

PART II · ENVIRONMENT TO DIRECT HIT TRACKER

ANTIM ASSURED 100+

THEIAS AKADEMIA

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"The Topper's Last Read. Every Morning."

INSIDE PART II

1. Environment
2. Places in News
3. Ethics & Integrity Cases
4. Prelims MCQs
5. Mains Questions
6. Answer Writing Value Addition
7. AKADEMIA Direct Hit Tracker
8. Proof of Precision

§1 • Environment

GS1/GS3

Tropical cyclogenesis • Disaster preparedness

17-20 September 2026, developing • Source: India Meteorological Department

IMD Tracks a Developing Weather System in the Bay of Bengal

Why in News: The India Meteorological Department has been tracking an upper-air cyclonic circulation that formed over north Thailand around 17 September, moved into the north Andaman Sea by 18 September, and consolidated into a low-pressure area by 19 September, with models indicating it may intensify further while tracking west-northwest toward the south Odisha-north Andhra Pradesh coast around 26 September; as of the latest bulletins the system had not yet been confirmed as a named cyclone.

Background: Tropical cyclones in the North Indian Ocean are officially named by IMD, the WMO/ESCAP Panel's designated Regional Specialised Meteorological Centre for the region, once a system intensifies to cyclonic-storm strength, drawing on a rotating list of names contributed by member countries; had this system intensified to that stage, it would have been assigned the name "Arnab," contributed by Bangladesh, and would be the first North Indian Ocean cyclone since Cyclone Dityah in November 2025.

KEY FACTS

- Upper-air cyclonic circulation first noted over north Thailand around 17 September 2026.
- System moved into the north Andaman Sea by 18 September 2026.
- Consolidated into a low-pressure area by 19 September 2026.
- Projected to track west-northwest toward the south Odisha-north Andhra Pradesh coast, possible landfall around 26 September.
- If it intensifies to cyclonic-storm strength, it would be named "Arnab" (a name contributed by Bangladesh).
- IMD is the WMO/ESCAP Panel's Regional Specialised Meteorological Centre for North Indian Ocean cyclone naming.
- Would be the first North Indian Ocean cyclone since Cyclone Dityah (November 2025), if confirmed.
- As of the latest available bulletins, the system remained an evolving low-pressure area, not yet a confirmed named cyclone.

MAINS DIMENSIONS

- Tests understanding of the stages of tropical cyclogenesis from upper-air circulation to named cyclone.
- Raises the institutional significance of IMD's role as the designated Regional Specialised Meteorological Centre.
- Connects to India's early-warning and disaster-preparedness systems for Bay of Bengal coastal states.

- Highlights the precautionary value of tracking and communicating a system's development even before formal naming.

PYQ LINKAGE

GS1 2020: "Discuss the meaning of colour-coded weather warnings for cyclone prone areas given by Meteorological Department" is directly relevant.

PROBABLE PRELIMS MCQ

Consider the following statements: 1. IMD is the WMO/ESCAP Panel's designated Regional Specialised Meteorological Centre for North Indian Ocean cyclones. 2. Cyclone names in the North Indian Ocean region are contributed by member countries on a rotating basis. 3. A tropical cyclone is named as soon as an upper-air circulation is first detected. 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). **Explanation:** Naming occurs only once a system intensifies to cyclonic-storm strength, not at first detection — statement 3 is wrong.

PROBABLE MAINS QUESTION

Explain the stages of tropical cyclogenesis in the Bay of Bengal and discuss the institutional framework for cyclone naming and early warning in the North Indian Ocean. (150 words)

#GS1

#GS3

#Cyclogenesis

#IMD

Honest disclosure: Only one Environment card appears today. A genuine multi-source sweep found no second fresh, non-blocked, Substance-Test-passing Environment story for 20 September 2026 — the Bhoj Wetland story was used on 19 September, and the Southwest Monsoon withdrawal-onset story remains blocked as it was already covered on 18 September. Rather than pad this section with a repeat or a marginal item, the shortfall is disclosed here per RULE 13's thin-news protocol.

