



AFCAT Static GK Master Book

High-Yield Static GK

01. Ancient India

1.1 Indus Valley timeline	Mature Harappan phase: about 2600-1900 BCE; an urban Bronze Age civilisation.
1.2 Harappa	On the Ravi in present-day Pakistan; excavated by Daya Ram Sahni.
1.3 Mohenjo-daro	On the Indus in Sindh; associated with R. D. Banerji; Great Bath and Great Granary.
1.4 Lothal	Harappan port-town in Gujarat; noted for its dockyard, bead industry and rice evidence.
1.5 Kalibangan	Harappan site in Rajasthan; ploughed field and fire altars.
1.6 Dholavira	Harappan city in Kutch; reservoirs, water management and a large signboard.
1.7 Rakhigarhi	Major Harappan site in Haryana and the largest known Harappan site in India.
1.8 Harappan essentials	Planned cities, baked bricks, drainage, standard weights and seals; iron was unknown.
1.9 Harappan script	Pictographic and still undeciphered; seals were commonly made of steatite.
1.10 Rig Veda	Oldest Veda; 1,028 hymns arranged in 10 Mandalas.
1.11 Other Vedas	Sama: melodies; Yajur: sacrificial formulae; Atharva: spells, charms and everyday concerns.
1.12 Vedangas	Shiksha, Kalpa, Vyakarana, Nirukta, Chhanda and Jyotisha.
1.13 Upanishads	Philosophical texts exploring Brahman, Atman, karma and liberation.
1.14 Mahajanapadas	Sixteen major states arose around the sixth century BCE; Magadha became dominant.
1.15 Vajji	A confederacy or gana-sangha with Vaishali as its centre.

1.16 Jainism	Mahavira was the 24th Tirthankara; Triratna: right faith, right knowledge, right conduct.
1.17 Buddhism	Four Noble Truths and Eightfold Path; rejects both luxury and extreme austerity.
1.18 Buddhist symbols	Lotus/bull: birth; horse: renunciation; Bodhi tree: enlightenment; wheel: first sermon; stupa: death.
1.19 Buddhist councils	Rajgir-Ajatashatru; Vaishali-Kalashoka; Pataliputra-Ashoka; Kashmir-Kanishka.
1.20 Mauryan founder	Chandragupta Maurya founded the empire; Kautilya's Arthashastra discusses statecraft.
1.21 Megasthenes	Greek ambassador at Chandragupta Maurya's court; wrote Indica.
1.22 Ashoka	After Kalinga, promoted Dhamma; inscriptions mostly in Prakrit and Brahmi.
1.23 Lion Capital	Ashokan capital at Sarnath; adopted as India's State Emblem.
1.24 Satyameva Jayate	From the Mundaka Upanishad; inscribed below the State Emblem.
1.25 Kharosthi script	Written right to left; used mainly in north-western Ashokan inscriptions.
1.26 Sangam age	Early historic Tamil age; Chera, Chola and Pandya polities; Tolkappiyam is an early Tamil work.
1.27 Kanishka	Major Kushana ruler; associated with Mahayana Buddhism and the fourth Buddhist council.
1.28 Gandhara art	Greco-Roman influence; grey schist; realistic drapery and Buddha images.
1.29 Mathura art	Indigenous style using red sandstone; Buddhist, Jain and Brahmanical images.
1.30 Gupta age	Noted for advances in literature, science, mathematics, art and temple architecture.
1.31 Samudragupta	Called the 'Napoleon of India' by V. A. Smith; achievements recorded in Prayaga Prashasti.

1.32 Chandragupta II	Vikramaditya; Chinese pilgrim Fa-Hien visited during his reign.
1.33 Aryabhata	Wrote Aryabhatiya; explained eclipses scientifically and Earth's rotation.
1.34 Kalidasa	Works include Abhijnanashakuntalam, Meghaduta, Raghuvamsha and Kumarasambhava.
1.35 Harshavardhana	Ruled from Kannauj; Banabhatta wrote Harshacharita; Xuanzang visited his court.
1.36 Nalanda	Ancient centre of Buddhist learning in Bihar; flourished under Gupta and Pala patronage.

02. Medieval India

2.1 Early Cholas	Known from Sangam literature; Karikala is associated with the Kallanai dam.
2.2 Imperial Cholas	Vijayalaya founded the line; Rajaraja I and Rajendra I expanded it greatly.
2.3 Brihadisvara Temple	Built by Rajaraja I at Thanjavur; a masterpiece of Dravida architecture.
2.4 Chola administration	Strong village institutions; Uttaramerur inscriptions describe local committees.
2.5 Pallavas	Capital at Kanchipuram; rock-cut and structural temples at Mahabalipuram.
2.6 Chalukyas	Badami Chalukyas patronised temples at Badami, Aihole and Pattadakal.
2.7 Palas	Buddhist rulers of eastern India; Gopala founded the dynasty; patronised Vikramashila.
2.8 Slave dynasty	Qutb-ud-din Aibak founded it; Iltutmish consolidated the Sultanate; Razia was the first woman Sultan of Delhi.
2.9 Khaljis	Alauddin Khalji introduced market controls and resisted Mongol attacks.
2.10 Tughlaqs	Muhammad bin Tughlaq is linked with token currency and transfer of capital to Daulatabad.

2.11 Lodis	First Afghan dynasty of Delhi; Ibrahim Lodi was defeated at Panipat in 1526.
2.12 Vijayanagara	Founded in 1336 by Harihara and Bukka; capital at Hampi on the Tungabhadra.
2.13 Krishnadevaraya	Great Tuluva ruler; wrote Amuktamalyada; Portuguese traveller Domingo Paes visited.
2.14 Bahmani kingdom	Founded by Alauddin Bahman Shah; later split into five Deccan Sultanates.
2.15 Bhakti movement	Emphasised personal devotion; important figures include Kabir, Mirabai, Chaitanya and Tulsidas.
2.16 Sufism	Mystical Islamic tradition; khanqah was a hospice and silsila a spiritual order.
2.17 Chishti order	Associated in India with Moinuddin Chishti, Qutbuddin Bakhtiyar Kaki and Nizamuddin Auliya.
2.18 Sikh Gurus	Guru Nanak founded Sikhism; Guru Arjan compiled the Adi Granth; Guru Gobind Singh founded the Khalsa.
2.19 First Battle of Panipat	1526: Babur defeated Ibrahim Lodi and founded Mughal rule.
2.20 Battle of Khanwa	1527: Babur defeated Rana Sanga.
2.21 Sher Shah Suri	Reformed revenue and currency; improved the Grand Trunk Road; introduced the silver rupiya.
2.22 Akbar	Mansabdari and zabt systems; abolished jizya; founded Ibadat Khana at Fatehpur Sikri.
2.23 Akbar's court	Abul Fazl wrote Akbarnama and Ain-i-Akbari; Tansen was a celebrated musician.
2.24 Jahangir	Known for the Chain of Justice; Sir Thomas Roe visited his court.
2.25 Shah Jahan	Age of Mughal architectural splendour: Taj Mahal, Red Fort and Jama Masjid.
2.26 Aurangzeb	Last major Mughal emperor; reimposed jizya and fought prolonged Deccan campaigns.

2.27 Shivaji	Crowned at Raigad in 1674; organised Ashta Pradhan and used guerrilla warfare.
2.28 Maratha offices	Peshwa: prime minister; Amatya: finance; Sachiv: correspondence; Senapati: military.
2.29 Mughal painting	Developed under Akbar; reached refinement under Jahangir, especially portraiture and nature studies.
2.30 Architecture terms	Nagara: north Indian curvilinear shikhara; Dravida: southern pyramidal vimana; Vesara: hybrid style.

