

SLA CLAT SECTIONAL TEST — CURRENT AFFAIRS & GK Set 5

GENERAL INSTRUCTIONS

- Total Questions: 30 Multiple-Choice Questions (MCQs)
- Total Duration: 30 Minutes
- Marking Scheme:
 - +1 mark for each correct answer
 - -0.25 marks for each wrong answer
 - 0 marks for un-attempted questions

PASSAGE 1 (Q1–Q6)

In late May 2026, the top diplomats of four Indo-Pacific democracies gathered in the Indian capital for the latest ministerial round of a security and economic dialogue the four countries have maintained in its present four-way form for roughly a decade. It was the eleventh time the group's foreign-policy chiefs had met in this configuration, and a rare occasion for India to host the ministerial round on its own soil rather than travelling to a partner capital.

The meeting produced two headline outcomes. First, the four countries agreed, for the first time, to pool their maritime-surveillance capabilities under a single collaborative arrangement meant to sharpen a shared picture of shipping and naval movement in waters that matter most to the group's Indian Ocean member. Second, the ministers unveiled an arrangement intended to help the four economies coordinate investment across the mining, processing and recycling stages of a class of minerals considered essential to clean-energy technology and defence manufacturing, an effort explicitly aimed at reducing the group's collective dependence on any single external supplier of such minerals.

The grouping itself rests on no founding treaty, no charter and no permanent secretariat or shared budget; it functions purely as a standing arrangement between the four foreign ministries, which meet on a rotating basis and occasionally elevate their engagement to a leaders'-level summit. Commentary around the meeting situated it within a longer-running debate about whether the arrangement has matured into a genuine strategic partnership or remains, after all these years, essentially a habit of consultation among states that happen to share concerns about the same waters — a debate sharpened by the fact that a leaders'-level summit of the same four countries has not been convened for some time.

Source: *The Indian Express*, 26 May 2026

QUESTIONS

Q1. Which four countries together constitute the grouping described in the passage, generally known as "the Quad"?

- (A) India, US, UK, Japan
- (B) India, US, Japan, Australia
- (C) India, Japan, Australia, South Korea
- (D) India, US, Australia, Indonesia

Q2. The Quad was first formally proposed, in 2007, by a serving prime minister of which country?

- (A) Japan
- (B) Australia
- (C) United States
- (D) Indonesia

Q3. The Quad's informal origins are most commonly traced to coordinated disaster-relief efforts following which event?

- (A) The 2005 Kashmir earthquake
- (B) The 2008 Cyclone Nargis
- (C) The 2004 Bay of Bengal floods
- (D) The 2004 Boxing Day tsunami

Q4. Which of the following statements about the Quad is NOT correct?

- (A) First virtual summit in 2021
- (B) First in-person summit at Melbourne
- (C) Dormant before its 2017 revival
- (D) Malabar exercise involves all four

Q5. The arrangement unveiled at this meeting to coordinate the four countries' investment in the mining, processing and recycling of minerals essential to clean energy and defence is formally styled the:

- (A) Minerals Security Partnership
- (B) Quad Rare Earth Minerals Pact
- (C) Quad Critical Minerals Initiative Framework
- (D) Critical Raw Materials Act

Q6. Alongside the two outcomes announced at this meeting, Quad cooperation on Open RAN telecom infrastructure — reaffirmed at this meeting — identified which Pacific nation as a trusted-supplier partner?

- (A) Fiji
- (B) Papua New Guinea
- (C) Vanuatu
- (D) Palau

PASSAGE 2 (Q7–Q12)

Towards the end of May 2026, the Union Cabinet's economic-affairs committee cleared a sweeping restructuring of the machinery that moves subsidised foodgrain from state-level warehouses onto the shelves of neighbourhood ration shops. The decision folds two separate, older support arrangements — one that reimbursed states for moving grain within their borders and topping up shopkeepers' margins, and a second, more recent one aimed narrowly at digitising the supply chain — into a single umbrella scheme running for five years under the funding cycle set by India's most recently constituted Finance Commission.

