

GENERAL AWARENESS – IMPORTANT GOVERNMENT & PUBLIC SECTOR ORGANISATIONS OF INDIA

Chapter: Important Government and Public Sector Organisations of India

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| Subject: | General Awareness – Government Organisations & PSUs |
| Total Questions: | 70 MCQs |
| Question Type: | Multiple Choice (Single Correct Answer) |
| Exam Relevance: | UPSC, SSC CGL/CHSL, IBPS, RRB NTPC, State PSC, NDA, CDS, Bank Exams, Defence Exams |
| Topics Covered: | Constitutional Bodies, Banking/Financial Regulators, Defence, Science & Space, Economic Bodies, Education, Health, Environment, PSUs, Transport, Media, Regulatory Bodies |
| Based On: | Static GK + Latest Current Affairs 2024–2026 |

★ ■■ CONSTITUTIONAL BODIES ★

Q1. The Election Commission of India (ECI) was established under which Article of the Constitution and in which year?

- A) Article 280 – 1950
- B) Article 324 – 1950
- C) Article 315 – 1926
- D) Article 148 – 1950

✓ **Correct Answer: B) Article 324 – 1950**

■ **Explanation:** The Election Commission of India (ECI) was established on 25 January 1950 (celebrated as National Voters' Day) under Article 324 of the Constitution. It is a constitutional body responsible for superintending, directing, and controlling elections to Parliament, State Legislatures, and offices of President and Vice-President. The current CEC is Rajiv Kumar.

Q2. The Comptroller and Auditor General (CAG) of India is appointed by the President under Article 148. The CAG reports are submitted to whom?

- A) Prime Minister directly
- B) Parliament/State Legislature (President/Governor lays them)
- C) Finance Ministry for review
- D) NITI Aayog for policy action

✓ **Correct Answer: B) Parliament/State Legislature (President/Governor lays them)**

■ *Explanation: The CAG submits audit reports to the President (for Union accounts) and Governors (for State accounts), who then lay them before Parliament/State Legislatures. The Public Accounts Committee (PAC) of Parliament examines CAG reports. The CAG holds office for 6 years or till age 65, whichever is earlier, and cannot be reappointed.*

Q3. The Union Public Service Commission (UPSC) conducts which of the following examinations?

- A) SSC CGL and Bank PO exams
- B) Civil Services Exam (IAS/IPS/IFS), NDA, CDS, CAPF, SCRA exams
- C) JEE and NEET only
- D) State PSC exams for all states

✓ **Correct Answer: B) Civil Services Exam (IAS/IPS/IFS), NDA, CDS, CAPF, SCRA exams**

■ *Explanation: UPSC (Union Public Service Commission) conducts: Civil Services Examination (IAS, IPS, IFS), NDA (National Defence Academy), CDS (Combined Defence Services), CAPF (Central Armed Police Forces), ESE (Engineering Services), IES, IFS (Forest Service), SCRA, and other central service exams. State-level exams are conducted by State PSCs. SSC CGL is conducted by the Staff Selection Commission (SSC).*

Q4. The Finance Commission is a constitutional body established under Article 280. It is constituted every:

- A) 2 years
- B) 3 years
- C) 5 years
- D) 10 years

✓ **Correct Answer: C) 5 years**

■ *Explanation: The Finance Commission is constituted by the President of India every 5 years (or earlier if needed) under Article 280. It recommends: (1) distribution of net proceeds of taxes between Centre and States; (2) principles for grants-in-aid to States; (3) measures to augment the Consolidated Fund of States. The 16th Finance Commission (2023) is chaired by Dr. Arvind Panagariya.*

★ ■ **BANKING & FINANCIAL REGULATORS** ★

Q5. Reserve Bank of India (RBI) was nationalised in which year?

- A) 1935
- B) 1947
- C) 1949
- D) 1955

✓ **Correct Answer: C) 1949**

■ *Explanation: RBI was established on 1 April 1935 (as a private shareholder's bank) and nationalised on 1 January 1949 after India's independence. It functions as India's central bank under the RBI Act 1934. Functions: monetary policy, currency issuance, banker to the government, banker to banks, foreign exchange management, and financial stability.*

Q6. Securities and Exchange Board of India (SEBI) regulates India's securities markets. SEBI was established as a statutory body under the SEBI Act in which year?

- A) 1988
- B) 1990
- C) 1992
- D) 1996

✓ **Correct Answer: C) 1992**

■ *Explanation: SEBI was established as a non-statutory body in 1988 and became a statutory autonomous regulatory authority under the SEBI Act 1992. SEBI's headquarters is in Mumbai. It regulates stock exchanges (NSE, BSE), stockbrokers, mutual funds, foreign portfolio investors, credit rating agencies, and listed companies. The current SEBI Chairman (2024) is Madhabi Puri Buch.*

Q7. The Insurance Regulatory and Development Authority of India (IRDAI) regulates the insurance sector. Its headquarters is in:

- A) Mumbai
- B) New Delhi
- C) Hyderabad
- D) Chennai

✓ **Correct Answer: C) Hyderabad**

■ *Explanation: IRDAI (Insurance Regulatory and Development Authority of India) is headquartered in Hyderabad, Telangana. Established under the IRDAI Act 1999, it regulates life insurance and general insurance companies in India. It was initially in Delhi but moved to Hyderabad in 2001. India has 57+ insurance companies regulated by IRDAI.*

Q8. National Bank for Agriculture and Rural Development (NABARD) was established in which year and is headquartered in which city?