03. Modern India & Freedom Struggle

3.1 European arrival	Vasco da Gama reached Calicut in 1498; Portuguese were the first Europeans to arrive by sea.
3.2 English factory	East India Company established an early factory at Masulipatnam in 1611.
3.3 Plassey	1757: Robert Clive defeated Siraj-ud-Daulah; foundation of Company political power in Bengal.
3.4 Buxar	1764: Company defeated combined forces of Mir Qasim, Shuja-ud-Daulah and Shah Alam II.
3.5 Diwani	In 1765, Shah Alam II granted the Company revenue rights in Bengal, Bihar and Orissa.
3.6 Regulating Act 1773	First major parliamentary control over the Company; created Governor-General of Bengal and Supreme Court at Calcutta.
3.7 Pitt's India Act 1784	Established dual control through the Board of Control and Court of Directors.
3.8 Charter Act 1813	Ended Company trade monopoly except tea and trade with China; allowed missionaries.
3.9 Charter Act 1833	Made Governor-General of Bengal the Governor-General of India; ended Company commercial activity.
3.10 Charter Act 1853	Separated legislative and executive functions of the Governor-General's Council; opened way for competitive civil service.

3.11 Permanent Settlement	Introduced by Cornwallis in Bengal in 1793; zamindars recognised as proprietors.
3.12 Ryotwari	Revenue settlement directly with cultivators; associated with Thomas Munro and Alexander Read.
3.13 Mahalwari	Revenue settlement with village communities; associated with Holt Mackenzie.
3.14 Subsidiary Alliance	Associated with Lord Wellesley; Indian rulers accepted British troops and control over foreign affairs.
3.15 Doctrine of Lapse	Associated with Lord Dalhousie; states without a natural heir could be annexed.
3.16 Revolt of 1857	Began at Meerut; Bahadur Shah II became symbolic leader; immediate cause was greased cartridges.
3.17 1857 centres	Delhi-Bakht Khan; Kanpur-Nana Sahib; Jhansi-Rani Lakshmibai; Lucknow-Begum Hazrat Mahal; Bihar-Kunwar Singh.
3.18 Government of India Act 1858	Ended Company rule and transferred authority to the British Crown.
3.19 Socio-religious reform	Brahmo Samaj-Raja Rammohan Roy; Arya Samaj-Dayanand Saraswati; Ramakrishna Mission-Swami Vivekananda.
3.20 Aligarh movement	Associated with Sir Syed Ahmad Khan and the Muhammadan Anglo-Oriental College.
3.21 Indian National Congress	Founded in 1885; A. O. Hume helped organise it; W. C. Bonnerjee presided over the first session.
3.22 Partition of Bengal	Announced by Curzon in 1905; annulled in 1911; sparked Swadeshi and boycott.
3.23 Muslim League	Founded at Dhaka in 1906.
3.24 Surat split	1907 split between Moderates and Extremists in the Congress.
3.25 Morley-Minto reforms	Indian Councils Act 1909; introduced separate electorates for Muslims.
3.26 Ghadar Party	Founded in 1913 at San Francisco; associated with Lala Hardayal and Sohan Singh Bhakna.

3.27 Home Rule Leagues	Founded in 1916 by Bal Gangadhar Tilak and Annie Besant.
3.28 Lucknow Pact	1916 agreement between Congress and Muslim League; Congress accepted separate electorates.
3.29 Champaran	1917 indigo satyagraha; Gandhi's first major satyagraha in India.
3.30 Kheda	1918 peasant satyagraha in Gujarat; Gandhi and Vallabhbhai Patel were prominent.
3.31 Ahmedabad mill strike	1918 labour dispute in which Gandhi used hunger strike.
3.32 Rowlatt Act	1919 law permitted detention without trial; called the Black Act.
3.33 Jallianwala Bagh	13 April 1919 at Amritsar; troops under General Dyer fired on an unarmed gathering.
3.34 Non-Cooperation	Launched in 1920 with the Khilafat issue; withdrawn after Chauri Chaura in 1922.
3.35 Swaraj Party	Founded in 1923 by C. R. Das and Motilal Nehru to enter legislatures.
3.36 Simon Commission	Appointed in 1927; arrived in 1928; had no Indian member.
3.37 Nehru Report	1928 constitutional proposal chaired by Motilal Nehru.
3.38 Lahore session 1929	Jawaharlal Nehru presided; Congress adopted Purna Swaraj; 26 January 1930 observed as Independence Day.
3.39 Dandi March	12 March-6 April 1930; launched Civil Disobedience against the salt law.
3.40 Gandhi-Irwin Pact	1931 agreement leading to Gandhi's participation in the Second Round Table Conference.
3.41 Poona Pact	1932 agreement between Gandhi and B. R. Ambedkar on reserved seats for Depressed Classes in joint electorates.
3.42 Government of India Act 1935	Provincial autonomy, federal proposal and three legislative lists; basis for many constitutional provisions.
3.43 Forward Bloc	Founded by Subhas Chandra Bose in 1939.

3.44 August Offer	1940 proposal by Linlithgow; promised expansion of Executive Council and post-war constitutional body.
3.45 Cripps Mission	1942 proposal of dominion status after the war; rejected by major parties.
3.46 Quit India	Launched on 8 August 1942 at Bombay; slogan 'Do or Die'.
3.47 Indian National Army	First organised under Mohan Singh and later led by Subhas Chandra Bose.
3.48 Cabinet Mission	1946 mission proposed a Union with limited central subjects and provincial groupings.
3.49 Royal Indian Navy uprising	February 1946, beginning in Bombay and spreading to other naval establishments.
3.50 Mountbatten Plan	3 June 1947 plan accepted partition and transfer of power.
3.51 Indian Independence Act	Passed in July 1947; created the Dominions of India and Pakistan.
3.52 National song	Vande Mataram was composed by Bankim Chandra Chattopadhyay and appears in Anandamath.
3.53 National anthem	Jana Gana Mana was composed by Rabindranath Tagore; first sung at the 1911 Calcutta Congress session.

04. Indian Polity

4.1 Constitution adopted	26 November 1949; came into force on 26 January 1950.
4.2 Drafting Committee	Chairman: B. R. Ambedkar; Constitutional Adviser: B. N. Rau.
4.3 Preamble	Sovereign, Socialist, Secular, Democratic Republic; justice, liberty, equality and fraternity.
4.4 42nd Amendment	Added Socialist, Secular and integrity to the Preamble; known as the Mini-Constitution.
4.5 Fundamental Rights	Part III, Articles 12-35; enforceable by courts.

4.6 Right to Equality	Articles 14-18; includes equality before law and abolition of untouchability and titles.
4.7 Right to Freedom	Articles 19-22; Article 21 protects life and personal liberty.
4.8 Right against Exploitation	Articles 23-24; prohibits trafficking, forced labour and hazardous child labour.
4.9 Freedom of Religion	Articles 25-28.
4.10 Cultural and Educational Rights	Articles 29-30; protect minority interests and institutions.
4.11 Constitutional Remedies	Article 32; called the Constitution's heart and soul by Ambedkar.
4.12 Writs	Habeas Corpus, Mandamus, Prohibition, Certiorari and Quo Warranto.
4.13 Directive Principles	Part IV, Articles 36-51; non-justiciable guidelines for a welfare state.
4.14 Fundamental Duties	Article 51A in Part IVA; added by 42nd Amendment; currently eleven duties.
4.15 Citizenship	Part II, Articles 5-11; Parliament regulates citizenship by law.
4.16 President	Constitutional head of Union; elected indirectly by elected MPs and elected MLAs of states and specified UTs.
4.17 President's term	Five years; minimum age 35; oath administered by Chief Justice of India.
4.18 Vice-President	Ex officio Chairman of Rajya Sabha; elected by members of both Houses.
4.19 Prime Minister	Head of government and Council of Ministers; appointed by President.
4.20 Council of Ministers	Collectively responsible to Lok Sabha under Article 75.
4.21 Parliament	President, Rajya Sabha and Lok Sabha.

4.22 Rajya Sabha	Permanent House; one-third members retire every two years; normal term of a member is six years.
4.23 Lok Sabha	Popular House; normal term five years unless dissolved earlier.
4.24 Money Bill	Defined in Article 110; introduced only in Lok Sabha with President's recommendation.
4.25 Joint sitting	Article 108; presided over by Speaker of Lok Sabha; not used for Money Bills or Constitutional Amendment Bills.
4.26 Anti-defection	Tenth Schedule; added by 52nd Amendment, 1985.
4.27 Supreme Court	Established on 28 January 1950; guardian and final interpreter of the Constitution.
4.28 Judicial review	Power of courts to examine constitutionality of legislative and executive action.
4.29 CAG	Article 148; audits Union and state accounts; called guardian of the public purse.
4.30 Election Commission	Article 324; supervises elections to Parliament, state legislatures, President and Vice-President.
4.31 Finance Commission	Article 280; constituted by President, normally every five years.
4.32 UPSC	Article 315; constitutional recruitment body for All India and Central Services.
4.33 Attorney General	Article 76; highest law officer of India; may participate in Parliament without voting.
4.34 Emergency types	National: Article 352; President's Rule: 356; Financial: 360.
4.35 National Emergency effect	Article 19 is automatically suspended only when emergency is declared on war or external aggression.
4.36 73rd Amendment	Constitutional status to Panchayats; Part IX and Eleventh Schedule.
4.37 74th Amendment	Constitutional status to Municipalities; Part IXA and Twelfth Schedule.

