

P2. NATIONAL



Bihar's famous food products make a mark at BRICS Summit - Makhana, an aquatic crop with growing global demand for which India is the largest producer and Bihar the leading producing state.

P3 WORLD



Xi, Modi welcome 'steady progress' in India-China ties- Examines the gradual restoration of bilateral engagement alongside continued efforts to manage the boundary question.

P4. WORLD



BRICS issues New Delhi Declaration- Highlights India's consensus-building role in navigating divergent positions among BRICS members on global conflicts and governance issues.

Editor's Note

If this edition had to be described in one word, that word would be BRICS. From India's efforts to give greater voice to the Global South and advance a more representative and equitable multilateral order, to the latest developments in India-China relations, each article in this edition explores an issue that featured prominently during the 18th BRICS Summit held in New Delhi from September 12-13, 2026. The Modi-Xi meeting, for instance, highlighted how peace and tranquillity along the border remain closely linked to the continued development of bilateral relations. For emerging and developing economies, multilateral groupings such as BRICS provide an important platform to seek greater representation in global institutions, strengthen the voice of developing countries, build more resilient trade and financial channels, and address shared concerns ranging from energy security and supply chains to technology and development. These themes were reflected across the New Delhi Declaration and the discussions at the summit. The adoption of the New Delhi Declaration by consensus, despite differences among members on several geopolitical questions, also highlighted India's role in facilitating dialogue and finding common ground within an increasingly diverse grouping. Taken together, the articles in this edition explore the ideas, events and strategic shifts that are shaping today's changing global order. We hope you have an engaging time reading, reflecting on and assessing these developments. Happy reading, and make every page count.

P7. ECONOMICS



At BRICS, India must bank on the NDB : Examines the NDB as a practical BRICS institution for infrastructure and sustainable development financing in emerging economies.

Editorials Decoded

THE HINDU Building consensus: On the 18th BRICS Summit Why reducing India's high road mortality requires moving beyond individual responsibility towards safer roads, vehicles, speed management, enforcement and post-crash care.	The Indian EXPRESS At BRICS, more options, a win for diplomacy Examines BRICS as a platform for cooperation among diverse emerging economies and its evolving role in global governance.
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“Building for Resilience, Innovation, Cooperation and Sustainability”

Bihar’s famous food products make a mark at BRICS Summit

Sattu and makhana from Bihar were included in the welcome kits for foreign delegates attending the BRICS Summit in Delhi, providing an international platform for the State’s traditional food products.



Bihar’s Traditional Products as Global Brands

Sattu & Bihar’s food culture: Made from gram (chana), sattu is widely consumed in Bihar in staple preparations such as litti-chokha, sattu paratha and sattu drink.

Makhana & Bihar’s agricultural strength: Makhana is cultivated and processed on a large scale in several districts of northern Bihar and is closely linked to the State’s wetlands and farmers.

Makhana production in Bihar: India produced 80,590 metric tonnes of makhana in 2025–26, compared with 63,910 metric tonnes in 2024–25, while Bihar accounts for around 90% of national production.

Gram production in Bihar: The State’s gram production rose from 57,490 metric tonnes in 2014–15 to 63,569 metric tonnes in 2024–25, an increase of more than 6,000 metric tonnes over the decade.

Bihar’s branding is expanding beyond its historical and spiritual heritage to include its agricultural and food traditions. Presenting sattu and makhana to global visitors combines cultural representation with the promotion of local products and entrepreneurship.

From keywords to digital trails: How Delhi Police are tracking social media ahead of BRICS 2026

Ahead of the BRICS Summit, the Delhi Police stepped up monitoring of social media platforms to identify security threats, misinformation and activities with potential law-and-order implications.

Social Media Monitoring Ahead of BRICS Summit

Dedicated monitoring system: A Social Media Cell at police headquarters and specialised units such as the IFSO monitor problematic content on all social media platforms.

Keyword-based surveillance: Software tools scan public posts, captions and comments using specific keywords and hashtags related to protests, communal tension, threats, illegal activities, abusive or threatening remarks, misinformation and manipulated content.

Pattern identification beyond individual posts: Digital monitoring and open-source intelligence techniques can identify accounts that promote illegal activities rather than focusing only on isolated posts.

