

ANSWER KEY — 2 JUNE 2026

Q1	Q2	Q3	Q4	Q5	Q6	Q7	Q8	Q9	Q10
B	A	D	C	A	C	B	A	D	B
Q11	Q12	Q13	Q14	Q15	Q16	Q17	Q18	Q19	Q20
A	C	D	B	A	D	B	C	A	C
Q21	Q22	Q23	Q24	Q25	Q26	Q27	Q28	Q29	Q30
B	C	A	C	C	B	A	C	D	B

RC PASSAGES

Q1 B
The author's principal claim threads through all three paragraphs: the Arabian Sea is warming faster than the Bay of Bengal, cyclones over the Arabian Sea are intensifying, India's infrastructure was built on an older baseline that no longer holds, and policy on long-horizon adaptation has lagged even as forecasting has improved. Option (B) captures exactly this thrust. Option (A) seizes on the evacuation-logistics sentence, which is a sub-point, not the main claim. Option (C) misreads the passage — improved forecasts have not made infrastructure 'outdated and requiring immediate redesign'; rather, adaptation has lagged. Option (D) reverses the global-cyclone-count point: the passage actually states India accounts for fewer than seven of ~80 global storms, not that global counts are rising overall.

Q2 A
The phrase 'climate-proofing assets' appears in the third paragraph in the context of 'hardening port infrastructure, redesigning storm drains, relocating informal settlements out of inundation zones'. All three examples are about REDESIGNING and HARDENING physical infrastructure so that it remains functional under future climate stress. Option (A) captures this exactly. Option (B) wrongly equates climate-proofing with insurance — insurance pays out after losses; climate-proofing prevents them. Option (C) confuses adaptation with mitigation (carbon-emissions audits go to emissions reduction, a different concept). Option (D) misreads 'assets' as financial assets to be physically relocated, which is not the sense in the passage.

Q3 D
The passage notes in paragraph 1 that the Arabian Sea 'historically generated barely a fifth' of the region's storms — i.e., the Bay of Bengal historically generated the larger share, roughly four-fifths. Option (D) captures exactly this inference: the Arabian Sea contributed a smaller share than the Bay of Bengal on the older baseline. Option (A) is unsupported and reverses the relationship — peak intensity comparison is not discussed in the historical context. Option (B) is contradicted by the explicit statement that the Arabian Sea is now warming at NEARLY TWICE the Bay's rate (an asymmetry the passage implies is recent). Option (C) is plainly false — the passage names Cyclone Tauktae as a 2021 event, not as the first-ever recorded Arabian Sea cyclone.

Q4 C
The author's argument is that adaptation infrastructure is LAGGING the changing risk profile. To WEAKEN this claim, find a statement showing adaptation IS in fact keeping pace. Option (C) — Mumbai, Surat, and Kochi have all completed multi-billion-rupee port-hardening and storm-drain redesign programmes calibrated to the newer cyclone baseline — directly contradicts the 'adaptation has lagged' claim. Option (A) reinforces that storms are intensifying (strengthens the author, not weakens). Option (B) reinforces that forecasts have improved — but the author already concedes this; restating it does not weaken his adaptation claim. Option (D) is irrelevant: the global storm count is not the author's focus; the basin-specific intensification is.

Q5 A
The author presents an emerging scientific consensus (the Arabian Sea is warming faster, cyclones are intensifying) with careful citation of evidence (Cyclones Tauktae, Biparjoy, Asna; standard-error declines; damage bills outpacing GDP). The tone is CONCERNED — the passage notes that damages have climbed faster than GDP and that adaptation lags — but it is not alarmist or polemical (no call for radical political action). Option (A) — analytical and concerned — fits exactly. Option (B) overstates the political edge. Option (C) understates the interpretive work the author does. Option (D) is plainly wrong — the author does NOT say the cyclone-risk problem has been solved; the closing sentence about damage bills outpacing GDP is a warning, not reassurance.

Q6 C
The central argument is summarised in the closing line and developed throughout: contrary to the grim post-liberalisation prognosis, the Indian handloom has been quietly REVIVED by a combination of e-commerce, conscious consumption, and platform aggregators. Option (C) captures exactly this. Option (A) wrongly claims handloom has overtaken agriculture — the passage explicitly says it is the SECOND-largest rural non-farm livelihood AFTER agriculture. Option (B) seizes on the Handloom Mark sub-point (one of several unresolved threats), not the central argument. Option (D) overstates Co-optex's role — the passage mentions it as one of several platforms (Co-optex, Okhai, GoCoop), not as the single most important driver.

