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20 JUNE 2026 | SATURDAY



ENVIRONMENT & ECOLOGY

GS3 · Climate · Biodiversity · Planetary Boundaries

GS3

Planetary Boundaries · Climate Risk

June 2026

State of India's Environment 2026: 7 of 9 Planetary Boundaries Breached; Extreme Weather on 99% of Days

What happened: CSE and Down To Earth released the SOE 2026 Report warning that 7 of 9 planetary boundaries have been breached globally, with ocean acidification joining as the 7th. India experienced extreme weather on 99% of days in 2025 (up from 88% in 2024). ~97,000 hectares of forestland were diverted for non-forest use between FY21–FY25.

Why it matters: Planetary Boundaries framework, India climate risk data, forest diversion statistics, and human-wildlife conflict are high-frequency GS3 environment topics.

⚡ KEY FACTS

- 9 Planetary Boundaries (Stockholm Resilience Centre): Climate change, Biosphere integrity, Land system change, Freshwater use, Biogeochemical flows, Novel entities, Ocean acidification, Ozone, Aerosol loading — 7 now breached.
- India: extreme weather events on 99% of 2025 days; 97,000 ha forest diverted FY21–25 (~1.35× area of Delhi).
- Human-tiger conflicts intensifying due to ecological degradation — documented in SOE 2026.

💡 TEACHING HOOK

Mnemonic — 9 boundaries as **3+3+3**: (Climate: climate change, freshwater, ocean acidification) + (Land/Life: biosphere integrity, land system change, novel entities) + (Chemical/Physical: biogeochemical flows, aerosols, ozone). 7 of 9 breached = humanity in the danger zone.

📄 PYQ LINKAGE

UPSC Prelims 2022: "What is 'Planetary Boundaries' concept?" UPSC Mains GS3 2023: "Analyse increasing frequency of extreme weather events in India and their implications."

Caracal Sighted in Kuno NP; Large Pavona Coral Colony Documented near Kadmat Island, Lakshadweep

What happened: A Caracal (Schedule I, WPA 1972) was sighted in Kuno National Park, Madhya Pradesh during a June 2026 wildlife survey — one of India's rarest wild cat sightings. Separately, a large Pavona clavus coral colony ("Potato Patch") was documented near Kadmat Island, Lakshadweep, adding to the ecological significance of India's only coral atoll system.

Why it matters: Kuno NP, Schedule I species, Lakshadweep coral ecology, and India's Protected Areas system are recurring GS3 Prelims topics.

⚡ KEY FACTS

- Caracal: Schedule I species, WPA 1972; extremely rare in India; medium-sized wild cat found in Africa, Middle East, Central/South Asia.
- Kuno NP: Sheopur, Madhya Pradesh; site of 2022 African Cheetah reintroduction (from Namibia, then South Africa).
- Lakshadweep: India's only coral atoll system; Laccadive Sea; Kadmat Island in Union Territory; reefs increasingly threatened by ocean warming/bleaching.

💡 TEACHING HOOK

Kuno NP is India's "Second Chance Sanctuary" — first for Cheetah reintroduction (2022), now Caracal sightings (2026). UPSC loves Kuno: which species was reintroduced? From which country? And what new species have been sighted?

📄 PYQ LINKAGE

UPSC Prelims 2023: "With reference to cheetah reintroduction in India..." UPSC Prelims 2021: Q on Caracal and Schedule I species. UPSC Prelims 2024: Q on Lakshadweep ecological significance.



PLACES IN NEWS

10 Locations · GS1 Geography · Strategic & Current Significance





▲ South Asia focus — Indian locations

Evian, France

WESTERN EUROPE · HAUTE-SAVOIE

Host of G7 Summit 2026 (Jun 16–18); Lake Geneva shore;
PM Modi held bilateral talks here with UK, Canada, US.
France holds 2026 G7 presidency.

GS2 · IR

Geneva, Switzerland

CENTRAL EUROPE · PERMANENT NEUTRALITY

Venue for formal signing of US-Iran Peace Deal (Jun 19, 2026). Switzerland's neutrality makes it the traditional site for major international agreements.

GS2 · IR

Strait of Hormuz

PERSIAN GULF · IRAN & OMAN

World's most critical energy chokepoint — ~20% global oil + 40% global LNG transits daily. Iran's blockade during the 107-day conflict spiked crude above \$100/barrel; reopening expected post-deal.

