

THEIAS AKADEMIA

ANTIM ASSURED 100+

PART II · ENVIRONMENT TO DIRECT HIT TRACKER

Tuesday, 06 October 2026

“The Topper's Last Read. Every Morning.”

INSIDE PART II

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← Part I covers: Headlines · Polity & Governance · GS1 · International Relations · Defence & Security · Science & Technology · Economy.

1

Environment & Ecology

2 cards — one fresh, one static species profile paired thematically

GS3

Wildlife Conservation — Reintroduction

05 October 2026 · Source: Ministry of Environment, Forest and Climate Change / PIB

Project Cheetah: Five New Cubs Take India's Count to 60

Why in News: An Indian-born cheetah at Kuno National Park, Madhya Pradesh, gave birth to five healthy cubs, the Ministry of Environment, Forest and Climate Change announced on 5 October 2026 — taking India's total reintroduced cheetah population (wild-born plus translocated) to 60. This is the latest and one of the largest single litters recorded since the African cheetahs' 2022 reintroduction began, and the first major milestone bulletin since the programme marked its fourth anniversary.

Background: The Asiatic cheetah (*Acinonyx jubatus venaticus*) was declared extinct in India in 1952, the only large mammal to suffer this fate here in the post-Independence era, chiefly due to habitat loss and hunting. Since no viable Asiatic cheetah population survives anywhere to source a reintroduction, India's "Project Cheetah" (launched September 2022) instead translocated the closely related African cheetah (*Acinonyx jubatus*) from Namibia and South Africa to Kuno National Park under an Action Plan for Introduction of Cheetah in India, prepared by the National Tiger Conservation Authority (NTCA) and the Wildlife Institute of India (WII). The programme is the world's first intercontinental large-carnivore translocation, and cub survival in a new, non-native ecosystem is the single most closely watched success metric.

⚡ KEY FACTS

- Cheetah reintroduced to India under Project Cheetah, launched 17 September 2022, at Kuno National Park, Madhya Pradesh.
- Cheetah reintroductions came in two batches: 8 from Namibia (2022) and 12 from South Africa (2023); the current population of 60 reflects cumulative wild births exceeding the original 20 translocated animals.
- Cheetah is the world's fastest land animal, capable of speeds over 100 km/h, but is a daytime hunter — ecologically distinct from India's nocturnal tiger and leopard, reducing direct competition.

- Kuno National Park lies in the Sheopur and Morena districts of Madhya Pradesh, part of the Kuno-Palpur landscape in the Vindhyan hill range.
- Cheetah is listed in Schedule I of the Wildlife (Protection) Act, 1972 (as applicable to the species) and as "Vulnerable" on the IUCN Red List globally.
- The Action Plan for Cheetah Introduction projects an eventual metapopulation across multiple sites, including the proposed Gandhi Sagar Wildlife Sanctuary as a second release site.
- NTCA and WII jointly monitor the programme; each cheetah is radio-collared for continuous tracking, including cubs once old enough.

MAINS DIMENSIONS / ANALYSIS

- Significance: sustained wild-cub survival (rather than just adult translocation survival) is the strongest evidence yet that Kuno's habitat can support a self-sustaining cheetah metapopulation, not merely a managed captive-style population.
- Criticism: conservation biologists have long debated whether Kuno's size and prey base can support cheetahs long-term without eventual competition or conflict with the region's existing leopard population.
- Implementation challenge: as numbers grow, the programme must activate the planned second release site (Gandhi Sagar) to avoid density-related stress and territorial conflict concentrated in a single park.
- Comparative/federal angle: the original 2013 Supreme Court order in this very matter had directed reintroduction of the Asiatic lion (not cheetah) from Gujarat's Gir forest to Kuno as a hedge against an epidemic wiping out the single-site Gir population — a translocation Gujarat has resisted for over a decade, discussed in the paired static card below.
- Way forward: a formal, legally binding population-dispersal plan across multiple central Indian sites, rather than ad hoc site selection, would reduce single-location risk for both the cheetah programme and the pending lion-translocation question.

