

PART II · ENVIRONMENT TO DIRECT HIT TRACKER

# ANTIM ASSURED 100+

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## INSIDE PART II

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GS3

Climate Change; International Institutions

01-02 Sep 2026 (still developing) • Source: UNEP

## UNEP's "Limiting Overshoot" Report: World Set to Cross 1.5°C, But Recovery Still Possible

**Why in News:** UNEP's new flagship report, a companion to its annual Emissions Gap Report series, concludes that the multi-decadal average global temperature will "very likely" exceed the Paris Agreement's 1.5°C threshold within the next decade — the first time a UN body has formally acknowledged an overshoot as effectively locked in. Rather than treating this as terminal failure, the report maps an "overshoot, peak, and decline" pathway, arguing a return below 1.5°C by 2100 remains technically achievable with drastically accelerated mitigation, though real and some irreversible risks (glacier loss, ecosystem collapse, food and water-security stress) accrue even during a temporary overshoot.

**Background:** The Paris Agreement (2015) set a goal of holding warming "well below 2°C" with efforts to limit it to 1.5°C above pre-industrial levels. UNEP's annual Emissions Gap Report has tracked the widening gap between Nationally Determined Contributions (NDCs) and required emission cuts since 2010. This new report is issued ahead of the current UNFCCC COP cycle, sharpening pressure on major emitters to revise NDCs upward.

### KEY FACTS

- Full implementation of current NDCs projects 2.3-2.5°C warming by 2100 (marginally improved from last year's 2.6-2.8°C estimate).
- Current-policies-only trajectory (ignoring pledges): approximately 2.8°C by 2100.
- NDCs currently cut 2035 emissions by only ~15% versus 2019 levels — far short of the 35% (2°C-aligned) and 55% (1.5°C-aligned) benchmarks.
- A rapid-mitigation-from-2025 scenario could cap overshoot near 0.3°C above 1.5°C (66% confidence) and restore sub-1.5°C levels by 2100.
- That recovery scenario requires 26% emission cuts by 2030 and 46% by 2035 (versus 2019 levels).
- The report is a companion piece to UNEP's annual Emissions Gap Report series, issued ahead of this year's UNFCCC COP.

### MAINS DIMENSIONS

- Overshoot-and-recovery framing shifts the climate-policy conversation from binary "success/failure on 1.5°C" to a more nuanced parallel mitigation-adaptation strategy.
- Irreversibility risk: glacier loss and ecosystem tipping points triggered during overshoot may not reverse even if temperatures later decline — a critical caveat to any "recovery is possible" framing.
- Common but Differentiated Responsibilities (CBDR): the emissions-gap burden falls disproportionately on how major historical emitters revise NDCs, a recurring North-South equity debate.
- India's own NDC trajectory (net-zero by 2070, non-fossil capacity targets) sits within this global gap-analysis, relevant to India's negotiating position at UNFCCC COPs.
- Way forward: the report's own numbers imply that only near-term, front-loaded emission cuts (not distant 2050/2070 targets alone) can meaningfully bend the overshoot curve.

### ● LET'S REMEMBER THIS THROUGH A TRICK

Remember "15-26-46-55": aim to cut 15% (current NDCs, 2035) but the recovery path actually needs 26% by 2030, 46% by 2035, and eventually the equivalent of a 55% cut trajectory for full 1.5°C alignment.

#### PYQ LINKAGE

Recurring GS3 Mains theme on India's NDCs, the Paris Agreement architecture, and UNEP Emissions Gap Report findings — a frequently tested climate-governance topic.

**Probable Prelims MCQ:** Consider the following statements regarding UNEP's Emissions Gap-linked "overshoot" reporting: 1. It concludes that crossing the 1.5°C threshold in multi-decadal average terms is now considered very likely within the next decade. 2. It argues that a return below 1.5°C by 2100 is technically impossible once overshoot occurs. 3. Full implementation of current NDCs is projected to still leave the world short of the 1.5°C-aligned emissions-cut benchmark. Which of the statements given above is/are correct?