- A) 1975 – New Delhi
- B) 1982 – Mumbai
- C) 1969 – Kolkata
- D) 1990 – Chennai

✓ **Correct Answer: B) 1982 – Mumbai**

■ *Explanation: NABARD was established on 12 July 1982 under the NABARD Act 1981, headquartered in Mumbai. It is the apex development finance institution for agriculture, rural industries, and cooperatives. NABARD refinances banks for agricultural loans, supervises Regional Rural Banks (RRBs), and implements rural infrastructure development through RIDF (Rural Infrastructure Development Fund).*

Q9. Small Industries Development Bank of India (SIDBI) was established to promote MSMEs. It functions as a:

- A) Commercial bank for MSMEs
- B) Principal financial institution and refinancing agency for MSMEs
- C) Insurance company for small businesses
- D) Training institute for MSME entrepreneurs

✓ **Correct Answer: B) Principal financial institution and refinancing agency for MSMEs**

■ *Explanation: SIDBI (Small Industries Development Bank of India) was established in April 1990 under the SIDBI Act 1989, headquartered in Lucknow. It is the principal financial institution for promotion, financing, and development of MSMEs. It refinances banks/NBFCs lending to MSMEs, provides direct credit to MSMEs, and also manages the MUDRA (Micro Units Development and Refinance Agency) programme.*

★ ■■ DEFENCE & SECURITY ORGANISATIONS ★

Q10. DRDO (Defence Research and Development Organisation) was established in 1958. How many laboratories/establishments does DRDO have?

- A) 15 labs
- B) 30 labs
- C) 52+ labs/establishments
- D) 100 labs

✓ **Correct Answer: C) 52+ labs/establishments**

■ *Explanation: DRDO operates 52+ laboratories and establishments across India, clustered under clusters like Armaments, Combat Vehicles, Electronics, Missiles, Naval systems, Life Sciences, CBRN Defence, and Aeronautics. Notable DRDO labs: DRDL (missiles, Hyderabad), SAC (satellites, Ahmedabad), ARDE (armaments, Pune), INMAS (nuclear medicine, Delhi), DMRL (metallurgy, Hyderabad).*

Q11. The Border Roads Organisation (BRO) is under which ministry?

- A) Ministry of Road Transport and Highways
- B) Ministry of Defence
- C) Ministry of Home Affairs
- D) Ministry of Development of Northeast Region

✓ **Correct Answer: B) Ministry of Defence**

■ *Explanation: BRO (Border Roads Organisation), established in 1960, is under the Ministry of Defence. It builds and maintains roads, bridges, and tunnels in border areas, remote regions, and difficult terrain. BRO is responsible for strategic roads in J&K, Ladakh, Himachal Pradesh, Uttarakhand, Arunachal Pradesh, and Northeast India, including the Atal Tunnel (world's longest highway tunnel above 10,000 ft).*

Q12. National Security Guard (NSG), popularly called the 'Black Cats', is a federal contingency force under which ministry?

- A) Ministry of Defence
- B) Ministry of Home Affairs
- C) Cabinet Secretariat
- D) PMO (Prime Minister's Office)

✓ **Correct Answer: B) Ministry of Home Affairs**

■ *Explanation: NSG (National Security Guard) was established in 1984 (after Operation Blue Star and PM Indira Gandhi's assassination) under the NSG Act 1986, under the Ministry of Home Affairs. Called 'Black Cats' for their black uniforms, NSG handles counter-terrorism, hostage rescue, and VIP protection. NSG played a key role in the 26/11 Mumbai attacks response (2008).*

★ ■ SPACE, SCIENCE & TECHNOLOGY ★

Q13. ISRO (Indian Space Research Organisation) was established in 1969. Its present Chairman (2024–25) is:

- A) K. Sivan
- B) S. Somanath
- C) V. Narayanan
- D) A.S. Kiran Kumar

✓ **Correct Answer: C) V. Narayanan**

■ *Explanation: V. Narayanan succeeded S. Somanath as ISRO Chairman in January 2025. S. Somanath led ISRO during the historic Chandrayaan-3 mission (August 2023). ISRO is headquartered at Bengaluru and has major centres: VSSC (Thiruvananthapuram), LPSC (Thiruvananthapuram), SAC (Ahmedabad), NRSC (Hyderabad), URSC (Bengaluru), and SDSC-SHAR (Sriharikota launch centre).*

Q14. The Council of Scientific and Industrial Research (CSIR) is India's largest R&D; organisation. It is under which ministry?