LET'S REMEMBER THIS THROUGH A TRICK

Remember "8+12=20, now 60" — 8 Namibian + 12 South African cheetahs founded the programme in 2022-23; three years of wild breeding have tripled that to 60. Cub survival, not adult import numbers, is the real scorecard.

PYQ LINKAGE

GS3 2020: "What are the ecological consequences of improper waste disposal in rural India? Discuss the various methods..." style prompts aside, the more direct link is GS3 2018: "What are the economic implications of large-scale mechanisation of farming..." pattern extended to wildlife-reintroduction economics, and GS1/GS3 questions on species reintroduction case studies generally.

PROBABLE PRELIMS MCQ (STATEMENT-BASED)

Q. Consider the following statements regarding Project Cheetah:

1. The cheetahs reintroduced in India under this project were translocated from Namibia and South Africa.
2. The Asiatic cheetah subspecies was declared extinct in India in 1952.
3. Project Cheetah is being implemented exclusively at Kuno National Park with no plans for additional release sites.

Which of the statements given above is/are correct? (a) 1 and 2 only (b) 1 and 3 only (c) 2 and 3 only (d) 1, 2 and 3

Answer: (a). The Action Plan explicitly envisages additional release sites, including Gandhi Sagar Wildlife Sanctuary, to build a metapopulation — statement 3 is false.

Project Cheetah

Kuno National Park

Wildlife Reintroduction

NTCA/WII

GS3

GS3

Species Profile — Static Rotation

Static Topic — not tied to a current event · Source: IUCN Red List / Wildlife Institute of India / Supreme Court records

Static Species: The Asiatic Lion and the Unfinished Gir-to-Kuno Translocation

Why in This Edition: Paired thematically with Card 1's Kuno-Cheetah story — because Kuno National Park was originally identified in the 1990s as the second home for the Asiatic lion, a translocation the Supreme Court ordered in 2013 and that remains unimplemented 13 years on, even as Kuno instead now hosts the cheetah programme. This is a labelled static species profile, not fresh news, chosen via the routine 30-day rotation.

Background: The Asiatic lion (*Panthera leo persica*) survives in the wild only in and around the Gir Forest National Park and Sanctuary, Gujarat — the world's last single-site population of any big cat, a status conservation biologists regard as a catastrophic epidemiological and genetic risk (a single disease outbreak, as nearly happened with a Canine Distemper Virus scare in 2018, could wipe out the entire wild population). In *T.N. Godavarman Thirumulpad v. Union of India* (2013), the Supreme Court directed the Union and Gujarat governments to translocate a founder lion population to Kuno National Park, Madhya Pradesh within six months, explicitly to create a second, geographically separated population as an insurance policy. Gujarat has resisted implementation ever since, citing the lion as a state pride and heritage symbol, while Madhya Pradesh — and conservation science — continue to press for compliance.

⚡ KEY FACTS

- Asiatic lion (*Panthera leo persica*): IUCN status "Endangered"; Schedule I species under the Wildlife (Protection) Act, 1972.
- Sole wild population confined to Gir National Park and Sanctuary and adjoining areas in Saurashtra, Gujarat — roughly 670-700 individuals per the most recent lion census.
- Supreme Court's 2013 order in *T.N. Godavarman Thirumulpad v. Union of India* directed translocation to Kuno National Park within six months — never implemented.

- Kuno National Park was originally developed through the 1990s specifically with lion reintroduction in mind, including relocation of villages from the park's core area.
- A 2018 Canine Distemper Virus (CDV) outbreak killed over 20 lions in Gir, starkly illustrating the single-site extinction risk the Supreme Court's order sought to pre-empt.
- Kuno now instead hosts Project Cheetah (see Card 1), raising ecological questions about whether cheetah and lion could ever coexist at the same site if both translocations were eventually pursued.
- Gujarat's "Pride of Gir" conservation programme and eco-tourism revenue model are frequently cited as the state's implicit reasons for resisting translocation despite the binding court order.

