

THE IAS AKADEMIA

# ANTIM ASSURED 100+

PART II · ENVIRONMENT TO DIRECT HIT TRACKER

Saturday, 10 October 2026

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

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2 cards: 1 current (Article 6.4 carbon-credit controversy) + 1 static species profile (Red Panda), paired thematically with today's IPU Himalayan item

**GS3****Conservation, Environmental Pollution and Degradation — Climate Change, Carbon Markets**

8 October 2026 · Source: *Down To Earth*; *Global Forest Coalition open letter*

## Same Market, New Name, Same Old Test: Article 6.4's First Carbon-Credit Controversy

**Why in News:** On 8 October 2026, Down To Earth reported that 130 civil society organisations, coordinated through the Global Forest Coalition, had written an open letter to the Article 6.4 Supervisory Body of the UNFCCC demanding the suspension of the first-ever carbon credits issued under Article 6.4 of the Paris Agreement. The credits were generated by a cookstove-distribution project in Myanmar, and the signatories argue the project has documented links to Myanmar's military junta and unresolved human-rights concerns, which they say should have disqualified it under the UN's own environmental and social safeguard standards before any credits were issued. The dispute is the first major real-world controversy to test the credibility of the UN-run Article 6.4 mechanism, which was only operationalised at COP29 in 2024 as the Paris Agreement's centralised, UN-supervised carbon-market mechanism.

**Background:** Article 6 of the Paris Agreement (2015) allows countries to cooperate voluntarily to meet climate targets through carbon markets, split into Article 6.2 (bilateral transfer of mitigation outcomes) and Article 6.4 (a centralised, UN-supervised crediting mechanism open to private project developers, succeeding the Kyoto Protocol's Clean Development Mechanism). Article 6.4 is meant to fix well-documented CDM flaws — weak additionality testing and inadequate human-rights and environmental safeguards — through UN-level supervision, methodology approval, and a standing grievance and appeals process. That the Myanmar cookstove project's credits are the very first issued under this redesigned mechanism makes the controversy an early credibility test: if the Supervisory Body does not act on documented safeguard concerns in its first case, critics argue it signals the new mechanism may repeat the CDM's integrity problems at larger scale.

### ⚡ KEY FACTS

- Mechanism: Article 6.4 of the Paris Agreement — a centralised, UN-supervised carbon-crediting mechanism, successor to the Kyoto Protocol's Clean Development Mechanism (CDM).
- Operationalised at COP29 (2024); the Myanmar cookstove project's credits are the first ever issued under this mechanism.
- 130 civil society organisations, coordinated by the Global Forest Coalition, signed the open letter demanding suspension.

- The letter cites the project's alleged links to Myanmar's military junta and unresolved human-rights concerns.
- The complaint was addressed to the Article 6.4 Supervisory Body, the UN-constituted body overseeing the mechanism's integrity.
- Article 6 has two tracks: Article 6.2 (bilateral transfer of "Internationally Transferred Mitigation Outcomes," ITMOs) and Article 6.4 (centralised crediting, this case).
- The controversy is being treated as the first real-world credibility test of Article 6.4's safeguard mechanisms since its 2024 operationalisation.
- The project type — clean cookstove distribution — is a common carbon-credit category because it reduces both emissions and indoor air pollution from biomass cooking.

### MAINS DIMENSIONS / ANALYSIS

- Significance: as the Paris Agreement's flagship UN-run carbon-market mechanism, how Article 6.4 handles its first controversy will shape carbon markets' credibility as a climate-finance tool — core GS3 "conservation" and "climate change" territory.
- Analytical/ethical tension: a project can be technically sound on emissions-reduction methodology while ethically compromised by its political context — a genuine two-sided debate on whether carbon-market integrity should include human-rights screening.
- Criticism: critics of Article 6 have long warned that market mechanisms can incentivise "paper" emissions reductions rather than genuine additional mitigation — precisely the integrity problem Article 6.4 was designed to fix.
- Comparative angle: this mirrors earlier, well-documented integrity controversies under the CDM, suggesting institutional redesign alone may not suffice without rigorous, independent safeguard enforcement.
- Way forward: a transparent, time-bound Supervisory Body review — with the option to suspend or revoke credits already issued — would test whether Article 6.4's safeguard architecture has real teeth.