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

**Answer: (a) — the report argues recovery remains technically achievable, not impossible (statement 2 false).**

GS3

UNEP

Paris Agreement

NDC

Overshoot

GS1 / GS3

Desertification; Agriculture

10-12 Sep 2026 • Source: ICAR / ICRISAT joint release

## Global Dryland Congress 2026: ICAR-ICRISAT Mark 50 Years of Dryland-Agriculture Cooperation

**Why in News:** ICAR and ICRISAT jointly convened the Global Dryland Congress 2026 at the NASC Complex, New Delhi, inaugurated 10 September and running through 12 September, under the theme "Transforming Dryland Agriculture through South-South Cooperation." The Congress, drawing over 800 scientists, policymakers and farmer representatives from Asia, Africa and the Americas, marks 50 years of the ICAR-ICRISAT partnership and coincides with the UN Day for South-South Cooperation (12 September).

**Background:** ICRISAT (International Crops Research Institute for the Semi-Arid Tropics), headquartered in Hyderabad, was established in 1972 as one of the CGIAR network's research centres, focused on crop improvement for drylands (sorghum, pearl millet, chickpea, pigeonpea, groundnut). Drylands cover a significant share of the world's land surface and are disproportionately vulnerable to desertification and land degradation, a concern formalised globally through the UN Convention to Combat Desertification (UNCCD, 1994).

#### KEY FACTS

- Congress held 10-12 September 2026 at NASC Complex, New Delhi; over 800 participants from Asia, Africa and the Americas.
- Marks 50 years of the ICAR-ICRISAT partnership (ICRISAT established 1972, headquartered in Hyderabad).
- Coincides with the UN Day for South-South Cooperation, observed 12 September.
- ICRISAT is a CGIAR (Consultative Group on International Agricultural Research) network institute.
- Congress theme: "Transforming Dryland Agriculture through South-South Cooperation," spanning six thematic tracks on desertification, land degradation and climate-resilient dryland farming systems.
- ICRISAT's core crop mandate: sorghum, pearl millet, chickpea, pigeonpea and groundnut — India's principal dryland/rainfed crops.

#### MAINS DIMENSIONS

- Land Degradation Neutrality (LDN), a UNCCD target India has committed to, depends heavily on exactly the kind of dryland-crop research ICRISAT specialises in.
- South-South cooperation model: India positions itself as a knowledge-exporter to other drought-prone developing economies (Sub-Saharan Africa, West Asia), a soft-power dimension of its agricultural diplomacy.
- Climate-resilience angle: dryland/rainfed agriculture supports a large share of India's farming population, making drought-tolerant crop varieties a food-security and livelihood issue simultaneously.

- Desertification in India (notably in Rajasthan, parts of Gujarat, Deccan Plateau rain-shadow zones) links this Congress directly to India's own Desertification and Land Degradation Atlas findings.
- Way forward: translating dryland-research outputs into farmer-level adoption requires extension-system strengthening, not research alone — a recurring implementation gap in Indian agricultural policy.

#### 📌 LET'S REMEMBER THIS THROUGH A TRICK

"5 crops, 50 years, 1 mission": remember ICRISAT by its five mandate crops (sorghum, pearl millet, chickpea, pigeonpea, groundnut), its 50-year partnership with ICAR, and one mission — drylands.

#### PYQ LINKAGE

GS3 Mains 2020 asked about Land Degradation Neutrality (LDN) and its role in combating desertification — directly relevant framing for this Congress; ICRISAT's Hyderabad headquarters is a recurring Prelims static fact.