Q7 B

The three forces cited in the passage are: (i) E-commerce dissolving the geographic ceiling — option (A); (ii) Urban consumer willingness to pay a premium for provenance and authenticity — option (C); (iii) State-backed and private aggregator platforms shortening the chain — option (D). Option (B) — a protective customs duty on imported powerloom fabric — is NOT mentioned anywhere in the passage. The passage's account of competitive pressure focuses on DOMESTIC powerlooms, not imports, and on consumer demand and distribution channels, not on protectionist trade policy. Option (B) is therefore the correct answer to the 'NOT cited' question.

Q8 A

The passage states that the median age of a weaver had risen alarmingly to over fifty in 2011, and has fallen back into the late thirties. The natural inference is that younger people are again entering the trade — i.e., the demographic decline has been ARRESTED. Option (A) captures this. Option (B) (forcible retirement by cooperatives) is unsupported and contrary to the spirit of the passage. Option (C) (wages above the minimum wage) is contradicted by the passage's explicit observation that wages remain BELOW minimum wage in many clusters. Option (D) overstates the National Handloom Day's role; the passage attributes the demographic shift to broader market forces (e-commerce, consumer demand, aggregators), not to a single ceremonial designation.

Q9 D

To STRENGTHEN the claim that aggregator platforms have been an important driver of the revival, find evidence that they materially improved weaver outcomes. Option (D) — weavers on Co-optex, Okhai, and GoCoop in 2024 captured an average of 62 per cent of the final retail price, against 28 per cent in 2014 — is a precise, quantified validation: it shows margin capture has more than doubled on these specific aggregator platforms over the relevant decade. Option (A) addresses the Handloom Mark scheme, not aggregators. Option (B) about cotton-versus-synthetic preference is too general to support the specific aggregator claim. Option (C) addresses demographic age, which is a separate driver.

Q10 B

The closing line — 'the handloom was treated as if it deserved a museum; it now appears to deserve a market' — uses a FIGURATIVE contrast between two ways of regarding the handloom: as a heritage curiosity to be preserved (museum), versus as a commercial sector with active demand and economic vitality (market). Option (B) captures this figurative reading exactly. Option (A) is over-literal — the passage is not about physical museum versus market buildings. Option (C) misreads the line as a literal critique of museums' stocking practices. Option (D) wrongly treats the line as a neutral observation about parallel display venues.

CR PASSAGES

Q11 A

The principal conclusion appears in the final two sentences: 'A statutory four-day work week may well be a worthwhile policy in some sectors. But the case for a single, country-wide statutory cap rests on evidence that does not, in fact, exist.' Option (A) captures this. Option (B) REVERSES the author's position — he is critical of the country-wide mandate, particularly for non-knowledge sectors. Option (C) is merely a factual recitation of pilot findings, not the author's own conclusion. Option (D) is a sub-premise the author uses in paragraph 2 (informal-sector workarounds with existing hour caps), not the final conclusion of the argument.

Q12 C

An UNSTATED ASSUMPTION is a premise on which the argument relies but which is not explicitly stated. The author's argument depends on the claim that knowledge-economy pilots cannot generalise to Indian manufacturing, construction, retail, and agriculture — and for that argument to land, those sectors MUST account for a sufficiently large share of Indian employment that policy designed for knowledge workers cannot represent the whole country. Option (C) captures this unstated assumption precisely. Option (A) (relative burnout rates) is irrelevant to the generalisation point. Option (B) (services growing faster than manufacturing exports) does not affect the sectoral-employment-share argument. Option (D) (identical continuation rates across countries) is neither stated nor assumed.

Q13 D

To WEAKEN the author's argument that pilot evidence does not generalise to non-knowledge sectors, find evidence that a 32-hour week DOES work in those very sectors. Option (D) — a randomised trial covering 400 Indian firms across manufacturing, retail, and agriculture found a 32-hour week produced stable output WITHOUT wage cuts — directly addresses and undermines the author's main objection. Option (A) addresses smaller firms in the UK context (different country, doesn't speak to Indian sectoral specifics). Option (B) reinforces the burnout premise the author already concedes. Option (C) addresses services export growth, irrelevant to the sectoral-generalisation objection.

Q14 B

The author's principal objection to the pilots is set out in paragraph 3: 'The pilots that the proponents cite were voluntary self-selected experiments. The firms that volunteered were precisely those that calculated, ex ante, that they could absorb the compression. Generalising from a self-selected sample to the entire labour force is a basic methodological error.' Option (B) captures this exactly. Option (A) (short-term outcomes) is a possible objection but not the author's stated one. Option (C) (cross-border non-transferability of hour caps) is not what the author argues. Option (D) (failure to control for sectoral composition) is related to the author's separate sector-mix argument but is not the specific objection to the pilots.

