. National Dengue Day is 16 May.

6. (C) Gaana – Gaana – North Chennai's urban folk music. Deva's other title was 'Thenisai Thendral'.

7. (D) Ranipet – Ranipet – Sakkaramallur near Arcot; 72-gun salute. Ranipet was carved out of Vellore in 2019.

8. (C) TN Iyal Isai Nataka Manram – Tamil Nadu Iyal Isai Nataka Manram – for artistes in literature, music, drama, dance and cinema. Sangeet Natak Akademi is the national body.

9. (B) Information & Broadcasting – Information & Broadcasting Ministry, along with the National Film Awards. From Tamil cinema, Sivaji Ganesan (1996), K. Balachander (2010) and Rajinikanth (2019) have received it.

10. (B) Article 80 – Article 80 – the President nominates 12 members from literature, science, art and social service. Article 81 deals with the composition of the Lok Sabha.

11. (D) Social Justice & Empowerment – Ministry of Social Justice & Empowerment; 100% centrally funded. 18,093 villages were declared Adarsh Grams by 8 Sept 2026.

12. (C) Saansad Adarsh Gram Yojana – Saansad Adarsh Gram Yojana (SAGY) – 2014, Rural Development Ministry; each MP adopts villages.

13. (B) Tamil Nadu – Tamil Nadu (225 villages); the other pilot States were Assam, Bihar, Himachal Pradesh and Rajasthan – 1,000 villages in all.

14. (C) Article 341 – Article 341; only Parliament can amend the list by law. Art 342 – Scheduled Tribes; 338 – NCSC; 340 – Backward Classes Commission.

15. (C) Directive Principles – Directive Principles of State Policy (Part IV, Arts 36–51) – not enforceable by courts but fundamental to governance.

16. (A) C-heavy molasses – C-heavy molasses – final molasses left after sugar extraction; using it does not reduce sugar output.

17. (C) Saccharomyces cerevisiae – Saccharomyces cerevisiae (yeast) – anaerobic respiration gives ethanol and CO_2. Lactobacillus curdles milk; Rhizobium fixes nitrogen.

18. (B) CACP – Commission for Agricultural Costs and Prices (CACP); the Cabinet Committee on Economic Affairs approves it. Tamil Nadu pays a special incentive above FRP.

19. (D) Panipat – Panipat (Haryana) – Indian Oil, 2022; uses paddy straw, helping cut stubble-burning pollution.

20. (C) Petroleum & Natural Gas – Ministry of Petroleum & Natural Gas; the 2022 amendment advanced the E20 target to 2025–26. World Biofuel Day is 10 August.

21. (D) Reflect Orbital – Reflect Orbital (California) – two launches on Vikram-1 and Vikram-1U. Axiom runs private space-station missions (Shubhanshu Shukla, Ax-4).

22. (A) Hyderabad – Hyderabad. Chennai's IIT-M-incubated Agnikul Cosmos flew 'Agnibaan SOrTeD' (2024) with a single-piece 3D-printed engine.

23. (C) Vikram Sarabhai – Vikram Sarabhai – father of the Indian space programme; pioneer of INCOSPAR (1962) and ISRO (1969). The Chandrayaan lander is also 'Vikram'.

24. (B) IN-SPACe – IN-SPACe – set up in 2020, HQ Ahmedabad; an autonomous body under the Department of Space. NSIL and Antrix are ISRO's commercial arms.

25. (C) Thoothukudi – Thoothukudi district – close to the equator and allows launches straight south without skirting Sri Lanka. Kulasekarapattinam is also famous for its Dasara festival.

26. (D) High-speed guided torpedo – A high-speed precision-guided torpedo – 15 Oct 2026, reported by KCNA on 17 Oct. A torpedo is a self-propelled underwater weapon.

27. (C) Reflection of sound (echo) – Reflection (echo) of sound/ultrasonic waves; sound travels about 1,500 m/s in water – roughly four times faster than in air. RADAR uses radio waves.

28. (D) Panmunjom – Panmunjom – 27 July 1953; no peace treaty has been signed to this day. Korea was divided along the 38th parallel in 1945.

29. (B) Non-Proliferation Treaty – The NPT (signed 1968, in force 1970) – North Korea is the only country to withdraw. India has not signed the NPT, calling it discriminatory.