4.38 Schedules	First: states/UTs; Seventh: Union/State/Concurrent Lists; Eighth: languages; Tenth: anti-defection.
4.39 Fifth Schedule	Administration and control of Scheduled Areas and Scheduled Tribes outside specified north-eastern states.
4.40 Sixth Schedule	Autonomous district councils in tribal areas of Assam, Meghalaya, Tripura and Mizoram.
4.41 Constitutional amendment	Article 368; some amendments also require ratification by at least half of state legislatures.
4.42 Basic structure	Doctrine established in Kesavananda Bharati case, 1973.
4.43 Official language	Hindi in Devanagari script is official language of the Union; English continues for official purposes by law.
4.44 Panchsheel	Mutual respect, non-aggression, non-interference, equality and mutual benefit, peaceful coexistence.

05. Indian Geography

5.1 Latitudinal extent	Mainland India: 8 deg 4 min N to 37 deg 6 min N; longitudinal extent: 68 deg 7 min E to 97 deg 25 min E.
5.2 Standard Meridian	82 deg 30 min E, passing near Mirzapur; IST is UTC+5:30.
5.3 Tropic of Cancer	Passes through Gujarat, Rajasthan, Madhya Pradesh, Chhattisgarh, Jharkhand, West Bengal, Tripura and Mizoram.
5.4 Indian coastline	Mainland is bounded by Arabian Sea, Indian Ocean and Bay of Bengal.
5.5 Himalayan divisions	Himadri/Greater Himalaya, Himachal/Lesser Himalaya and Shiwalik/Outer Himalaya.
5.6 Highest peak entirely in India	Kangchenjunga, on the Sikkim-Nepal border.
5.7 Karakoram	Contains K2 and major glaciers such as Siachen and Baltoro; lies north of the Himalaya.
5.8 Northern Plains	Built mainly by alluvium of the Indus, Ganga and Brahmaputra systems.

5.9 Bhabar and Terai	Bhabar is porous pebble belt along foothills; Terai is marshy belt south of it.
5.10 Peninsular Plateau	Ancient crystalline block; Central Highlands north of Narmada and Deccan Plateau south of it.
5.11 Western Ghats	Higher and more continuous than Eastern Ghats; source of many peninsular rivers.
5.12 Eastern Ghats	Discontinuous and cut by rivers such as Mahanadi, Godavari, Krishna and Kaveri.
5.13 Aravalli	One of the world's oldest fold-mountain systems; Guru Shikhar is its highest peak.
5.14 Deccan Trap	Basaltic lava plateau; associated with black cotton soil.
5.15 Indus system	Indus tributaries: Jhelum, Chenab, Ravi, Beas and Sutlej.
5.16 Ganga source	Bhagirathi rises at Gaumukh; at Devprayag it meets Alaknanda and is called Ganga.
5.17 Yamuna	Rises at Yamunotri; major right-bank tributary of Ganga; joins at Prayagraj.
5.18 Ganga tributaries	Left bank: Ramganga, Gomti, Ghaghara, Gandak, Kosi; right bank: Yamuna and Son.
5.19 Brahmaputra	Called Yarlung Tsangpo in Tibet and Siang/Dihang on entering India.
5.20 Narmada	Rises at Amarkantak; flows west through a rift valley into Gulf of Khambhat.
5.21 Tapi	West-flowing rift-valley river; rises near Multai and enters Gulf of Khambhat.
5.22 Godavari	Longest peninsular river; rises near Trimbakeshwar; called Dakshin Ganga.
5.23 Krishna	Rises near Mahabaleshwar; major tributaries include Bhima and Tungabhadra.
5.24 Kaveri	Rises at Talakaveri in Brahmagiri hills; important river of Karnataka and Tamil Nadu.

5.25 Mahanadi	Rises in Chhattisgarh; Hirakud Dam is built across it in Odisha.
5.26 Luni	Major river of inland drainage in Rajasthan; drains toward the Rann of Kutch.
5.27 Major dams	Bhakra Nangal-Sutlej; Tehri-Bhagirathi; Hirakud-Mahanadi; Sardar Sarovar-Narmada; Nagarjuna Sagar-Krishna.
5.28 Black soil	Regur; clayey, moisture-retentive and suited to cotton; widespread over Deccan lava region.
5.29 Alluvial soil	Most extensive and agriculturally important; khadar is newer, bhangar older alluvium.
5.30 Red soil	Red colour from iron oxide; common in eastern and southern peninsular regions.
5.31 Laterite soil	Forms under high temperature and heavy rainfall with intense leaching; often needs fertilisers.
5.32 Indian monsoon	Seasonal reversal of winds driven by differential heating, pressure shifts and movement of ITCZ.
5.33 South-west monsoon	Arabian Sea and Bay of Bengal branches; most annual rainfall occurs June-September.
5.34 Retreating monsoon	October-November; Tamil Nadu coast receives significant rain from north-east monsoon.
5.35 Western disturbances	Extra-tropical systems bringing winter rain to north-west India and snow to Himalaya.
5.36 Mango showers	Pre-monsoon showers in Kerala and Karnataka that aid mango ripening.
5.37 Coffee regions	Karnataka leads production; also grown in Kerala and Tamil Nadu.
5.38 Tea regions	Assam, Darjeeling and Nilgiris are major traditional tea regions.
5.39 Jute	Concentrated in the Ganga-Brahmaputra delta, especially West Bengal.
5.40 Iron ore belts	Odisha-Jharkhand, Durg-Bastar-Chandrapur, Ballari-Chitradurga and Maharashtra-Goa.

5.41 Coalfields	Jharia-Bokaro in Jharkhand; Raniganj in West Bengal; Talcher in Odisha; Korba in Chhattisgarh.
5.42 Oilfields	Digboi and Naharkatiya in Assam; Mumbai High offshore; Ankleshwar in Gujarat.
5.43 Steel plants	Bhilai-Chhattisgarh; Rourkela-Odisha; Durgapur-West Bengal; Bokaro-Jharkhand; Visakhapatnam-Andhra Pradesh.
5.44 Natural harbours	Mumbai and Visakhapatnam are important natural harbours; Chennai is an artificial harbour.
5.45 Islands	Andaman and Nicobar in Bay of Bengal; Lakshadweep coral islands in Arabian Sea.
5.46 Ten Degree Channel	Separates Andaman group from Nicobar group.
5.47 Indira Point	Southernmost point of India, on Great Nicobar Island.
5.48 National parks	Jim Corbett-Uttarakhand; Kaziranga-Assam; Gir-Gujarat; Kanha-Madhya Pradesh; Periyar-Kerala.
5.49 More national parks	Ranthambore-Rajasthan; Sundarbans-West Bengal; Bandipur-Karnataka; Similipal-Odisha; Hemis-Ladakh.
5.50 Species-sites	Asiatic lion-Gir; one-horned rhinoceros-Kaziranga; hangul-Dachigam; lion-tailed macaque-Silent Valley.
5.51 Biosphere reserves	Nilgiri was India's first; examples include Nanda Devi, Gulf of Mannar, Sundarbans and Great Nicobar.

06. World Geography

6.1 Continents	Asia is largest; Australia is smallest; Antarctica has the highest average elevation.
6.2 Oceans	Pacific is largest and deepest; Mariana Trench contains Challenger Deep.
6.3 Equator	Crosses South America, Africa and island groups of Asia; does not cross mainland India.
6.4 Prime Meridian	0 degree longitude through Greenwich; basis for measuring east-west longitude.