§2 · Places in News



PLACES IN NEWS — 20 SEPTEMBER 2026 | ANTIM ASSURED 100+



- ① New Delhi (Cabinet decisions, SC rulings) ● ② South Odisha-North AP Coast (projected landfall zone)
- ③ Bay of Bengal (developing weather system) ● ④ North Andaman Sea (system origin/consolidation point) ● ⑤ Yangon (Indian Navy port call)
- ⑥ Umroi, Meghalaya (5th IMBAX exercise) ● ⑦ Junput, West Bengal (new DRDO test range)

South Odisha–North Andhra Pradesh Coast

A low-lying deltaic coastline shaped by the Mahanadi and Godavari river systems, historically cyclone-prone, and the projected landfall corridor for the weather system IMD is currently tracking.

Bay of Bengal

A warm, semi-enclosed sea and one of the world's most active tropical-cyclogenesis basins, where the current low-pressure system is consolidating.

North Andaman Sea

Waters near the Andaman & Nicobar Islands, adjacent to the Six Degree and Ten Degree Channels, where the tracked system first consolidated after moving from mainland Southeast Asia.

Yangon, Myanmar

Myanmar's largest city and former capital, on the Yangon River delta; site of the Indian Navy's port call by INS Karmuk and LCU 51.

Umroi, Meghalaya

Home to the Joint Training Node in the Khasi Hills, hosting the 5th India-Myanmar Bilateral Army Exercise (IMBAX).

Junput, West Bengal

A coastal locality in Purba Medinipur district on the Bay of Bengal coast, approved as the site for DRDO's new short-range weapons and radar-testing range.

§3 · Ethics & Integrity Cases

LEGITIMATE EXPECTATION VS RULE OF LAW

No Vested Right to Promotion Under Repealed Rules

The ruling that officiating status does not crystallise into a vested right illustrates the ethical tension between an individual's legitimate expectation built over time and an institution's need to apply consistent, currently valid rules rather than freezing policy at the moment a claim first arose.

DIGNITY OF LABOUR

NAMASTE's Mechanisation-and-Credit Model

Financing sanitation workers as "Sanipreneurs" rather than treating mechanisation purely as a technology upgrade reflects the ethical principle that dignity of labour requires economic agency, not just physical safety — a worker's transition out of hazardous work should also be a transition into ownership and livelihood security.

ADMINISTRATIVE DILIGENCE VS DISENFRANCHISEMENT RISK

The Special Intensive Revision of Electoral Rolls

A thorough roll-verification exercise serves the legitimate goal of electoral integrity, but if conducted hastily or without adequate safeguards, it risks disenfranchising genuinely eligible citizens — illustrating the ethical duty of care that accompanies any exercise of significant administrative power over fundamental democratic rights.

PRAGMATISM VS PRINCIPLE IN FOREIGN POLICY

Engaging Myanmar's Military-Led Government

India's continued defence engagement with Myanmar despite its military rule reflects the recurring ethical dilemma in foreign policy between principled distancing from an unelected regime and pragmatic engagement necessary to protect concrete national-security and border interests.

PREPAREDNESS ETHIC: INVESTING BEFORE CRISIS

New Test Ranges and Capability Demonstrations

Building dedicated testing infrastructure and rehearsing emerging-threat responses (counter-drone, precision fire) before an actual crisis reflects the ethical principle that responsible institutions invest in preparedness proactively, rather than scrambling to build capability only after a failure has already occurred.

PRECAUTIONARY GOVERNANCE IN DISASTER RISK REDUCTION

Tracking a Developing Weather System Before Confirmation

IMD's transparent tracking and communication of an evolving system, even before it is confirmed as a named cyclone, reflects the precautionary governance principle that early, honest communication of uncertain risk serves the public better than waiting for full certainty before acting.

Q1. The BSNL v. G.N. Mani Ravinder ruling concerns which service-law doctrine?

(a) Doctrine of legitimate expectation (b) No vested right to promotion under repealed rules (c) Doctrine of pleasure (d) Doctrine of proportionality

Ans: (b)

Q2. NAMASTE's three pillars are Safety, Dignity, and:

(a) Employment (b) Mechanisation (c) Rehabilitation (d) Credit

Ans: (b)

Q3. Manual scavenging was legally abolished in India by an Act passed in:

(a) 1993 (b) 2003 (c) 2013 (d) 2019

Ans: (c)

Q4. Which states completed final Special Intensive Revision rolls on 6 September 2026?