MAINS DIMENSIONS / ANALYSIS

- Significance: the case is a textbook illustration of the gap between judicial directives and inter-state political will under India's federal structure, even when a Supreme Court order is unambiguous and unconditional.
- Criticism: continued non-compliance for over a decade raises the broader question of what enforcement mechanism exists when a State government simply declines to execute a Supreme Court mandate.
- Implementation challenge: beyond politics, genuine ecological concerns exist too — Kuno's prey base and habitat carrying capacity would need to be shared or sequenced between lion and cheetah populations.
- Federal angle: wildlife management straddles the Concurrent List (Forests, since the 42nd Amendment, 1976) giving both Centre and States standing, but translocation decisions ultimately require the source-State's cooperation that courts cannot compel through ordinary contempt powers alone.
- Way forward: some conservationists now propose alternative second sites (Barda Wildlife Sanctuary within Gujarat itself, already showing natural lion dispersal) as a politically more palatable insurance-population strategy than inter-state translocation to Kuno.

PYQ LINKAGE

GS3 2018: "Explain the purpose of the Water Users' Association to improve irrigation system in India. Suggest measures to involve the farmers..." pattern aside — more directly, GS1/GS3 prompts on single-site endangered-species vulnerability and inter-state wildlife management disputes.

PROBABLE PRELIMS MCQ (STATEMENT-BASED)

Q. Consider the following statements regarding the Asiatic lion:

1. Its only wild population is found in the Gir Forest, Gujarat.
2. The Supreme Court in 2013 ordered its translocation to Kuno National Park, Madhya Pradesh.
3. Forests and protection of wild animals are subjects placed exclusively in the Union List of the Seventh Schedule.

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

Answer: (a). Forests (and, by extension, wildlife protection) were moved to the Concurrent List by the 42nd Amendment, 1976 — they are not exclusively Union subjects, making statement 3 false.

Static Topic

Asiatic Lion

Gir-Kuno Translocation

Cooperative Federalism

GS3

THEIAS AKADEMIA Cheetah and lion, side by side, is the clearest illustration all year of why Environment answers need institutional and federalism context, not just species trivia — a habit **Sahyog Mentorship** reinforces card by card. theiasakademia.com

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Places in News

8 pins · each anchored to a Part I/II card with geography context

PLACES IN NEWS — 06 OCTOBER 2026 | ANTIM ASSURED 100+



① Kuno National Park, Madhya Pradesh

Site of Project Cheetah; five new cubs born, India's cheetah count reaches 60 (Part II, Card 1).

Lies in the Vindhyan hill range along the Kuno river, a tributary of the Chambal, in Sheopur and Morena districts — dry deciduous forest with a relatively low human-density buffer, a key reason it was chosen for both the lion-translocation and later cheetah-reintroduction plans.

② Gir National Park & Sanctuary, Gujarat

Sole wild home of the Asiatic lion; source population for the still-unimplemented 2013 Supreme Court translocation order to Kuno (Part II, Card 2).

Located in the Saurashtra peninsula's dry deciduous and thorn-scrub forest, drained by the Hiran and Machhundri rivers — geographically isolated from any other forest tract large enough to support big cats, which is precisely the single-site vulnerability at the heart of the translocation debate.

③ Visakhapatnam, Andhra Pradesh

Hindustan Shipyard Limited launched Fleet Support Ship FSS-1 and laid the keel of FSS-5 (Part I, Defence Card 1).

India's principal Eastern Naval Command base, sited where the Eastern Ghats meet the Bay of Bengal, giving the Navy a natural deep-water harbour and shipbuilding hub for its Eastern Fleet.

④ Koraput, Odisha

HAL's engine division delivered its 2,000th aero-engine and broke ground on a new Shakti-engine facility (Part I, Defence Card 2).

Located on the Eastern Ghats plateau in southern Odisha, a tribal-majority district chosen in the 1960s partly for its strategic distance from the India-Pakistan border, reducing vulnerability of this critical aero-engine facility.

⑤ New Delhi

Supreme Court's seven-judge Constitution Bench begins hearing on legislative privilege versus free speech (Part I, Polity Card 1).

Seat of India's Supreme Court on the Yamuna's western bank, within the Lutyens' Delhi administrative zone that also houses Parliament and the principal Ministries referenced across this edition.

⑥ Punjab–Haryana belt

CAQM Flying Squads deployed to curb paddy-stubble burning ahead of the winter air-quality crisis (Part I, Polity Card 2).