6.5 International Date Line	Roughly follows 180 degree longitude but bends to avoid dividing countries and island groups.
6.6 Major mountains	Andes-South America; Rockies-North America; Alps-Europe; Atlas-Africa; Great Dividing Range-Australia.
6.7 Highest peaks	Everest-Asia; Aconcagua-South America; Denali-North America; Kilimanjaro-Africa; Elbrus-Europe.
6.8 Major plateaus	Tibetan-highest and largest; Deccan-India; Brazilian-Brazil; Ethiopian-East Africa.
6.9 Major deserts	Sahara-Africa; Arabian-West Asia; Gobi-Mongolia/China; Atacama-Chile; Kalahari-southern Africa.
6.10 Nile	Flows north to Mediterranean; traditionally regarded as world's longest river.
6.11 Amazon	Largest river by discharge; drains the world's largest tropical rainforest basin.
6.12 Mississippi-Missouri	Major North American river system draining to Gulf of Mexico.
6.13 Danube	Flows through/along many European countries and enters Black Sea.
6.14 Volga	Longest river in Europe; drains into Caspian Sea.
6.15 Yangtze	Longest river in Asia; Three Gorges Dam in China.
6.16 Great Lakes	Superior, Michigan, Huron, Erie and Ontario; Michigan lies entirely in USA.
6.17 Caspian Sea	World's largest inland water body; saline lake.
6.18 Lake Baikal	Deepest freshwater lake; in Siberia, Russia.
6.19 Straits	Malacca: Malay Peninsula-Sumatra; Hormuz: Persian Gulf-Gulf of Oman; Gibraltar: Atlantic-Mediterranean.
6.20 More straits	Bering: Asia-North America; Bosphorus: Black Sea-Sea of Marmara; Palk: India-Sri Lanka.
6.21 Canals	Suez connects Mediterranean and Red Sea; Panama connects Atlantic and Pacific.

6.22 Grasslands	Prairies-North America; Pampas-South America; Steppes-Eurasia; Veld-South Africa; Downs-Australia.
6.23 Warm currents	Gulf Stream, Kuroshio, Brazil and Agulhas currents.
6.24 Cold currents	Labrador, Canary, California, Peru/Humboldt and Benguela currents.
6.25 El Nino	Periodic warming of central/eastern equatorial Pacific that alters global weather patterns.
6.26 La Nina	Periodic cooling of central/eastern equatorial Pacific, generally opposite ENSO phase.
6.27 Ring of Fire	Circum-Pacific belt of frequent earthquakes and volcanoes.
6.28 Hadley cell	Tropical atmospheric circulation with rising air near equator and sinking air near subtropics.
6.29 Isobars	Lines joining equal atmospheric pressure; closely spaced isobars indicate a strong pressure gradient.
6.30 Cumulonimbus	Tall thunderstorm cloud developing from vigorous cumulus congestus.

07. Art, Culture & Heritage

7.1 Classical dances	Bharatanatyam-Tamil Nadu; Kathak-north India; Kathakali-Kerala; Kuchipudi-Andhra Pradesh.
7.2 More classical dances	Odissi-Odisha; Manipuri-Manipur; Mohiniyattam-Kerala; Sattriya-Assam.
7.3 Bharatanatyam	Evolved from Sadir tradition; geometric postures, mudras and expressive abhinaya.
7.4 Kathak	Narrative dance of north India; gharanas include Lucknow, Jaipur and Banaras.
7.5 Kathakali	Dance-drama with elaborate makeup and costumes; traditionally based on epics.
7.6 Odissi	Known for tribhanga posture; connected with Jagannath temple tradition.

7.7 Folk dances	Bihu-Assam; Garba-Gujarat; Ghoomar-Rajasthan; Bhangra-Punjab; Rouf-Jammu and Kashmir.
7.8 More folk dances	Chhau-Odisha/Jharkhand/West Bengal; Yakshagana-Karnataka; Lavani-Maharashtra; Kalbelia-Rajasthan.
7.9 Folk music	Pandavani-Chhattisgarh; Baul-West Bengal; Maand-Rajasthan; Bhatiali-Bengal river tradition.
7.10 Hindustani music	Dominant in north India; major forms include dhrupad, khayal, thumri and tarana.
7.11 Carnatic music	South Indian classical tradition; Trinity: Tyagaraja, Muthuswami Dikshitar and Syama Sastri.
7.12 String instruments	Sitar, sarod, veena, violin, santoor and sarangi.
7.13 Wind instruments	Bansuri, shehnai, nadaswaram and algoza.
7.14 Percussion	Tabla, mridangam, pakhawaj, ghatam and dhol.
7.15 Temple styles	Nagara-curved tower; Dravida-pyramidal tower and gateways; Vesara-mixed features.
7.16 Sanchi	Buddhist stupas in Madhya Pradesh; Great Stupa enlarged under Shungas; gateways carry narrative sculpture.
7.17 Ajanta	Buddhist rock-cut caves in Maharashtra, celebrated for paintings.
7.18 Ellora	Buddhist, Hindu and Jain caves; Kailasa temple is a monolithic masterpiece.
7.19 Elephanta	Rock-cut Shaiva caves near Mumbai; famous for the three-faced Maheshmurti.
7.20 Khajuraho	Chandella temples in Madhya Pradesh; mostly Nagara style.
7.21 Konark	13th-century Sun Temple in Odisha, conceived as Surya's stone chariot.
7.22 Mahabalipuram	Pallava monuments in Tamil Nadu: rathas, cave temples and Shore Temple.

7.23 Hampi	Ruins of Vijayanagara capital in Karnataka; Virupaksha and Vittala temples.
7.24 Fatehpur Sikri	Akbar's planned capital; Buland Darwaza, Panch Mahal and Ibadat Khana.
7.25 Indian painting schools	Mughal, Rajput, Pahari, Deccani, Bengal and Company styles.
7.26 Madhubani	Folk painting of Mithila region in Bihar.
7.27 Warli	Tribal painting tradition of Maharashtra using simple geometric figures.
7.28 Pattachitra	Cloth-based scroll painting associated with Odisha and Jagannath tradition.
7.29 Kalamkari	Hand-painted or block-printed textile tradition of Andhra Pradesh and Telangana.
7.30 Phad	Long narrative scroll painting of Rajasthan.
7.31 GI crafts	Kanchipuram silk-Tamil Nadu; Banarasi brocade-Uttar Pradesh; Channapatna toys-Karnataka.
7.32 Indian epics	Ramayana traditionally attributed to Valmiki; Mahabharata to Vyasa.
7.33 Ashtadhyayi	Panini's foundational Sanskrit grammar.
7.34 Natyashastra	Treatise on dramaturgy, dance and performance attributed to Bharata Muni.
7.35 Rajatarangini	Chronicle of Kashmir written by Kalhana.
7.36 Gita Govinda	Sanskrit lyrical work by Jayadeva.
7.37 Prithviraj Raso	Traditionally attributed to Chand Bardai.
7.38 UNESCO heritage	Cultural examples: Taj Mahal, Qutub Minar, Red Fort, Hampi, Khajuraho, Sanchi and Pattadakal.
7.39 Natural heritage	Kaziranga, Manas, Keoladeo, Sundarbans, Nanda Devi-Valley of Flowers, Western Ghats and Great Himalayan National Park.

08. Defence & Security

8.1 Supreme command	President of India is Supreme Commander of the Armed Forces.
8.2 Army motto	Service Before Self.
8.3 Navy motto	Sham No Varunah - May the Lord of Waters be auspicious unto us.
8.4 Air Force motto	Nabhah Sparsham Diptam - Touch the Sky with Glory.
8.5 Army Day	15 January; marks K. M. Cariappa taking command as first Indian Commander-in-Chief in 1949.
8.6 Navy Day	4 December; commemorates Operation Trident during the 1971 war.
8.7 Air Force Day	8 October; Indian Air Force was established in 1932.
8.8 Coast Guard Day	1 February; Indian Coast Guard formally came into being in 1977.
8.9 NDA	National Defence Academy at Khadakwasla, Pune; tri-service pre-commission training institution.
8.10 IMA	Indian Military Academy at Dehradun.
8.11 Indian Naval Academy	Located at Ezhimala, Kerala.
8.12 AFA	Air Force Academy at Dundigal, Telangana.
8.13 CDS	Chief of Defence Staff is permanent Chairman of Chiefs of Staff Committee and heads Department of Military Affairs.
8.14 Integrated commands	Andaman and Nicobar Command is India's first tri-service theatre command; Strategic Forces Command manages strategic forces.
8.15 DRDO	Defence Research and Development Organisation; formed in 1958; headquarters in New Delhi.
8.16 HAL	Hindustan Aeronautics Limited; major aerospace and defence public sector enterprise headquartered in Bengaluru.
8.17 Tejas	Indigenous light combat aircraft developed by Aeronautical Development Agency and manufactured by HAL.