**Probable Prelims MCQ:** Consider the following statements about ICRISAT: 1. It is headquartered in Hyderabad, India. 2. It was established in 1972 as part of the CGIAR network. 3. Its crop research mandate is limited exclusively to rice and wheat. 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) — ICRISAT's mandate covers dryland crops like sorghum, millet, chickpea, pigeonpea and groundnut, not rice/wheat (statement 3 false).**

GS1

GS3

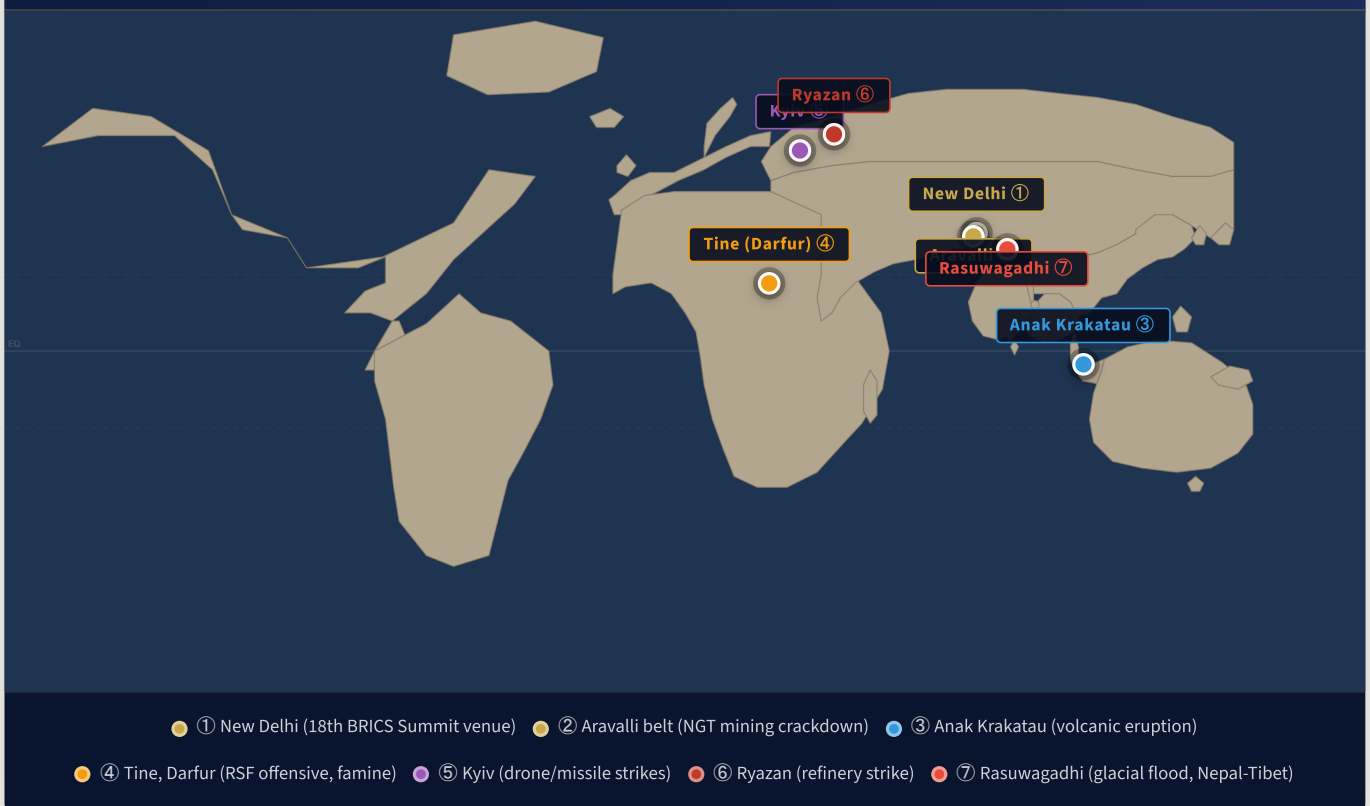
ICRISAT

UNCCD

Land Degradation Neutrality

## §2 PLACES IN NEWS

### 📌 PLACES IN NEWS — 11 SEPTEMBER 2026 | ANTIM ASSURED 100+



### ① New Delhi (Bharat Mandapam), India

**Why in news:** Hosting the 18th BRICS Summit, 12-13 September 2026, under India's chairmanship, with the finance-track joint statement on IMF/World Bank reform issued 11 September and leaders including Putin arriving for bilateral talks.