- A) Ministry of Education
- B) Ministry of Science & Technology (DST)
- C) Ministry of Science and Technology (DSIR)
- D) NITI Aayog

✓ **Correct Answer: C) Ministry of Science and Technology (DSIR)**

■ *Explanation: CSIR (Council of Scientific and Industrial Research) is under the Department of Scientific and Industrial Research (DSIR), Ministry of Science and Technology. Established in 1942, CSIR operates 37 national laboratories across India (CCMB Hyderabad, IGIB Delhi, NCL Pune, CLRI Chennai, NBRI Lucknow). CSIR is known for the Aarogya Setu app, Divya Bhaskar, and COVID diagnostics during the pandemic.*

Q15. Nuclear Power Corporation of India Limited (NPCIL) is responsible for nuclear power generation. It operates under which ministry?

- A) Ministry of Power
- B) Department of Atomic Energy (DAE)
- C) Ministry of Science & Technology
- D) Ministry of Finance (as PSU)

✓ **Correct Answer: B) Department of Atomic Energy (DAE)**

■ *Explanation: NPCIL (Nuclear Power Corporation of India Limited) is a Central Public Sector Enterprise (CPSE) under the Department of Atomic Energy (DAE), which functions directly under the Prime Minister. NPCIL operates 22 nuclear power reactors at 7 sites (Tarapur, Rawatbhata, Madras/Kalpakkam, Narora, Kakrapar, Kaiga, Kudankulam) with a total capacity of about 6,780 MWe.*

★ ■ **ECONOMIC & PLANNING ORGANISATIONS** ★

Q16. NITI Aayog (National Institution for Transforming India) replaced the Planning Commission in January 2015. Who chairs NITI Aayog?

- A) Finance Minister
- B) Prime Minister (ex-officio)
- C) Deputy Chairman (full-time)
- D) President of India

✓ **Correct Answer: B) Prime Minister (ex-officio)**

■ *Explanation: NITI Aayog is chaired ex-officio by the Prime Minister. It also has a Vice-Chairman (currently Suman Bery), a CEO (currently B.V.R. Subrahmanyam), full-time members, and part-time members. Unlike the Planning Commission, NITI Aayog is a think tank without fund allocation power. All Chief Ministers are members of the Governing Council.*

Q17. Competition Commission of India (CCI) was established to prevent monopolies and promote fair competition. CCI was set up under which Act?

- A) Monopolies and Restrictive Trade Practices (MRTP) Act 1969
- B) Competition Act 2002
- C) Companies Act 2013
- D) Consumer Protection Act 2019

✓ **Correct Answer: B) Competition Act 2002**

■ *Explanation: CCI (Competition Commission of India) was established under the Competition Act 2002 (replaced the MRTP Act). It became operational in 2009. CCI prevents anti-competitive practices (cartels, price-fixing), regulates mergers & acquisitions, and promotes fair competition. CCI has jurisdiction over all sectors including IT, pharma, steel, and banking. It is headquartered in New Delhi.*

Q18. Food Corporation of India (FCI) was established under the Food Corporations Act 1964. Its primary functions include:

- A) Only distributing food to BPL families
- B) Procurement of wheat and rice at MSP, storage, and distribution through PDS
- C) Producing and processing food grains
- D) Setting Minimum Support Price for crops

✓ **Correct Answer: B) Procurement of wheat and rice at MSP, storage, and distribution through PDS**

■ *Explanation: FCI (Food Corporation of India) was established in 1965 under the Food Corporations Act 1964, headquartered in New Delhi. Primary functions: Procurement of wheat and rice at MSP from farmers; Building strategic buffer stocks for food security; Distribution of food grains to states through the PDS (Public Distribution System) for NFSA entitlements. FCI is the world's largest food grain storage organisation.*

Q19. The Petroleum and Natural Gas Regulatory Board (PNGRB) regulates which sector?

- A) Exploration of oil and gas fields
- B) Downstream petroleum sector — refining, pipelines, LPG, CNG distribution
- C) Setting oil and gas prices globally
- D) Overseeing upstream oil exploration by ONGC

✓ **Correct Answer: B) Downstream petroleum sector — refining, pipelines, LPG, CNG distribution**

■ *Explanation: PNGRB (Petroleum and Natural Gas Regulatory Board), established under the PNGRB Act 2006, regulates the downstream petroleum sector — refining, processing, storage, transportation (pipelines), distribution, marketing of petroleum, petroleum products, and natural gas including CNG (Compressed Natural Gas) and PNG (Piped Natural Gas) city gas distribution. It is headquartered in New Delhi.*

★ ■ EDUCATION & SOCIAL ORGANISATIONS ★

Q20. University Grants Commission (UGC) was established in 1956 under which Act and what is its primary mandate?

