

SEPTEMBER 2026

Topic 1: Oceanography, Deep-Sea Exploration & Polar Research

(Relevant for GS-1: Physical Geography / GS-3: Science & Technology)

- GRSE Launches *Sagar Manthan*: Garden Reach Shipbuilders and Engineers (GRSE), Kolkata, launched *Sagar Manthan*, an indigenously constructed ocean research vessel for the National Centre for Polar and Ocean Research (NCPOR) under the Ministry of Earth Sciences (MoES).
- Capacity & Cost: Built at ₹840 crore, it is scheduled for commissioning by early 2028. Previous research ships—*Sagar Kanya* (built in Germany, 1983) and *Sagar Nidhi* (built in Italy, 2008)—were imported, while polar expeditions relied on chartered ice-class vessels. Building domestically keeps design and refit capability onshore.
- Deep Ocean Mission & Samudrayaan: Approved in 2021 under MoES. Its flagship project, *Samudrayaan*, is developing the crewed submersible *Matsya-6000* to carry three people to a ocean depth of 6,000 metres.
- Seabed Rights: India holds International Seabed Authority (ISA) exploration contracts for polymetallic nodules in the Central Indian Ocean Basin and polymetallic sulphides along the Indian Ocean Ridge.
- NCPOR Profile (Back2Basics):
 - Status & Location: Autonomous institute under MoES, located at Vasco da Gama, Goa (established in 1998 as NCAOR, renamed NCPOR in 2018).
 - Research Stations: Operates *Maitri* and *Bharati* in Antarctica, and *Himadri* at Ny-Ålesund in Svalbard (Arctic).

Topic 2: Polity & Electoral Governance – Electoral Rolls & Identity

(Relevant for GS-2: Constitutional Provisions, Representation of People Act, Governance)

- Special Intensive Revision (SIR): Time-bound door-to-door verification by Booth Level Officers (BLOs) across states.
- Judicial Clarification on Citizenship: The Supreme Court affirmed that final determination of citizenship belongs to the Ministry of Home Affairs (MHA) under the *Citizenship Act, 1955*, and not to the Election Commission (EC) during doorstep roll revision.
- Constitutional & Statutory Framework:
 - Article 325: Mandates a single general electoral roll per constituency; bars exclusion based on religion, race, caste, or sex.

- Article 326: Guarantees universal adult suffrage at 18 years (voting age lowered from 21 by the 61st Constitutional Amendment).
- RPA, 1950: Section 19 sets qualifications (*ordinarily resident* and 18+ years), Section 16 defines disqualifications, and Section 21 provides authority for special revisions.
- Election Laws (Amendment) Act, 2021: Introduced Form 6B allowing voluntary linkage of Aadhaar with Electors Photo Identity Cards (EPIC) to establish identity and eliminate duplicate entries.
- Aadhaar vs. Citizenship:
 - Issued by the Unique Identification Authority of India (UIDAI) under the *Aadhaar Act, 2016* (Ministry of Electronics and IT).
 - Establishes identity and residence only, not citizenship (*K.S. Puttaswamy v. Union of India*, 2018).

Topic 3: International Relations & Strategic Diplomacy

(Relevant for GS-2: Bilateral, Regional & Global Groupings)

- China's Open-Source AI Pitch at BRICS: At the New Delhi BRICS Summit, China proposed establishing a BRICS open-source AI community and a BRICS digital ecosystem cloud platform.
 - Outcome: The *New Delhi Declaration* remained silent on the proposed cloud platform and community, choosing instead to emphasize broader cooperation on AI safety, security, reliability, and inclusiveness.
- IndiaAI Mission: Approved in 2024 under the Ministry of Electronics and Information Technology (MeitY). Structured around 7 pillars, including IndiaAI Compute Capacity (subsidized GPUs for researchers/startups) and the IndiaAI Datasets Platform.
- INS Kulish Visit to Ream Naval Base:
 - INS Kulish: Indigenous *Kora-class missile corvette* of the Indian Navy.
 - Ream Naval Base: Located near Sihanoukville, Cambodia, on the Gulf of Thailand. Sits near strategic maritime access routes to the Strait of Malacca and the South China Sea.

