

PART II · ENVIRONMENT TO DIRECT HIT TRACKER

# ANTIM ASSURED 100+

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← Part I covers: Headlines · Polity · IR · Defence · S&T · Economy

## India's 100th Ramsar Site — Jai Prakash Narayan Bird Sanctuary

GS3 · ENVIRONMENT · WETLANDS · BIODIVERSITY

### WHY IN NEWS

The Jai Prakash Narayan Bird Sanctuary (Surha Tal), located in Ballia, Uttar Pradesh, has been designated as India's 100th Ramsar site — a major milestone celebrated by PM Modi, making India one of the countries with the largest Ramsar network globally.

### BACKGROUND

The Ramsar Convention on Wetlands (1971, Iran) is an intergovernmental treaty for conservation of wetlands of international importance. India joined Ramsar in 1982; its first site was Chilika Lake (Odisha) and Keoladeo National Park (Rajasthan).

### PRELIMS FACTS

- 100th Ramsar site: Jai Prakash Narayan Bird Sanctuary (Surha Tal), Ballia, Uttar Pradesh.
- Ramsar Convention signed: February 2, 1971 (World Wetlands Day = Feb 2).
- India's first two Ramsar sites (1982): Chilika Lake (Odisha) + Keoladeo National Park (Rajasthan).
- India now has 3rd largest Ramsar network globally; largest in South Asia.

### MAINS DIMENSIONS

- Wetland designation without adequate local community involvement risks "paper conservation" — need integration with village governance.
- 100th Ramsar milestone aligns with CBD's 30×30 target (30% land/ocean under conservation by 2030).
- Urban wetland destruction continues despite Ramsar — legislative gaps in Wetland Conservation Rules 2017 enforcement.

### UPSC SYLLABUS

GS3 — Biodiversity

GS3 — Conservation

GS2 — International Agreements

### PYQ LINKAGE

GS3 2023: Wetland conservation; GS3 2021: Ramsar sites in India and threats to wetlands.

### PROBABLE PRELIMS MCQ

Which of the following was India's 100th Ramsar site?

1. (a) Deepor Beel, Assam
2. (b) Surha Tal (Jai Prakash Narayan Bird Sanctuary), Uttar Pradesh
3. (c) Renuka Lake, Himachal Pradesh
4. (d) Thol Lake, Gujarat

**Answer: (b)**

Surha Tal (Jai Prakash Narayan Bird Sanctuary), Ballia, UP, was India's 100th Ramsar site; India joined Ramsar in 1982 with Chilika Lake and Keoladeo as first two sites.

#### PROBABLE MAINS QUESTION

"India's 100th Ramsar site is a milestone, but wetland conservation in India remains hostage to enforcement gaps." Critically examine. (250 words, GS3)

GS3

PYQ 2023

Ramsar

Wetlands

Ballia UP

Surha Tal

Chilika

30×30

**Akademia Hook:** Ramsar sites are a Prelims perennial — know the first two (Chilika + Keoladeo, 1982), the convention date (Feb 2, 1971 = World Wetlands Day), and now the 100th (Surha Tal, UP). Three facts, three potential MCQs.

## § 02 Places in News

📌 PLACES IN NEWS — 07 JUNE 2026 | ANTIM ASSURED 100+



● ① Ballia, UP (100th Ramsar Site) ● ② St Petersburg, Russia (SPIEF / Su-57)

● ③ Andaman & Nicobar (New C-in-C) ● ④ Venezuela (3rd largest oil supplier) ● ⑤ Australia (Defence Dialogue)

● ⑥ Philippines (India business interaction)

## ① INDIA — WETLANDS

### Ballia, Uttar Pradesh

- Jai Prakash Narayan Bird Sanctuary (Surha Tal) — India's 100th Ramsar site.
- Located at the confluence of Ganga and Ghaghra rivers.
- Hosts migratory birds including Siberian cranes and bar-headed geese.
- PM Modi called it a conservation milestone for India.