8.18 Akash	Medium-range surface-to-air missile system.
8.19 BrahMos	Supersonic cruise missile developed by India-Russia joint venture; can be launched from multiple platforms.
8.20 Agni	Family of surface-to-surface ballistic missiles.
8.21 Prithvi	Short-range surface-to-surface ballistic missile family.
8.22 Nag	Third-generation anti-tank guided missile.
8.23 Astra	Beyond-visual-range air-to-air missile.
8.24 Pinaka	Multi-barrel rocket launcher system.
8.25 IGLA	Man-portable, shoulder-fired surface-to-air missile system.
8.26 INS Vikramaditya	Indian Navy aircraft carrier of modified Kiev class.
8.27 INS Vikrant	India's first indigenous aircraft carrier; named after India's first aircraft carrier.
8.28 Arihant class	India's indigenous nuclear-powered ballistic missile submarine class.
8.29 Operation Meghdoot	Indian military operation launched in 1984 to secure key positions on Siachen Glacier.
8.30 Operation Cactus	1988 Indian intervention that foiled a coup attempt in Maldives.
8.31 Operation Safed Sagar	Indian Air Force's air operations during the 1999 Kargil conflict.
8.32 Operation Vijay	Indian armed forces operation in the 1999 Kargil conflict; also name used for Goa liberation in 1961.
8.33 Yudh Abhyas	India-United States Army exercise.
8.34 Vajra Prahar	India-United States Special Forces exercise.
8.35 Shakti	India-France Army exercise.
8.36 Dharma Guardian	India-Japan Army exercise.
8.37 Mitra Shakti	India-Sri Lanka Army exercise.
8.38 Sampriti	India-Bangladesh Army exercise.

8.39 Surya Kiran	India-Nepal Army exercise.
8.40 Nomadic Elephant	India-Mongolia Army exercise.
8.41 Khanjar	India-Kyrgyzstan Special Forces exercise.
8.42 Dustlik	India-Uzbekistan Army exercise.
8.43 Ekuverin	India-Maldives joint military exercise.
8.44 Harimau Shakti	India-Malaysia Army exercise.
8.45 VINBAX	India-Vietnam Army exercise.
8.46 Garuda	India-France Air Force exercise.
8.47 Cope India	India-United States Air Force exercise.
8.48 Eastern Bridge	India-Oman Air Force exercise.
8.49 Indradhanush	India-United Kingdom Air Force exercise.
8.50 Veer Guardian	India-Japan Air Force exercise.
8.51 Varuna	India-France naval exercise.
8.52 SIMBEX	India-Singapore naval exercise.
8.53 SLINEX	India-Sri Lanka naval exercise.
8.54 Konkan	India-United Kingdom naval exercise.
8.55 Naseem Al Bahr	India-Oman naval exercise.
8.56 AUSINDEX	India-Australia naval exercise.
8.57 JIMEX	India-Japan maritime exercise.
8.58 Malabar	Naval exercise involving India, United States, Japan and Australia.
8.59 MILAN	Multilateral naval exercise hosted by India.
8.60 RIMPAC	Large multinational maritime exercise hosted by the United States around Hawaii.

8.61 Mission Shakti	India's 2019 anti-satellite test, demonstrating direct-ascent ASAT capability.
8.62 Territorial Army	Volunteer reserve force whose members serve while retaining civilian professions.

09. Science, Space & Technology

9.1 SI base units	Metre-length; kilogram-mass; second-time; ampere-current; kelvin-temperature; mole-amount; candela-luminous intensity.
9.2 Newton's laws	First: inertia; Second: force equals rate of change of momentum; Third: equal and opposite reaction.
9.3 Work and power	Work unit: joule; power unit: watt; 1 watt = 1 joule per second.
9.4 Pressure	SI unit pascal; pressure increases when the same force acts over a smaller area.
9.5 Heat transfer	Conduction in direct contact; convection by fluid motion; radiation through electromagnetic waves.
9.6 Sound	Requires a material medium; cannot travel through vacuum; frequency unit hertz.
9.7 Light	Reflection returns light to same medium; refraction bends light across media; dispersion separates colours.
9.8 Rainbow	Produced by refraction, dispersion and internal reflection of sunlight in water droplets.
9.9 Mirrors	Concave can form real or virtual images; convex always gives virtual, erect and diminished image.
9.10 Lenses	Convex lens converges light; concave lens diverges light.
9.11 Eye defects	Myopia-concave lens; hypermetropia-convex lens; presbyopia-bifocal/progressive lenses.
9.12 Electric current	Unit ampere; potential difference volt; resistance ohm; Ohm's law $V = IR$.
9.13 Electric power	$P = VI$; commercial electrical energy unit is kilowatt-hour.

9.14 Electromagnetic spectrum	Radio, microwave, infrared, visible, ultraviolet, X-ray, gamma ray in increasing frequency.
9.15 X-rays	Used in medical imaging, industrial radiography and crystal-structure analysis.
9.16 Atom discoveries	Electron-J. J. Thomson; nucleus-Rutherford; neutron-James Chadwick.
9.17 Atomic number	Number of protons; mass number equals protons plus neutrons.
9.18 Isotopes	Same atomic number but different mass numbers; chemically similar.
9.19 Acids and bases	Acids release H^+ in water; bases release OH^- ; pH below 7 acidic, above 7 basic.
9.20 Common compounds	Baking soda- $NaHCO_3$; washing soda- $Na_2CO_3 \cdot 10H_2O$; bleaching powder- $CaOCl_2$; gypsum- $CaSO_4 \cdot 2H_2O$.
9.21 Dry ice	Solid carbon dioxide, CO_2 .
9.22 Oxidation-reduction	Oxidation: gain of oxygen/loss of hydrogen or electrons; reduction is the reverse.
9.23 Metals	Silver is best electrical conductor; mercury is liquid at room temperature; tungsten has very high melting point.
9.24 Vitamins	A-night blindness; B1-beriberi; C-scurvy; D-rickets; K-delayed blood clotting.
9.25 Blood	RBCs carry oxygen; WBCs defend; platelets aid clotting; plasma is liquid component.
9.26 Human heart	Four chambers; right side pumps deoxygenated blood to lungs, left side pumps oxygenated blood to body.
9.27 Endocrine glands	Pituitary-master gland; thyroid-thyroxine; pancreas-insulin/glucagon; adrenal-adrenaline.
9.28 Digestive enzymes	Salivary amylase-starch; pepsin-protein in stomach; lipase-fats.
9.29 Cell organelles	Nucleus-genetic control; mitochondria-ATP; ribosomes-protein synthesis; chloroplast-photosynthesis.

9.30 Plant transport	Xylem carries water and minerals; phloem carries prepared food.
9.31 Plant hormones	Auxin-cell elongation; gibberellin-growth; cytokinin-cell division; abscisic acid-growth inhibition/dormancy.
9.32 Photosynthesis	Plants use carbon dioxide and water to form glucose and oxygen using light and chlorophyll.
9.33 ISRO	Indian Space Research Organisation; headquarters Bengaluru; established in 1969.
9.34 Vikram Sarabhai	Regarded as father of the Indian space programme.
9.35 Aryabhata satellite	India's first satellite, launched in 1975.
9.36 SLV-3	India's first experimental satellite launch vehicle; placed Rohini satellite in orbit in 1980.
9.37 PSLV	Reliable launch vehicle widely used for polar and sun-synchronous missions.
9.38 GSLV	Launch vehicle family using cryogenic upper stages for heavier payloads.
9.39 Chandrayaan-1	India's first lunar mission; helped confirm water/hydroxyl signatures on Moon.
9.40 Chandrayaan-3	Demonstrated soft landing near lunar south polar region in 2023.
9.41 Mangalyaan	Mars Orbiter Mission; India reached Mars orbit on its first attempt in 2014.
9.42 Aditya-L1	India's solar observatory mission positioned near Sun-Earth L1 point.
9.43 NavIC	India's regional satellite navigation system.
9.44 National Science Day	28 February; commemorates C. V. Raman's discovery of the Raman Effect.