30. (B) Tirunelveli – Vijayanarayanam, Tirunelveli district (1990), named after Veerapandiya Kattabomman; INS Parundu, a naval air station, is at Uchipuli, Ramanathapuram.

31. (D) The Prime Minister – The Prime Minister – the Department of Atomic Energy too is under the PM. Dr Jitendra Singh is the MoS for both.

32. (A) NewSpace India Limited – NSIL (March 2019) – it transferred SSLV technology to HAL and PSLV production to an industry consortium. Antrix dates from 1992.

33. (A) Bharatiya Antariksh Station – Bharatiya Antariksh Station (BAS); there is also a goal to land an Indian on the Moon by 2040. Aryabhata was India's first satellite (1975).

34. (B) Bengaluru – Bengaluru (Antariksh Bhavan). Thiruvananthapuram has the Vikram Sarabhai Space Centre; Ahmedabad has the Space Applications Centre (SAC) and IN-SPACe.

35. (D) Testing rocket engines – Testing and integration of rocket engines (cryogenic, liquid) and stages. Satellites are launched from Sriharikota (Satish Dhawan Space Centre).

36. (A) Non-scheduled drugs – Non-scheduled drugs (outside price ceilings) – branded, generic and patented alike. NLEM drugs already have ceiling prices.

37. (A) Chemicals and Fertilizers – Department of Pharmaceuticals, Ministry of Chemicals & Fertilizers; NPPA dates from 1997. Drug quality regulation (CDSCO) is under the Health Ministry.

38. (D) Essential Medicines List (NLEM) – NLEM (now NLEM 2022, 384 drugs) – NPPA fixes ceiling prices for these. DPCO 2013 was issued under the Essential Commodities Act, 1955.

39. (C) Dr Muthulakshmi Reddy – Dr Muthulakshmi Reddy – through the Women's Indian Association (WIA); India's first woman legislator. Dr V. Shanta later led the institute.

40. (D) Mitosis – Uncontrolled mitosis (body-cell division) forms a tumour; its spread to other sites is 'metastasis'. Meiosis occurs in reproductive cells.

41. (A) ICAR-CPRI, Shimla – Central Potato Research Institute, Shimla; all its varieties carry the prefix 'Kufri'.

42. (A) Anthocyanin – Anthocyanin – a water-soluble flavonoid antioxidant. Lycopene gives tomatoes their red colour.

43. (B) Stem tuber – Stem tuber – its 'eyes' are nodal buds. Sweet potato is a root tuber; onion is a bulb.

44. (D) Andes, South America – The Andes (Peru–Bolivia). The International Potato Center (CIP) is in Lima, Peru.

45. (B) Muthorai, Udhagamandalam – Muthorai, Ooty (Nilgiris) – since 1957; it released a cyst-nematode-resistant variety in 1985.

46. (C) Intl. Menopause Society – The International Menopause Society (IMS); its 20th World Congress was held in Rio de Janeiro, Brazil, from 30 Sep to 3 Oct 2026.

47. (B) Chronic Pain at Midlife – 'Chronic Pain at Midlife'. The 2025 theme was 'Lifestyle Medicine'.

48. (A) Oestrogen – Oestrogen (progesterone also falls). WHO definition: 12 consecutive months without menstruation.

49. (D) Osteoporosis – Osteoporosis – loss of oestrogen reduces bone density. Rickets is vitamin D deficiency in children.

50. (D) J. Jayalalithaa – J. Jayalalithaa; extended to urban areas in 2020. In 2026 the Supreme Court held menstrual health to be part of Article 21.

51. (A) Varanasi – Varanasi, on World TB Day (24 March 2023). A family-centric care model was also announced there.

52. (D) Mahatma Gandhi – A Mahatma Gandhi statuette – bronze for one year, silver for two, gold for three; the certificate is valid for a year.

53. (B) Robert Koch – Robert Koch (Germany) – 24 March 1882; germ: Mycobacterium tuberculosis. Vaccine: BCG.

54. (C) Reducing TB deaths – Since April 2022 – it triages severely ill patients at diagnosis and admits them to hospital to prevent deaths.