Mapping links between accounts: Once an account is flagged, public information such as followers, following lists, likes, tagged locations and other interactions can be examined to identify links with accounts displaying similar or potentially illegal activity.

Takedown: Police can approach social media platforms through takedown notices for unlawful content or seek information relating to specific accounts. Posts amounting to offences such as criminal intimidation, incitement or hate speech can lead to FIR registration and investigation.

PYQ Compass



Q. Describe the context and salient features of the Digital Personal Data Protection Act, 2023. (GS III - 2024)

(Note : While the DPDP Act establishes a foundational framework for data protection, its provisions are critically ill-suited to regulate state-driven surveillance and predictive analytics.)

“Building for Resilience, Innovation, Cooperation and Sustainability”

Xi, Modi welcome ‘steady progress’ in India-China ties

Prime Minister Narendra Modi met Chinese President Xi Jinping on the sidelines of the BRICS Summit in New Delhi, with both sides noting steady progress in bilateral relations since their last meeting in August 2025.



India-China Relations: From Tensions to Gradual Engagement

Progressing bilateral ties: Both sides emphasised a strategic and long-term perspective, with the principle that differences should not become disputes. India stressed that maintaining peace and tranquillity in border areas is essential for the development of bilateral relations.

Boundary question: Both countries reaffirmed their commitment to a fair, reasonable and mutually acceptable resolution of the boundary question. China emphasised that progress in bilateral relations and the boundary question should continue in parallel, with each supporting the other.

Expanding Areas of Engagement

People-to-people and cross-border engagement: Improvement in bilateral ties has contributed to increased people-to-people relations and cross-border trade through Himalayan passes, including the resumption of the Kailash Manasarovar Yatra.

Continued high-level dialogue: Modi-Xi meetings in 2024, 2025 and 2026 indicate sustained political engagement following tensions after the 2020 Galwan clashes.

Strategic and Multilateral Engagement

Approach to long-term relations: China emphasised rational strategic understanding, mutual-benefit cooperation, mutual respect and understanding, and openness and inclusiveness through multilateral cooperation.

Expanding common ground: Both sides agreed to cooperate on regional and global issues while addressing challenges and expanding areas of common ground.

BRICS as a platform for engagement: India and China can pursue cooperation through the UN, SCO, BRICS and G20, particularly on issues concerning the Global South.

India-China and the Global South

Shared Global South role: China described India and China as key members of the Global South with significant responsibilities in world affairs.

BRICS and global governance: Xi described BRICS as an influential platform for emerging markets and developing countries and called for an equal and orderly multipolar world and inclusive economic globalisation.

Cooperation on global challenges: BRICS cooperation has extended to issues such as the international financial crisis, COVID-19 and climate change, providing a wider context for India-China engagement.

West Asia: Convergence on Peace

Political settlement: China called for a political settlement of the West Asian crisis and the restoration of peace and tranquillity in the region.

BRICS and conflict resolution: China expressed its intention to work with BRICS members, including India, to contribute to peace and stability in the Middle East.

PYQ Compass



Q. China is using its economic relations and positive trade surplus as tools to develop potential military power status in Asia'. In the light of this statement, discuss its impact on India as her neighbour. (GS II - 2017)

“Building for Resilience, Innovation, Cooperation and Sustainability”

BRICS issues New Delhi Declaration

India helped forge a consensus among BRICS members on September 12, 2026, enabling the 11-member grouping to adopt the New Delhi Declaration after negotiations over the language on the West Asian conflict.



BRICS: Consensus Amid Diverse Positions

Consensus despite differences: The New Delhi Declaration was adopted after Iran and the UAE reached a compromise on the language concerning the West Asian conflict, reflecting BRICS' effort to accommodate differing positions among its members.

BRICS as an inclusive platform: Prime Minister Narendra Modi described BRICS as a grouping with a distinct identity that is “not against anyone”, emphasising mutual respect, consensus and an approach that seeks to take all members along.

Institutional continuity: India proposed a troika system, similar to the G20, under which incoming, current and outgoing presidencies could provide greater continuity to the grouping's discussions.

New Delhi Declaration: Global Governance and Cooperation

Reforming global governance: The declaration called for comprehensive reform of the United Nations and supported a greater role for India and Brazil in the UN Security Council.