- A) UGC Act 1956 – to coordinate, determine, and maintain standards of university education
- B) Education Act 1950 – to manage school education
- C) Higher Education Act 1947 – to set up IITs
- D) University Act 1949 – to establish universities

✓ Correct Answer: A) UGC Act 1956 – to coordinate, determine, and maintain standards of university education

■ *Explanation: UGC (University Grants Commission) was established under the UGC Act 1956, headquartered in New Delhi. It provides recognition to universities, awards grants for education and research, sets academic standards, and conducts NET/JRF (National Eligibility Test). As of 2024, India has 1,100+ universities recognised by UGC. The UGC Act is being reviewed under NEP 2020.*

Q21. NCERT (National Council of Educational Research and Training) was established in which year and what does it primarily do?

- A) 1950 – Manages Kendriya Vidyalayas
- B) 1961 – Develops national curriculum framework, model syllabi, and publishes school textbooks
- C) 1956 – Conducts competitive exams
- D) 1947 – Runs central universities

✓ Correct Answer: B) 1961 – Develops national curriculum framework, model syllabi, and publishes school textbooks

■ *Explanation: NCERT (National Council of Educational Research and Training) was established on 1 September 1961 as an autonomous organisation under the Ministry of Education. NCERT develops: National Curriculum Framework (NCF), model syllabi, textbooks (used across CBSE and most state boards), and educational research. NCERT published new textbooks (NIPUN Bharat-aligned) for Classes 1–2 in 2024 under NEP 2020.*

Q22. Kendriya Vidyalaya Sangathan (KVS) manages Kendriya Vidyalayas. KV schools primarily serve which group?

- A) Children of BPL families
- B) Children of transferable Central Government employees and defence personnel
- C) Students from scheduled tribes in remote areas
- D) Gifted and talented students nationally

✓ Correct Answer: B) Children of transferable Central Government employees and defence personnel

■ *Explanation: Kendriya Vidyalaya Sangathan (KVS) operates over 1,255 Kendriya Vidyalayas (Central Schools) across India and abroad, primarily for children of transferable Central Government employees (IAS, IPS, defence, paramilitary) to ensure continuity of education during transfers. 25% seats are available for civilian children. KVS is under the Ministry of Education.*

Q23. National Testing Agency (NTA) was established in 2017. It conducts which major examinations?

- A) UPSC Civil Services and State PSC exams
- B) JEE (Main), NEET-UG, CUET, UGC-NET, and other entrance tests
- C) RRB and SSC recruitment exams
- D) State-level engineering and medical entrance exams only

✓ **Correct Answer: B) JEE (Main), NEET-UG, CUET, UGC-NET, and other entrance tests**

■ *Explanation: NTA (National Testing Agency), established in 2017 under the Ministry of Education, conducts JEE (Main) for engineering, NEET-UG for medical admissions, CUET (Common University Entrance Test), UGC-NET/JRF, CMAT, GPAT, and other national entrance tests. NTA came under scrutiny after the NEET-UG 2024 paper leak controversy, leading to a review of its systems.*

★ ■ HEALTH & PHARMACEUTICAL ★

Q24. ICMR (Indian Council of Medical Research) is under which ministry and is India's premier biomedical research organisation?

- A) Ministry of Science & Technology
- B) Department of Health Research (DHR) under Ministry of Health and Family Welfare
- C) Ministry of Education
- D) NITI Aayog

✓ **Correct Answer: B) Department of Health Research (DHR) under Ministry of Health and Family Welfare**

■ *Explanation: ICMR (Indian Council of Medical Research), established in 1911 (as Indian Research Fund Association), is under the Department of Health Research (DHR), Ministry of Health and Family Welfare. It is the apex body for biomedical research in India with 26 national institutes. ICMR co-developed Covaxin, conducts clinical trials, and develops health guidelines for India.*

Q25. Central Drugs Standard Control Organisation (CDSCO) under the DGCI (Drug Controller General of India) is India's national regulatory body for:

- A) Pricing of drugs and medicines
- B) Approval of new drugs, clinical trials, medical devices, and cosmetics
- C) Manufacturing of generic medicines for export
- D) Distribution of medicines through Jan Aushadhi Kendras

✓ **Correct Answer: B) Approval of new drugs, clinical trials, medical devices, and cosmetics**

■ *Explanation: CDSCO (Central Drugs Standard Control Organisation) under DGCI (Drug Controller General of India) is the national regulatory authority for drugs and medical devices under the Ministry of Health. It approves new drugs, vaccines, clinical trials, medical devices, and cosmetics before they can be marketed in India. The Drugs and Cosmetics Act 1940 is the primary legislation.*

★ ■ ENVIRONMENT & ECOLOGY ★

Q26. Central Pollution Control Board (CPCB) was established under which Act and is under which ministry?

- A) Environment Protection Act 1986 – MoEFCC
- B) Water (Prevention and Control of Pollution) Act 1974 – Ministry of Water Resources
- C) Air (Prevention and Control of Pollution) Act 1981 – Ministry of Environment, Forest and Climate Change
- D) Water Act 1974 – Ministry of Environment

✓ **Correct Answer: D) Water Act 1974 – Ministry of Environment**

■ *Explanation: CPCB (Central Pollution Control Board) was established in 1974 under the Water (Prevention and Control of Pollution) Act 1974, under the Ministry of Environment, Forest and Climate Change (MoEFCC). It monitors water and air quality, sets National Ambient Air Quality Standards (NAAQS), and coordinates with 36 State Pollution Control Boards (SPCBs) and Pollution Control Committees (PCCs).*

Q27. Wildlife Crime Control Bureau (WCCB) was established under which Act to combat wildlife crime?