The restructured scheme leans heavily on new-generation technology: artificial intelligence and machine-learning tools

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for tracking stock and predicting shortfalls, blockchain for tamper-resistant record-keeping across the supply chain, and natural-language processing to power an automated grievance-redressal system for beneficiaries who currently have to file complaints manually. State governments are also expected to set up unified command-and-control centres and shared databases to replace the fragmented, state-by-state records that the older arrangement left behind.

Government officials described the move as an attempt to close a persistent gap between how much grain leaves central warehouses and how much reaches the ration cardholder it was meant for — a gap conventionally attributed to transport losses, diversion and outdated paper-based tracking. The scheme sits within the broader architecture of the law that guarantees subsidised foodgrain to a large majority of India's population, and its automation push is billed by the ministry concerned as the most significant technological upgrade to that distribution machinery since a nationwide ration-card portability initiative was rolled out several years earlier.

Source: PIB (Cabinet briefing, Ministry of Consumer Affairs, Food & Public Distribution), 27 May 2026

QUESTIONS

Q7. The "nationwide ration-card portability initiative" referenced generically in the passage's closing sentence is best identified as:

- (A) Antyodaya Anna Yojana
- (B) Direct Benefit Transfer (Food)
- (C) One Nation One Ration Card
- (D) National Ration Card Portability Scheme

Q8. The passage's reference to "the law that guarantees subsidised foodgrain to a large majority of India's population" is best identified as the:

- (A) National Food Security Act, 2013
- (B) Essential Commodities Act, 1955
- (C) Food Safety and Standards Act, 2006
- (D) Agricultural Produce Market Committee Act

Q9. The "second, more recent" predecessor scheme mentioned in the passage — aimed narrowly at digitising the PDS supply chain — is best identified as:

- (A) Integrated Management of PDS (IM-PDS)
- (B) Anna Sugam Yojana
- (C) PDS Network Enhancement Scheme
- (D) SMART-PDS

Q10. The restructured scheme's five-year duration is stated to run under the award period of which Finance Commission?

- (A) 15th Finance Commission
- (B) 17th Finance Commission
- (C) 14th Finance Commission
- (D) 16th Finance Commission

Q11. The restructured scheme funds the distribution machinery for the existing central programme under which the foodgrain entitlement guaranteed by the law described in the passage is supplied to beneficiaries completely free of cost. That programme is the:

- (A) Antyodaya Anna Yojana
- (B) Pradhan Mantri Ujjwala Yojana
- (C) Pradhan Mantri Garib Kalyan Anna Yojana
- (D) Pradhan Mantri Kisan Samman Nidhi

Q12. The persistent gap the passage describes — between the quantity of grain leaving central warehouses and the quantity actually reaching ration cardholders — is conventionally known, in PDS policy discussions, as:

- (A) Leakage
- (B) Distribution Slippage
- (C) Diversion Deficit
- (D) Transit Loss Index

PASSAGE 3 (Q13–Q18)

In mid-July 2026, a comprehensive trade and economic partnership between India and a G7 economy that had left a continental trading bloc some years earlier formally took legal effect, alongside a companion pact on social-security contributions for workers posted temporarily between the two countries. Negotiations had run for several years and numerous formal rounds before the two sides signed the pact roughly a year before it actually came into force — a gap the two governments used to complete their respective domestic ratification procedures.

Officials on both sides described the moment as historic: for India, it is billed as the country's first comprehensive trade and economic agreement with any European member of the G7; for its partner, it is billed as the most far-reaching bilateral deal of its kind concluded since that country's own departure from a regional economic and political bloc some years before. Under the agreement, the near-entirety of one side's tariff lines fall away immediately across sectors ranging from processed food and marine products to engineering goods, leather, textiles and pharmaceuticals, while the other side phases in a smaller, more gradual set of concessions across most of its own tariff schedule.