10. Environment, Agriculture & Economy

10.1 Ecology	Study of relationships among organisms and their environment.
---------------------	---

10.2 Food chain	Transfer of energy from producers to consumers and decomposers; energy decreases at higher trophic levels.
10.3 Biodiversity hotspots in India	Himalaya, Indo-Burma, Western Ghats-Sri Lanka and Sundaland (Nicobar).
10.4 IUCN categories	Extinct, Extinct in the Wild, Critically Endangered, Endangered, Vulnerable and lower-risk categories.
10.5 Ozone layer	Stratospheric ozone absorbs harmful UV radiation; CFCs cause catalytic depletion.
10.6 Greenhouse gases	Carbon dioxide, methane, nitrous oxide, water vapour and fluorinated gases.
10.7 Ramsar Convention	1971 treaty for conservation and wise use of wetlands; named after Ramsar, Iran.
10.8 CITES	Regulates international trade in endangered wild fauna and flora.
10.9 Convention on Biological Diversity	Signed at Rio Earth Summit 1992; conservation, sustainable use and fair benefit-sharing.
10.10 Project Tiger	Launched in 1973 for tiger conservation in India.
10.11 Project Elephant	Launched in 1992 to protect elephants, habitats and corridors.
10.12 Chipko movement	Forest conservation movement in Himalayan region; villagers embraced trees to prevent felling.
10.13 Kharif crops	Sown with monsoon and harvested in autumn: rice, maize, cotton, soybean, groundnut.
10.14 Rabi crops	Sown in winter and harvested in spring: wheat, gram, mustard, barley.
10.15 Zaid crops	Short summer season between rabi and kharif; watermelon, cucumber and fodder crops.
10.16 Green Revolution	High-yield seeds, irrigation and inputs; M. S. Swaminathan is called its father in India.
10.17 White Revolution	Milk production; Operation Flood; associated with Verghese Kurien.
10.18 Blue Revolution	Rapid development of fisheries and aquaculture.

10.19 Yellow Revolution	Growth in oilseed production.
10.20 Golden Revolution	Associated with horticulture and honey production.
10.21 GDP	Market value of final goods and services produced within a country during a period.
10.22 GNP	GDP plus net factor income from abroad.
10.23 Inflation	Sustained rise in general price level; reduces purchasing power of money.
10.24 Repo rate	Rate at which RBI lends short-term funds to commercial banks against securities.
10.25 Reverse repo	Rate associated with RBI absorbing liquidity from banks under the applicable framework.
10.26 CRR	Cash Reserve Ratio: share of deposits banks keep as cash balance with RBI.
10.27 SLR	Statutory Liquidity Ratio: share of deposits maintained in specified liquid assets.
10.28 Fiscal policy	Government decisions on taxation, spending and borrowing.
10.29 Monetary policy	Central-bank management of money, interest rates and liquidity.
10.30 Direct tax	Burden cannot normally be shifted; examples include income tax and corporation tax.
10.31 Indirect tax	Burden can be shifted through prices; GST is a destination-based indirect tax.
10.32 GST Council	Constitutional body under Article 279A; chaired by the Union Finance Minister.
10.33 NITI Aayog	Policy think tank formed in 2015, replacing Planning Commission; promotes cooperative federalism.
10.34 Five-Year Plans	First plan emphasised agriculture; second used Mahalanobis strategy and stressed heavy industry.

10.35 Bank nationalisation

Fourteen major commercial banks nationalised in 1969; six more in 1980.

11. Organisations, Awards, Books & Days

11.1 United Nations	Founded in 1945; headquarters New York; six principal organs.
11.2 UN Security Council	Five permanent members: China, France, Russia, United Kingdom and United States.
11.3 International Court of Justice	Principal judicial organ of UN; seat at The Hague.
11.4 UNESCO	Education, science and culture; headquarters Paris.
11.5 WHO	Global public-health agency; headquarters Geneva.
11.6 ILO	International labour standards; headquarters Geneva; tripartite UN specialised agency.
11.7 FAO	Food and agriculture; headquarters Rome.
11.8 IMF	International monetary cooperation and balance-of-payments support; headquarters Washington, D.C.
11.9 World Bank	Development finance institution; headquarters Washington, D.C.
11.10 WTO	Global trade rules; headquarters Geneva; succeeded GATT in 1995.
11.11 SAARC	Afghanistan, Bangladesh, Bhutan, India, Maldives, Nepal, Pakistan and Sri Lanka; secretariat Kathmandu.
11.12 ASEAN	South-East Asian regional organisation; secretariat Jakarta.
11.13 BIMSTEC	Bay of Bengal grouping of Bangladesh, Bhutan, India, Myanmar, Nepal, Sri Lanka and Thailand; secretariat Dhaka.
11.14 SCO	Eurasian political, economic and security organisation; secretariat Beijing; official languages Chinese and Russian.
11.15 FATF	Intergovernmental watchdog against money laundering and terrorist financing; secretariat in Paris.
11.16 OPEC	Oil-exporting countries' organisation; headquarters Vienna.

11.17 NATO	Collective defence alliance; headquarters Brussels.
11.18 IOC	International Olympic Committee; headquarters Lausanne.
11.19 Bharat Ratna	India's highest civilian award; instituted in 1954.
11.20 Padma awards	Padma Vibhushan, Padma Bhushan and Padma Shri, in descending order.
11.21 Gallantry awards	Param Vir Chakra, Maha Vir Chakra, Vir Chakra for wartime gallantry.
11.22 Peacetime gallantry	Ashoka Chakra, Kirti Chakra and Shaurya Chakra.
11.23 Jnanpith Award	Major Indian literary award for outstanding contribution to literature.
11.24 Dadasaheb Phalke Award	India's highest honour in cinema.
11.25 Major Dhyan Chand Khel Ratna	India's highest sporting honour.
11.26 Arjuna Award	Recognises outstanding achievement in sports.
11.27 Nobel Prize fields	Physics, Chemistry, Physiology or Medicine, Literature, Peace and Economic Sciences.
11.28 Gitanjali	Rabindranath Tagore; English version linked to his 1913 Nobel Prize in Literature.
11.29 Discovery of India	Jawaharlal Nehru.
11.30 India Wins Freedom	Maulana Abul Kalam Azad.
11.31 My Experiments with Truth	Autobiography of Mahatma Gandhi.
11.32 Anandamath	Bankim Chandra Chattopadhyay; contains Vande Mataram.
11.33 Unhappy India	Lala Lajpat Rai.

11.34 Poverty and Un-British Rule in India	Dadabhai Naoroji.
11.35 National Youth Day	12 January, birth anniversary of Swami Vivekananda.
11.36 National Voters' Day	25 January.
11.37 Republic Day	26 January.
11.38 Earth Day	22 April.
11.39 International Women's Day	8 March.
11.40 World Water Day	22 March.
11.41 World Health Day	7 April.
11.42 World Environment Day	5 June.
11.43 International Yoga Day	21 June.
11.44 National Sports Day	29 August, birth anniversary of Major Dhyan Chand.
11.45 Teachers' Day	5 September, birth anniversary of S. Radhakrishnan.
11.46 World Ozone Day	16 September.
11.47 United Nations Day	24 October.
11.48 Constitution Day	26 November.
11.49 Armed Forces Flag Day	7 December.