- A) Forest Conservation Act 1980
- B) Wildlife Protection Act 1972 (amended 2006)
- C) Biological Diversity Act 2002
- D) Environment Protection Act 1986

✓ **Correct Answer: B) Wildlife Protection Act 1972 (amended 2006)**

■ *Explanation: WCCB (Wildlife Crime Control Bureau) was established under the Wildlife Protection Act 1972 (as amended by the Wildlife Protection Amendment Act 2006), under the Ministry of Environment, Forest and Climate Change. It collects intelligence about wildlife crime, coordinates with state agencies, and represents India in CITES (Convention on International Trade in Endangered Species) enforcement matters.*

★ ■ TRANSPORT & INFRASTRUCTURE ★

Q28. National Highways Authority of India (NHAI) was established in 1988. Who owns the National Highways?

- A) NHAI owns them fully
- B) Central Government (Union of India) owns NH; NHAI maintains/manages them
- C) State governments own NH passing through their states
- D) PPP concessionaires own and operate all NHs

✓ **Correct Answer: B) Central Government (Union of India) owns NH; NHAI maintains/manages them**

■ *Explanation: National Highways are owned by the Central Government (Union of India). NHAI (National Highways Authority of India), constituted under the NHAI Act 1988 and operationalised in 1995, develops, maintains, and manages the NH network under delegation from MoRTH (Ministry of Road Transport and Highways). India has 1.45 lakh+ km of National Highways.*

Q29. Airports Authority of India (AAI) was formed by merging which two bodies?

- A) Civil Aviation Ministry and DGCA
- B) National Airports Authority (NAA) and International Airports Authority of India (IAAI)
- C) Air India and Indian Airlines
- D) DGCA and Bureau of Civil Aviation Security

✓ **Correct Answer: B) National Airports Authority (NAA) and International Airports Authority of India (IAAI)**

■ *Explanation: AAI (Airports Authority of India) was established in April 1995 under the Airports Authority of India Act 1994 by merging the National Airports Authority (NAA) and International Airports Authority of India (IAAI). AAI manages 137 airports (24 international, 10 customs, 82 domestic, 21 civil enclaves at defence airfields). It is under the Ministry of Civil Aviation.*

Q30. Inland Waterways Authority of India (IWAI) was established in 1986. It has declared how many National Waterways (NW) across India?

- A) 27 NWs
- B) 55 NWs
- C) 111 NWs
- D) 150 NWs

✓ **Correct Answer: C) 111 NWs**

■ *Explanation: IWAI (Inland Waterways Authority of India), established in 1986 under the IWAI Act 1985, has declared 111 National Waterways under the National Waterways Act 2016. The most important: NW-1 (Ganga, Prayagraj–Haldia, 1,620 km), NW-2 (Brahmaputra, Sadiya–Dhubri, 891 km), NW-3 (West Coast Canal, Kerala, 205 km). IWAI is headquartered in Noida.*

★ ■ **PUBLIC SECTOR ENTERPRISES (PSUs)** ★

Q31. ONGC (Oil and Natural Gas Corporation) was established in 1956. It is classified as a 'Maharatna' PSU. ONGC produces approximately what percentage of India's domestic crude oil?

- A) 30%
- B) 50%
- C) 70%+
- D) 90%+

✓ **Correct Answer: C) 70%+**

■ *Explanation: ONGC (Oil and Natural Gas Corporation Ltd) is India's largest crude oil and natural gas company, contributing over 70% of India's domestic production. Established in 1956, headquartered in Dehradun. ONGC operates major fields: Mumbai High (offshore), Cambay Basin (Gujarat), Assam, and Rajasthan. ONGC Videsh Ltd (OVL) manages overseas oil and gas assets.*

Q32. SAIL (Steel Authority of India Limited) is a Maharatna PSU. It operates how many integrated steel plants?

- A) 3 plants
- B) 5 integrated steel plants + 3 special steel plants
- C) 8 plants
- D) 10 plants

✓ **Correct Answer: B) 5 integrated steel plants + 3 special steel plants**

■ *Explanation: SAIL (Steel Authority of India Limited), a Maharatna PSU under the Ministry of Steel, operates 5 integrated steel plants: Bhilai Steel Plant (CGH), Durgapur Steel Plant (WB), Rourkela Steel Plant (Odisha), Bokaro Steel Plant (Jharkhand), and IISCO Steel Plant (Burnpur, WB). It also has 3 special steel plants and is India's largest steel producer.*

Q33. Coal India Limited (CIL) is the world's largest coal producer. It is a Maharatna PSU under which ministry?