55. (A) National TB Elimination Prog. – National TB Elimination Programme (NTEP). Ni-kshay Poshan (2018) gives patients nutrition support – ₹1,000 a month since 2024.

56. (A) Aichi–Nagoya, Japan – Aichi–Nagoya (18–24 Oct); motto 'Imagine One Heart', mascot 'Uzumin'. The 2026 Asian Games were held in the same cities.

57. (D) Dubai – Dubai (UAE). The International Paralympic Committee (IPC) is headquartered in Bonn, Germany.

58. (C) Guangzhou – Guangzhou, China (2010). At Hangzhou (2022 edition) India posted its best-ever haul of 111 medals.

59. (A) High jump – High jump (T63) – Rio 2016 gold, Tokyo silver, Paris bronze; Padma Shri (2017) and Khel Ratna (2020) awardee.

60. (A) Para badminton – Para badminton (SU5) – Paris 2024 silver. Tamil Nadu's Manisha Ramadass won bronze in the same class.

61. (C) FSS Act, 2006 – FSS Act 2006; the Authority was set up in 2008 under the Health Ministry, HQ New Delhi. The Act replaced the 1954 Prevention of Food Adulteration Act.

62. (B) Chronic kidney disease – 'Renal' means relating to the kidney. Such special medical-purpose foods need FSSAI prior approval under the 2022 regulations.

63. (A) Brown – FSS (Labelling and Display) Regulations 2020: brown for non-veg, green for veg. The Nestle product lacked this symbol.

64. (A) Commissioner of Food Safety – Section 30 of the FSS Act – State Commissioner of Food Safety. Tamil Nadu topped India with 2,865 criminal convictions from 2021–22 to 2025–26 (Lok Sabha, July 2026).

65. (D) Consumer Protection Act, 2019 – Section 10 of CPA 2019 – CCPA set up on 24 July 2020. Guidelines for Prevention of Misleading Advertisements – 2022.

66. (C) Converts to Islam – The bench of Justices P.K. Mishra and Shree Chandrashekhar upheld the quashing of G.O. No. 31 (2024); the 3.5% quota itself continues.

67. (D) Backward Classes (BC) – BC 30% = BC 26.5% + BC(M) 3.5%, under the 2007 Act. MBC/DNC have a separate 20%.

68. (A) Hindu, Sikh, Buddhist – Originally Hindus only; Sikhs were added in 1956 and Buddhists in 1990. The order was cited in this ruling too.

69. (D) Indra Sawhney – Indra Sawhney (Mandal case) – nine-judge bench. Hence Tamil Nadu's 69% Act was put in the Ninth Schedule by the 76th Amendment (1994).

70. (A) Champakam Dorairajan – After the communal G.O. was struck down in 1951, Periyar and others agitated; the Nehru government added Article 15(4).

71. (B) Article 19(1)(a) – 19(1)(a) – freedom of speech and expression. Bench of Justices J.B. Pardiwala and K. Vinod Chandran; it rejected blanket age-based bans.

72. (B) Kerala High Court – A student's challenge to a hostel mobile-phone ban. Anuradha Bhasin (2020) – speech and trade via internet protected under 19(1)(a) and (g).

73. (C) Verifiable parental consent – Under the DPDP Act a person below 18 is a 'child'; targeted ads and tracking of children are barred. Oversight – Data Protection Board of India.

74. (B) IT Act, 2000 – In its 23 Sept 2024 judgment the Supreme Court said platforms ignoring POCSO duties lose Section 79 protection. IT Rules 2021 lay down intermediary guidelines.

75. (A) Edappadi K. Palaniswami – Launched on 26 Aug 2019 for Classes 1–12, with SCERT content.

76. (C) Infant Nutrition Regs, 2020 – FSS (Foods for Infant Nutrition) Regulations 2020, Reg. 3(6); draft gazetted on 16 Oct 2026; 60-day comment period.

77. (B) Glucose + fructose – Glucose + galactose = lactose (milk sugar); glucose + glucose = maltose. Fructose is the sweetest natural sugar.

78. (C) IMS Act, 1992 – IMS Act 1992 (amended 2003) – based on WHO's 1981 International Code of Marketing of Breast-milk Substitutes.