The companion agreement on social security tackles a narrower but long-standing irritant: employees on longer-term postings to the partner country had, once an initial exemption period lapsed, been required to keep contributing to both countries' social-security systems for the remainder of their stay abroad. The revised arrangement substantially lengthens this exemption window, a change expected to make extended cross-border postings between the two economies noticeably cheaper for employers than they had been under the previous rules.

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Source: *The Wire*, 16 July 2026

QUESTIONS

Q13. The "G7 economy" that had "left a continental trading bloc some years earlier," referred to in the passage, is:

- (A) Canada
- (B) Germany
- (C) Japan
- (D) United Kingdom

Q14. As the passage describes, tariff liberalisation under this agreement is asymmetric between the two sides. Which of the following correctly describes the direction of that asymmetry?

- (A) India removes tariffs on the near-entirety of its tariff lines immediately, while the partner country phases in a smaller, more gradual set of concessions
- (B) Both sides remove all tariffs immediately, with only quota limits applied gradually
- (C) The partner country removes tariffs on the near-entirety of its tariff lines immediately, while India phases in a smaller, more gradual set of concessions
- (D) Tariff removal on both sides is linked entirely to a sunset clause rather than a fixed schedule

Q15. Which of the following is NOT among India's comprehensive trade agreements already concluded before this agreement came into force?

- (A) India-UAE CEPA
- (B) India-Australia ECTA
- (C) India-Canada CEPA
- (D) India-EFTA TEPA

Q16. The Indian ministry responsible for negotiating and administering the agreement described in the passage is the:

- (A) Ministry of External Affairs
- (B) Ministry of Commerce & Industry
- (C) Ministry of Finance
- (D) Ministry of Corporate Affairs

Q17. The passage's "companion agreement on social security" is formally known as the:

- (A) Social Security Totalization Agreement
- (B) Bilateral Pension Portability Pact
- (C) Cross-Border Contribution Waiver Treaty
- (D) Double Contribution Convention

Q18. The partner country's Prime Minister at the time this agreement was signed was:

- (A) Keir Starmer
- (B) Mark Carney
- (C) Shigeru Ishiba
- (D) Giorgia Meloni

PASSAGE 4 (Q19–Q24)

In late July 2026, a Buddhist pilgrimage site in northern India that had spent nearly three decades waiting on a preparatory list finally received full recognition on a global heritage body's flagship register of protected sites. The site is revered as the place where a wandering ascetic, shortly after attaining enlightenment elsewhere, delivered his first public teaching to a small circle of former companions — an event regarded across the Buddhist world as marking the actual beginning of the faith's spread beyond one individual's personal awakening.

The inscription covers two adjoining components: a solitary brick mound traditionally associated with the moment the teacher and his companions recognised one another after a period of separation, and a wider protected zone containing several stupas, a monastery platform, and a stone pillar erected by an ancient emperor — the same pillar whose sculpted capital was later adopted as independent India's national emblem. With this addition, the site becomes the fourth place in its home state to carry this particular international recognition, joining a Mughal-era fort, a mausoleum and an abandoned capital city already on the register.

The recognition places the site alongside two, but not all three, of the other locations most closely tied to the same founding figure's life story that already carry the same international status — a reminder that one of the four principal sites remains outside the register. Indian officials welcomed the listing as overdue, given the site's decades-long wait, and committed to managing the surrounding zone's tourism growth carefully enough to preserve the very qualities that earned it the recognition in the first place.