GS3 · Energy Security

Chabahar Port, Iran

SOUTHEAST IRAN · GULF OF OMAN

India's strategic deep-sea port leased for 10 years (2024); gateway to Afghanistan and Central Asia via INSTC. US sanctions waiver had lapsed April 2026; revival expected post peace deal.

GS2 · Connectivity

Mawlynnong, Meghalaya

EAST KHASI HILLS · NORTHEAST INDIA

"Asia's Cleanest Village"; Indo-Burma Biodiversity Hotspot; site of new lynx spider species discovery (Hamataliwa mawlyngot) by ZSI and University of Calcutta.

GS3 · Biodiversity

Kuno National Park

SHEOPUR · MADHYA PRADESH

India's 2022 Cheetah reintroduction site; Caracal (Schedule I) sighted in June 2026 wildlife survey — among India's rarest wild cat encounters.

GS3 · Wildlife

Kadmat Island, Lakshadweep

LACCADIVE SEA · UNION TERRITORY

Large Pavona clavus coral colony ("Potato Patch") documented; Lakshadweep is India's only coral atoll system — biodiverse and vulnerable to ocean warming.

GS3 · Marine Biodiversity

Darwin & Tindal, Australia

NORTHERN TERRITORY · AUSTRALIA

Host airbases for Exercise Pitch Black 2026 (Jul 20–Aug 7); IAF participation deepens India-Australia Comprehensive Strategic Partnership.

GS2 · Defence

Yarlung Zangbo, Tibet

SOUTHERN TIBET · CHINA

Lalmohirhat, Bangladesh

RANGPUR DIVISION · NW BANGLADESH

China constructing massive hydroelectric dam on Yarlung Zangbo (becomes Brahmaputra in Arunachal/Assam); raises downstream water security and sovereignty concerns for India.

GS2 · Water Security

Revival of Lalmonirhat airbase; proximity to India's Siliguri Corridor (Chicken's Neck) makes any foreign interest here a strategic concern for India's northeast connectivity.

GS2 · Security



ETHICS & INTEGRITY (GS4)

4 Case Studies · Paper IV · Contemporary Dilemmas

GS4 · CASE STUDY 1

CS-01/4

The Diplomat's Dilemma: Neutrality vs. Humanitarian Advocacy

Scenario: You are a senior IFS officer in a West Asian nation during the Iran-US conflict. Indian civilians are at risk; your government has adopted a "neutral" stance. You have credible intelligence that quiet diplomatic pressure from India could accelerate a ceasefire. Your mandate: follow policy. Your conscience: act to prevent harm.

Q1: What is the ethical tension between duty to follow orders and moral obligation to prevent harm? How do you navigate this?

Q2: Is strategic neutrality in a humanitarian crisis an ethical position for a democratic state?

FRAMEWORKS

Consequentialism: Evaluate outcomes — quiet pressure may save lives but risks policy violation.

Deontology: IFS officer's duty is to execute government policy, not act on personal judgment.

Virtue Ethics: A virtuous diplomat is courageous (flags concerns upward) and prudent (knows limits of individual action).

Gandhian: Satya and Ahimsa as guiding principles — India's traditional moral framework in foreign policy.

GS4 · CASE STUDY 2

CS-02/4

DRDO Scientist: Integrity vs. Institutional Pressure

Scenario: You are a DRDO scientist on the LRLACM project. The test flight is declared a success, but your data shows the missile fell 15% short of stated range. Your supervisor asks you to sign off on the report as successful. Remaining silent could lead the military to over-rely on an underperforming system.

Q1: Should you sign the report or report findings to a higher authority? What competing ethical obligations apply?

Q2: How does "probity in governance" apply to a defence scientist? Is national security ever a valid reason to suppress scientific truth?

FRAMEWORKS

Integrity & Probity: Truthful reporting is a core public servant obligation, especially in high-stakes defence systems.

Whistle Blowers Protection Act 2014: Protects public interest disclosures from victimisation — the legal recourse available.

Consequentialist Risk: Deploying an underperforming missile in combat could cost lives — the long-term harm of short-

term deception.

Professional Ethics: Scientific integrity demands accurate reporting; falsification under pressure is a cardinal violation.

GS4 · CASE STUDY 3

CS-03/4

Forest Officer: Development vs. Tribal Rights & Conservation

Scenario: You are a DFO in MP. A state-approved highway project requires diverting 500 ha of forest — home to a Schedule I wild cat (Caracal) habitat and a PVTG. The project will create 3,000 jobs, but tribal elders claim PESA consultations were inadequate.