*Physical/strategic context: Sits on the alluvial plain of the Yamuna in the Indo-Gangetic belt; Bharat Mandapam is India's flagship post-G20 diplomatic-convention infrastructure.*

### ② Aravalli Belt (Alwar-Bhiwadi tract), Rajasthan, India

**Why in news:** National Green Tribunal order (9 September 2026) cracking down on illegal mining damaging the Aravalli ecosystem.

*Physical/strategic context: The Aravalli Range is among the world's oldest fold-mountain systems (Precambrian era), acting as a natural barrier that slows the eastward creep of the Thar Desert.*

### ③ Anak Krakatau, Sunda Strait, Indonesia

**Why in news:** Eruption began 4 September 2026; ash clouds shut 8 airports and stranded over 270,000 passengers; Alert Level III remains in effect.

*Physical/strategic context: Located in the Sunda Strait between Java and Sumatra, on the Indonesian volcanic arc formed by subduction of the Indo-Australian Plate beneath the Eurasian Plate.*

### ④ Tine, North Darfur, Sudan

**Why in news:** Intensifying RSF drone offensive on this Chad-border town; famine thresholds breached, with over 1,300 newly displaced from nearby localities this week.

*Physical/strategic context: Lies in the semi-arid Sahelian border zone between Sudan and Chad — a key trans-Saharan corridor and refugee-flow chokepoint.*

### ⑤ Kyiv, Ukraine

**Why in news:** Russian drone and missile barrage killed 2 and injured over 10 on 8 September 2026, ending a lull that had coincided with a US envoy peace-talks visit.

*Physical/strategic context: Situated on the Dnieper River, historically Ukraine's political-administrative core and the current war's diplomatic flashpoint.*

### ⑥ Ryazan, Russia

**Why in news:** Ukrainian drones struck the Ryazan oil refinery on 6 September 2026, part of a wider strike wave that also hit Rostov-on-Don.

*Physical/strategic context: Located on the Oka River in central European Russia; the refinery is a key node in Russia's Volga-Urals refining network.*

### ⑦ Rasuwagadhi / Rasuwa District, Nepal-Tibet Border

**Why in news:** A 26 August 2026 glacial-collapse flash flood (Langtang-Lirung glacier, Lhende river) devastated the Trishuli corridor; recovery and a newly forming barrier lake on the China side remain live concerns this week. (*Honest-dating note: the triggering event is ~2 weeks old but the barrier-lake threat is still actively developing.*)

*Physical/strategic context: Sits in the high Himalaya along the Nepal-China (Tibet Autonomous Region) frontier, on the Trishuli/Bhote Koshi river system — a classic Himalayan glacial-lake-outburst-flood (GLOF) hazard zone.*

## §3 ETHICS & INTEGRITY CASES

### Case 1 — The Caste Column

**Concept: Privacy as a Right vs Utilitarian Data-Use**

You are a district Census officer whose enumerators report that several respondents are uncomfortable disclosing caste in Question 10's open column, fearing local social consequences even though the data feeds national policymaking. A local leader pressures you to let enumerators record "not disclosed" liberally to protect residents, which would degrade the data's utility for future OBC sub-categorisation exercises. You must balance the individual's right to informational privacy (recognised as part of Article 21 since the Puttaswamy judgment) against the utilitarian argument that comprehensive data serves the greater good of accurate welfare targeting.

### Case 2 — Reasons Unwritten

**Concept: Institutional Accountability & Transparency**

As a junior law-ministry official processing Collegium recommendations, you notice that several recent resolutions carry no stated reasons for either selecting or superseding candidates, despite an internal push (following a sitting judge's public remarks) to improve disclosure. Flagging the inconsistency risks friction with senior colleagues who prefer the status quo of discretion, while staying silent perpetuates a transparency gap in one of the state's most consequential appointment processes. This tests whether procedural loyalty should yield to the broader public-accountability principle underlying good governance.