Topic 4: Climatology, Agriculture & Food Security

(Relevant for GS-1: Physical Geography / GS-3: Indian Agriculture & Inflation)

- Southwest Monsoon Deficit & El Niño:

- Cumulative rainfall finished 14.7% below the Long Period Average (LPA), with 24 out of 36 meteorological subdivisions experiencing rain deficits.
- El Niño Mechanism: Equatorial Pacific sea surface warming weakens easterly trade winds, reducing moisture transport to the Indian subcontinent.
- Input Offtake vs. Sowing Acreage:
 - While Kharif sowing acreage remained steady (1,096.5 lakh hectares vs. 1,112.5 lakh hectares in 2025), sales of major fertilizers (DAP, MOP, Complex, and Urea) registered significant declines.
 - Divergence: Normal acreage coupled with reduced fertilizer consumption signals lower crop yields rather than unsown land.
- Global Food Price Index: The FAO Food Price Index reached 133.3 points in August 2026 (led by cereal and vegetable oil price rises), driven by trade disruptions and climate shocks.

Topic 5: Banking & Corporate Insolvency – Personal Guarantors

(Relevant for GS-3: Indian Economy & Financial Governance)

- Subhash Chandra Case & Trigger: NCLT Special Bench stayed an order that had approved a repayment plan for promoter Subhash Chandra offering creditors ₹6.25 crore against admitted claims of ₹22,006.57 crore.
 - Four IBBI Proposed Reforms: The Insolvency and Bankruptcy Board of India (IBBI) proposed 4 key amendments for the personal guarantor track:
 - ★ 1. Related Party Voting Exclusion: Bar 'related parties' of the guarantor from voting in creditors' meetings, replacing the narrower 'associate' test.
 - ★ 2. Avoidance Transactions Scrutiny: Resolution Professionals (RP) must examine undervalued, preferential, or extortionate transactions.
 3. Independent Valuation: Mandatory valuation of the guarantor's assets by a registered valuer.
 4. Reasoned Minutes: RPs must maintain detailed, auditable records of creditor deliberations.
 - IBBI Background (Back2Basics): Statutory body established in 2016 under the *Insolvency and Bankruptcy Code, 2016*. Regulates Insolvency Professionals (IPs), Insolvency Professional Agencies (IPAs), Registered Valuers, and Information Utilities (IUs).
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MCQs

Q1. With reference to 'Sagar Manthan', recently launched in India, consider the following statements:

1. It is an indigenously built ocean research vessel constructed by Garden Reach Shipbuilders and Engineers (GRSE).
2. It has been constructed for the National Centre for Polar and Ocean Research (NCPOR) under the Ministry of Earth Sciences.
3. India's existing oceanographic research vessels, such as *Sagar Kanya* and *Sagar Nidhi*, were built indigenously at Cochin Shipyard.

Which of the statements given above is/are correct?

- (a) 1 and 2 only
 - (b) 2 only
 - (c) 1 and 3 only
 - (d) 1, 2 and 3
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Q2. With reference to India's Deep Ocean Mission and Samudrayaan project, consider the following statements:

1. Samudrayaan is a project implemented under the Deep Ocean Mission.
2. *Matsya-6000* is a crewed submersible designed to carry three human crew members to a depth of 6,000 metres.
3. India holds exploration rights granted by the International Seabed Authority for polymetallic nodules in the Central Indian Ocean Basin.

Which of the statements given above are correct?

- (a) 1 and 2 only
 - (b) 2 and 3 only
 - (c) 1 and 3 only
 - (d) 1, 2 and 3
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Q3. Consider the following statements regarding the National Centre for Polar and Ocean Research (NCPOR):

1. It is an autonomous institute functioning under the Ministry of Environment, Forest and Climate Change.
2. Its headquarters is located at Vasco da Gama in Goa.
3. It operates the *Maitri* and *Bharati* research stations in Antarctica, and *Himadri* in the Arctic.

Which of the statements given above is/are correct?

- (a) 1 and 2 only
 - (b) 2 and 3 only
 - (c) 3 only
 - (d) 1, 2 and 3
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Q4. With reference to electoral provisions under the Constitution of India, consider the following statements:

1. Article 325 mandates a single general electoral roll for every territorial constituency.
2. Article 325 prohibits exclusion from the electoral roll on grounds only of religion, race, caste, or sex.
3. Universal adult suffrage at 18 years was part of the original constitutional text adopted in 1950.