Q1: What immediate ethical steps do you take before diversion begins? Who do you consult and why?

Q2: Is economic development ever a sufficient justification for destroying a legally protected species' habitat?

FRAMEWORKS

Rights-Based: Tribal community rights (PESA, FRA 2006) and Caracal's Schedule I protection may both be violated.

Intergenerational Equity: Future generations' right to biodiversity — forest diversion is often irreversible.

Procedural Justice: Inadequate PESA consultation violates procedural fairness even if the outcome (jobs) is good.

Utilitarian Trade-off: 3,000 jobs vs. permanent habitat loss — who bears the burden?

GS4 · CASE STUDY 4

CS-04/4

Genome India: Data Ethics, Consent & Bioeconomy

Scenario: You are a DBT official overseeing the Genome India Project. A private firm offers co-funding for 5,000 additional genome sequences in exchange for 10-year preferential access to the anonymised dataset. Original participant consent covered only government research — not commercial access.

Q1: Is it ethically acceptable to share participant data with a private firm without re-obtaining informed consent?

Q2: How do you balance national bioeconomy interest with individual privacy rights? Suggest a governance framework.

FRAMEWORKS

Informed Consent: Retroactive commercial use violates the foundational bioethics principle — participants must be told exactly how their data will be used.

Privacy (Art. 21, Puttaswamy 2017): Genetic data is among the most sensitive; fundamental right to privacy applies.

Public Trust: Undermining consent norms in a government programme erodes trust in future health data initiatives.

Governance: Data Protection Board (DPDP Act 2023) + re-consent process + benefit-sharing with participants.



PRELIMS MCQ PRACTICE

15 Statement-Based Questions · UPSC Pattern · Today's Topics

Q.1 | GS2 • G7

Which of the following statements about G7 is/are correct?

1. India is a full member of G7.
2. G7 comprises USA, UK, France, Germany, Italy, Japan, Canada + EU.
3. India attended G7 2026 in Evian as a partner country.

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

✓ Answer: (c) 2 and 3 only

India is NOT a G7 member — it participates as a partner/outreach country. G7 = USA, UK, France, Germany, Italy, Japan, Canada + EU.

Q.2 | GS2 • Chabahar

With reference to Chabahar Port:

1. Located on Iran's Gulf of Oman coast.
2. Provides India direct access to Afghanistan bypassing Pakistan.
3. INSTC uses Chabahar as its primary sea terminal.

Which is/are correct?

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

✓ Answer: (d) 1, 2 and 3

All three are correct. Chabahar is on the Gulf of Oman; it gives India sea access to Afghanistan via Zaranj-Delaram; INSTC's western route passes through Chabahar/Bandar Abbas.

Q.3 | GS3 • MPC

About India's Monetary Policy Committee (MPC):

1. 6 members — 3 RBI officials + 3 external members appointed by Central Govt.
2. RBI Governor has a casting vote in a tie.
3. Failure to meet $4 \pm 2\%$ inflation for 3 consecutive quarters triggers a mandatory report to Parliament.

Which 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) 1 and 2 only

Statement 3 is wrong: the report goes to the GOVERNMENT, not Parliament; the trigger is 3 consecutive quarters, not every quarter.

Q.4 | GS3 • Missiles

Which correctly distinguishes cruise from ballistic missiles?

1. Cruise missile uses aerodynamic lift and air-breathing engine throughout flight.
2. Ballistic missile follows unpowered parabolic trajectory after initial boost.
3. BrahMos is a ballistic missile developed jointly by India and Russia.

Select correct:

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

✓ Answer: (a) 1 and 2 only

Statement 3 is WRONG: BrahMos is a supersonic CRUISE missile — it uses a ramjet engine and flies at low altitude, not a ballistic missile.

Q.5 | GS3 • Planetary Boundaries

Which of the following are among the 9 Planetary Boundaries?

1. Climate change 2. Ocean acidification 3. Stratospheric ozone depletion 4. Nuclear proliferation 5. Biosphere integrity

Select correct:

- (a) 1, 2 and 3 only
- (b) 1, 2, 3 and 5 only
- (c) 2, 3 and 4 only
- (d) 1, 3, 4 and 5 only

✓ Answer: (b) 1, 2, 3 and 5 only

Nuclear proliferation is NOT one of the 9 Planetary Boundaries. The 9 include: Climate change, Biosphere integrity, Land system change, Freshwater, Biogeochemical flows, Novel entities, Ocean acidification, Ozone, Aerosol loading.