**GS3 — Biodiversity**

## ② RUSSIA — DEFENCE/DIPLOMACY

### St Petersburg, Russia

- SPIEF 2026 (St Petersburg International Economic Forum) held here.
- Putin formally offered India co-production of 36 Su-57 stealth fighters.
- Full technology transfer offered: AESA radar, engines, source code.
- SPIEF = Russia's annual equivalent of World Economic Forum (Davos).

**GS2 — India-Russia**

## ③ INDIA — DEFENCE

### Andaman & Nicobar Islands

- Vineet McCartney assumes charge as 20th Commander-in-Chief of ANC.
- India's only tri-service integrated theatre command (est. 2001).

## ④ SOUTH AMERICA — ENERGY

### Venezuela

- Venezuela became India's 3rd largest crude oil supplier in May 2026.
- Shift from overreliance on Russian crude amid US pressure.

- Overlooks Malacca Strait — 40% of global seaborne trade passes here.
- Template for India's planned 5–7 theatre commands.

#### GS3 — Defence Reforms

- Venezuela holds world's largest proven oil reserves (~303 billion barrels).
- PDVSA (state oil company) offers India heavy crude at competitive prices.

#### GS3 — Energy Security

### ⑤ OCEANIA — BILATERAL

#### Australia (Canberra)

- 2nd India-Australia Defence Ministers' Dialogue held (June 2026).
- Australia DPM Richard Marles: "never more strategically aligned."
- Joint SAR exercise planned at Maritime Rescue Coordination Centre, Chennai.
- Both QUAD members; India-Australia Comprehensive Strategic Partnership: 2020.

#### GS2 — Indo-Pacific

### ⑥ SOUTHEAST ASIA — TRADE

#### Manila, Philippines

- India-Philippines business interaction held June 4, 2026.
- India eyes Philippines as entry point into ASEAN manufacturing networks.
- India-Philippines bilateral trade: ~\$3 billion (growing at 12% CAGR).
- Philippines is a critical partner in India's Act East Policy framework.

#### GS2 — Act East Policy

## § 03 Ethics & Integrity Cases

### CASE 1 — CONFLICT OF INTEREST

#### The Wetland Approver's Dilemma

A state forest officer is on the committee approving the 101st proposed Ramsar site. He privately owns agricultural land adjacent to the proposed wetland — its designation would restrict his farming activities but also dramatically increase land value through ecotourism potential.

The officer must decide: disclose his conflict and recuse himself, or remain on the committee without disclosure.

**Ethical Issues:** Conflict of interest, integrity of public office, self-interest vs. public duty, transparency.

*GS4 — Probity in Governance | Ethics in Administration*

## CASE 2 — LOYALTY VS. DUTY

### The Defence Procurement Officer

An officer in the Ministry of Defence is evaluating the Su-57 co-production proposal. His superior (a senior bureaucrat nearing retirement) is personally championing the deal and hints that a positive evaluation will help the officer's promotion. However, the officer's independent assessment reveals significant maintenance and technology dependency concerns.

**Ethical Issues:** Integrity in public procurement, institutional pressure, whistleblowing, professional courage.

*GS4 — Public Service Values / Integrity in Governance*

## CASE 3 — DATA ETHICS

### The Panchayat Index Manipulator

A district-level officer discovers that Gram Panchayat officials in his district have submitted inflated data for the Panchayat Advancement Index to qualify for higher Central grants. Exposing them will invite political hostility; overlooking it violates his public duty and distorts resource allocation.

**Ethical Issues:** Data integrity, political neutrality of civil servant, public resource accountability, moral courage.

*GS4 — Ethical Conduct in Civil Services / Accountability*

## CASE 4 — POVERTY VS. ECOLOGY

### The Fishing Community's Wetland

The newly designated Ramsar site at Surha Tal supports 3,000 fishing families who depend on the wetland for livelihood. Post-designation regulations may ban fishing. An IAS officer must recommend a rehabilitation plan — but the budget allocated is inadequate and no alternative livelihood exists in that area.

**Ethical Issues:** Balancing ecology and livelihood rights, equity in conservation policy, compassionate administration.