Which of the statements given above is/are correct?

- (a) 1 and 2 only
 - (b) 2 and 3 only
 - (c) 1 only
 - (d) 1, 2 and 3
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Q5. Regarding the statutory framework governing electoral rolls and citizenship in India, consider the following statements:

1. Section 21 of the Representation of the People Act, 1950 authorizes the Election Commission to conduct a special revision of electoral rolls.
2. The Supreme Court ruled that the Election Commission possesses the final statutory authority to determine the citizenship status of voters during doorstep revision.
3. The Election Laws (Amendment) Act, 2021 introduced Form 6B for voluntary linking of Aadhaar numbers with electoral identity cards.

Which of the statements given above is/are correct?

- (a) 1 only
- (b) 1 and 3 only

- (c) 2 and 3 only
(d) 1, 2 and 3

Q6. With reference to Aadhaar and its legal framework, consider the following statements:

1. Aadhaar serves as statutory proof of identity and residence, but does not constitute proof of citizenship.
2. The Unique Identification Authority of India (UIDAI) is a statutory body operating under the Ministry of Home Affairs.
3. In *K.S. Puttaswamy v. Union of India (2018)*, the Supreme Court struck down Section 57 of the Aadhaar Act, barring private entities from mandating Aadhaar authentication under contract.

Which of the statements given above is/are correct?

- (a) 1 and 2 only
(b) 1 and 3 only
(c) 3 only
(d) 1, 2 and 3

Q7. Consider the following statements regarding the 'IndiaAI Mission':

1. It is a national mission approved under the Ministry of Electronics and Information Technology (MeitY).
2. Its compute capacity pillar aims to provide subsidized Graphics Processing Units (GPUs) for startups and public research institutions.
3. The mission includes an IndiaAI Datasets Platform to build foundational AI infrastructure.

Which of the statements given above are correct?

- (a) 1 and 2 only
(b) 2 and 3 only
(c) 1 and 3 only
(d) 1, 2 and 3

Q8. With reference to Artificial Intelligence governance discussions at the BRICS Summit in New Delhi, consider the following statements:

1. China proposed the establishment of a BRICS open-source AI community and a digital ecosystem cloud platform.
2. The *New Delhi Declaration* explicitly adopted and operationalized China's proposed BRICS Digital Ecosystem Cloud Platform.
3. Open-source AI models allow users to run, modify, and redistribute model weights on their own infrastructure.

Which of the statements given above is/are correct?

- (a) 1 and 3 only
 - (b) 2 only
 - (c) 1 and 2 only
 - (d) 1, 2 and 3
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Q9. Consider the following statements regarding Indian Naval Ship (INS) *Kulish* and its recent deployment:

1. INS *Kulish* is an indigenously built *Kora-class* missile corvette of the Indian Navy.
2. It recently made a diplomatic port call at Ream Naval Base in Cambodia.
3. Ream Naval Base is located on the coast of the Bay of Bengal near the Sunda Strait.

Which of the statements given above is/are correct?

- (a) 1 only
 - (b) 1 and 2 only
 - (c) 2 and 3 only
 - (d) 1, 2 and 3
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Q10. Ream Naval Base in Cambodia is strategically located on which of the following bodies of water?

- (a) Andaman Sea
 - (b) Gulf of Thailand
 - (c) Gulf of Tonkin
 - (d) Celebes Sea
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Q11. With reference to the impact of El Niño on the Indian Southwest Monsoon, consider the following statements:

1. El Niño is characterized by abnormal warming of sea surface temperatures in the equatorial Pacific Ocean.
2. It strengthens the easterly trade winds, enhancing moisture transport towards the Indian subcontinent.
3. Sea surface temperature anomalies associated with El Niño can persist into the winter season, potentially impacting rabi crops.

Which of the statements given above is/are correct?