### Case 3 — The 38-Year Gap

**Concept: Realism vs Idealism in Diplomatic Ethics**

You are a mid-level MEA desk officer briefing the Defence Minister ahead of his historic Sri Lanka visit. Colombo's recent balancing act between India and China means any perceived "over-ask" in the MoUs could push Sri Lanka further toward Beijing, yet an overly cautious, grant-only approach may look like India lacks confidence in the relationship. You must weigh hard-nosed strategic realism (protecting India's Indian Ocean Region interests) against the idealistic commitment to genuine, trust-based neighbourliness that underpins the "Neighbourhood First" doctrine.

### Case 4 — Borrowed Time

**Concept: Intergenerational Equity & Justice**

As a state environment department official drafting India's input to a global climate-overshoot consultation, you must decide how strongly to advocate for front-loaded, economically painful emission cuts today versus deferring costs to future administrations and generations. Industry stakeholders argue for a slower glide path citing near-term job losses, while climate scientists warn that delay locks in irreversible harm for people not yet born. This is a textbook intergenerational-equity dilemma: whose welfare — the present electorate's or future generations' — should weigh more heavily in a public servant's policy recommendation?

### Case 5 — The Quarry Beyond the Order

**Concept: Ecocentrism vs Anthropocentrism (Environmental Stewardship)**

You are a district mining officer in the Aravalli belt who discovers that a politically influential quarry operator, subject to the NGT's fresh crackdown, has resumed limited operations citing "livelihood necessity" for hundreds of dependent workers. Strict, immediate enforcement protects the fragile, ancient fold-mountain ecosystem (an ecocentric duty of stewardship) but causes real, immediate

hardship to workers and their families (an anthropocentric welfare concern). Your recommendation must reconcile ecological law-enforcement with humane, phased transition planning for those economically dependent on the illegal activity.

## Case 6 — A Border Without Refuge

### Concept: Responsibility to Protect (R2P) & Humanitarian Ethics

As an Indian diplomat posted in a multilateral humanitarian-coordination role, you receive credible reports of famine-threshold conditions and mass displacement from an offensive on a Chad-Sudan border town, but India has no direct strategic stake in the conflict and limited bandwidth given its own BRICS-hosting commitments this week. The global "Responsibility to Protect" norm suggests an obligation to advocate for civilian protection even absent direct interest, while a strict non-interference reading of sovereignty counsels restraint. You must decide how forcefully India's delegation should push for humanitarian-corridor action in this multilateral forum.

## §4 PRELIMS MCQS

1. Consider the following statements regarding the Census of India: 1. It is conducted under the Census Act, 1948. 2. It falls under Entry 69 of the Union List. 3. Census 2027 uses a mobile-app-based digital methodology for the first time. 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: (d)

2. The "Second Judges Case" and "Third Judges Case," which established the Collegium system's primacy in judicial appointments, interpreted the term "consultation" under which Articles of the Constitution?

- (a) Articles 74 and 75 (b) Articles 124 and 217 (c) Articles 226 and 227 (d) Articles 233 and 234

Answer: (b)

3. The NJAC judgment, which struck down the 99th Constitutional Amendment Act, was delivered by the Supreme Court in which year?

- (a) 2013 (b) 2014 (c) 2015 (d) 2018

Answer: (c)

4. Consider the following statements about the New Development Bank (NDB): 1. It was established by BRICS countries. 2. Its headquarters is in Shanghai. 3. Membership is restricted only to the original five founding members. 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)

5. The S-400 Triumf air-defence missile system is manufactured by which country?

- (a) France (b) Israel (c) Russia (d) United States

Answer: (c)

6. "CAATSA," occasionally seen in the news in the context of India's defence procurement, stands for:

- (a) Countering America's Adversaries Through Sanctions Act (b) Comprehensive Agreement on Arms Trade and Strategic Alliances (c) Convention Against Arms Trafficking and Small Arms (d) Central Asian Arms and Trade Security Agreement