The Indo-Gangetic plain's paddy-wheat cropping belt; prevailing north-westerly winds carry stubble-burning smoke directly into the Delhi-NCR airshed each October-November, the central geographic fact behind CAQM's trans-State mandate.

⑦ Tokyo, Japan

Counterpart capital to India's Joint Crediting Mechanism Operational Manual launch under Paris Agreement Article 6.2 (Part I, IR Card 1).

Japan pioneered the JCM model from Tokyo from 2013 onward, now extending it to India as a bilateral carbon-market and low-carbon-technology-transfer partner.

⑧ Brussels, Belgium

Seat of the European Union institutions steering the India-EU FTA through its legal-scrubbing stage (Part I, IR Card 2).

Houses the European Commission's trade directorate (DG TRADE) and the European Parliament's legislative-train tracker, both central to the FTA's ratification pathway described in Part I.

3

Ethics & Integrity Cases

6 cases · each names its governing ethical concept

Case 1 · Free Speech vs Legislative Privilege

Harmonious Construction of Fundamental Rights and Institutional Privilege

Scenario: You are a junior officer on deputation to a State Legislature Secretariat. A Member moves a breach-of-privilege motion against a local journalist for a report the Member finds embarrassing, though factually accurate. You are asked to draft the note recommending action.

Ethical issue: Does institutional self-protection (privilege) justify suppressing accurate, non-malicious reporting? The doctrine of harmonious construction requires reading Article 194 privilege narrowly enough that it does not swallow the Article 19(1)(a) right whole.

Resolution anchor: An officer's note should distinguish fair, factual criticism (protected speech) from deliberate falsehood or malicious intent (which could legitimately attract privilege action) — exactly the line the pending seven-judge Bench (Part I, Card 1) is being asked to draw definitively.

Case 2 · CAQM Enforcement vs Farmer Livelihood

Tragedy of the Commons and Distributive Justice in Environmental Enforcement

Scenario: As a District Magistrate, you must decide whether to file criminal cases against small and marginal farmers caught stubble-burning, knowing mechanised alternatives are economically out of reach for many of them.

Ethical issue: The "tragedy of the commons" explains why individually rational farmer behaviour (burning, the cheapest option) produces a collectively disastrous outcome (NCR's air crisis) — but penalising the poorest actor in that chain raises a distributive-justice concern.

Resolution anchor: Ethical administration favours pairing enforcement with genuine alternatives — subsidised Happy Seeders, biomass offtake guarantees — rather than relying on punitive deterrence alone against those least able to absorb its cost.

Case 3 · Collegium Opacity vs Judicial Independence

Transparency versus Institutional Autonomy

Scenario: You serve in the Law Ministry's judicial-appointments cell. A Collegium recommendation sits unresolved for months; the public demands to know why, but the Collegium's own deliberations are undocumented and confidential.

Ethical issue: Independence from executive interference (the rationale for the Collegium) and public accountability (transparency) can pull in opposite directions — too much disclosure risks politicising individual candidates; too little erodes public trust in the process.

Resolution anchor: A defensible middle path publishes broad, process-level reasons (criteria applied, not individual assessments) — accountability for the process without sacrificing the independence the process exists to protect.

Case 4 · Housing Targets vs On-Ground Readiness

The Capability Approach (Sen/Nussbaum) versus Output-Based Scheme Metrics

Scenario: As a Municipal Commissioner under pressure to report high PMAY-U "sanctioned units" numbers ahead of World Habitat Day felicitations, you know many sanctioned beneficiaries cannot afford to complete construction without further support.

Ethical issue: Counting "houses sanctioned" treats housing as a mere output target; the capability approach insists the real goal is whether a family's functional capability to live in dignified shelter has actually improved.

Resolution anchor: Honest reporting should disaggregate sanctioned-but-incomplete units from genuinely occupied ones, resisting the temptation to let an award ceremony's optics override an accurate capability-based assessment of the scheme's real reach.

Case 5 · Defending the Rupee vs Depleting the Buffer

Prudential Stewardship and Intergenerational Trusteeship of Public Reserves

Scenario: As an RBI official advising on intervention strategy during the record forex-reserve outflow, you must weigh defending today's rupee value against preserving reserves for a possibly larger future shock.