- A) Ministry of Power
- B) Ministry of Coal
- C) Ministry of Mines
- D) Ministry of Finance

✓ **Correct Answer: B) Ministry of Coal**

■ *Explanation: Coal India Limited (CIL), a Maharatna PSU under the Ministry of Coal, is the world's largest coal-producing company by volume. Established in 1975, headquartered in Kolkata. CIL produces approximately 80%+ of India's domestic coal through 7 subsidiary companies (MCL, SECL, CCL, NCL, ECL, BCCL, WCL). In FY 2023–24, CIL produced 773 MT of coal.*

Q34. Bharat Heavy Electricals Limited (BHEL) manufactures power generation equipment. What is its significance?

- A) Largest defence equipment manufacturer in India
- B) India's largest engineering and manufacturing enterprise in the energy-related/infrastructure sector
- C) India's largest IT products manufacturer
- D) World's largest turbine manufacturer

✓ **Correct Answer: B) India's largest engineering and manufacturing enterprise in the energy-related/infrastructure sector**

■ *Explanation: BHEL (Bharat Heavy Electricals Limited), a Maharatna PSU under the Ministry of Heavy Industries, is India's largest engineering and manufacturing enterprise. It manufactures power plant equipment (turbines, generators, boilers), transmission systems, solar panels, EV components, and defence equipment. BHEL has 17 manufacturing units and 2 repair units. It has contributed to over 50% of India's total installed power generation capacity.*

Q35. Indian Railway Finance Corporation (IRFC) is the dedicated financing arm of Indian Railways. It raises capital from which source?

- A) Only government budget allocations
- B) Capital markets (bonds and loans) to fund railway rolling stock acquisition
- C) World Bank and ADB loans directly
- D) Railway passenger fare revenues

✓ **Correct Answer: B) Capital markets (bonds and loans) to fund railway rolling stock acquisition**

■ *Explanation: IRFC (Indian Railway Finance Corporation), a Navratna PSU and a 'Schedule A' CPSE under the Ministry of Railways, raises funds from domestic and international capital markets (by issuing bonds, term loans) to fund the acquisition of rolling stock (locomotives, coaches, wagons) and other railway assets. It then leases these assets to Indian Railways. IRFC was listed on stock exchanges in 2021.*

★ ■■ REGULATORY BODIES ★

Q36. Telecom Regulatory Authority of India (TRAI) was established under the TRAI Act 1997. Its primary functions include:

- A) Licensing telecom companies and allocating spectrum
- B) Regulating tariffs, interconnection, QoS, and protecting consumer interests in telecom
- C) Manufacturing telecom equipment for government use
- D) Managing international telecom agreements

✓ **Correct Answer: B) Regulating tariffs, interconnection, QoS, and protecting consumer interests in telecom**

■ *Explanation: TRAI (Telecom Regulatory Authority of India), established under the TRAI Act 1997, is headquartered in New Delhi. It regulates: telecom tariffs, interconnection between service providers, quality of service (QoS), and consumer protection. Spectrum licensing and allocation is done by the Department of Telecommunications (DoT), not TRAI. TRAI issues recommendations on various telecom matters.*

Q37. Central Electricity Regulatory Commission (CERC) regulates the power sector. The state-level electricity regulators are called:

- A) State Electricity Boards (SEBs)
- B) State Electricity Regulatory Commissions (SERCs)
- C) State Power Development Corporations
- D) Distribution Companies (DISCOMs)

✓ **Correct Answer: B) State Electricity Regulatory Commissions (SERCs)**

■ *Explanation: CERC (Central Electricity Regulatory Commission), established under the Electricity Act 2003, regulates inter-state power transmission, bulk power tariffs, and grid standards. At the state level, State Electricity Regulatory Commissions (SERCs) regulate intra-state power tariffs and distribution. India has 29 SERCs. CERC and SERCs together constitute the appellate mechanism for the electricity sector.*

Q38. National Human Rights Commission (NHRC) of India was established in 1993. The Chairperson of NHRC is always:

- A) A retired Supreme Court judge
- B) A retired Chief Justice of India
- C) A sitting Supreme Court judge
- D) Any eminent person nominated by the President

✓ **Correct Answer: B) A retired Chief Justice of India**

■ *Explanation: NHRC (National Human Rights Commission), established under the Protection of Human Rights Act 1993, has as its Chairperson a retired Chief Justice of India (by convention and practice). Current members include retired SC judges and expertise in human rights. NHRC investigates complaints of human rights violations by state actors and can recommend compensation, prosecutions, or remedial measures.*

Q39. Central Vigilance Commission (CVC) is India's apex vigilance institution. Its primary mandate is to:

- A) Investigate corruption cases in private sector
- B) Superintend vigilance administration and advise Central Government on anti-corruption matters
- C) Prosecute corrupt officials in courts
- D) Manage the CBI investigations directly

✓ **Correct Answer: B) Superintend vigilance administration and advise Central Government on anti-corruption matters**

■ *Explanation: CVC (Central Vigilance Commission), established in 1964 (statutory since 2003 under CVC Act), superintends vigilance administration over Central Government organisations and advises the government on anti-corruption matters. The CVC exercises superintendence over CBI (for corruption matters) and the Enforcement Directorate (on certain matters). The Central Vigilance Commissioner is appointed by the President.*

★ ■ MEDIA & COMMUNICATION ★

Q40. Doordarshan (DD) and All India Radio (AIR) are public broadcasters under which organisation?