Q15 A

The author concedes in the final paragraph that 'A statutory four-day work week may well be a worthwhile policy in some sectors' — but then moves to the broader claim that the case for a country-wide statutory cap rests on non-existent evidence. The FLAW captured in option (A) is that the author slides from 'evidence is insufficient' (the limited claim) to 'the policy is therefore unworkable in every Indian sector' (the broader claim). 'Insufficient evidence' does not entail 'policy unworkable everywhere'. Option (B) wrongly accuses the author of self-contradiction. Option (C) wrongly treats the concession as self-defeating. Option (D) wrongly dismisses the maximum-hour-caps analogy, which is in fact relevant to the informal-sector workaround argument.

Q16 D

The author's principal conclusion appears in the final paragraph: an across-the-board livestreaming rule, even with a written-reasons carve-out, will NOT cleanly capture the variation in judicial calculus across Constitution Bench matters, and writing reasons on every contested closure will add weeks to already-delayed proceedings. Option (D) captures this conclusion precisely. Option (A) is a sub-premise from paragraph 2 (the proponents' case), not the author's conclusion. Option (B) is also part of the proponents' case, not the author's. Option (C) is a benefit listed by the proponents, which the author does not endorse as his conclusion.

Q17 B

An UNSTATED ASSUMPTION on which the proponents' case depends is that the written-reasons carve-out can be operated in practice WITHOUT material delay — that is, that cases warranting in-camera proceedings can be reliably identified and the necessary reasons produced quickly without bogging down the docket. Option (B) captures this unstated assumption. Option (A) (Constitution Bench matters decide basic structure) is EXPLICITLY STATED in the proponents' case. Option (C) (the Court began livestreaming in September 2022) is a factual recital, not an assumption. Option (D) (the proposed rule contains a carve-out) is explicitly part of the proposal, not an assumption hidden underneath it.

Q18 C

The author's argument against the mandatory rule turns on the claim that the written-reasons carve-out will add material delay. To WEAKEN this claim, find evidence that other systems with the same carve-out have NOT seen material delay. Option (C) — empirical data from Brazil and the UK show that a written-reasons carve-out adds, on average, less than three days per closure — directly undermines the author's delay objection. Option (A) actually STRENGTHENS the delay concern. Option (B) is a generic claim about reasoned orders, not specific to the carve-out. Option (D) merely restates the existing matrimonial/child-protection framework the author has already considered and found insufficient.

Q19 A

The reference to 'a sensitive review of foreign-relations records' and 'a pending criminal appeal in which a minor is named' appears in the third paragraph alongside 'a constitutional challenge to a marriage law' — three very different kinds of matters on the same Constitution Bench docket. The FUNCTION is illustrative: the author is showing that the docket is HETEROGENEOUS, so an across-the-board mandate is too blunt. Option (A) captures this exactly. Option (B) misreads the line as a substantive critique of the Court's docket selection. Option (C) (separate dedicated bench) is not proposed by the author. Option (D) (restrict docket to public-law matters) is also not proposed.

Q20 C

The author's overall position is NUANCED: he accepts the proponents' premise that openness is the default established by Swapnil Tripathi, but argues that the proposed across-the-board mandate is too blunt an instrument to handle the heterogeneity of the Constitution Bench docket. Option (C) captures this exactly. Option (A) (abolishing livestreaming entirely) is the opposite of the author's view. Option (B) (favouring the current selective status quo with unfettered discretion) overstates the author's position — he is sceptical of the mandate, not categorically defensive of the status quo. Option (D) (rejecting Swapnil Tripathi entirely) is plainly wrong — the author works WITHIN the Swapnil Tripathi framework.

SECTION C — RAPID-FIRE GK & CURRENT AFFAIRS

Q21 B

Samantha Harvey won the 2024 Booker Prize for her novel ORBITAL, a meditative work set aboard the International Space Station following six astronauts over a single 24-hour period. The novel was widely praised for its lyrical prose and its compressed temporal frame. Option (B) Orbital is correct. Option (A) 'Prophet Song' is by Paul Lynch and won the 2023 Booker Prize. Option (C) 'The Bee Sting' is by Paul Murray and was shortlisted in 2023. Option (D) 'North Woods' is by Daniel Mason. The award to Harvey was announced in November 2024 at the ceremony in London.

Q22 C

Article 124 of the Constitution of India deals with the establishment and constitution of the Supreme Court, and its clauses (4) and (5) lay down the procedure for the REMOVAL of a judge of the Supreme Court. The procedure requires an address by each House of Parliament, supported by a majority of the total membership of that House and by a majority of not less than two-thirds of the members present and voting, presented to the President in the same session, on the ground of proved misbehaviour or incapacity. Option (C) Article 124 is correct. Option (A) Article 61 deals with the impeachment of the President. Option (B) Article 122 deals with courts not inquiring into proceedings of Parliament. Option (D) Article 226 deals with the writ jurisdiction of high courts.