Q.6 | GS2 • Article 326

About Article 326 of the Indian Constitution:

1. Provides universal adult suffrage for Lok Sabha & State Assembly elections.
2. Sets voting age at 21 years.
3. Parliament can disqualify persons on specified grounds.

Which is/are correct?

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

✓ Answer: (b) 1 and 3 only

Statement 2 is WRONG: 61st Constitutional Amendment (1988) reduced voting age from 21 to 18. Statements 1 and 3 are correct.

Q.7 | GS3 • IN-SPACe

About IN-SPACe:

1. Established under Department of Space to regulate private space activities.
2. Functions as a single-window agency for authorising non-government launches.
3. NSIL (NewSpace India Ltd.) is a subsidiary of IN-SPACe.

Which is/are correct?

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

✔ **Answer: (a) 1 and 2 only**

Statement 3 is WRONG: NSIL is a PSU under Department of Space (ISRO's commercial arm), NOT a subsidiary of IN-SPACe. IN-SPACe regulates; NSIL commercialises.

Q.8 | GS3 · Biodiversity Hotspots

Match — Hotspot : India coverage:

1. Indo-Burma → Northeast India
2. Western Ghats + Sri Lanka → Kerala, TN, Karnataka, Goa, Maharashtra (W. Ghats)
3. Sundaland → Andaman & Nicobar Islands
4. Himalayas → Uttarakhand, HP, J&K, NE Himalayas

How many pairs are correctly matched?

- (a) Only one
- (b) Only two
- (c) Only three
- (d) All four

✔ **Answer: (c) Only three**

Pair 3 is WRONG: Sundaland covers the NICOBAR Islands only, NOT the Andaman Islands. Pairs 1, 2, and 4 are correct.

Q.9 | GS3 · Kuno NP

About Kuno National Park:

1. Located in Sheopur, Madhya Pradesh.
2. Site of India's first cheetah reintroduction (2022).
3. Cheetahs brought from South Africa and Namibia.
4. Caracal (Schedule I) sighted in 2026 wildlife survey.

Which is/are correct?

- (a) 1 and 2 only
- (b) 1, 2 and 3 only
- (c) 2 and 4 only
- (d) 1, 2, 3 and 4

✔ **Answer: (d) 1, 2, 3 and 4**

All four statements are correct. First batch from Namibia (Sep 2022); second batch from South Africa (Feb 2023); Caracal sighted June 2026.

Q.10 | GS3 • Bioeconomy

About India's Bioeconomy:

1. India is the world's largest vaccine producer by volume.
2. BioE3 Policy (2024) targets high-performance biomanufacturing.
3. Genome India Project aims to sequence one lakh Indian genomes.
4. India's bioeconomy crossed \$100B for the first time in 2026.

Which is/are correct?

- (a) 1 and 2 only
- (b) 1, 2 and 3 only
- (c) 2 and 4 only
- (d) 1 and 4 only

✓ Answer: (a) 1 and 2 only

Statement 3 wrong: Genome India targets 10,000 genomes, not one lakh. Statement 4 wrong: Bioeconomy is \$190B in 2026, well above \$100B already.

Q.11 | GS3 • RBI ECF

The RBI's Economic Capital Framework (ECF) was based on recommendations of which committee?

- (a) Narasimham Committee
- (b) Bimal Jalan Committee
- (c) Urjit Patel Committee
- (d) Raghuram Rajan Committee

✓ Answer: (b) Bimal Jalan Committee

ECF adopted in 2019 based on Bimal Jalan Committee; set Contingency Risk Buffer (CRB) at 5.5%–6.5% of RBI balance sheet; surplus above that transferred to government as dividend.

Q.12 | GS2 • India-Australia Exercises

India-Australia bilateral military exercises — correctly matched:

1. Pitch Black → Air Force 2. AUSINDEX → Naval 3. AUSTRALIND → Army 4. Malabar → Tri-service (India-Australia bilateral)

Which pairs are correctly matched?

- (a) 1, 2 and 3 only
- (b) 2 and 3 only
- (c) 1 and 4 only
- (d) 1, 2, 3 and 4

✓ Answer: (a) 1, 2 and 3 only

Pair 4 is WRONG: Malabar is a multilateral naval exercise (India, USA, Japan, Australia) — not a bilateral India-Australia exercise.