*GS4 — Compassion / Social Justice / Ethics in Policy*

## Q.1 — POLITY

**Which Constitutional Amendment added the Eleventh Schedule related to Panchayati Raj?**

- a. 69th Amendment Act
- b. 73rd Amendment Act
- c. 74th Amendment Act
- d. 76th Amendment Act

**Ans: B**

73rd Amendment (1992) added Part IX and 11th Schedule (29 subjects) for Panchayati Raj; 74th Amendment added 12th Schedule for Urban Local Bodies.

## Q.2 — POLITY

**National e-Vidhan Application (NeVA) is a Mission Mode Project under which ministry?**

- a. Ministry of Law and Justice
- b. Ministry of Home Affairs
- c. Ministry of Parliamentary Affairs
- d. Ministry of Electronics and Information Technology

**Ans: C**

NeVA is under the Ministry of Parliamentary Affairs to enable paperless legislature under "One Nation One Application" framework.

## Q.3 — ENVIRONMENT

**Which of the following was India's FIRST Ramsar site?**

- a. Loktak Lake, Manipur
- b. Keoladeo National Park, Rajasthan
- c. Chilika Lake, Odisha
- d. Both Chilika and Keoladeo simultaneously in 1982

**Ans: D**

In 1982, both Chilika Lake (Odisha) and Keoladeo National Park (Rajasthan) were designated simultaneously as India's first two Ramsar sites.

## Q.4 — ENVIRONMENT

**The Ramsar Convention was signed in which year and city?**

- a. 1973, Washington D.C.
- b. 1971, Ramsar, Iran
- c. 1992, Rio de Janeiro
- d. 1975, Nairobi

**Ans: B**

Ramsar Convention signed on February 2, 1971 in Ramsar, Iran; World Wetlands Day = February 2.

#### Q.5 — DEFENCE

**The Andaman and Nicobar Command was established in which year?**

- a. 1998
- b. 2001
- c. 2005
- d. 2010

**Ans: B**

ANC was established in 2001 as India's only integrated tri-service command; HQ at Port Blair.

#### Q.6 — DEFENCE

**The Su-57 aircraft, recently offered to India by Russia, is best described as:**

- a. A strategic bomber
- b. A 4th-generation carrier-based fighter
- c. A 5th-generation stealth multi-role fighter jet
- d. An anti-radiation missile system

**Ans: C**

Su-57 is Russia's first and only 5th-generation stealth fighter; India's indigenous AMCA targets similar capability but by 2035+.

#### Q.7 — IR

**Which of the following is the bilateral naval exercise between India and Australia?**

- a. AUSTRAHIND
- b. AUSINDEX
- c. TASMAN SABER
- d. MALABAR

**Ans: B**

AUSINDEX = India-Australia naval exercise; AUSTRAHIND = army exercise; MALABAR = India-US-Japan naval exercise.

#### Q.8 — ECONOMY

**Which organisation publishes India's official GDP data?**

- a. RBI
- b. NITI Aayog
- c. Ministry of Finance
- d. Ministry of Statistics and Programme Implementation (MoSPI)

**Ans: D**

MoSPI (National Statistical Office) publishes National Accounts Statistics; current base year is 2011-12.

#### Q.9 — ECONOMY

**India's GDP growth for FY 2025-26, as reported by MoSPI, was approximately:**

- a. 6.5%
- b. 7.0%
- c. 7.7%
- d. 8.2%

**Ans: C**

MoSPI reported 7.7% growth for FY 2025-26, above IMF's projection of 6.5%, driven by domestic consumption and capital investment.

#### Q.10 — S&T

**"Navachar Mantra," a national entrepreneurship initiative launched in June 2026, targets which sectors?**

- a. Space, Defence, Semiconductors
- b. Agritech, HealthTech, EdTech
- c. FinTech, RegTech, InsurTech
- d. CleanTech, WaterTech, MobilityTech

**Ans: B**

Navachar Mantra (Ministry of Skill Development) targets Agritech, HealthTech, and EdTech — Bharat-focused, grassroots innovators.