Strengthening Global South cooperation: India proposed a BRICS Global South mechanism for skill development in new technologies, alongside a roadmap for global governance reform and a seafarer distress network.

Expanding economic cooperation: BRICS countries agreed to increase intra-BRICS trade and payments in national currencies and condemned unilateral coercive measures contrary to international law.

West Asia: Delicate Diplomatic Consensus

Cautious language on the conflict: The declaration called for maximum restraint, protected civilians and expressed deep concern over attacks on civilian infrastructure and nuclear facilities in West Asia without directly attributing the attacks or subsequent strikes to specific countries.

Consensus through negotiation: The language followed months of discussions and intensive negotiations because Iran sought stronger condemnation of the U.S. and Israel, while the UAE sought equal condemnation of Iran's attacks on neighbouring countries.

BRICS as a forum for managing differences: The compromise demonstrated how a diverse grouping can use dialogue and negotiation to develop a shared position even when members have conflicting interests.

Palestine and Other Global Issues

Position on Gaza and Palestine: BRICS strongly criticised Israel's bombardment of Gaza, supported South Africa's case against Israel in international courts and called for humanitarian aid.

Two-state solution: The declaration supported a **two-state solution for Palestine**, with full rights at the UN, 1967 borders and East Jerusalem as its capital, while opposing forced displacement of Palestinians from the Occupied Palestinian Territory.

Other international concerns: The declaration also criticised the U.S. blockade of Cuba and expressed concern over violence in Sudan.

PYQ Compass



Q. “With the waning of globalization, post-Cold War world is becoming a site of sovereign nationalism.” Elucidate. (GS II - 2025)

"Building for Resilience, Innovation, Cooperation and Sustainability"

Building consensus (The Hindu : 14-09-2026)

India hosted the 18th BRICS Summit in New Delhi, where **reaffirming the importance of reformed multilateralism** emerged as a central theme amid unilateral actions by major powers and ongoing wars. More than 400 meetings and engagements involving Ministers, Parliamentarians, Heads of Agencies, officials, experts, businesses and people were conducted across 30 cities in India under the BRICS cooperation framework. The Summit culminated in the New Delhi Declaration, adopted through consensus despite differences among members, including Iran and the UAE.

BRICS – A Platform for Emerging Economies

Global South platform: BRICS provides a forum for emerging economies to collectively articulate positions on global issues, while seeking a greater role in shaping global power equations.

India's fourth chairship: India's fourth BRICS chairship projected it as a Global South balancer capable of engaging different sides of a divided international system.

Consensus despite differences: The Summit demonstrated that countries with significant geopolitical differences can still negotiate common positions on issues of global importance, giving greater relevance to multilateral cooperation at all times.



BRICS as a Platform for Diplomatic Engagement

Iran-UAE engagement: The Summit provided an opportunity for Iran and the UAE, rivals in the West Asian conflict, to hold their highest-level bilateral meeting since the war began.

India-Iran engagement: Prime Minister Narendra Modi's engagement with Masoud Pezeshkian helped address Iranian concerns over perceptions of India's tilt towards the U.S. and Israel during the conflict.

India-China engagement: Modi's meeting with Xi Jinping provided an opportunity to reaffirm the political will to normalise India-China ties.

Wider Global South engagement: Engagement with leaders from ASEAN and African nations helped India strengthen relationships beyond its immediate strategic partnerships.

Key Outcomes of the New Delhi Declaration

Reformed global governance: India reiterated its commitment to a more just, equitable, agile, effective, efficient, responsive, representative, legitimate, democratic and accountable international and multilateral system.

UN Security Council reform: The declaration called for Security Council reform and supported a greater role for Brazil and India.

Greater Global South representation: India called for more meaningful participation of EMDCs and LDCs, particularly from Africa, Asia and Latin America and the Caribbean, in global decision-making structures so that they better reflect contemporary realities.

Intra-BRICS economic cooperation: The Summit emphasised stronger intra-BRICS trade and greater use of local currencies for transactions.

Opposition to unilateral economic measures: The declaration condemned Western sanctions and tariffs, reflecting concerns over unilateral economic actions.

Position on conflicts: BRICS condemned unilateral wars without directly criticising any member, helping preserve consensus. It took a particularly strong position on Israel's actions in Palestine and Lebanon, while references to specific attacks and retaliatory actions involving Iran and its neighbours were omitted following a last-minute Iran-UAE compromise.