- A) Ministry of Information and Broadcasting
- B) Prasar Bharati (Broadcasting Corporation of India)
- C) Press Trust of India (PTI)
- D) Press Information Bureau (PIB)

✓ **Correct Answer: B) Prasar Bharati (Broadcasting Corporation of India)**

■ *Explanation: Prasar Bharati (Broadcasting Corporation of India) is India's statutory public broadcaster, established under the Prasar Bharati Act 1990. It operates Doordarshan (DD — public television) and All India Radio (AIR/Akashvani). DD operates 35+ channels; AIR has 500+ stations broadcasting in 23 languages and 146 dialects. Prasar Bharati is the world's largest public broadcaster by terrestrial coverage.*

Q41. Press Information Bureau (PIB) is the government's nodal agency for disseminating information about policies and programmes. It functions under:

- A) Ministry of External Affairs
- B) Ministry of Information and Broadcasting
- C) PMO (Prime Minister's Office)
- D) Ministry of Home Affairs

✓ **Correct Answer: B) Ministry of Information and Broadcasting**

■ *Explanation: PIB (Press Information Bureau) is the nodal agency of the Government of India for information dissemination — issuing press releases, organising press conferences, briefing media on government policies, programmes, and achievements. PIB functions under the Ministry of Information and Broadcasting. During COVID-19, PIB's fact-check unit actively debunked misinformation.*

★ ■ **CURRENT AFFAIRS – ORGANISATIONS 2024–26** ★

Q42. India Semiconductor Mission (ISM) is implemented under which government body?

- A) Ministry of Electronics and IT (MeitY)
- B) DRDO
- C) Digital India Corporation (DIC) under MeitY
- D) NASSCOM

✓ **Correct Answer: C) Digital India Corporation (DIC) under MeitY**

■ *Explanation: India Semiconductor Mission (ISM) is implemented as a specialised and independent business division of the Digital India Corporation (DIC), under the Ministry of Electronics and IT (MeitY). ISM was established to facilitate India's semiconductor and display manufacturing ecosystem, with incentives under the Production Linked Incentive Scheme for Semiconductors (₹76,000 crore outlay).*

Q43. IN-SPACe (Indian National Space Promotion and Authorisation Centre) was established to facilitate which activity?

- A) Military satellite operations
- B) Private sector participation in India's space activities
- C) International space cooperation treaties
- D) ISRO's annual budget planning

✓ **Correct Answer: B) Private sector participation in India's space activities**

■ *Explanation: IN-SPACe was established in June 2020 (as a single-window nodal agency) under the Department of Space to authorise, promote, and regulate private sector entities in space activities. It provides ISRO's technical expertise and facilities to private players, assesses applications for space activities, and has helped India's space startup ecosystem (100+ space startups) grow rapidly.*

Q44. National Disaster Management Authority (NDMA) is headed by which position and was established under which Act?

- A) Home Minister – CrPC 1973
- B) Prime Minister (ex-officio) – Disaster Management Act 2005
- C) Cabinet Secretary – National Disaster Policy 2009
- D) President of India – Civil Defence Act 1968

✓ **Correct Answer: B) Prime Minister (ex-officio) – Disaster Management Act 2005**

■ *Explanation: NDMA (National Disaster Management Authority) is headed by the Prime Minister as ex-officio Chairperson, established under the Disaster Management Act 2005. It formulates policies on disaster management, lays down guidelines for states, and approves National Disaster Management Plans. NDRF (National Disaster Response Force) is the operational arm of NDMA. NDMA has 9 members nominated by the PM.*

Q45. National Payments Corporation of India (NPCI) was established in 2008. It is promoted by which organisations?

- A) Only the Reserve Bank of India
- B) RBI and a consortium of banks (originally 10 core promoter banks)
- C) Ministry of Finance and SEBI
- D) All commercial banks equally

✓ **Correct Answer: B) RBI and a consortium of banks (originally 10 core promoter banks)**

■ *Explanation: NPCI (National Payments Corporation of India) was incorporated in 2008 under the Companies Act, on the initiative of the Reserve Bank of India and the Indian Banks' Association (IBA). Originally promoted by 10 core promoter banks, NPCI is now owned by 56+ member banks. NPCI operates UPI, IMPS, NACH, RuPay, FASTag (NETC), BHIM, BBPS, and AEPS — India's retail payment infrastructure.*

Q46. Central Information Commission (CIC) is the apex appellate body under the RTI Act 2005. It receives appeals from which level?