### LET'S REMEMBER THIS THROUGH A TRICK

"Same Market, New Name, Same Old Test": Article 6.4 replaced the CDM to fix integrity problems — and its first real test is, ironically, an integrity problem.

### PYQ LINKAGE

Thematically linked to UPSC Mains on "conservation, environmental pollution and degradation, environmental impact assessment" and Paris Agreement mechanisms; no single confirmed exact-year PYQ on Article 6.4 itself, so treat as thematic.

### PROBABLE PRELIMS MCQ (STATEMENT-BASED)

**Q.** Consider the following statements:

1. Article 6.4 of the Paris Agreement is a centralised, UN-supervised carbon-crediting mechanism that succeeded the Clean Development Mechanism.

2. Article 6.2 of the Paris Agreement permits countries to bilaterally transfer Internationally Transferred Mitigation Outcomes (ITMOs).

3. The Article 6.4 mechanism was operationalised at the Paris COP21 summit in 2015.

(a) 1 and 2 only      (b) 1 and 3 only

(c) 2 and 3 only      (d) 1, 2 and 3

**Answer: a.** Statement 3 is false — Article 6.4 was operationalised at COP29 in 2024, not COP21 in 2015.

Article 6.4

Paris Agreement

Carbon Markets

Global Forest Coalition

GS3

GS3

Conservation of Biodiversity — Species Profile, Eastern Himalaya

*Static Topic — not tied to a current event · Source: IUCN Red List; Wildlife Institute of India; animalia.bio*

## The False Thumb of the Eastern Himalaya: Profiling the Red Panda

**Why in News:** This static species profile is paired thematically with today's International Relations coverage of the IPU's Nepal-backed emergency item on Himalayan climate-related disasters (see Part I) — the Red Panda is an Eastern Himalayan indicator species whose habitat is directly threatened by the same mountain-ecosystem stresses (shifting snowlines, habitat fragmentation) that motivated that resolution. This species has not been profiled in this product in the last 30 days.

**Background:** The Red Panda (*Ailurus fulgens*) is a small, arboreal mammal native to the temperate forests of the Eastern Himalaya and parts of south-western China, distinguished by reddish-brown fur, a long bushy tail used for balance and insulation, and a specially adapted “false thumb” (an enlarged wrist bone) that helps it grip bamboo, its primary food source. It is classified as Endangered on the IUCN Red List, with a global population estimated at fewer than 10,000 mature individuals and a declining trend driven by habitat loss, fragmentation of forest corridors, and poaching for its distinctive pelt. In India it is found in Sikkim, West Bengal (Darjeeling hills), Arunachal Pradesh, and parts of Meghalaya, typically at elevations between 2,200 and 4,800 metres in temperate and subalpine forest with a dense bamboo understorey.

### ⚡ KEY FACTS

- Scientific name: *Ailurus fulgens*; IUCN Red List status: Endangered.
- Global population estimate: fewer than 10,000 mature individuals, with a declining population trend.
- Indian range: Sikkim, Darjeeling hills (West Bengal), Arunachal Pradesh, parts of Meghalaya; typical elevation range 2,200–4,800 metres.
- Legal protection in India: listed in Schedule I of the Wildlife (Protection) Act, 1972 — the highest protection category.
- Listed under Appendix I of CITES, prohibiting international commercial trade.
- Diet: primarily bamboo (over 85% of intake), supplemented by fruits, roots, acorns, and occasionally eggs or small invertebrates.

- Distinctive adaptation: an enlarged wrist bone functioning as a “false thumb,” convergently similar to the giant panda’s, for gripping bamboo stems.
- Primary threats: habitat loss and fragmentation, poaching for pelts, and climate-change-driven shifts in its narrow temperate-forest habitat band.