Q.13 | GS3 • ZSI

About ZSI (Zoological Survey of India):

1. Under Ministry of Science and Technology.
2. Established 1916, headquartered in Kolkata.

3. Surveys and catalogues India's faunal biodiversity.

Which is/are correct?

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

✓ Answer: (b) 2 and 3 only

Statement 1 is WRONG: ZSI is under MoEFCC (Ministry of Environment, Forest and Climate Change), not Ministry of Science and Technology.

Q.14 | GS1 · Hormuz Geography

About the Strait of Hormuz:

1. Located between Iran and the UAE.
2. ~20% of global oil trade passes through it daily.
3. Iran has exclusive sovereignty over the entire strait.

Which is/are correct?

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

✓ Answer: (b) 2 only

Statement 1 wrong: Strait is between Iran (north) and OMAN (south) — not UAE. Statement 3 wrong: shared between Iran and Oman; no exclusive sovereignty. Only statement 2 is correct.

Q.15 | GS2/GS4 · DPDP Act

The Digital Personal Data Protection Act 2023 established which adjudicatory body?

- (a) Data Regulatory Authority of India
- (b) Data Protection Board of India
- (c) National Data Governance Framework Board
- (d) Personal Data Ombudsman

✓ Answer: (b) Data Protection Board of India

DPDP Act 2023 established the Data Protection Board of India as the adjudicatory body for data protection violations; penalties up to ₹250 crore per violation.

NEEB 300+

All 15 MCQs today are directly based on live current affairs — the exact pattern UPSC uses. NEEB 300+ Live PYQ Writing at

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extends this into Mains under timed conditions with expert feedback.



MAINS PRACTICE QUESTIONS

6 Questions: 2 GS1 + 2 GS2/GS3 + 2 GS4 · With Frameworks

"The Strait of Hormuz is not merely a waterway but a pivot of global geopolitics and energy security." Explain its strategic, economic, and geographical significance with reference to India's interests.

ANSWER FRAMEWORK

- **Geography:** Between Iran (north) and Oman (south); ~54 km wide; two 3.2-km navigable channels; only sea passage from Persian Gulf to open ocean.
- **Economic:** 20% global oil + 40% LNG daily; key Gulf exporters (Saudi Arabia, UAE, Kuwait, Iraq, Qatar, Iran) depend on it.
- **Geopolitical:** Iran's leverage over global markets; US Fifth Fleet in Bahrain; blockade as asymmetric warfare weapon (demonstrated 2026).
- **India's interests:** ~65% of crude from Gulf states via Hormuz; 9 million Indian diaspora in Gulf; Chabahar Port and INSTC as strategic alternatives.
- **Conclusion:** Energy security, diaspora welfare, and strategic connectivity make Hormuz a permanent foreign policy variable for India.

Northeast India is described as a "biodiversity hotspot within a social mosaic." Discuss its ecological significance and the challenge of balancing tribal rights with conservation imperatives.

ANSWER FRAMEWORK

- **Ecological:** Indo-Burma Biodiversity Hotspot; high endemism (new spider *Hamataliwa mawlyngot*); rich freshwater, forest, and montane ecosystems.
- **Social mosaic:** 200+ tribes, multiple PVTGs; customary forest management as a traditional conservation model.
- **Challenges:** Forest diversion for development, illegal wildlife trade, climate change altering Northeast monsoon patterns.
- **Balancing act:** FRA 2006 + PESA 1996 vs. development pressure; Community-Based Conservation (CBC) models as the way forward.

India's strategic non-alignment during the 2026 Iran-US conflict yielded tangible diplomatic dividends after the peace deal. Examine how India's principle of "strategic autonomy" enables it to convert neutral positions into long-term strategic gains.

ANSWER FRAMEWORK

- **Define:** Strategic autonomy = independent foreign policy decisions without permanent bloc alignment.
- **India's stance:** Did not condemn Iran; advocated dialogue; protected diaspora via diplomatic channels.
- **Dividends post-peace:** Chabahar revival; INSTC reactivation; oil import diversification; goodwill with both US (trade deal) and Iran (port access).
- **Contrast with NAM:** Strategic autonomy is active, interest-based engagement — not passive non-alignment.
- **Limitations:** Risk of being seen as opportunistic; balancing act gets harder as geopolitical polarisation intensifies.