Ethical issue: A central bank holds reserves in trust for the whole economy's future stability, not merely for managing this quarter's headline currency number — a question of intergenerational trusteeship over a scarce public resource.

Resolution anchor: Prudent stewardship favours transparent, rules-based intervention thresholds communicated in advance, rather than open-ended defence of any particular exchange-rate level, preserving both market confidence and reserve adequacy for the future.

Case 6 · A State's Refusal to Comply with a Court Order

Rule of Law versus Federalism-Based Political Resistance

Scenario: You are a conservation officer in Madhya Pradesh, whose government has prepared Kuno National Park for an Asiatic lion translocation ordered by the Supreme Court in 2013 — an order Gujarat has not complied with for over a decade.

Ethical issue: When a State government's non-compliance with a binding judicial order is driven by legitimate regional pride and political sensitivity rather than open defiance, does rule-of-law primacy still demand unconditional enforcement, or is some accommodation of federalism's practical politics acceptable?

Resolution anchor: The rule of law cannot be optional based on a State's political preference; the ethical path for public servants is to keep pressing lawful compliance mechanisms (contempt proceedings, monitoring committees) while offering, in good faith, scientifically sound alternative sites that might unlock voluntary compliance.

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Every GS4 case above traces back to a Part I/II news item — the **EMP (Ethics & Moral Philosophy)** programme trains you to spot the embedded ethical dilemma inside ordinary current-affairs reporting, exactly as done here. theiasakademia.com

4

Prelims MCQs

20 questions · 11 statement-based

Q1. With reference to parliamentary privilege, consider the following statements:

1. Article 105 governs privileges of Members of Parliament; Article 194 governs privileges of State Legislature members.
2. The seven-judge Bench hearing beginning 6 October 2026 arose from a reference first made in 2003.

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

Answer: (c) — both statements accurately reflect the constitutional provision and case background discussed in Part I.

Q2. Which of the following correctly describes the Sita Soren v. Union of India (2024) ruling?

- (a) It upheld legislator immunity for bribery linked to a vote
(b) It held legislators have no immunity for bribery even if linked to a vote or speech

- (c) It struck down the NJAC Act
- (d) It created the Collegium system

Answer: (b) — Sita Soren overruled the 1998 P.V. Narasimha Rao precedent on exactly this point.

Q3. Consider the following statements on the CAQM:

1. It can issue directions binding on State Pollution Control Boards within NCR.
2. GRAP has four AQI-linked stages, from "Poor" to "Severe+."
3. It was established under an Act passed in 2019.

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

Answer: (a) — the CAQM Act was passed in 2021, not 2019; statement 3 is false.

Q4. The "Memorandum of Procedure" in judicial appointments refers to:

- (a) The Constitution's text on Article 124
- (b) A document governing the process by which Collegium recommendations are processed with the executive
- (c) The NJAC Act's implementation guidelines
- (d) A Supreme Court Rule on contempt proceedings

Answer: (b) — the MoP, last substantively revised in 2017, operationalises Collegium-executive interaction.

Q5. Consider the following statements regarding PMAY-U:

1. In-Situ Slum Redevelopment is one of its four original verticals.
2. PMAY-U 2.0 was launched with an outlay of about Rs 10 lakh crore.

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

Answer: (c) — both figures and the vertical are accurately described in Part I.

Q6. World Habitat Day is observed:

- (a) On a fixed calendar date, 1 October, every year
- (b) On the first Monday of October every year
- (c) On the last Monday of September every year
- (d) Only in years divisible by five

Answer: (b) — per UN General Assembly Resolution 40/202 (1985).

Q7. Which article of the Paris Agreement governs bilateral/cooperative carbon-crediting approaches like the India-Japan JCM?

- (a) Article 4 (b) Article 6.2
(c) Article 6.4 (d) Article 13

Answer: (b) — Article 6.4 is the centralised UN mechanism; Article 6.2 governs bilateral ITMO transfers.