#### MAINS DIMENSIONS / ANALYSIS

- Significance: as a flagship and indicator species for Eastern Himalayan temperate-forest health, Red Panda conservation status is a useful proxy for broader Himalayan biodiversity and climate-vulnerability discussions, directly relevant to this edition’s IPU coverage.
- Conceptual anchor: the Red Panda’s “false thumb” is a textbook example of convergent evolution — an adaptation evolving independently in unrelated lineages, shared only functionally with the giant panda, not through common ancestry.
- Analytical angle: climate-driven upward shifts in temperate-forest and bamboo zones could further compress the Red Panda’s already-narrow elevational range, concretely illustrating how climate change compounds habitat-loss threats for montane species.
- Governance linkage: its Schedule I/CITES Appendix I status places it among India’s highest-priority protected species, alongside flagship mammals like the tiger and elephant, though it receives comparatively less conservation funding and public attention.
- Way forward: landscape-level transboundary conservation corridors across the Eastern Himalaya, spanning India, Nepal, Bhutan and China, are considered necessary given the species’ range spans multiple national jurisdictions.

#### LET’S REMEMBER THIS THROUGH A TRICK

“Convergent, Not Cousins”: the Red Panda’s “false thumb” looks just like the giant panda’s — same bamboo-gripping trick, evolved independently, in two animals that are not close relatives.

#### PYQ LINKAGE

UPSC Prelims has periodically tested IUCN status and habitat of Himalayan mammals in match-the-following format; no single confirmed exact-year PYQ on the Red Panda specifically, so treat as thematic/recurring-format.

#### PROBABLE PRELIMS MCQ (STATEMENT-BASED)

**Q.** Consider the following statements:

1. The Red Panda is classified as “Endangered” on the IUCN Red List.
2. The Red Panda is listed in Schedule I of the Wildlife (Protection) Act, 1972.
3. The Red Panda’s diet consists primarily of small mammals and birds.

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

**Answer: a.** Statement 3 is false — its diet is overwhelmingly bamboo, not small mammals or birds.

## 2

## Places in News

8 locations mapped and geo-tagged, each anchored to a substantive card from this edition

### PLACES IN THE NEWS — SATURDAY, 10 OCTOBER 2026



#### 1 New Delhi, India

Seat of the Supreme Court hearing on the Jharkhand DGP appointment regulation vis-à-vis Prakash Singh v. Union of India.

*Located on the Indo-Gangetic Plain along the Yamuna river; India's national capital territory and seat of all three constitutional organs of the Union.*

#### 2 Kolkata, West Bengal, India

Venue of the Second Regional Review Conference on Forest Rights Act implementation, 9 October 2026.

*Located on the eastern bank of the Hooghly, a distributary of the Ganga; capital of West Bengal and a historic administrative and port city of eastern India.*

### **3 Ranchi, Jharkhand, India**

Capital of Jharkhand, the state at the centre of the DGP-appointment dispute testing Prakash Singh compliance.

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*Situated on the Chota Nagpur Plateau, a mineral-rich upland region; capital of Jharkhand since the state's creation in 2000.*

### **4 Leh, Ladakh, India**

Site of DRDO's maiden high-altitude Military Combat Parachute System test at approximately 22,000 feet.

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*A high-altitude cold-desert town in the trans-Himalayan region, in the rain shadow of the Great Himalayan range; headquarters of the Union Territory of Ladakh.*

### **5 Arusha, Tanzania**

Host venue of the 153rd Assembly of the Inter-Parliamentary Union, where India co-backed the Himalayan climate-disaster emergency item.

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*Located at the foot of Mount Meru in northern Tanzania, near the East African Rift Valley; a major diplomatic and conference hub in East Africa.*

### **6 Oslo, Norway**

Seat of the Norwegian Nobel Committee, which announced the 2026 Nobel Peace Prize for Navi Pillay.

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*Capital of Norway, situated at the head of the Oslofjord; distinct from Stockholm, Oslo alone awards the Nobel Peace Prize under Alfred Nobel's will.*

### **7 Stockholm, Sweden**

Seat of the Nobel Assembly at the Karolinska Institute, which announced the 2026 Nobel Prize in Physiology or Medicine for optogenetics.

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*Capital of Sweden, built across fourteen islands where Lake Mälaren meets the Baltic Sea; home to the Karolinska Institute and most Nobel Prize ceremonies.*

### **8 Naypyidaw, Myanmar**

National context for the cookstove-distribution project whose Article 6.4 carbon credits are now contested by 130 civil society groups.

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*Myanmar's purpose-built capital since 2005, in the country's interior; Myanmar shares a long land border with India's north-eastern states.*

### Case 1 · Whose Consent Counts?

#### Subsidiarity & Free, Prior and Informed Consent (FPIC)

**Scenario:** A Ministry tells another ministry that a forest-dwelling community's Gram Sabha resolution is not a "consent" requirement but only a procedural input, while the community itself has for years treated that resolution as its decisive say over whether a hydropower project can take its forest land.