#### Q.11 — GEOGRAPHY/IR

**Which strait does the Andaman and Nicobar Islands geographically dominate, significant for global trade?**

- a. Hormuz Strait
- b. Bab-el-Mandeb Strait
- c. Malacca Strait
- d. Lombok Strait

**Ans: C**

A&N Islands overlook the Malacca Strait — through which approximately 40% of global seaborne trade transits; critical for India's Act East Policy.

#### **Q.12 — ENVIRONMENT**

**Which of the following correctly describes the "30×30 target" mentioned in biodiversity conservation?**

- a. Reduce carbon emissions by 30% by 2030
- b. Protect 30% of Earth's land and ocean by 2030
- c. Plant 30 billion trees by 2030
- d. Achieve 30% renewable energy globally by 2030

**Ans: B**

30×30 is a CBD (Convention on Biological Diversity) target under the Kunming-Montreal Global Biodiversity Framework — 30% of land and ocean under conservation by 2030.

#### **Q.13 — POLITY**

**Consider the following about PAI 2.0. Which is INCORRECT?**

- a. It assesses over 2.5 lakh Gram Panchayats.
- b. It covers 150+ parameters across 9 thematic areas.
- c. West Bengal fully participated in PAI 2.0.
- d. It was recognised with a National e-Governance Award in 2026.

**Ans: C**

West Bengal did NOT participate in PAI 2.0 (data pending validation); 33 States/UTs participated, not all 36.

#### **Q.14 — IR/ECONOMY**

**Venezuela became India's \_\_\_\_ largest crude oil supplier in May 2026.**

- a. 1st
- b. 2nd
- c. 3rd

d. 4th

**Ans: C**

Venezuela rose to India's 3rd largest oil supplier (May 2026), reflecting India's energy diversification away from Russian crude amid US pressure.

#### Q.15 — IR

The India-Australia Comprehensive Strategic Partnership was elevated in which year?

- a. 2018
- b. 2019
- c. 2020
- d. 2022

**Ans: C**

India and Australia elevated their bilateral relationship to Comprehensive Strategic Partnership in June 2020 during a virtual summit between PM Modi and PM Morrison.

§ 05

## Mains Questions — 6 Questions

### Q.1 — GS2 | 250 WORDS

*"India's 100th Ramsar site is a landmark, but wetland conservation remains hostage to enforcement gaps and livelihood conflicts." Critically examine the challenges in implementing India's wetland conservation framework.*

Ramsar

Wetland Rules 2017

Livelihood Rights

GS3

### Q.2 — GS2 | 250 WORDS

*"The India-Australia strategic partnership is no longer driven by trade alone — it is shaped by shared threat perceptions in the Indo-Pacific." Examine this shift in the context of the 2nd India-Australia Defence Ministers' Dialogue.*

QUAD

IOR

SAGAR

GS2

### Q.3 — GS2+GS3 | 250 WORDS

*"India's interest in the Su-57 reflects a strategic dilemma — between geopolitical alignment with Russia and technological self-reliance under Atmanirbhar Bharat." Analyse.*

Su-57

CAATSA

AMCA

GS2

GS3

#### Q.4 — GS2 | 150 WORDS

*"The Panchayat Advancement Index transforms constitutional aspiration into measurable outcomes." Examine PAI 2.0's design and limitations in realising the vision of the 73rd Amendment.*

PAI 2.0

73rd Amendment

Decentralisation

GS2

#### Q.5 — GS3 | 150 WORDS

*"India's 7.7% GDP growth masks structural vulnerabilities in employment and income distribution." Critically examine whether India's growth story is translating into inclusive development.*

GDP

Inclusive Growth

MoSPI

GS3

#### Q.6 — GS3 | 150 WORDS

*"The Andaman and Nicobar Command has demonstrated that theatre-level jointness is achievable in India's military structure." Discuss its lessons for the proposed Theatre Command reforms.*

ANC

Theatre Command

Jointness

GS3

§ 06

## Answer Writing — Value Addition

### Quote — Jawaharlal Nehru on Democracy and Grassroots

"Democracy and socialism are means to an end, not the end itself. The real objective is the welfare of the common man."