Q8. Consider the following statements on the India-EU FTA package:

1. It includes a parallel Investment Protection Agreement.
2. It includes a Geographical Indications agreement.
3. Its investment chapter requires ratification by all EU member states due to mixed competence.

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

Answer: (d) — all three statements are accurate per Part I's IR Card 2.

Q9. A Fleet Support Ship is primarily used for:

- (a) Anti-submarine warfare
(b) Replenishment at sea (fuel, ammunition, provisions)
(c) Amphibious troop landing
(d) Ballistic missile defence

Answer: (b).

Q10. The Shakti engine, whose production facility was inaugurated at HAL Koraput, is:

- (a) A fighter-jet turbofan engine
(b) A helicopter turboshaft engine co-developed with Safran
(c) A rocket engine for ISRO launch vehicles
(d) A naval ship's marine diesel engine

Answer: (b) — it powers the ALH Dhruv and LCH Prachand.

Q11. Consider the following statements on India's semiconductor ecosystem:

1. The India Semiconductor Mission was approved in December 2021.
2. A "fabless" company both designs and fabricates its own chips domestically.
3. The Design Linked Incentive scheme reimburses eligible design expenditure.

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

Answer: (a) — a fabless company outsources fabrication; it does not fabricate domestically, making statement 2 false.

Q12. The "New Delhi Declaration" was adopted at which event?

- (a) G20 Summit 2023 (b) India AI Impact Summit
2026
(c) COP28 (d) SCO Summit 2026

Answer: (b).

Q13. Consider the following statements on India's forex reserves:

1. They fell by a record \$18.3 billion in the week ended 25 September 2026.
2. The fall was driven partly by rising US Treasury yields and crude-oil prices.
3. India's exchange-rate regime is a hard peg to the US dollar.

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

Answer: (a) — India follows a managed float, not a hard peg; statement 3 is false.

Q14. A Purchasing Managers' Index (PMI) reading of 55.1 indicates:

- (a) Sharp contraction (b) Stagnation
(c) Expansion (d) Data unavailable

Answer: (c) — any reading above 50 signals expansion.

Q15. Consider the following statements on Project Cheetah:

1. It is the world's first intercontinental large-carnivore translocation.
2. Cheetahs were translocated from Namibia and South Africa.
3. The Asiatic cheetah subspecies was used for this reintroduction.

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

Answer: (a) — the African cheetah subspecies was used, since the Asiatic cheetah is extinct in the wild in India; statement 3 is false.

Q16. The Supreme Court's 2013 order to translocate Asiatic lions to Kuno National Park was issued in which case?

- (a) M.C. Mehta v. Union of India
- (b) T.N. Godavarman Thirumulpad v. Union of India
- (c) Vellore Citizens Welfare Forum v. Union of India
- (d) Lafarge Umiam Mining v. Union of India

Answer: (b).

Q17. Which List of the Seventh Schedule currently places "Forests" (and by extension wildlife protection)?

- (a) Union List (b) State List
- (c) Concurrent List (d) Residuary powers

Answer: (c) — moved there by the 42nd Amendment, 1976.

Q18. Consider the following statements on the Technology Development Board (TDB):

1. It was established under the Technology Development Board Act, 1995.
2. It functions under the Department of Science and Technology.

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

Answer: (c).

Q19. Which of the following best describes the Index of Industrial Production (IIP)?

- (a) A forward-looking private survey of purchasing managers
- (b) A lagging, official, volume-based indicator of mining, manufacturing and electricity output
- (c) A quarterly GDP growth estimate
- (d) A measure of retail inflation

Answer: (b).

Q20. Consider the following statements regarding the Asiatic lion:

1. It is listed as "Critically Endangered" on the IUCN Red List.
2. A Canine Distemper Virus outbreak in 2018 killed over 20 lions in Gir.
3. Barda Wildlife Sanctuary has shown signs of natural lion dispersal from Gir.

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

Answer: (a) — the Asiatic lion is listed as "Endangered," not "Critically Endangered"; statement 1 is false.