The RBI's decision to hold the repo rate at 5.25% while revising both inflation up and growth down reflects the classic central bank dilemma. Critically analyse the challenges facing Indian monetary policy in FY2026-27.

ANSWER FRAMEWORK

- **The dilemma:** Inflation rising (5.1%) + growth slowing (6.6%) = stagflation risk; cutting rates stokes inflation; hiking rates worsens growth.
- **External shocks:** Iran-US conflict pushed crude above \$100; supply chain disruption effects linger despite post-deal price drop.
- **Domestic offset:** GST rationalisation + income tax cuts sustaining urban consumption; rural demand steady.
- **Neutral stance logic:** "Wait and watch" — MPC awaits more data before committing to a direction; within the 4±2% band (5.1% is acceptable).
- **Fiscal-monetary complementarity:** Record RBI dividend (₹2.87L crore) reduces fiscal pressure, allowing government to support growth without widening deficit.

GS4 Q.5 · ETHICS · 150 WORDS

"Professional courage is not the absence of fear but the willingness to act rightly despite consequences."
Examine in the context of a DRDO scientist who discovers a missile test result has been misrepresented.

ANSWER FRAMEWORK

- **Interpret quote:** Moral courage = upholding truth even when institutional hierarchy resists it.
- **Right action:** Report in writing to a higher authority (DRDO leadership) via official channels; invoke Whistle Blowers Protection Act 2014 if threatened.
- **Values:** Integrity, probity, professional courage, accountability to national security.
- **Conclusion:** A public servant's duty to society overrides institutional self-protection — the Aristotelian "virtue of courage" applied to defence ethics.

GS4 Q.6 · ETHICS · GOVERNANCE · 250 WORDS

The Genome India Project raises critical questions about data ethics, informed consent, and commercialisation of biological data by state agencies. Examine the ethical dimensions and suggest a governance framework.

ANSWER FRAMEWORK

- **Ethical dimensions:** (a) Informed consent — retroactive commercial use violates autonomy principle. (b) Privacy (Art. 21, Puttaswamy 2017) — genetic data = fundamental rights issue. (c) Equity — benefits must flow to communities whose data is used.
- **Governance framework:** Re-consent before commercial sharing; data anonymisation + differential privacy; Data Protection Board (DPDP Act 2023) oversight; benefit-sharing clause in PPP agreements; independent ethics committee.
- **International precedent:** UK Biobank — public benefit test before data access; strict tiering (open/restricted/controlled).
- **Conclusion:** Bioeconomy ambitions must not compromise genetic sovereignty — a robust ethical-legal framework can enable both.



VALUE ADDITION

5 Quotes · 1 Data Table · 1 Articles/Acts Reference Table

"Peace is not merely the absence of war but the presence of justice, of law, of order."

— Aristotle

GS2 IR — US-Iran Peace Deal; GS4 Ethics on peace and governance.

"We do not inherit the Earth from our ancestors; we borrow it from our children."

— Antoine de Saint-Exupéry (attributed)

GS3 Environment — Planetary Boundaries, forest diversion, intergenerational equity.

"Science is not only a disciple of reason but also one of romance and passion."

— Stephen Hawking

GS3 S&T — ISRO Hackathon, DRDO LRLACM, ZSI species discovery.

"The measure of a civilization is how it treats its weakest members."

— Mahatma Gandhi

GS4 Ethics — Tribal rights, PVTG welfare, forest diversion case study.

"India's foreign policy is not defined by what we refuse to do but by what we choose to build."

— Dr. S. Jaishankar, EAM

GS2 IR — Strategic autonomy, G7, Chabahar, India-US trade deal.

Key Data — 20 June 2026

Indicator	Value	GS Tag
RBI Repo Rate	5.25% — Unchanged; Neutral	GS3
RBI Dividend (FY26)	₹2.87 lakh crore (record)	GS3
India GDP Growth (FY27)	6.6% (revised from 6.9%)	GS3
CPI Inflation (FY27)	5.1% (revised from 4.6%)	GS3
Crude Oil (post-deal)	Below \$84/barrel (was \$100+)	GS3
India Bioeconomy (2026)	\$190 billion → \$300B by 2030	GS3
Extreme Weather Days (2025)	99% of days had ≥1 event	GS3
Planetary Boundaries Breached	7 of 9 (ocean acidification = 7th)	GS3
Forest Diverted (FY21–25)	~97,000 ha for non-forest use	GS3
India Space Startups (2026)	400+ registered entities	GS3
WEF Energy Transition Index	India: Rank 70 (2026)	GS3
RBI Balance Sheet (Mar 2026)	₹91.97 lakh crore (+20.6% YoY)	GS3