PYQ Compass



Q. BRICS acts as a powerful counterweight in global governance, actively amplifying the voice and influence of the Global South." Explain the role of BRICS in projecting itself as an alternative to other groupings (GS II - 2026)

"Building for Resilience, Innovation, Cooperation and Sustainability"

At BRICS, more options, a win for diplomacy (I.E : 14-09-2026)

The New Delhi Declaration 2026 presents BRICS as a platform where countries with different political systems and even conflicting interests can pursue diplomacy, cooperation and practical exchange without being defined by great-power rivalries.



BRICS: Beyond the "Ineffective" or "Anti-West" Debate

A third view of multilateralism: BRICS can provide space for state with different interests to sit together, cooperate and agree to disagree.

Plurality as a strength: The expanded BRICS reflects diverse political and strategic interests, making the grouping less suited to a single ideological orientation and more focused on accommodating multiple perspectives.

Diplomacy as the core value: The New Delhi Declaration reasserts the importance of diplomacy, demonstrating that cooperation can continue even amid geopolitical conflicts and disagreements.

BRICS and Practical Global Cooperation

Resisting the weaponisation of trade and supply chains: The Declaration's extensive focus on unilateral coercive measures, sanctions and blockades reflects concern over the use of economic instruments to disrupt trade routes and essential commodity supplies.

Energy security for the Global South: Protecting supply chains and trade routes for essential commodities, particularly hydrocarbons, is especially important for developing countries dependent on stable energy supplies.

Payments over a common BRICS currency: Rather than prioritising a common BRICS currency, the Declaration focuses on linking payment systems among member states, with India's UPI architecture identified as having potential in this area. (See page 8)

Technology cooperation: The emphasis on AI capacity building and digital resilience reflects the growing importance of technological capabilities within BRICS cooperation.

BRICS and the Changing Global Order

From emerging-power coordination to a broader grouping: BRICS was formed in 2006 as a forum for emerging powers seeking greater collective influence in a largely unipolar world, while its later emphasis on de-dollarisation and multipolarity contributed to its portrayal as an "anti-West" grouping.

Members have diverse external relationships: BRICS members do not share a single geopolitical position, with countries maintaining varying relationships with the U.S., Europe and other major powers.

Expanded BRICS balances diverse interests: In the current geopolitical environment, the grouping's strength lies in accommodating the different views and needs of its members rather than pursuing a single anti-Western agenda.

PYQ COMPASS



Q. Which one of the following statements about Unified Payments Interface (UPI) and Central Bank Digital Currency (Digital Rupee) is NOT correct? (2026)

- (a) UPI is a real-time payment system but Digital Rupee is akin to sovereign paper currency.
- (b) In case of UPI, settlement for end users happens instantly as the money gets immediately debited or credited but in the case of Digital Rupee, there is no settlement as the wallet balance gets transferred to another wallet.
- (c) UPI transactions are recorded by banks and reflected in bank statements but in case of Digital Rupee, no data is captured in bank statements as transactions are from one wallet to another.
- (d) In both the cases (UPI and Digital Rupee), the liability lies with the users and their respective banks.

"Building for Resilience, Innovation, Cooperation and Sustainability"

At BRICS, India must bank on the NDB

On September 12, BRICS leaders met in New Delhi with India holding the chair. The expanded grouping now accounts for **nearly 40% of global GDP and 55% of the world's population**. However, it is interesting to note that its voting share in the IMF has expanded only marginally.



New Development Bank as a Practical BRICS Instrument

NDB's purpose: Established in 2015, the New Development Bank seeks to mobilise resources for infrastructure and sustainable development in BRICS and other emerging and developing countries.

Limited scale of operations: Despite a decade of operation, the NDB has approved 139 projects worth about \$43 billion, with only about \$20 billion disbursed, restricting its impact compared with other multilateral development banks.

Asset and capital constraints: Stagnant asset growth and limited capital restrict the NDB's lending capacity, while sanctions affecting Russia have also strained its credit standing and funding costs.

Membership expansion has limits: Although the NDB has admitted new members to increase its capital base, the founding members' collective voting share cannot fall below 55%, while equal voting shares among founders make capital expansion difficult when members face unequal financial constraints.