- (a) 1 only
 - (b) 1 and 3 only
 - (c) 2 and 3 only
 - (d) 1, 2 and 3
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Q12. In the context of agricultural and economic indicators during a monsoon deficit, consider the following statements:

1. Total Kharif sowing acreage always falls in direct proportion to any decline in chemical fertilizer sales.
2. A decline in fertilizer sales (such as DAP, MOP, and complex fertilizers) alongside nearly stable Kharif acreage indicates lower expected crop yields rather than uncultivated land.
3. Single Super Phosphate (SSP) was the only major fertilizer category to record an increase in sales during April–July 2026 in India.

Which of the statements given above is/are correct?

- (a) 1 and 2 only
- (b) 2 and 3 only
- (c) 3 only
- (d) 1, 2 and 3

Q13. Regarding the Food and Agriculture Organisation (FAO) Food Price Index, consider the following statements:

1. It measures the monthly change in international prices of a weighted basket of key food commodities against a base period.
2. Trade disruptions along major shipping routes and El Niño-induced weather disruptions contribute to upward pressures on the index.

Which of the statements given above is/are correct?

- (a) 1 only
- (b) 2 only
- (c) Both 1 and 2
- (d) Neither 1 nor 2

Q14. With reference to Personal Guarantors under the Insolvency and Bankruptcy Code (IBC), 2016, consider the following amendments proposed by the IBBI:

1. Creditors who are 'related parties' of the personal guarantor will be barred from exercising voting rights on the resolution plan.
2. Resolution Professionals will be required to scrutinize 'avoidance transactions' (undervalued, preferential, or extortionate transactions).
3. Independent asset valuation by a registered valuer will be made mandatory for personal guarantor resolution plans.

Which of the statements given above are correct?

- (a) 1 and 2 only
- (b) 2 and 3 only
- (c) 1 and 3 only

(d) 1, 2 and 3

Q15. Consider the following statements regarding the Insolvency and Bankruptcy Board of India (IBBI):

1. It is a statutory body established under the Insolvency and Bankruptcy Code, 2016.
2. It regulates Insolvency Professionals, Registered Valuers, and Information Utilities.
3. It performs regulatory, executive, and quasi-judicial functions over its regulated ecosystem.

Which of the statements given above is/are correct?

- (a) 1 and 2 only
- (b) 2 and 3 only
- (c) 1 only
- (d) 1, 2 and 3

Answer Key & Detailed Explanations

Question	Answer	Primary Topic Reference
Q1	(a)	Oceanography & Indigenisation
Q2 ★	(d)	Deep Ocean Mission & ISA Rights
Q3 ★	(b)	NCPOR & Polar Stations
Q4 ★	(a)	Constitutional Framework of Electoral Rolls
Q5	(b)	RPA 1950 & Election Laws Amendment
Q6	(b)	Aadhaar Act & Judicial Rulings
Q7	(d)	IndiaAI Mission Pillars
Q8	(a)	BRICS AI Governance & Open Source

Q9	(b)	INS Kulish & Naval Deployments
Q10	(b)	Ream Base Mapping
Q11	(b)	El Niño Mechanism & Monsoons
Q12	(b)	Agricultural Inputs & Crop Yields
Q13	(c)	FAO Food Price Index Drivers
Q14	(d)	IBBI Personal Guarantor Amendments
Q15	(d)	IBBI Regulatory Powers

Detailed Explanations

Q1. Correct Answer: (a)

- Statements 1 & 2 are correct: *Sagar Manthan* is an indigenously built ocean research vessel built at GRSE (Kolkata) for NCPOR under the Ministry of Earth Sciences.
- Statement 3 is incorrect: *Sagar Kanya* was built in Germany (1983) and *Sagar Nidhi* was constructed in Italy (2008). India did not construct these platforms domestically in Cochin Shipyard.

Q2. Correct Answer: (d)

- Statement 1 is correct: *Samudrayaan* is a key project under India's Deep Ocean Mission approved in 2021.
- Statement 2 is correct: *Matsya-6000* is designed as a crewed submersible to carry 3 people to an ocean depth of 6,000 metres.
- Statement 3 is correct: India holds exploration contracts with the International Seabed Authority (ISA) for polymetallic nodules in the Central Indian Ocean Basin and polymetallic sulphides on the Indian Ocean Ridge.