Source: *PIB*, 25 July 2026

QUESTIONS

Q19. The "abandoned capital city" cited in the passage as one of the state's other sites already carrying this international recognition is:

- (A) Champaner-Pavagadh
- (B) Fatehpur Sikri
- (C) Hampi
- (D) Mandu

Q20. The "solitary brick mound" the passage describes as commemorating the reunion of the teacher with his former companions is known as the:

- (A) Dhamekh Stupa
- (B) Dharmarajika Stupa
- (C) Mulagandhakuti Vihara
- (D) Chaukhandi Stupa

Q21. The session of the global heritage body at which this site was inscribed was held in which city?

- (A) Busan, South Korea
- (B) Riyadh, Saudi Arabia

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- (C) New Delhi, India
(D) Paris, France

Q22. Of the four principal pilgrimage sites tied to the life of the founding figure described in the passage — birth, enlightenment, first sermon and death — which is the only one not yet inscribed on this heritage register?

- (A) Lumbini
(B) Bodh Gaya
(C) Kushinagar
(D) Sarnath

Q23. India's nomination dossiers for UNESCO World Heritage List sites, including the one for the site described in this passage, are prepared by which body?

- (A) Archaeological Survey of India
(B) Indian National Trust for Art and Cultural Heritage
(C) Ministry of Culture's UNESCO Cell
(D) Indian Council of Historical Research

Q24. With this inscription, the site described in the passage became India's heritage site number:

- (A) 39th
(B) 41st
(C) 43rd
(D) 45th

PASSAGE 5 (Q25–Q30)

In mid-March 2026, India's state-backed national academy of letters announced its annual literary honours for the previous year, recognising works across two dozen languages — the twenty-two tongues listed in the Constitution's schedule of recognised languages, plus two more the academy has separately chosen to honour. The winning list spanned genres from poetry and the novel to memoir, literary criticism and the short story, with the largest single share of the awards going to poetry collections.

Among the year's recipients were a retired career diplomat honoured in the English-language category for a historical novel, and a veteran Hindi writer recognised for a memoir of her early years in a north Indian city. Winners are conferred a ceremonial shawl, a citation plaque and a modest cash award at a formal ceremony held annually in the capital shortly after the announcement.

The academy conferring these honours is a government-funded but formally autonomous body, established in the country's first decade after independence to foster literary activity across its many languages and to promote, in the words of its founding charter, the country's underlying unity across that linguistic diversity. It is often described, in the same breath as the country's other major literary honour, as one of two pillars of national literary recognition — except that the other honour is administered not by any arm of the state but by a privately

endowed trust, and is reserved for a single lifetime body of work rather than one book published in a given year. Selections in each language are made by juries constituted by the academy's executive board, and all of the year's results are announced together.

Source: *The Indian Express*, 17 March 2026

QUESTIONS

Q25. The "government-funded but formally autonomous" academy of letters described in the passage, established in India's first decade after independence, is:

- (A) Sangeet Natak Akademi
(B) Lalit Kala Akademi
(C) Sahitya Akademi
(D) National Book Trust

Q26. The academy's headquarters building, in New Delhi, is known as:

- (A) Rabindra Bhavan
(B) Sahitya Bhavan
(C) Kala Kendra
(D) Vigyan Bhavan

Q27. The passage's "other major literary honour" — administered by a privately endowed trust and reserved for a lifetime body of work — is the:

- (A) Padma Shri
(B) Vyas Samman
(C) Saraswati Samman
(D) Jnanpith Award

Q28. Which of the following writers received the award described in the passage, in the English-language category, for a historical novel?

- (A) Shashi Tharoor
(B) Navtej Sarna
(C) Amitav Ghosh
(D) Vikram Seth

Q29. Besides the twenty-two languages of the Constitution's Eighth Schedule, the academy separately honours works in which additional two languages?

- (A) English and Sanskrit (Classical)
(B) Bhojpuri and Rajasthani
(C) English and Rajasthani
(D) English and Tulu

Q30. The academy described in the passage functions as an autonomous body under which central ministry?

- (A) Ministry of Education
(B) Ministry of Culture
(C) Ministry of Information & Broadcasting
(D) Ministry of External Affairs