**Answer: (a)**

7. The "SAGAR" doctrine in India's maritime diplomacy stands for:

- (a) Strategic Alliance for Growth and Regional-security (b) Security and Growth for All in the Region (c) South Asian Governance and Regional-cooperation (d) Sea Access and Global Autonomous Routes

**Answer: (b)**

8. Consider the following statements: 1. India and Sri Lanka's L70 anti-aircraft gun modernisation MoU (2026) is a commercial arms sale. 2. It was signed during the first visit by an Indian Defence Minister to Sri Lanka in 38 years. 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

**Answer: (b) — it is a Government of India grant, not a commercial sale.**

9. Consider the following statements about semi-cryogenic rocket engines: 1. They use refined kerosene as fuel and liquid oxygen as oxidiser. 2. India's semi-cryogenic engine under development is meant to eventually power the SC120 stage. 3. This stage is intended to replace LVM3's existing L110 liquid-core stage. 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: (d)**

10. India's Deep Ocean Mission, under which the ORV Sagar Manthan was built, was approved by the Union Cabinet in which year?

- (a) 2019 (b) 2021 (c) 2023 (d) 2024

**Answer: (b)**

11. Consider the following statements: 1. NCPOR, which operated the ORV Sagar Manthan launch, functions under the Ministry of Earth Sciences. 2. India holds a pioneer-investor area in the Central Indian Ocean Basin for polymetallic-nodule exploration. 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

**Answer: (c)**

12. Under the EU-India Free Trade Agreement (2026), the European Union has committed to making what share of Indian export value duty-free?

- (a) 85% (b) 92% (c) 96% (d) 99.5%

**Answer: (d)**

13. Consider the following statements regarding the GST Council: 1. It was constituted under Article 279A of the Constitution. 2. It is chaired by the Union Finance Minister. 3. Its decisions are taken exclusively by simple majority vote of state finance ministers, excluding the Centre. 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)**

14. GST in India was introduced through which Constitutional Amendment Act?

- (a) 99th (b) 100th (c) 101st (d) 103rd

**Answer: (c)**

15. The "PM Gati Shakti National Master Plan," under which the recent railway multi-tracking projects were approved, primarily aims at:

- (a) Direct cash transfers for irrigation infrastructure (b) Integrated, multi-modal planning of infrastructure across ministries (c) Privatisation of all railway freight corridors (d) Creation of new All India Service cadres

Answer: (b)

16. Consider the following statements regarding UNEP's "overshoot" climate reporting: 1. It concludes that crossing 1.5°C in multi-decadal average terms is now considered very likely within a decade. 2. It concludes recovery below 1.5°C by 2100 is technically impossible once overshoot occurs. 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

Answer: (a)

17. ICRISAT, which co-convened the Global Dryland Congress 2026, is headquartered in which Indian city?

- (a) New Delhi (b) Hyderabad (c) Pune (d) Bengaluru

Answer: (b)

18. Consider the following statements: 1. ICRISAT's crop-research mandate covers sorghum, pearl millet, chickpea, pigeonpea and groundnut. 2. It was established in 1972 as part of the CGIAR network. 3. "Land Degradation Neutrality" is a target under the UN Convention to Combat Desertification. 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: (d)

19. Anak Krakatau, which erupted this week, is located in which strait?

- (a) Strait of Malacca (b) Sunda Strait (c) Strait of Hormuz (d) Bab-el-Mandeb

Answer: (b)

20. Consider the following statements: 1. The Aravalli Range is among the world's oldest fold-mountain systems. 2. It acts as a natural barrier slowing the eastward expansion of the Thar Desert. 3. It is formed by ongoing subduction of the Indian Plate beneath the Eurasian Plate. 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) — the Aravallis are an ancient eroded fold-mountain remnant, not an active subduction zone (statement 3 false).