Use in: PAI 2.0 Mains answer; decentralisation essays.

### Data Point — India's Wetland Coverage

India has ~4.6% of its total geographical area under wetlands (46.2 million hectares). Yet, according to SOE 2026, 30% of India's wetlands have been lost in the last two decades due to encroachment, pollution, and agricultural conversion.

Use in: Environment Mains; Ramsar conservation answers.

Concept — Strategic Autonomy in Defence

India's "strategic autonomy" doctrine — coined under PM Nehru, refined under the Non-Aligned Movement — means India reserves the right to make independent defence and foreign policy decisions, not aligned with any bloc. Su-57 acquisition tests this principle: it may align India too closely with Russia while CAATSA risk remains.

Use in: GS2 IR; Defence Indigenisation Mains answers.

Key Distinction — Joint Command vs. Unified Command

ANC is India's only *integrated* command (Army + Navy + Air Force under one commander). Proposed Theatre Commands will be *theatre-based* (geographically organised). The key reform: moving from service-centric HQs to mission-centric joint warfighting structures. ANC proved this can work at scale.

Use in: GS3 Defence reforms; Theatre Command Mains answers.

| Story                         | Prelims Probability | Mains GS Paper | Direct Hit Topic                                            |
|-------------------------------|---------------------|----------------|-------------------------------------------------------------|
| 100th Ramsar Site — Surha Tal | Very High           | GS3            | Name of site, state, what Ramsar is, first two sites        |
| PAI 2.0 — e-Governance Award  | High                | GS2            | PAI = Ministry of Panchayati Raj, 150+ parameters, 9 themes |

|                                  |        |         |                                                                   |
|----------------------------------|--------|---------|-------------------------------------------------------------------|
| NeVA — West Bengal 33rd          | High   | GS2     | NeVA = Parliamentary Affairs ministry; One Nation One Application |
| India GDP 7.7% FY26              | High   | GS3     | MoSPI publishes GDP; base year 2011-12; 5th largest economy       |
| Su-57 / SPIEF 2026               | Medium | GS2+GS3 | Su-57 = 5th-gen stealth; CAATSA; AMCA timeline 2035               |
| India-Australia Defence Dialogue | Medium | GS2     | AUSINDEX=naval; AUSTRAHIND=army; CSP=2020; QUAD                   |
| ANC — Vineet McCarty             | Medium | GS3     | ANC est. 2001; only tri-service command; Malacca Strait           |
| Navachar Mantra                  | Medium | GS3     | Ministry of Skill Development; Agritech, HealthTech, EdTech       |
| Venezuela — 3rd oil supplier     | Medium | GS3     | Energy diversification; PDVSA; strategic shift from Russian crude |

§ 08

## Proof of Precision

- ✓ **Surha Tal = 100th Ramsar:** Jai Prakash Narayan Bird Sanctuary, Ballia UP — India's 100th Ramsar site, June 2026.
- ✓ **GDP 7.7%:** MoSPI confirmed FY 2025-26 GDP growth at 7.7% — above IMF's 6.5% projection.
- ✓ **NeVA Milestone:** West Bengal = 33rd legislature to join NeVA (National e-Vidhan Application, Ministry of Parliamentary Affairs).
- ✓ **Su-57 Offer:** Putin offered co-production of 36 Su-57 at SPIEF 2026 with full ToT (AESA radar, engine, source code).

★ THEIAS AKADEMIA — PROOF OF PRECISION

# UPSC CSE Prelims 2026 Results

*In what critics called the most unpredictable Prelims paper in a decade —*

48

QUESTIONS FROM  
ANTIM ASSURED 100+

7

QUESTIONS FROM  
A SINGLE DOCUMENT

6

QUESTIONS FROM  
A SINGLE CLASS

**Our students had seen 48 questions before the paper was opened.**

**This is not luck. This is TheIAS Akademia.**

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