NDB and India's Interests: From Infrastructure Finance to Rupee Financing

NDB has supported Indian infrastructure: The Bank has secured commitments of nearly \$10 billion across 32 projects in India, including metro rail systems and the Delhi-Ghaziabad-Meerut RRTS corridor.

Local-currency lending offers an alternative: NDB's local-currency financing can reduce dependence on the dollar without seeking to replace it as the dominant trade-invoicing currency.

NDB aims to expand local-currency operations: Its 2022-26 General Strategy targets 30% of lending and borrowing in member countries' local currencies, although existing local-currency lending remains heavily skewed towards the Renminbi.

India can strengthen this framework through a rupee bond: India can push for the NDB's long-delayed rupee bond, first discussed in 2016, to expand rupee-denominated financing

BRICS: Potential Amid Strategic Divergence

Representation gap: BRICS growth in economic and demographic weight has not been matched by a proportionate increase in its voting share in institutions such as the IMF.

Divergent geopolitical positions: While Russia, China and Iran favour a more anti-West orientation, India, Brazil and South Africa view BRICS as non-West rather than anti-West, limiting the possibility of a unified geopolitical identity.

India's strategic constraint: India needs to maximise BRICS' potential without strengthening Beijing's overall strategic position or committing itself to an unsustainable de-dollarisation agenda.

PYQ Compass



Q. Consider the following statements: (2016)

1. A new Development Bank has been set up by APEC.
 2. The headquarters of New Development Bank is in Shanghai.
- 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

BRICS Pay

BRAIN BOOSTERS #150 07-01-2026

Did You Know?



BRICS Pay

BRICS Pay is the cross-border digital payment system launched by BRICS
Focus: connect national and commercial payment systems across BRICS+ nations.
 BRICS Pay aims to create a resilient alternative financial infrastructure through fast, secure, and seamless cross-border transactions.
 The project aligns with the United Nations Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs):

- No poverty and zero hunger (SDG 1, SDG 2)
- Financial inclusion (SDG 8, SDG 10)
- Innovation and infrastructure (SDG 9)

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BRICS Pay is a decentralized digital payment platform that enables fast, secure, and seamless cross-border transactions.

It developed within the framework of the BRICS Business Council.

The project aligns with the United Nations Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs), including:

No poverty and zero hunger (SDG 1, SDG 2)

Financial inclusion (SDG 8, SDG 10)

Innovation and infrastructure (SDG 9)

BRICS Pay is designed on principles of interoperability, sovereignty, and inclusion.

Interoperability : BRICS Pay connects existing national platforms like UPI (India), CIPS (China), SPFS (Russia), Pix (Brazil), enabling cross-border transactions in local currencies.

Sovereignty : focus on building an independent financial architecture for BRICS nations.

Reducing Dollar & SWIFT Dependence:
 Aims to insulate BRICS members from disruptions caused by sanctions, dollar volatility, or geopolitical pressures.

Boost to Local-Currency Trade:
 Facilitates settlement in domestic currencies, lowering conversion costs and supporting South-South economic cooperation.

YUDH ABHYAS

BRAIN BOOSTERS #326 14-09-2026

Did You Know?



Yudh Abhyas 2026

Why in News? India and the United States have commenced the 22nd edition of their bilateral military exercise, Yudh Abhyas 2026, focusing on high-altitude warfare, long-range precision fires, counter-drone capabilities and operational interoperability.

- The exercise began in 2002 as a platoon-level exercise and has gradually evolved into a high-complexity, large-scale military exercise.
- It has become one of the important pillars of India-US defence cooperation, with both countries using such exercises to develop mutual trust and operational coordination.
- The 2026 edition is being held from September 9 to 28, with greater emphasis on capabilities relevant to modern battlefields.
- **High-altitude warfare:** Arctic-trained soldiers from the US Army's 11th Airborne Division, based at Fort Wainwright, Alaska, are participating in high-altitude training in India.

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India and the United States have commenced the 22nd edition of their bilateral military exercise, Yudh Abhyas 2026, focusing on high-altitude warfare, long-range precision fires, counter-drone capabilities and operational interoperability.

What is Yudh Abhyas?

Yudh Abhyas is an annual bilateral Army-to-Army military exercise between India and the United States.