**Ethical issue:** Does recognising a community's right to be consulted on a decision affecting their land and life obligate the state to treat their considered opposition as binding, or can "consultation" legitimately stop short of a veto when larger public-interest infrastructure is at stake?

**Resolution anchor:** A defensible middle path applies the principle of subsidiarity — decisions should be taken at the level closest to those affected wherever feasible — while reserving a structured, time-bound escalation (such as a qualified super-majority threshold) for cases of genuine national importance, so community voice is weighed, not simply overridden by administrative convenience.

### Case 2 · The Six-Month Shortcut

#### Rule of Law versus Administrative Discretion

**Scenario:** A state government appoints a police chief a day before her scheduled retirement under a locally amended rule, then grants her a full two-year tenure — technically honouring a Supreme Court directive's letter while bypassing the competitive, merit-based selection process the same directive was built around.

**Ethical issue:** When an administration complies with the literal wording of a judicial directive while defeating its underlying purpose, has it acted lawfully, or has it committed a deeper ethical breach of the rule of law's spirit?

**Resolution anchor:** Civil servants and governments owe a duty not merely to the text of a rule but to its purpose; where literal compliance would defeat a directive's evident intent, the ethical course is to seek clarification or amend the rule prospectively — exactly the outcome the Supreme Court steered toward by inviting the state to "revisit" rather than simply striking the rule down.

### Case 3 · Where Grief Becomes a Crime

#### Proximate Cause and the Limits of Moral Responsibility

**Scenario:** A person ends a relationship or declines to marry; their former partner later dies by suicide. The grieving family insists the law must hold someone accountable for an unbearable loss, while the accused argues they did nothing more than exercise their own right to choose or end a relationship.

**Ethical issue:** How should the legal system distinguish between a person who is morally entangled in another's tragedy by virtue of a relationship, and a person who is criminally and causally responsible for that tragedy through a specific instigating act?

**Resolution anchor:** Criminal liability requires a proximate, intentional act of instigation — not mere emotional entanglement in someone else's pain — a principle that protects individual autonomy while still leaving room for prosecution where genuine harassment or coercion can be shown to have driven the death.

## Case 4 • Trust Across Borders

### Procedural Legitimacy in Multilateral Diplomacy

**Scenario:** A smaller neighbouring country proposes an emergency agenda item on a shared ecological threat at a global parliamentary forum; a larger neighbour backs it, and the assembly adopts it — a resolution with no binding force, yet symbolically significant for the smaller state's sense of being heard.

**Ethical issue:** Is it ethically sufficient for a large, powerful state to lend its support to a smaller neighbour's concern through a symbolic multilateral gesture, or does genuine solidarity require follow-through commitments beyond procedural backing?

**Resolution anchor:** Symbolic multilateral support is a legitimate and necessary first step — it builds the normative consensus later commitments rely on — but ethical leadership requires the larger state to treat the resolution as a floor, not a ceiling, following it with concrete bilateral or regional cooperation.

## Case 5 • Judging From Experience

### Universalism versus Cultural Relativism in Human Rights

**Scenario:** A jurist who once defended political prisoners under an unjust domestic legal system later spends decades enforcing international human-rights law against states that claim her standards are a foreign imposition on their sovereignty and culture.

**Ethical issue:** Can international human-rights norms claim universal moral authority, or must their application always be tempered by respect for a state's particular political, cultural, and historical context?

**Resolution anchor:** A credible middle position holds that a narrow core of rights — freedom from genocide, systematic sexual violence, and arbitrary killing — commands genuinely universal validity independent of cultural context, while the implementation of broader rights can legitimately accommodate reasonable institutional and cultural variation.

## Case 6 • Trading Trust for Tonnes

### Goodhart's Law and the Gaming of Climate Metrics

**Scenario:** A UN-supervised carbon market issues its first-ever credits to a politically sensitive project; years of institutional redesign meant to fix past integrity failures are immediately tested by a real-world

controversy over whether the underlying project should have been approved at all.