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Twenty statement-based MCQs across four GS papers in a single morning is exactly the volume **NEEB 300+ Live PYQ Writing** is built to convert into timed, exam-simulated practice. [theiasakademia.com](https://theiasakademia.com).

## §5 MAINS QUESTIONS

1. India's Census has historically enumerated caste only for SCs/STs; Census 2027 introduces a comprehensive caste column for the first time. Critically examine the administrative, constitutional and policy implications of this shift. (250 words, GS1)

GS1 — Indian Society / Population Issues

2. "The Collegium system was born out of judicial interpretation, not constitutional text." Discuss the evolution of judicial appointments in India and evaluate the case for a finalised, transparency-mandating Memorandum of Procedure. (250 words, GS2)

GS2 — Structure, Organisation and Functioning of the Judiciary

3. Examine the structural constraints that limit reform of IMF quota and voting-share arrangements, and assess whether BRICS-led parallel institutions like the New Development Bank represent genuine alternatives or mere pressure tactics. (250 words, GS2)

GS2 — International Institutions and Global Governance

4. India's defence relationship with Russia continues to deepen even as India diversifies its defence-procurement base. Discuss the strategic-autonomy considerations that shape this dual-track approach. (150 words, GS2/GS3)

GS2/GS3 — India's Bilateral Relations; Defence Indigenisation

5. Discuss the strategic significance of the Indian Ocean Region to India's neighbourhood diplomacy, with reference to recent India-Sri Lanka defence cooperation. (150 words, GS2/GS3)

GS2/GS3 — India and its Neighbourhood; Security Challenges

6. Explain the technological significance of India's indigenous semi-cryogenic engine programme and the Deep Ocean Mission's ORV Sagar Manthan for India's long-term self-reliance in strategic technologies. (150 words, GS3)

GS3 — Achievements of Indians in Science and Technology

7. Critically evaluate the sectoral winners and risks for India under the newly concluded EU-India Free Trade Agreement, and suggest measures to convert tariff access into actual export growth. (250 words, GS3)

GS3 — Effects of Liberalisation; Trade Agreements

8. "Global climate reports increasingly frame the 1.5°C target in terms of overshoot-and-recovery rather than strict avoidance." Examine the ethical and policy implications of this shift for intergenerational equity. (250 words, GS3/GS4)

GS3/GS4 — Climate Change; Ethics of Intergenerational Justice

9. "Public officials frequently face a tension between ecocentric environmental stewardship and anthropocentric livelihood concerns." Discuss with reference to enforcement dilemmas in ecologically fragile zones such as the Aravalli belt. (150 words, GS4)

GS4 — Ethics in Public Administration; Environmental Ethics

## §6 ANSWER WRITING VALUE ADDITION

**Data point:** Census 2027 Phase-II covers 637 Enumeration Blocks in Ladakh and 4,146 in snow-bound J&K districts — cite exact block counts to demonstrate command over administrative detail in GS1 answers.

**Quote to cite:** The NJAC judgment (2015) held that judicial independence is part of the Constitution's "basic structure" — invoke this phrase directly when answering on Collegium reform.

**Data point:** IMF quota reform requires an 85% weighted super-majority, while the US alone holds roughly 16-17% voting share — this single fact explains why "reform" demands rarely succeed quickly.

**Data point:** The EU-India FTA frees 97% of tariff lines covering 99.5% of Indian export value; India reciprocates on 96% of EU goods — memorise this "97-99.5-96" triad for any FTA-comparison answer.

**Framework to cite:** UNEP's "overshoot, peak, and decline" framing is a useful analytical lens for any climate-policy Mains answer — it shows nuanced understanding beyond simple "target met/missed" framing.

**Data point:** ICRISAT's five mandate crops — sorghum, pearl millet, chickpea, pigeonpea, groundnut — are the backbone of India's rainfed agriculture; cite them when discussing dryland farming or Land Degradation Neutrality.

**Quote to cite:** SAGAR ("Security and Growth for All in the Region") remains India's operative doctrine for Indian Ocean Region engagement — invoke it explicitly in any answer on India-Sri Lanka/Maldives relations.