Q3. Correct Answer: (b)

- Statement 1 is incorrect: NCPOR is an autonomous institute under the Ministry of Earth Sciences (MoES), not MoEFCC.

- Statements 2 & 3 are correct: NCPOR is headquartered at Vasco da Gama in Goa. It runs *Maitri* and *Bharati* in Antarctica, and *Himadri* at Ny-Ålesund in Svalbard (Arctic).

Q4. Correct Answer: (a)

- Statements 1 & 2 are correct: Article 325 mandates one general electoral roll for every territorial constituency and prohibits exclusion on grounds of religion, race, caste, or sex.
- Statement 3 is incorrect: The voting age was originally 21 years in 1950 and was lowered to 18 years by the Sixty-first Constitutional Amendment Act.

Q5. Correct Answer: (b)

- Statements 1 & 3 are correct: Section 21 of RPA 1950 authorizes special revisions of electoral rolls. The Election Laws (Amendment) Act 2021 introduced Form 6B for voluntary Aadhaar linking.
- Statement 2 is incorrect: The Supreme Court ruled that final determination of citizenship belongs to the Ministry of Home Affairs under the Citizenship Act 1955, not to the Election Commission at the doorstep.

Q6. Correct Answer: (b)

- Statement 1 is correct: Aadhaar establishes identity and residence by statute, not citizenship.
- Statement 2 is incorrect: UIDAI functions under the Ministry of Electronics and Information Technology (MeitY), not MHA.
- Statement 3 is correct: In *K.S. Puttaswamy (2018)*, the SC struck down Section 57 to prevent private entities from demanding mandatory Aadhaar authentication under contracts.

Q7. Correct Answer: (d)

- All statements (1, 2, and 3) are correct: The IndiaAI Mission was approved in 2024 under MeitY. It spans 7 pillars, including IndiaAI Compute Capacity (subsidizing GPUs for startups/researchers) and the IndiaAI Datasets Platform.

Q8. Correct Answer: (a)

- Statements 1 & 3 are correct: China proposed a BRICS open-source AI community and cloud platform. Open-source models allow running, modifying, and redistributing model weights.
- Statement 2 is incorrect: The *New Delhi Declaration* did not adopt China's specific cloud platform or community proposal, focusing instead on general cooperation principles.

Q9. Correct Answer: (b)

- Statements 1 & 2 are correct: INS *Kulish* is an indigenous *Kora-class* missile corvette. It made a port call at Ream Naval Base in Cambodia.
- Statement 3 is incorrect: Ream Naval Base lies on the Gulf of Thailand near the Strait of Malacca, not the Bay of Bengal or Sunda Strait.

Q10. Correct Answer: (b)

- Ream Naval Base is located near Sihanoukville on Cambodia's coast along the Gulf of Thailand.

Q11. Correct Answer: (b)

- Statements 1 & 3 are correct: El Niño refers to sea surface warming in the equatorial Pacific. Its warm phase can persist into winter, impacting temperatures during the rabi season.
- Statement 2 is incorrect: El Niño weakens (rather than strengthens) easterly trade winds, reducing moisture transport to India.

Q12. Correct Answer: (b)

- Statement 1 is incorrect: Sowing acreage can remain stable even when fertilizer sales decline.
- Statements 2 & 3 are correct: Reduced fertilizer sales alongside normal sowing acreage point toward yield drop risks. Single Super Phosphate (SSP) was the only major fertilizer category to register a sales increase (rising to 20.2 lakh tonnes).

Q13. Correct Answer: (c)

- Both statements (1 and 2) are correct: The FAO Food Price Index measures monthly international price movements of a weighted food commodity basket. Geopolitical shipping disruptions and El Niño climate impacts push the index upward.

Q14. Correct Answer: (d)

- All statements (1, 2, and 3) are correct: IBBI's four proposed amendments include: (1) excluding 'related parties' from voting, (2) requiring RPs to scrutinize 'avoidance transactions', (3) mandating independent valuations by registered valuers, and (4) maintaining reasoned minutes.

Q15. Correct Answer: (d)

- All statements (1, 2, and 3) are correct: IBBI was established in 2016 under IBC 2016. It regulates IPs, IPAs, Registered Valuers, and Information Utilities, combining regulatory, executive, and quasi-judicial functions