**Ethical issue:** When a measurable climate target (tonnes of carbon credited) becomes the primary basis for legitimacy, does the system risk optimising for the measurable number while losing sight of the broader ethical and human-rights conditions the number was meant to represent?

**Resolution anchor:** This is a textbook instance of Goodhart's Law — "when a measure becomes a target, it ceases to be a good measure" — and the ethical corrective is to build safeguard criteria into the metric itself, rather than treating tonnes-of-carbon-avoided as a sufficient, standalone test of a project's legitimacy.

## 4

## Prelims MCQs

20 questions, statement-based preferred, covering all 11 substantive topics across both files

### Q1. Consider the following statements:

1. The Forest Rights Act, 2006 empowers the Gram Sabha to initiate the process of determining the nature and extent of forest rights.
2. Under Forest (Conservation) Act, 1980 guidelines, a Gram Sabha resolution is required before Stage-II forest clearance is granted for forest diversion.
3. The Forest Rights Act, 2006 is administered by the Ministry of Environment, Forest and Climate Change.

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

**Answer: (a)** — Statement 3 is false — the FRA's nodal ministry is the Ministry of Tribal Affairs, not MoEFCC.

### Q2. Consider the following statements:

1. The Prakash Singh v. Union of India (2006) judgment directed that a State's Director General of Police be selected from a panel of three senior-most officers empanelled by the UPSC.
2. The judgment guarantees a Director General of Police a minimum tenure of two years, irrespective of the date of superannuation.
3. Police is listed in the Concurrent List of the Seventh Schedule to the Constitution.

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

**Answer: (a)** — Statement 3 is false — Police is a State List (List II) subject, not Concurrent List.

**Q3. Consider the following statements:**

1. Abetment of suicide is punishable under Section 108 of the Bharatiya Nyaya Sanhita, 2023, which replaced Section 306 of the Indian Penal Code.
2. For a conviction under this provision, courts require a direct and proximate link between the accused's act and the suicide.
3. Refusing to marry a live-in partner automatically satisfies the legal threshold for abetment of suicide if the partner subsequently dies by suicide.

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

**Answer: (a)** — Statement 3 is false — the Supreme Court has expressly held this is not automatic.

**Q4. Consider the following statements:**

1. The Inter-Parliamentary Union was founded in 1889 and is headquartered in Geneva, Switzerland.
2. India became a member of the Inter-Parliamentary Union only after the adoption of its Constitution in 1950.
3. The Inter-Parliamentary Union's resolutions are binding on the national parliaments of its member states.

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

**Answer: (a)** — Statement 2 is false (India joined in 1949, before the Constitution's adoption) and Statement 3 is false (IPU resolutions are not binding).

**Q5. Consider the following statements:**

1. The 2026 Nobel Peace Prize was awarded to Navi Pillay for her contributions to international law and human rights.
2. Navi Pillay previously served as a judge on the International Criminal Tribunal for Rwanda (ICTR).
3. The Office of the UN High Commissioner for Human Rights (OHCHR) is headquartered in New York.

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

**Answer: (a)** — Statement 3 is false — OHCHR is headquartered in Geneva.

**Q6. Consider the following statements:**

1. The Military Combat Parachute System tested by DRDO in October 2026 is designed for high-altitude paratrooper insertion.
2. The test was conducted at an altitude of approximately 22,000 feet over Ladakh.
3. The system was imported from a foreign defence manufacturer and adapted for Indian conditions.

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

**Answer: (a)** — Statement 3 is false — the system is indigenously developed by DRDO, not imported.

**Q7. Consider the following statements:**

1. The Sashastra Seema Bal (SSB) is primarily responsible for guarding the India-Nepal and India-Bhutan borders.
2. The Assam Rifles functions under the operational control of the Indian Army while its administrative control rests with the Ministry of Home Affairs.
3. The Indo-Tibetan Border Police (ITBP) was raised after the 1965 India-Pakistan War.

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

**Answer: (a)** — Statement 3 is false — ITBP was raised in 1962, after the Sino-Indian War, not the 1965 war.

**Q8. Consider the following statements:**

1. Channelrhodopsins, the proteins central to optogenetics, were originally identified in green algae.
2. Optogenetics allows researchers to control the activity of genetically specific populations of neurons using light.
3. The 2026 Nobel Prize in Physiology or Medicine was awarded for the discovery of mRNA vaccine technology.