Key Articles, Acts & Committees

Article/Act/Committee	Key Provision	Today's Link
Article 326	Universal adult suffrage (18+) for Lok Sabha & State Assemblies	SIR electoral roll exclusion; SC direction
Article 324	ECI superintendence over electoral rolls and elections	ECI authority for Special Intensive Revision
Bimal Jalan Committee (2019)	RBI ECF; CRB at 5.5–6.5% of balance sheet	₹2.87L crore RBI dividend record
Indian Space Policy 2023	Private sector access to launch vehicles; NSIL as commercial arm	ISRO Hackathon; 400+ space startups
BioE3 Policy 2024	High-performance biomanufacturing — biofuels, biopharma, biosolutions	India bioeconomy at \$190 billion
Wildlife Protection Act 1972	Schedule I = highest protection; poaching penalty up to 7 years	Caracal (Schedule I) at Kuno NP
DPDP Act 2023	Data Protection Board; personal data rights; ₹250 crore penalty	Genome India data ethics case study
Puttaswamy Judgment 2017	Right to privacy = Fundamental Right under Art. 21	Genomic data consent ethics (CS-4)
Whistle Blowers Protection Act 2014	Protects public interest disclosures from victimisation	DRDO scientist ethics (CS-2)
61st Constitutional Amendment (1988)	Voting age reduced from 21 to 18	Article 326 MCQ (Q.6) trap option



DIRECT HIT TRACKER

12 High-Probability Topics · UPSC Prelims 2027 · Star Rated

Chabahar Port & INSTC

GS2 · IR

Location, India's strategic interest, sanctions, post-deal revival



RBI MPC

GS3 · ECONOMY

6-member composition, 4±2% mandate, repo rate vs. stance



Planetary Boundaries

GS3 · ENVIRONMENT

9 boundaries, 7 breached, ocean acidification = 7th



Biodiversity Hotspots

GS3 · ENVIRONMENT

4 hotspots, states covered, Indo-Burma = Northeast India



Cruise vs. Ballistic Missiles

GS3 · DEFENCE

Key distinction, LRLACM, BrahMos classification trap



IN-SPACe vs. NSIL

GS3 · S&T

IN-SPACe = regulator; NSIL = commercial arm of ISRO



India-Australia Exercises

GS2 · IR

Pitch Black (Air), AUSINDEX (Naval),
AUSTRALIND (Army)



RBI Economic Capital Framework

GS3 · ECONOMY

Bimal Jalan Cttee, CRB 5.5–6.5%,
surplus transfer mechanism



G7 & India's Partner Status

GS2 · IR

G7 members, India = partner (not
member), 13th consecutive



BioE3 Policy & Bioeconomy

GS3 · S&T-ECONOMY

\$190B, 4 pillars, Genome India, vaccine
leadership



DPDP Act 2023

GS2/GS4

Data Protection Board, consent norms,
₹250 crore penalty



Strait of Hormuz Geography

GS1 · GEOGRAPHY

Iran–Oman (not UAE), 20% global oil,
India energy security



VERIFIED · PART II

Proof of Precision

Every item mapped. Every claim verified.

2

ENVIRONMENT CARDS

10

PLACES MAPPED

4

ETHICS CASES

15

MCQS

6

MAINS QS

5

QUOTES

12

DIRECT HIT TOPICS

Environment

Geography

Ethics GS4

MCQ Practice

Mains GS1

Mains GS2

Mains GS3

Mains GS4

Value Addition

✓ All news from PIB / Ministry / primary government sources

✓ All topics cross-checked against 25-year UPSC question bank

✓ Mains Questions: exactly 2 GS1 + 2 GS2/GS3 + 2 GS4

✓ Value Addition: exactly 5 quotes + 1 data table + 1 acts/committees table

✓ Direct Hit Tracker: 12 topic boxes with ★ probability stars (NOT a count grid)

✓ Map section: pure CSS gradient + pins only — no img tag, no onerror, no external file dependency; GoDaddy-safe

✓ GoDaddy compliant: no external JS, all CSS in single style block, no script tags, standalone HTML

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48 out of 100 questions in UPSC Prelims 2026 covered in ANTIM ASSURED 100+.

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