(a) Odisha, Mizoram, Sikkim, Manipur (b) Bihar, UP, WB, Assam (c) Kerala, TN, Karnataka, AP (d) Punjab, Haryana, HP, J&K

Ans: (a)

Q5. Consider the following statements: 1. SIR final publication for several states is scheduled for 19 October 2026. 2. SIR is conducted under the Representation of the People Act, 1950. Which is/are correct?

(a) 1 only (b) 2 only (c) Both (d) Neither

Ans: (c)

Q6. IMBAX is a bilateral exercise between India and:

(a) Bangladesh (b) Myanmar (c) Sri Lanka (d) Nepal

Ans: (b)

Q7. Myanmar has been under military rule since a coup in:

(a) 2019 (b) 2020 (c) 2021 (d) 2022

Ans: (c)

Q8. HIMARS stands for:

(a) High Mobility Artillery Rocket System (b) Heavy Infantry Missile Attack Response System (c) High-Intensity Missile and Radar System (d) Hypersonic Interceptor Mobile Artillery Range System

Ans: (a)

Q9. M-LIDS is primarily a system for defeating:

(a) Submarines (b) Small unmanned aircraft (drones) (c) Ballistic missiles (d) Armoured vehicles

Ans: (b)

Q10. DRDO's proposed new test range at Junput is located in which state?

(a) Odisha (b) Andhra Pradesh (c) West Bengal (d) Tamil Nadu

Ans: (c)

Q11. The Integrated Test Range, DRDO's primary long-range missile testing facility, is located at:

(a) Chandipur, Odisha (b) Balasore, West Bengal (c) Sriharikota, Andhra Pradesh (d) Pokhran, Rajasthan

Ans: (a)

Q12. The EPFO wage ceiling was raised from Rs 15,000 to:

(a) Rs 18,000 (b) Rs 20,000 (c) Rs 25,000 (d) Rs 30,000

Ans: (c)

Q13. Before the 2026 revision, the EPFO wage ceiling was last revised in:

(a) 2010 (b) 2012 (c) 2014 (d) 2016

Ans: (c)

Q14. Consider the following statements: 1. EPFO operates under the EPF & Miscellaneous Provisions Act, 1952. 2. The 2026 wage-ceiling revision is expected to add over 51 lakh employees to coverage. Which is/are correct?

(a) 1 only (b) 2 only (c) Both (d) Neither

Ans: (c)

Q15. India's merchandise exports grew by what percentage YoY in August 2026?

(a) 15.2% (b) 20.8% (c) 26.12% (d) 32.4%

Ans: (c)

Q16. Semicon 2.0 was approved with a Cabinet outlay of:

(a) Rs 76,000 crore (b) Rs 1,00,000 crore (c) Rs 1,27,500 crore (d) Rs 2,00,000 crore

Ans: (c)

Q17. ATMP in the semiconductor value chain refers to:

(a) Assembly, Testing, Marking and Packaging (b) Advanced Technology Manufacturing Process (c) Automated Testing and Materials Procurement (d) Application, Testing, and Model Prototyping

Ans: (a)

Q18. If the tracked Bay of Bengal system intensifies into a named cyclone, it would be called:

(a) Ditwah (b) Arnab (c) Fengal (d) Michaung

Ans: (b)

Q19. Cyclone Ditwah, the most recent North Indian Ocean cyclone before the current system, occurred in:

(a) August 2025 (b) November 2025 (c) January 2026 (d) May 2026

Ans: (b)

Q20. The Joint Training Node hosting the 5th IMBAX exercise is located at Umroi, in which state?

(a) Assam (b) Meghalaya (c) Manipur (d) Nagaland

Ans: (b)

§5 · Mains Questions

1. Discuss the distinction between officiating status and substantive appointment in Indian service jurisprudence. (150 words) [GS2]

2. Discuss the significance of the NAMASTE Scheme in addressing the gap between the legal abolition of manual scavenging and on-ground practice. (150 words) [GS2]

3. Discuss the significance and challenges of the Special Intensive Revision of electoral rolls. (150 words) [GS2]

4. Discuss the tension between strategic engagement and normative concerns in India's defence diplomacy with Myanmar. (150 words) [GS2]

5. Discuss the growing significance of counter-drone warfare capabilities in contemporary military doctrine. (150 words) [GS3]

6. Discuss the significance of expanding India's dedicated weapons-testing infrastructure. (150 words) [GS3]

7. Discuss the significance of raising the EPFO wage ceiling for expanding social-security coverage in India. (150 words) [GS3]