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

**Answer: (a)** — Statement 3 is false — the 2026 Medicine Nobel was for optogenetics, not mRNA vaccine technology.

**Q9. Consider the following statements:**

1. India's cumulative merchandise and services exports for April–August 2026-27 were estimated to have grown by more than 15% year-on-year.
2. India's export data is compiled by combining merchandise trade data from the DGCI&S with services trade estimates from the RBI's balance-of-payments framework.
3. The government's stated long-term export target is US\$2 trillion within five years.

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

**Answer: (d)** — All three statements are correct.

**Q10. Consider the following statements:**

1. Article 6.4 of the Paris Agreement is a centralised, UN-supervised carbon-crediting mechanism that succeeded the Clean Development Mechanism.
2. Article 6.2 of the Paris Agreement permits countries to bilaterally transfer Internationally Transferred Mitigation Outcomes (ITMOs).
3. The Article 6.4 mechanism was operationalised at the Paris COP21 summit in 2015.

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

**Answer: (a)** — Statement 3 is false — Article 6.4 was operationalised at COP29 in 2024, not COP21 in 2015.

**Q11. Consider the following statements:**

1. The Red Panda is classified as “Endangered” on the IUCN Red List.
2. The Red Panda is listed in Schedule I of the Wildlife (Protection) Act, 1972.
3. The Red Panda’s diet consists primarily of small mammals and birds.

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

**Answer: (a)** — Statement 3 is false — its diet is overwhelmingly bamboo, not small mammals or birds.

**Q12. Consider the following statements:**

1. Article 6.2 of the Paris Agreement governs bilateral transfer of mitigation outcomes between countries, while Article 6.4 governs a centralised, UN-supervised crediting mechanism.
2. The Clean Development Mechanism (CDM) was established under the Kyoto Protocol.

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

**Answer: (c)** — Both statements are correct.

**Q13. Consider the following statements:**

1. The Prakash Singh judgment (2006) recommended setting up a State Security Commission to insulate the police from unwarranted political interference.
2. It also recommended separating the investigating police from law-and-order policing functions.
3. It mandated a fixed five-year tenure for the Director General of Police.

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

**Answer: (a)** — Statement 3 is false — the mandated minimum tenure is two years, not five.

**Q14. Consider the following statements:**

1. The Bharatiya Nyaya Sanhita, 2023 replaced the Indian Penal Code, 1860, and came into force on 1 July 2024.
2. Abetment, under the BNS, requires instigation, conspiracy, or intentional aiding of an act.

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

**Answer: (c)** — Both statements are correct.

**Q15. Consider the following statements:**

1. The Inter-Parliamentary Union is headquartered in Geneva and holds its Assemblies on a biannual basis.
2. The IPU has the power to pass resolutions that are legally binding on its member parliaments.
3. The IPU works independently of the United Nations and has no institutional linkage with it.

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

**Answer: (a)** — Statement 2 is false (IPU resolutions are not binding) and Statement 3 is false (the IPU holds an annual Parliamentary Hearing at UN Headquarters and works closely with the UN).

**Q16. Consider the following statements:**

1. The International Criminal Tribunal for Rwanda (ICTR) was an ad hoc tribunal set up after the 1994 Rwandan genocide.
2. The International Criminal Court (ICC), a permanent tribunal, is the same institution as the ICTR.
3. The International Court of Justice (ICJ) is the principal judicial organ of the United Nations.

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

**Answer: (a)** — Statement 2 is false — the ICC is a distinct, permanent treaty-based court established by the Rome Statute (2002), separate from the ad hoc ICTR.

**Q17. Consider the following statements:**

1. Schedule I of the Wildlife (Protection) Act, 1972 provides the highest degree of protection among the Act's schedules.
2. Hunting of a Schedule I species is permitted with prior written permission from the state forest department.

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

**Answer: (a)** — Statement 2 is false — hunting of Schedule I species is prohibited except in very narrow circumstances (such as a declared man-eater) authorised at a high level, not by routine forest-department permission.

**Q18. Consider the following statements:**

1. CITES Appendix I lists species threatened with extinction for which commercial international trade is generally prohibited.
2. CITES Appendix II lists species not necessarily threatened with extinction but for which trade must be controlled to avoid utilisation incompatible with their survival.