79. (D) Breastfeeding – A national programme to promote breastfeeding (Aug 2016). WHO and UNICEF advise exclusive breastfeeding for the first 6 months; World Breastfeeding Week – 1–7 Aug.

80. (D) Bus stands – Opened by CM Jayalalithaa on 3 Aug 2015; 7 human milk banks in government hospitals were launched the same day.

81. (B) Neonicotinoids – Neonicotinoids – chemically similar to nicotine. Because they harm bees, the EU banned outdoor use of three of them in 2018.

82. (D) Nervous system – Nervous system – they bind to nicotinic acetylcholine receptors and paralyse the insect; they are systemic, spreading inside the plant.

83. (C) Insecticides Act, 1968 – Insecticides Act, 1968 – CIB&RC is under the Agriculture Ministry, at Faridabad. It approved both chemicals for use on tea in Jan 2026.

84. (C) Kolkata – Kolkata – under the Ministry of Commerce and Industry. Its South India office is at Coonoor.

85. (D) Valparai – Valparai (Coimbatore district). UPASI (1893) itself is headquartered at Coonoor.

86. (C) CSMC – The Central Sanctioning and Monitoring Committee (CSMC), chaired by the MoHUA Secretary. Its 10th meeting on 16 Oct 2026 approved 1.93 lakh houses.

87. (B) Housing and Urban Affairs – The Ministry of Housing and Urban Affairs (MoHUA). PMAY-Gramin is under the Ministry of Rural Development.

88. (A) Affordable Rental Housing – Affordable Rental Housing – for migrant workers, students and working women. The other verticals are BLC, AHP and ISS.

89. (D) Woman (sole or joint) – In a woman's sole or joint name – 97% (20.16 lakh) of PMAY-U 2.0 houses are allotted to women.

90. (B) Concrete houses for rural huts – Concrete houses replacing rural huts – target 8 lakh houses by 2030; announced in the 2024–25 Budget.

91. (A) Nashik – Nashik (Nashik Road) – the next two will be at Nagpur and Thane. Nashik lies on the Godavari.

92. (C) World Food Programme (WFP) – The World Food Programme (WFP) – HQ Rome; it won the 2020 Nobel Peace Prize.

93. (B) Odisha – Odisha – at a fair price shop in Bhubaneswar, 9 Aug 2024. It dispenses up to 50 kg in 5 minutes.

94. (C) Tamil Nadu – Tamil Nadu – TNCSC, 1972. Tamil Nadu follows a Universal PDS covering all card-holders.

95. (C) National Food Security Act – The National Food Security Act, 2013. Free grain under PMGKAY has been extended to 2028.

96. (A) Interstellar dust – Interstellar dust – it will measure the polarisation of UV light from about 70 stars; launch targeted for 2030.

97. (A) Astrophysics Pioneers – Pioneers (2020) – small missions under a $20 million cap. Artemis is the programme to return humans to the Moon.

98. (D) Ozone layer absorbs UV – The ozone layer absorbs most UV radiation. India's AstroSat (2015) carries the UVIT ultraviolet telescope.

99. (B) Kavalur – Kavalur, Javadhu Hills (Tirupattur district). Kodaikanal has IIA's Solar Observatory (1899); Ooty a TIFR radio telescope; Mahendragiri ISRO's propulsion complex.

100. (B) James Webb – James Webb (JWST) – 25 Dec 2021. Hubble (1990) observes UV and visible light; Chandra observes X-rays.

101. (D) Ocean acidification – Ocean acidification – macroalgae plus aragonite raise alkalinity and remove CO_2. The prize is $25,000.

102. (A) Carbon dioxide – Carbon dioxide – with water it forms weak carbonic acid (H_2CO_3), lowering pH; average pH has fallen from about 8.2 to 8.1.

103. (C) Zooxanthellae algae – Zooxanthellae – photosynthetic algae that give corals food and colour; ocean warming is the main trigger of bleaching.

104. (A) Calcium carbonate – Calcium carbonate ($CaCO_3$) – aragonite and calcite are its crystal forms. Limestone and marble are also $CaCO_3$.

105. (B) Sri Lanka – Sri Lanka – the Gulf of Mannar Biosphere Reserve (1989) was the first marine biosphere reserve in South and South-East Asia; home to the dugong.

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