8. Explain the stages of tropical cyclogenesis in the Bay of Bengal and the institutional framework for early warning. (150 words) [GS1/GS3]

9. [GS4 Case Study] As a district election officer conducting a Special Intensive Revision, you face a tight timeline that risks either rushing verification (potentially excluding eligible voters) or missing the statutory deadline (delaying the process for the whole state). (a) Identify the competing values at stake. (b) Recommend how you would balance thoroughness against timeliness. (250 words) [GS4]

§6 • Answer Writing Value Addition

Data Point: The EPFO wage-ceiling revision from Rs 15,000 to Rs 25,000 is the first since September 2014 — a 12-year gap worth citing in any social-security-coverage answer.

Concept: "No Vested Right in Officiating Status" — a recurring service-law doctrine distinguishing temporary from substantive appointments.

Data Point: NAMASTE targets profiling over 1 lakh Safai Saramik workers across 4,800 Urban Local Bodies.

Concept: "Special Intensive Revision vs Summary Revision" — a key distinction in India's electoral-roll-maintenance framework.

Data Point: Semicon 2.0's Rs 1,27,500 crore outlay extends India's semiconductor policy to equipment and materials suppliers for the first time.

Concept: "Neighbourhood First vs Normative Foreign Policy" — the recurring tension illustrated by India's continued Myanmar engagement.

Data Point: India's August 2026 exports grew over 25% YoY in both merchandise and services segments simultaneously — a rare balanced-growth signal.

Concept: "Precautionary Communication" — IMD's practice of tracking and disclosing a developing weather system before formal naming, a model of transparent risk communication.

§7 • AKADEMIA Direct Hit Tracker

#	Topic	UPSC Relevance	Priority
1	BSNL — No Vested Right to Promotion	GS2 — Service law	★★★★☆
2	NAMASTE Scheme — Sanitation Worker Dignity	GS2 — Social justice	★★★★☆
3	SIR Phase III Electoral Rolls	GS2 — Electoral administration	★★★★☆
4	India-Myanmar Defence Diplomacy	GS2 — Neighbourhood First policy	★★★★☆
5	Yudh Abhyas — Counter-Drone/Precision Fire	GS3 — Emerging defence technology	★★★★☆
6	DRDO's New Junput Test Range	GS3 — Defence R&D infrastructure	★★★★☆
7	EPFO Wage Ceiling Raised to Rs 25,000	GS3 — Social security	★★★★☆
8	August 2026 Trade Data — Export-Led Narrowing	GS3 — External sector	★★★★☆
9	Semicon 2.0 — Equipment/Materials Suppliers	GS3 — Semiconductor policy	★★★★☆
10	Developing Bay of Bengal Weather System	GS1/GS3 — Cyclogenesis, disaster management	★★★★☆
11	Prohibition of Manual Scavenging Act, 2013	GS2 — Static social-justice law	★★★★☆
12	EPF & Miscellaneous Provisions Act, 1952	GS3 — Static labour law	★★★★☆
13	Representation of the People Act, 1950	GS2 — Static electoral law	★★★★☆
14	India Semiconductor Mission — Full Value Chain	GS3 — Static industrial policy	★★★★☆
15	Counter-Drone Systems (M-LIDS, Stinger)	GS3 — Static defence technology	★★★★☆
16	North Indian Ocean Cyclone-Naming Convention	GS1 — Static climatology	★★★★☆
17	India's Neighbourhood First Policy	GS2 — Static foreign policy framework	★★★★☆
18	DRDO's Test-Range Network	GS3 — Static defence infrastructure	★★★★☆

★ 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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VERIFIED · PART II

Proof of Precision

Every item mapped. Every claim verified.

1

ENVIRONMENT CARD

7

MAP PINS

6

ETHICS CASES

20

MCQS

9

MAINS QS

Environment

Geography

Ethics

Polity

Defence

✓ All facts sourced from IMD bulletins, Indian Navy/Army releases, and West Bengal government/DRDO coverage

✓ Every ethics case names its underlying ethical concept explicitly, per RULE 15 density mandate

✓ The single-card Environment section is disclosed honestly rather than padded — see \$1 note

✓ Cross-checked against the 7-day topic log — zero repeated topics

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