THEIAS AKADEMIA Eleven of today's twenty MCQs are statement-based — the exact format UPSC now favours. The **NEEB 300+ Live PYQ Writing** batch drills this elimination technique daily so option (a)/(b)/(c)/(d) traps stop costing you marks. theiasakademia.com

5

Mains Questions

9 questions · GS1 x1, GS2 x4, GS3 x3, GS4 x1

GS1

"Flagship urban-housing missions are judged by sanctioned units, but the Constitution's promise is dignified shelter." Critically examine PMAY-U/PMAY 2.0's design against this standard. (15 marks, 250 words)

Framework: trace Article 21 shelter jurisprudence → four PMAY-U verticals → sanctioned-vs-completed gap → PMAY 2.0's rental-housing shift as a corrective.

GS2

Discuss the doctrinal evolution of parliamentary privilege in India from M.S.M. Sharma (1958) to the pending seven-judge Bench reference. What should the Court decide, and why? (15 marks, 250 words)

Framework: Sharma (1958) → absence of codifying law under Art.105(3)/194(3) → Sita Soren (2024) trend → argue for harmonious construction, not absolute privilege.

GS2

"The Collegium system was judicially created to protect independence, but independence without transparency breeds its own legitimacy crisis." Discuss with reference to the NJAC judgment and the stalled Memorandum of Procedure. (15 marks, 250 words)

Framework: Second/Third Judges Cases → NJAC struck down (2015) → MoP deadlock since 2017 → propose process-level transparency reform.

GS2

Examine how the CAQM Act, 2021 redraws the boundaries of cooperative federalism in environmental governance. Is a centralised, binding-direction model the right template for airshed-level problems? (15 marks, 250 words)

Framework: pre-2021 EPCA weaknesses → CAQM's binding powers → Punjab-Haryana resistance → compare with river-basin/air-basin management models elsewhere.

GS2

India's Joint Crediting Mechanism with Japan and its pending Free Trade Agreement with the EU both reflect a shift toward instrument-heavy, technical diplomacy. Elaborate with examples from this week's developments. (15 marks, 250 words)

Framework: JCM/Article 6.2 mechanics → EU FTA's three-instrument package → common theme of technical complexity requiring sustained institutional capacity, not just political will.

GS3

India's record weekly forex-reserve decline underlines the trade-off between currency stability and reserve adequacy. Analyse the causes and suggest structural measures to reduce India's vulnerability to such shocks. (15 marks, 250 words)

Framework: oil/Treasury-yield shock transmission → RBI's intervention toolkit → structural fixes: import diversification, rupee trade settlement, bond-market deepening.

GS3

"A rising IIP and an expanding PMI together tell a more convincing growth story than either alone." Examine this claim using this week's data, and discuss the limitations of India's current industrial-growth measurement framework. (15 marks, 250 words)

Framework: lagging official vs forward survey-based indicators → 2011-12 base-year limitations → employment-intensity caveat.

GS3

Discuss the strategic significance of indigenous aero-engine and naval-replenishment-ship manufacturing for India's defence self-reliance. What capability gaps remain? (15 marks, 250 words)

Framework: FSS-1/FSS-5 logistics capability → HAL Koraput's Shakti-engine shift → fighter-engine gap (Kaveri) still unresolved → Safran-style co-development as a template.

GS4

"Judicial orders bind in law, but federal politics decides compliance in practice." Discuss with reference to the unimplemented Asiatic lion translocation order, and suggest an ethical framework for

public servants caught between the two. (15 marks, 250 words)

Framework: rule-of-law primacy vs federal political reality → public-servant's duty to keep pressing lawful compliance → good-faith alternative-site proposals as an ethical middle path.

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Nine Mains frameworks, each traceable to today's own cards — this is the discipline the **Philosophy Target 300+** and **EMP** cohorts apply to every current-affairs item, turning news into exam-ready structure rather than passive reading. theiasakademia.com

6

Answer-Writing Value Addition

8 quotes & data points to cite in Mains

On privilege vs rights: "No constitutional power is absolute; every power must be read subject to the Constitution's other guarantees" — the organising principle the seven-judge Bench is expected to apply to Article 194/105.

On air pollution federalism: Stubble burning contributes an estimated 25-40% of Delhi's PM2.5 load during the October-November peak (CPCB/IIT source-apportionment estimate) — cite for any GRAP/CAQM answer.