12. Sports & Games

12.1 Olympic motto	Citius, Altius, Fortius - Communiter: Faster, Higher, Stronger - Together.
---------------------------	--

12.2 Olympic rings	Blue, yellow, black, green and red on white background.
12.3 Modern Olympics	First held at Athens in 1896; Pierre de Coubertin was central to revival.
12.4 Asian Games	First held in New Delhi in 1951.
12.5 Commonwealth Games	First held as British Empire Games at Hamilton, Canada, in 1930.
12.6 Cricket team	Eleven players; pitch is 22 yards long.
12.7 Cricket trophies	Ranji Trophy-first-class; Duleep Trophy-zonal first-class; Deodhar Trophy-one-day.
12.8 Hockey	Eleven players per side; Major Dhyan Chand is one of India's greatest hockey players.
12.9 Football	Eleven players per side; FIFA headquarters Zurich.
12.10 Badminton	Thomas Cup-men's world team; Uber Cup-women's; Sudirman Cup-mixed team.
12.11 Tennis	Four Grand Slams: Australian Open, French Open, Wimbledon and US Open.
12.12 Tennis surfaces	Australian/US Open-hard; French Open-clay; Wimbledon-grass.
12.13 Table tennis	Swaythling Cup-men's world team; Corbillon Cup-women's world team.
12.14 Golf	Ryder Cup is contested by men's teams from Europe and United States.
12.15 Polo	Six chukkas in a standard outdoor match; four players per team.
12.16 Basketball	Five players per side on court; FIBA headquarters Mies, Switzerland.
12.17 Volleyball	Six players per side on court.
12.18 Kabaddi	Seven players per side on court in standard format.
12.19 Chess	FIDE is world governing body; headquarters Lausanne.
12.20 Billiards and snooker	Cue sports played on a baize-covered table; snooker uses 22 balls including cue ball.

12.21 Indian sporting firsts	Norman Pritchard won India's first Olympic medals in 1900; K. D. Jadhav first individual Olympic medallist for independent India.
12.22 First individual Olympic gold	Abhinav Bindra, 10 m air rifle, Beijing 2008.
12.23 First woman Olympic medallist	Karnam Malleswari, weightlifting, Sydney 2000.
12.24 First Indian world chess champion	Viswanathan Anand.
12.25 1983 Cricket World Cup	India won under Kapil Dev; defeated West Indies in final at Lord's.
12.26 Major stadiums	Eden Gardens-Kolkata; Wankhede-Mumbai; M. A. Chidambaram-Chennai; Arun Jaitley-Delhi.
12.27 Sports-person pairs	Deepika Kumari-archery; Manika Batra-table tennis; Ashwini Ponnappa-badminton; Savita Punia-hockey.
12.28 Davis and BJK Cups	Davis Cup is the men's international tennis team event; Billie Jean King Cup is the women's equivalent.
12.29 Santosh Trophy	Indian national football championship contested by state and institutional teams.
12.30 Durand Cup	Historic Indian football tournament, first held in 1888.
12.31 Subroto Cup	International inter-school football tournament organised in India.
12.32 Ranji Trophy origin	First played in 1934-35 and named after K. S. Ranjitsinhji.
12.33 Athletics track	A standard outdoor athletics track measures 400 metres per lap.
12.34 Marathon	Official marathon distance is 42.195 kilometres.
12.35 Kho kho	A team has twelve players, with nine entering the field at the start of a standard turn.

Defence-Exam Question Bank

AFCAT Official Model-Paper Questions

1. Who composed the national song 'Vande Mataram'?

- A. Rabindranath Tagore
- B. Ishwar Chandra Vidyasagar
- C. Bankim Chandra Chattopadhyay
- D. Sri Aurobindo

AFCAT Official Model Paper I

2. Sattriya classical dance originated in which state?

- A. Odisha
- B. Manipur
- C. Assam
- D. West Bengal

AFCAT Official Model Paper I

3. 'Satyameva Jayate' is derived from which Upanishad?

- A. Prashna
- B. Mandukya
- C. Mundaka
- D. Chandogya

AFCAT Official Model Paper I

4. Earthquakes may generate a tsunami through vertical movement of the sea floor. Horizontal movement alone generates a tsunami. Choose the correct relation.

- A. Assertion false, Reason true
- B. Assertion true, Reason false
- C. Both true, but Reason is not explanation
- D. Both true and Reason explains Assertion

AFCAT Official Model Paper I

5. The Preamble's promise of liberty of thought, expression, belief, faith and worship is protected principally through which constitutional part?

- A. Fundamental Rights
- B. Fundamental Duties
- C. Directive Principles
- D. Statutory Acts

AFCAT Official Model Paper I

6. 'Nabhah Sparsham Diptam' is the motto of which organisation?

- A. ISRO
- B. Indian Air Force
- C. DRDO
- D. Indian Navy

AFCAT Official Model Paper I

7. What was the name of the Indian Air Force operation during the 1999 Kargil conflict?

- A. Operation Safed Sagar
- B. Operation Meghdoot
- C. Operation Tiger Hill
- D. Operation Jeevan Rakshak

AFCAT Official Model Paper I

8. India acquired the Barak missile defence system from which country?

- A. Israel
- B. France
- C. Russia
- D. United States

AFCAT Official Model Paper I

9. What does IGLA describe in Indian defence usage?

- A. Cluster bomb
- B. Long-range missile
- C. Shoulder-fired missile
- D. Rocket pod

AFCAT Official Model Paper I

10. The word 'Secular' was inserted into the Preamble by which amendment?

- A. 44th Amendment
- B. 52nd Amendment
- C. 34th Amendment
- D. 42nd Amendment

AFCAT Official Model Paper II

11. National Science Day marks which occasion?

- A. C. V. Raman's birth anniversary
- B. Award of Raman's Nobel Prize
- C. Discovery of the Raman Effect
- D. C. V. Raman's death anniversary

AFCAT Official Model Paper II

12. Which is India's indigenously built light combat aircraft?

- A. Akash
- B. Vikrant
- C. Tejas
- D. Arjun

AFCAT Official Model Paper II

NDA I 2025 Previous-Year Questions

13. Which material was used for making Harappan seals?

- A. Sandstone
- B. Lapis lazuli
- C. Jasper
- D. Steatite

NDA I 2025

14. Which Mahajanapada in ancient India was an oligarchy or confederacy?

- A. Vajji
- B. Kosala
- C. Gandhara
- D. Magadha

NDA I 2025

15. Which Act permitted detention without trial for up to two years in British India?

- A. Regulating Act, 1773
- B. Rowlatt Act, 1919
- C. Pitt's India Act, 1784
- D. Government of India Act, 1935

NDA I 2025

16. The Constitution (73rd Amendment) Act provides for what?

- A. Municipal self-government
- B. Panchayats as units of self-government
- C. Commission for Linguistic Minorities
- D. Creation of Jharkhand

NDA I 2025

17. Which statement about Parliament is correct?

- A. Most Rajya Sabha members are elected by proportional representation using the single transferable vote
- B. The Deputy Chairman of Rajya Sabha is nominated by the President
- C. Lok Sabha cannot be dissolved before five years
- D. Lok Sabha members vote in elections of Rajya Sabha members

NDA I 2025

18. Which does NOT form part of the Five Principles of Panchsheel?

- A. Mutual respect for territorial integrity and sovereignty
- B. Equality and mutual benefit
- C. Peaceful coexistence
- D. Nuclear non-proliferation

NDA I 2025

19. Maize was introduced into India in the seventeenth century through which route?

- A. Portugal
- B. Africa and Spain
- C. China and Mongolia
- D. Turkey

NDA I 2025

20. Where did the East India Company establish a factory in 1611?

- A. Madras
- B. Masulipatnam
- C. Bombay
- D. Balasore

NDA I 2025

21. Which Act established a Supreme Court at Calcutta for Europeans, Company employees and inhabitants?

- A. Regulating Act, 1773
- B. Charter Act, 1793
- C. Charter Act, 1813
- D. Government of India Act, 1858

NDA I 2025

22. Who introduced the 1882 resolution called the Magna Carta of local self-government in India?

- A. Lord Macaulay
- B. Lord Canning
- C. Lord Ripon
- D. Lord William Bentinck

NDA I 2025

23. Which term is associated with the practice of Sufism?

- A. Jizya
- B. Ijma
- C. Muqaddam
- D. Murid

NDA I 2025

24. Consider: 1. Consent of the governed; 2. Political equality; 3. Accountability of the ruled to the ruler. Which features outline democratic rule?