The exercise began in 2002 as a platoon-level exercise and has gradually evolved into a high-complexity, large-scale military exercise.

It has become one of the important pillars of India-US defence cooperation, with both countries using such exercises to develop mutual trust and operational coordination.

What is Being Practised in Yudh Abhyas 2026?

The 2026 edition is being held from September 9 to 28, with greater emphasis on capabilities relevant to modern battlefields.

High-altitude warfare: Arctic-trained soldiers from the US Army's 11th Airborne Division, based at Fort Wainwright, Alaska, are participating in high-altitude training in India.

Long-range precision fires: The US Army's 3rd Multi-Domain Task Force (3MDTF) is bringing long-range precision-fire and integrated command-and-control capabilities to the exercise.

PYQ Compass



Q. Consider the following statements: (2016)

1. A new Development Bank has been set up by APEC.
 2. The headquarters of New Development Bank is in Shanghai.
- 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

Ans : b

The New Development Bank (NDB) was established by the BRICS nations (Brazil, Russia, India, China, and South Africa), not by APEC. The NDB is headquartered in Shanghai, China. So statement 2 is correct.

Q. Which one of the following statements about Unified Payments Interface (UPI) and Central Bank Digital Currency (Digital Rupee) is NOT correct? (2026)

- (a) UPI is a real-time payment system but Digital Rupee is akin to sovereign paper currency.
- (b) In case of UPI, settlement for end users happens instantly as the money gets immediately debited or credited but in the case of Digital Rupee, there is no settlement as the wallet balance gets transferred to another wallet.
- (c) UPI transactions are recorded by banks and reflected in bank statements but in case of Digital Rupee, no data is captured in bank statements as transactions are from one wallet to another.
- (d) In both the cases (UPI and Digital Rupee), the liability lies with the users and their respective banks.

Ans : d

UPI is a real-time payment system but Digital Rupee is akin to sovereign paper currency.

While UPI serves as a mechanism for transferring funds already held in bank accounts, the Digital Rupee functions as currency itself and represents a direct obligation of the Reserve Bank of India (RBI). The Digital Rupee is transferred directly between digital wallets without requiring interbank settlement.

For UPI transactions, the liability rests with the commercial banks that maintain the deposits. However, the Digital Rupee is a direct liability of the Reserve Bank of India rather than commercial banks.

PRACTICE QUESTIONS

Q. With reference to BRICS and its position in the global order, consider the following statements:

Statement 1: BRICS has acquired an “anti-West” image among developed nations.

Statement 2: The expanded BRICS grouping accounts for nearly 40% of global GDP and 55% of the world’s population.

Statement 3: The growing share of BRICS in global population and GDP has been accompanied by a proportionate increase in its voting rights in the IMF, giving it greater voting power than the United States.

Which of the statements given above is/are correct?

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

Answer: (a) 1 and 2 only

- Statement 1 is correct: BRICS is often viewed as having an “anti-West” image, particularly because some members advocate de-dollarisation and a more multipolar global order.
- Statement 2 is correct: The expanded BRICS grouping represents nearly 40% of global GDP and 55% of the world’s population.
- Statement 3 is incorrect: The increase in BRICS’ economic and demographic weight has not been matched by a proportionate increase in IMF voting rights. Its IMF voting share has expanded only marginally, and it does not have greater voting power than the United States.

Q. Consider the following description of an important agro-food product:

1. It is an aquatic crop valued for its nutritional properties and increasing global demand.
2. It is scientifically known as *Euryale ferox* and is cultivated mainly in shallow ponds, lakes and wetlands.
3. Its edible seed is roasted or processed and consumed as a popular food product known as fox nut.
4. India is the world’s largest producer of this crop, with its cultivation concentrated mainly in Bihar, West Bengal and Assam.

Which of the following States is the largest producer of this crop in India?

- (a) Kerala
- (b) Maharashtra
- (c) Bihar
- (d) Assam

Answer: (c) Bihar

Makhana, popularly known as fox nut, is an important aquatic agro-food product with growing importance in India’s agricultural and food-processing sectors. It is scientifically known as *Euryale ferox* and is cultivated mainly in shallow ponds, lakes and wetlands. The edible seed of the plant is processed, roasted and popped to produce the fox nuts consumed as food.