**Data point:** ISRO's semi-cryogenic engine climbed thrust levels in four stages — 47%, 60%, 88%, 100% (200 tonnes) — a clean numerical sequence worth citing to show technical precision in GS3 answers on space technology.

## §7 AKADEmia DIRECT HIT TRACKER

| TOPIC                                   | GS PAPER | ONE-LINE CAPSULE                                                         | PRELIMS PROBABILITY |
|-----------------------------------------|----------|--------------------------------------------------------------------------|---------------------|
| Census 2027 caste enumeration           | GS1/GS2  | First comprehensive caste column since Independence, digital methodology | ★★★★★               |
| SC Collegium transparency/MoP           | GS2      | NJAC 2015 verdict, unfinalised Memorandum of Procedure                   | ★★★★★               |
| BRICS Finance Ministers/IMF reform      | GS2      | 85% IMF super-majority threshold blocks quota reform                     | ★★★★★               |
| Modi-Putin/S-400/BrahMos-NG             | GS2/GS3  | Final S-400 squadron by Nov 2026; BrahMos-NG at 1.3 tonnes               | ★★★★★               |
| Rajnath Singh Sri Lanka visit           | GS2/GS3  | First DM visit in 38 years; 3 MoUs incl. L70 gun upgrade                 | ★★★★★               |
| ISRO Semi-Cryogenic Engine              | GS3      | 200-tonne 100% thrust hot test at Mahendragiri                           | ★★★★★               |
| ORV Sagar Manthan/Deep Ocean Mission    | GS3      | India's first advanced ocean research vessel, NCPOR                      | ★★★★★               |
| EU-India FTA                            | GS3      | 97% tariff lines/99.5% export value duty-free from EU side               | ★★★★★               |
| GST Council rate-rationalisation review | GS3      | 4 slabs collapsed to 2 (5%/18%) plus 40% sin rate                        | ★★★★                |
| CCEA railway multi-tracking             | GS3      | ₹20,804 crore, 8 projects, 9 states, ~1,196 km                           | ★★★★                |
| UNEP "Limiting Overshoot" report        | GS3      | 1.5°C crossing "very likely" within a decade; recovery pathway mapped    | ★★★★★               |
| Global Dryland Congress 2026            | GS1/GS3  | ICAR-ICRISAT, 50 years, Land Degradation Neutrality                      | ★★★★                |
| Places in News — Aravalli Range         | GS1      | Precambrian fold mountains, Thar Desert barrier                          | ★★★★★               |
| Places in News — Anak Krakatau          | GS1      | Sunda Strait, Indo-Australian/Eurasian Plate subduction                  | ★★★★                |
| Places in News — Rasuwagadhi GLOF       | GS1/GS3  | Himalayan glacial-lake-outburst-flood hazard, Nepal-Tibet border         | ★★★★                |
| NDB headquarters & membership           | GS2      | Shanghai HQ, founded 2015, expanded beyond original 5                    | ★★★★★               |

|                                                  |     |                                                           |      |
|--------------------------------------------------|-----|-----------------------------------------------------------|------|
| SAGAR doctrine                                   | GS2 | Security and Growth for All in the Region                 | ★★★★ |
| Ethics: R2P & humanitarian intervention (Darfur) | GS4 | Responsibility to Protect vs sovereignty/non-interference | ★★★  |

★ 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.

2

NEWS ITEMS

6

ETHICS CASES

20

MCQS GENERATED

9

MAINS QUESTIONS

7

PLACES MAPPED

0

REPEATED TOPICS

Environment

Geography

Ethics

Disaster

IR

✓ All news sourced from UNEP / ICAR-ICRISAT / NGT / official and international primary sources

✓ Every species/topic checked against the 30-day static-topic and species-rotation blacklists in the topic log

✓ News Freshness Rule applied — zero topics repeated from the last 7 editions (4-10 Sep 2026)

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