- A. 1 and 2 only
- B. 2 and 3 only
- C. 1, 2 and 3
- D. 3 only

NDA I 2025

CDS II 2024 Previous-Year Questions

25. Mission Shakti of DRDO is related to what?

- A. Launching multiple satellites
- B. Launching heavy satellites
- C. High-power launch rockets
- D. Using a rocket to destroy an orbiting satellite

CDS II 2024 GK, Q29

26. Which UN organisation has not been awarded the Nobel Peace Prize?

- A. WFP
- B. ILO
- C. UNESCO
- D. UNHCR

CDS II 2024 GK, Q36

27. What is the Financial Action Task Force?

- A. A wing of Central Economic Intelligence Bureau
- B. A division of Enforcement Directorate
- C. Global money-laundering and terrorist-financing watchdog
- D. A UN anti-corruption agency

CDS II 2024 GK, Q42

28. Research Design and Standards Organisation is the R&D wing of which organisation?

- A. BARC
- B. ISRO
- C. Indian Railways
- D. DRDO

CDS II 2024 GK, Q49

29. Regarding Vedanta, Shankara founded Advaita and Madhva elaborated Dvaita. Which is correct?

- A. 1 only
- B. 2 only
- C. Both 1 and 2
- D. Neither

CDS II 2024 GK, Q51

30. Which terms were used for cereals in the Rig Veda?

- A. Godhuma and Vrihi
- B. Yava and Dhanya
- C. Tila and Khala
- D. Priyangu and Shyamaka

CDS II 2024 GK, Q53

31. Arrange in order: Lucknow Pact, return of Subhas Bose to India, Cripps Mission, Bombay Naval Mutiny.

- A. 4-3-2-1
- B. 3-4-2-1
- C. 1-2-3-4
- D. 2-1-3-4

CDS II 2024 GK, Q59

32. Chola metal sculptures had technical finesse, and their iconography resembled stone counterparts. Which is correct?

- A. 1 only
- B. 2 only
- C. Both 1 and 2
- D. Neither

CDS II 2024 GK, Q61

33. Which term was used for the states in Ambedkar's Draft Constitution presented on 4 November 1948?

- A. Union of States
- B. Federation of States
- C. Autonomous States
- D. Subsidiary States

CDS II 2024 GK, Q62

34. Which Mauryan offices are correctly matched: Samahartri-revenue; Dauvarika-army chief; Akshapatala-records/audit; Samnidhatri-treasurer?

- A. 1 and 2 only
- B. 1, 3 and 4 only
- C. 3 and 4 only
- D. All four

CDS II 2024 GK, Q65

35. Cumulonimbus clouds develop from which clouds?

- A. Cumulus congestus
- B. Cumulus and nimbostratus
- C. Cumulus and altostratus
- D. Cirrocumulus

CDS II 2024 GK, Q74

36. Eratosthenes measured Earth's circumference using solar angles at which cities?

- A. Alexandria and Syene
- B. Syene and Troy
- C. Alexandria and Troy
- D. Alexandria and Thebes

CDS II 2024 GK, Q76

37. Creep is a mass-wasting process characterised by what?

- A. Fast movement of soil
- B. Slow movement of rock
- C. Slow movement of ice
- D. Slow movement of soil

CDS II 2024 GK, Q77

38. How is a strong pressure gradient shown on a weather map?

- A. Closely spaced isobars
- B. Widely spaced isobars
- C. Closely spaced isobars only at the periphery
- D. Alternating wide and close isobars

CDS II 2024 GK, Q81

39. Which is not an example of chemical weathering?

- A. Acid action
- B. Hydrolysis
- C. Salt crystal growth
- D. Oxidation

CDS II 2024 GK, Q82

Answers & Explanations

1. C. Bankim Chandra Chattopadhyay It appears in Bankim Chandra's novel Anandamath.

AFCAT Official Model Paper I

2. C. Assam Sattriya developed in Assam's Vaishnav monasteries or sattras.

AFCAT Official Model Paper I

3. C. Mundaka The phrase is from the Mundaka Upanishad.

AFCAT Official Model Paper I

4. B. Assertion true, Reason false Large vertical displacement of the seabed displaces the water column; horizontal slip alone generally does not.

AFCAT Official Model Paper I

5. A. Fundamental Rights Part III gives enforceable protection to core freedoms.

AFCAT Official Model Paper I

6. B. Indian Air Force The motto means 'Touch the Sky with Glory'.

AFCAT Official Model Paper I

7. A. Operation Safed Sagar Operation Safed Sagar was the IAF component of the Kargil operations.

AFCAT Official Model Paper I

8. A. Israel Barak is an Israeli-origin surface-to-air missile family.

AFCAT Official Model Paper I

9. C. Shoulder-fired missile IGLA is a man-portable air-defence missile system.

AFCAT Official Model Paper I

10. D. 42nd Amendment The 42nd Amendment Act, 1976 added Socialist, Secular and integrity.

AFCAT Official Model Paper II

11. C. Discovery of the Raman Effect 28 February commemorates Raman's announcement of the effect in 1928.

AFCAT Official Model Paper II

12. C. Tejas Tejas is the indigenous light combat aircraft; the others are different defence platforms.

AFCAT Official Model Paper II

13. D. Steatite Steatite was widely used for Harappan seals.

NDA I 2025

14. A. Vajji Vajji was a gana-sangha centred on Vaishali.

NDA I 2025

15. B. Rowlatt Act, 1919 The Rowlatt Act authorised detention without ordinary judicial safeguards.

NDA I 2025

16. B. Panchayats as units of self-government The 73rd Amendment constitutionalised rural local government.

NDA I 2025

17. A. Most Rajya Sabha members are elected by proportional representation using the single transferable vote Elected MLAs choose state representatives to Rajya Sabha by PR-STV.

NDA I 2025

18. D. Nuclear non-proliferation Nuclear non-proliferation is not one of the five Panchsheel principles.

NDA I 2025

19. A. Portugal The Portuguese introduced several New World crops to India, including maize.

NDA I 2025

20. B. Masulipatnam Masulipatnam was an early English trading centre on the Coromandel coast.

NDA I 2025

21. A. Regulating Act, 1773 The Supreme Court at Fort William followed the Regulating Act.

NDA I 2025

22. C. Lord Ripon Lord Ripon's 1882 resolution promoted local self-government.

NDA I 2025

23. D. Murid A murid is a disciple under a Sufi spiritual guide.

NDA I 2025

24. A. 1 and 2 only Consent and political equality are democratic features; democracy makes the ruler accountable to the ruled, not the reverse.

NDA I 2025

25. D. Using a rocket to destroy an orbiting satellite Mission Shakti was India's direct-ascent anti-satellite test.

CDS II 2024 GK, Q29

26. C. UNESCO WFP, ILO and UNHCR have received the Nobel Peace Prize; UNESCO has not.

CDS II 2024 GK, Q36

27. C. Global money-laundering and terrorist-financing watchdog FATF sets global standards against money laundering and terrorist financing.

CDS II 2024 GK, Q42

28. C. Indian Railways RDSO is Indian Railways' research and standards body.

CDS II 2024 GK, Q49

29. C. Both 1 and 2 Shankara and Madhva are respectively associated with Advaita and Dvaita.

CDS II 2024 GK, Q51

30. B. Yava and Dhanya Yava and dhanya are the relevant Rigvedic cereal terms in this question.

CDS II 2024 GK, Q53

31. C. 1-2-3-4 The events occurred in 1916, 1921, 1942 and 1946 respectively.

CDS II 2024 GK, Q59

32. C. Both 1 and 2 Both statements describe Chola bronze traditions correctly.

CDS II 2024 GK, Q61

33. A. Union of States Article 1 describes India as a Union of States.

CDS II 2024 GK, Q62

34. B. 1, 3 and 4 only Dauvarika was a palace/door official, not chief of army.

CDS II 2024 GK, Q65

35. A. Cumulus congestus Strong vertical development of cumulus congestus produces cumulonimbus.

CDS II 2024 GK, Q74

36. A. Alexandria and Syene He compared noon shadow angles at Alexandria and Syene.

CDS II 2024 GK, Q76

37. D. Slow movement of soil Soil creep is extremely slow downslope movement.

CDS II 2024 GK, Q77

38. A. Closely spaced isobars Rapid pressure change over short distance produces closely packed isobars.

CDS II 2024 GK, Q81

39. C. Salt crystal growth Salt-crystal growth is mechanical or physical weathering.

CDS II 2024 GK, Q82