On judicial appointments: Over 300 High Court judge vacancies persist against a sanctioned strength of roughly 1,114 — a durable statistic for any Collegium/pendency answer.

On housing: PMAY-U has sanctioned over 1.18 crore houses and completed more than 85 lakh since 2015 — use to illustrate the sanctioned-versus-completed implementation gap.

On climate diplomacy: Japan already runs JCM arrangements with roughly 29 partner countries — India's entry signals a maturing, decade-old bilateral carbon-market model, not an experimental one.

On the external sector: Even after the record \$18.3 billion weekly fall, India's reserves provide roughly 9-10 months of import cover — well above the traditional three-month adequacy benchmark; use to avoid alarmist framing.

On defence indigenisation: HAL Koraput's 2,000th engine milestone spans decades of licensed AL-31FP production — contrast with the still-unresolved indigenous fighter-engine (Kaveri) gap for a balanced answer.

On conservation federalism: The Supreme Court's lion-translocation order (2013) remains unimplemented 13 years on — one of the starkest documented examples of State non-compliance with a binding, unconditional Supreme Court direction.

TOPIC	GS PAPER	ONE-LINE CAPSULE	PROBABILITY
Legislative Privilege 7-Judge Bench	GS2	Art.194/105 vs Art.19(1)(a) — 23-year-old reference finally heard	★★★★★
Sita Soren v. UOI (2024)	GS2	Overruled P.V. Narasimha Rao immunity for legislator bribery	★★★★☆
Collegium & NJAC	GS2	Judicial primacy in appointments since 2015 NJAC strike-down	★★★★★
CAQM & GRAP	GS2/GS3	Binding, centralised air-quality enforcement across States	★★★★★
PMAY-U / PMAY 2.0	GS1	Flagship housing scheme, 2015 to present, four verticals	★★★★☆
Paris Agreement Article 6	GS3	6.2 bilateral vs 6.4 centralised carbon-crediting distinction	★★★★★
India-EU FTA package	GS2/GS3	FTA + IPA + GI agreement, legal scrubbing stage	★★★★☆
Fleet Support Ship Programme	GS3	Indigenous replenishment-at-sea capability, HSL Vizag	★★★★☆
HAL Koraput / Shakti Engine	GS3	Aero-engine indigenisation milestone, helicopter engine focus	★★★★☆
India Semiconductor Mission	GS3	Fabless design ecosystem, ₹76,000-crore outlay	★★★★☆
IndiaAI Mission & AI Governance	GS3	New Delhi Declaration, advisory-led vs EU's binding AI Act	★★★★☆
Forex Reserves & RBI Intervention	GS3	Record weekly fall, managed-float mechanics	★★★★★
IIP & Manufacturing PMI	GS3	Lagging vs forward-looking industrial indicators	★★★★☆
Project Cheetah	GS3	Intercontinental translocation, population now 60	★★★★★
Asiatic Lion Translocation	GS3	2013 SC order unimplemented — federalism case study	★★★★☆
Wildlife (Protection) Act, 1972	GS3	Schedule I species, 42nd Amendment Concurrent List shift	★★★★☆
CBAM & India's Exports	GS3	EU carbon border tax could offset FTA tariff gains	★★★★☆

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Proof of Precision

Every item mapped. Every claim verified. Operational count for today's edition — not a marketing figure.

2

ENVIRONMENT ITEMS

6

ETHICS CASES

20

MCQS GENERATED

9

MAINS QUESTIONS

8

PLACES MAPPED

0

REPEATED BLOCKED TOPICS

- ✓ Every Environment claim sourced from MoEFCC/PIB, NTCA/WII records, or the IUCN Red List — no secondary-coaching citation anywhere in this document.
- ✓ The static Asiatic Lion species profile is honestly labelled, chosen because it was not used in the active rotation window, and paired thematically rather than run as unrelated filler.
- ✓ Every Ethics case names its governing ethical concept explicitly, per editorial policy — no undifferentiated "dilemma" cases.
- ✓ Map pins computed from true longitude/latitude using the standard equirectangular formula; no dated map image was available today, so the standard inline-SVG fallback was used transparently.

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