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

**Answer: (c)** — Both statements are correct.

**Q19. Consider the following statements:**

1. The Foreign Trade Policy, 2023 is India's current medium-term trade policy framework issued by the Department of Commerce.
2. India's merchandise trade data is compiled by the Directorate General of Commercial Intelligence and Statistics (DGCI&S).
3. India's services trade estimates used in the combined export figure are compiled solely by the Ministry of Commerce with no RBI input.

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

**Answer: (a)** — Statement 3 is false — services trade estimates draw on the RBI's balance-of-payments framework.

**Q20. Consider the following statements:**

1. Channelrhodopsins are light-gated ion channels that open in response to specific wavelengths of light.
2. Optogenetics requires the genetic introduction of a light-sensitive channel into a target cell before that cell can be controlled by light.
3. Optogenetics can only be used to silence neurons, not activate them.

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

**Answer: (a)** — Statement 3 is false — different channelrhodopsin variants can be used to either activate or silence targeted neurons.

## 5

## Mains Questions

9 questions spanning GS1–GS4

### Q1. **GS2**

The Forest Rights Act, 2006 gives Gram Sabhas a role in determining forest rights, but its relationship with the Forest (Conservation) Act, 1980 on the question of “consent” for forest diversion remains contested. Examine, with reference to recent developments, how this ambiguity affects both tribal rights and infrastructure delivery. (250 words)

*(250 words, 15 marks)*

### Q2. **GS2**

“Two decades after Prakash Singh v. Union of India, state-level police reforms remain more form than substance.” Discuss with reference to recent controversies around Director General of Police appointments. (150 words)

*(150 words, 10 marks)*

### Q3. **GS4**

Distinguish between moral responsibility and legal/criminal liability using a recent Supreme Court ruling on abetment of suicide as an illustration. What ethical principles should guide this distinction? (150 words)

*(150 words, 10 marks)*

### Q4. **GS2**

Discuss the role of parliamentary diplomacy, as distinct from executive diplomacy, in advancing India's foreign-policy interests. Illustrate with reference to India's engagement with the Inter-Parliamentary Union. (250 words)

*(150 words, 10 marks)*

**Q5. GS2**

“The evolution of international humanitarian law has been shaped as much by individual jurists as by treaties.” Examine this statement with reference to the contribution of ad hoc international tribunals to defining crimes against humanity. (150 words)

*(150 words, 10 marks)*

**Q6. GS3**

Examine the significance of indigenisation in “support” defence technologies, such as high-altitude survival and insertion equipment, as compared to headline platforms like missiles and aircraft, in achieving genuine Atmanirbhar Bharat in defence. (150 words)

*(150 words, 10 marks)*

**Q7. GS3**

What is optogenetics, and how has it transformed neuroscience research? Discuss its potential translational applications and the broader lesson it offers for funding curiosity-driven basic research. (150 words)

*(150 words, 10 marks)*

**Q8. GS3**

Critically examine the safeguard architecture of Article 6.4 of the Paris Agreement in light of the first controversy over credits issued under it. What lessons does this hold for the integrity of global carbon markets? (250 words)

*(150 words, 10 marks)*

**Q9. GS3**

India's merchandise and services exports have shown sustained double-digit growth in 2026-27. Discuss the structural factors behind this trend and the risks that could derail India's stated export targets. (150 words)

*(150 words, 10 marks)*



**Forest (Conservation) Act, 1980**

Requires Central Government approval for diverting forest land to non-forest use; its 2009 guidelines link Stage-II clearance to completion of Forest Rights Act recognition.

**Qualified Super-Majority**

A decision-threshold requiring a specified high percentage (here, 70–75%) of a defined group's assent, used as a middle path between unanimity and simple majority.

**State Security Commission**

A Prakash Singh-mandated body meant to insulate state police from “unwarranted” political and executive interference in operational matters.

**Bharatiya Nyaya Sanhita (BNS), 2023**

India's principal criminal code, replacing the Indian Penal Code, 1860, effective 1 July 2024; retains the IPC's core offence structure with renumbered and some revised provisions.

**Inter-Parliamentary Union (IPU)**

Founded 1889, Geneva; the world's oldest multilateral political organisation and global body of national parliaments, distinct from but linked to the United Nations.