Q23 A

The Monetary Policy Committee constituted under section 45ZB of the Reserve Bank of India Act, 1934 (as amended in 2016) consists of SIX MEMBERS in total: (i) the RBI Governor as ex-officio chairperson, (ii) the Deputy Governor in charge of monetary policy as ex-officio member, (iii) one officer of the RBI nominated by the Central Board, and (iv-vi) three external members appointed by the Central Government on the recommendation of a Search-cum-Selection Committee. Option (A) — six members in all, including the RBI Governor as chairperson — is correct. Option (B) (four members) is wrong. Option (C) (eight members chaired by FM) is wrong on both the count and the chair. Option (D) (five members) is wrong.

Q24 C

The word 'unequivocal' means leaving no doubt, clear and unambiguous, expressed in a way that admits of no alternative interpretation. The closest synonym among the options is 'Unambiguous' — option (C). Option (A) 'Conditional' is the opposite — conditional means dependent on something else, whereas unequivocal means definite. Option (B) 'Vague' is the direct antonym of unequivocal. Option (D) 'Lengthy' refers to length, not clarity, and is unrelated. The judge's 'unequivocal pronouncement' means a clear, definite ruling that leaves no room for alternative interpretation.

Q25 C

The idiom 'to bury the hatchet' has its origins in a Native American custom of ceremonially burying a tomahawk to symbolise the end of hostilities between tribes. Its standard English meaning is to formally end a quarrel and make peace between previously hostile parties. Option (C) captures this exact meaning. Option (A) (planting evidence) confuses 'bury' with literal concealment. Option (B) (pretending the dispute never occurred) is closer but wrong — burying the hatchet acknowledges the dispute and resolves it; it does not pretend it never happened. Option (D) (sudden unprovoked attack) is the OPPOSITE of the idiom's meaning.

Q26 B

Indonesia's currency is the RUPIAH, NOT the Riyal. Option (B) — Indonesia: Riyal — is INCORRECTLY matched and is therefore the correct answer to the 'INCORRECTLY matched' question. The Riyal is the currency of Saudi Arabia (Saudi Riyal), Qatar (Qatari Riyal), and several other Gulf states. Vietnam's currency is indeed the Dong (option A is correct). Thailand's currency is the Baht (option C is correct). Malaysia's currency is the Ringgit (option D is correct). Only option (B) is the incorrectly matched pair.

Q27 A

Dr. S. Jaishankar, the External Affairs Minister of India, authored 'Why Bharat Matters', published in early 2024. The book articulates India's foreign-policy doctrine in the post-pandemic, multipolar world order, building on themes from his earlier work 'The India Way' (2020). Option (A) S. Jaishankar is correct. Option (B) Shashi Tharoor is a frequent author on India's foreign policy and diplomacy but did not write this particular title. Option (C) Ramachandra Guha is a historian whose work focuses on modern Indian political and social history. Option (D) Shivshankar Menon is a former Foreign Secretary and National Security Adviser whose books on Indian foreign policy include 'Choices: Inside the Making of India's Foreign Policy'.

Q28 C

Article 368 of the Constitution of India lays down the POWER OF PARLIAMENT TO AMEND THE CONSTITUTION and the procedure to be followed for such amendments. It distinguishes between amendments by simple majority (under specific provisions), amendments by special majority (Article 368(2)), and amendments by special majority plus ratification by at least half the state legislatures (Article 368(2) proviso, for federal-structure provisions). Option (C) captures this correctly. Option (A) describes the impeachment of the President (Article 61). Option (B) describes Union-State financial relations under Part XII (Articles 268-281). Option (D) describes the original jurisdiction under Article 131 (Union-State disputes).

Q29 D

The Tropic of Cancer (latitude 23.5° N) passes through EIGHT Indian states: Gujarat, Rajasthan, Madhya Pradesh, Chhattisgarh, Jharkhand, West Bengal, Tripura, and Mizoram. Option (D) Madhya Pradesh is among these eight and is the correct answer. Option (A) Bihar lies entirely north of the Tropic of Cancer. Option (B) Tamil Nadu lies entirely south of the Tropic of Cancer. Option (C) Punjab lies entirely north of the Tropic of Cancer. Only Madhya Pradesh among the four options is crossed by the Tropic of Cancer — it passes through approximately the middle of the state, including districts in the Malwa region.

Q30 B

The International Solar Alliance (ISA), launched jointly by India and France in 2015 at the COP21 climate summit in Paris, has its permanent headquarters in GURUGRAM, Haryana, India. Option (B) Gurugram, India is correct. The ISA Secretariat is housed at the campus of the National Institute of Solar Energy (NISE) in Gurugram. Option (A) Paris was the venue of the launch, not the HQ. Option (C) Nairobi is the HQ of UNEP (United Nations Environment Programme), not ISA. Option (D) Abu Dhabi is the HQ of IRENA (International Renewable Energy Agency), a related but distinct multilateral renewable-energy body.