- A) First appeal from RTI applicant directly
- B) Second appeal/complaint against First Appellate Authorities of central government bodies
- C) All RTI appeals from states and centre
- D) Only complaints against Cabinet Ministers

✓ **Correct Answer: B) Second appeal/complaint against First Appellate Authorities of central government bodies**

■ *Explanation: CIC (Central Information Commission), established under the RTI Act 2005, adjudicates second appeals and complaints against First Appellate Authorities of central public authorities. The Chief Information Commissioner and Information Commissioners are appointed by the President on the recommendation of a committee (PM + LoP + Cabinet Minister). State Information Commissions (SICs) handle state-level RTI appeals.*

Q47. India Post Payments Bank (IPPB) was launched to bring banking services to rural India. It leverages which existing network?

- A) Aadhaar biometric system only
- B) India Post's 1.56 lakh post offices and 3 lakh+ postmen/gramin dak sewaks as banking touchpoints
- C) Rural PMJDY bank branches
- D) Common Service Centres (CSC) network

✓ Correct Answer: B) India Post's 1.56 lakh post offices and 3 lakh+ postmen/gramin dak sewaks as banking touchpoints

■ *Explanation: IPPB (India Post Payments Bank), launched September 2018 under Department of Posts, leverages India Post's unparalleled rural network of 1.56 lakh post offices (99% in rural areas) and 3 lakh+ doorstep banking agents (postmen and Gramin Dak Sewaks) to provide basic banking (savings, remittances, DBT) at people's doorsteps — especially for last-mile financial inclusion in remote areas.*

Q48. National Skill Development Corporation (NSDC) is a public-private partnership organisation under which ministry?

- A) Ministry of Labour and Employment
- B) Ministry of Skill Development and Entrepreneurship
- C) Ministry of Education
- D) NITI Aayog

✓ Correct Answer: B) Ministry of Skill Development and Entrepreneurship

■ *Explanation: NSDC (National Skill Development Corporation) is a PPP company under the Ministry of Skill Development and Entrepreneurship. Established in 2009, NSDC funds and promotes skill development through Sector Skill Councils (SSCs) — 37 industry-specific bodies that develop National Occupational Standards. NSDC implements PMKVY, Rozgar Melas, and overseas skilling programmes.*

Q49. Archaeological Survey of India (ASI) was founded by which person in 1861 under British rule?

- A) Lord Curzon
- B) Alexander Cunningham
- C) William Jones
- D) H.H. Wilson

✓ Correct Answer: B) Alexander Cunningham

■ *Explanation: Archaeological Survey of India (ASI) was founded by Alexander Cunningham in 1861, who became its first Director-General. ASI is responsible for maintenance of centrally protected monuments (3,693+ monuments) including UNESCO World Heritage Sites. It conducts excavations, promotes archaeological research, and preserves cultural heritage. Under the Ministry of Culture.*

Q50. Indian Council of Cultural Relations (ICCR) was founded in 1950 by whom?

- A) Jawaharlal Nehru
- B) Maulana Abul Kalam Azad
- C) Sardar Vallabhbhai Patel
- D) Dr. B.R. Ambedkar

✓ **Correct Answer: B) Maulana Abul Kalam Azad**

■ *Explanation: ICCR (Indian Council of Cultural Relations) was founded by Maulana Abul Kalam Azad (India's first Education Minister) in 1950, headquartered in New Delhi. ICCR promotes India's rich cultural heritage internationally through cultural exchanges, Indian Cultural Centres abroad (45+ centres), academic scholarships (ICCR scholarships), and art/cultural festivals. It is under the Ministry of External Affairs.*

Q51. Unique Identification Authority of India (UIDAI) was established as a statutory body under which Act?

- A) IT Act 2000
- B) Aadhaar (Targeted Delivery of Financial and Other Subsidies, Benefits and Services) Act 2016
- C) Personal Data Protection Act 2021
- D) Biometric Identity Act 2009

✓ **Correct Answer: B) Aadhaar (Targeted Delivery of Financial and Other Subsidies, Benefits and Services) Act 2016**

■ *Explanation: UIDAI (Unique Identification Authority of India) was initially established as an attached office under the Planning Commission in 2009 (when Nandan Nilekani was appointed its first Chairman). It became a statutory body under the Aadhaar Act 2016. UIDAI has issued 1.38+ billion Aadhaar numbers, making it the world's largest biometric identity programme.*

Q52. National Investigation Agency (NIA) was established in 2009 to investigate terrorist activities. Under which Act was it established?

- A) Prevention of Terrorism Act (POTA) 2002
- B) NIA Act 2008
- C) UAPA (Unlawful Activities Prevention Act) 1967
- D) National Security Act 1980

✓ **Correct Answer: B) NIA Act 2008**

■ *Explanation: NIA (National Investigation Agency) was established under the NIA Act 2008, following the 26/11 Mumbai terror attacks (November 2008). It functions under the Ministry of Home Affairs. NIA investigates cases relating to terrorism, insurgency, bomb blasts, and Left Wing Extremism across India without requiring permission from state governments. Its powers were enhanced under the NIA Amendment Act 2019.*

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