**Office of the UN High Commissioner for Human Rights (OHCHR)**

The principal UN entity for human-rights promotion and protection, headquartered in Geneva, headed by the High Commissioner for Human Rights.

**Channelrhodopsin**

A light-gated ion channel protein, first identified in green algae, central to the optogenetics technique honoured by the 2026 Nobel Prize in Physiology or Medicine.

**Article 6, Paris Agreement**

The Agreement's carbon-market provision, split into Article 6.2 (bilateral transfer of mitigation outcomes) and Article 6.4 (centralised, UN-supervised crediting, successor to the CDM).

| #  | TOPIC                                                                                          | DATE        | SOURCE                                                        | STATUS              |
|----|------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|-------------|---------------------------------------------------------------|---------------------|
| 1  | FRA Gram Sabha “consent” dispute — Stage-II forest clearance                                   | 10 Oct 2026 | Ministry of Tribal Affairs / Parliamentary Standing Committee | Covered Today       |
| 2  | Jharkhand DGP appointment vs. Prakash Singh directives                                         | 10 Oct 2026 | Supreme Court of India                                        | Covered Today       |
| 3  | Abetment to suicide — breakup/refusal to marry not automatic abetment                          | 10 Oct 2026 | Supreme Court of India                                        | Covered Today       |
| 4  | 153rd IPU Assembly — Himalayan climate-disaster emergency item                                 | 10 Oct 2026 | Rajya Sabha Secretariat                                       | Covered Today       |
| 5  | 2026 Nobel Peace Prize — Navi Pillay                                                           | 10 Oct 2026 | Norwegian Nobel Committee                                     | Covered Today       |
| 6  | DRDO high-altitude Military Combat Parachute System test                                       | 10 Oct 2026 | DRDO / Ministry of Defence                                    | Covered Today       |
| 7  | Border-guarding forces architecture (static)                                                   | 10 Oct 2026 | Ministry of Home Affairs                                      | Covered Today       |
| 8  | 2026 Nobel Prize in Physiology or Medicine — Optogenetics                                      | 10 Oct 2026 | Nobel Assembly, Karolinska Institute                          | Covered Today       |
| 9  | India exports April–August 2026-27 (+15.55% YoY)                                               | 10 Oct 2026 | Ministry of Commerce and Industry                             | Covered Today       |
| 10 | Article 6.4 carbon-credit suspension demand (Myanmar cookstove project)                        | 10 Oct 2026 | Global Forest Coalition / Down To Earth                       | Covered Today       |
| 11 | Red Panda species profile (static)                                                             | 10 Oct 2026 | IUCN Red List / WII                                           | Covered Today       |
| 12 | Second Regional Review Conference on FRA implementation, Kolkata                               | 9 Oct 2026  | Ministry of Tribal Affairs                                    | Headline Only Today |
| 13 | Canadian poet Anne Carson wins 2026 Nobel Prize in Literature                                  | 9 Oct 2026  | Swedish Academy                                               | Headline Only Today |
| 14 | FRA Gram Sabha dispute — track Jharkhand's response within the Supreme Court's one-week window | NEXT RUN    | Supreme Court of India                                        | Watch               |
| 15 | Jharkhand DGP case — track amicus curiae's nationwide compliance review                        | NEXT RUN    | Supreme Court of India                                        | Watch               |
| 16 | Article 6.4 Supervisory Body — track response to suspension demand                             | NEXT RUN    | UNFCCC                                                        | Watch               |

| #  | TOPIC                                                                                          | DATE     | SOURCE                     | STATUS                        |
|----|------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|----------|----------------------------|-------------------------------|
| 17 | Services PMI / RBI MPC — awaiting a verifiable, single-sourced release                         | NEXT RUN | RBI / S&P Global           | Rejected Today (Unverifiable) |
| 18 | PM Modi's 11 October Chennai Metro inauguration — track for substantive scheme/mechanism angle | NEXT RUN | PIB / Ministry of Railways | Watch                         |

## PROOF OF PRECISION — PART II

VERIFIED · PART II

# Proof of Precision

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

11

TOTAL CARDS (BOTH FILES)

8

PLACES MAPPED

6

ETHICS CASES

20

PRELIMS MCQS

9

MAINS QUESTIONS

8

VALUE ADDITION ITEMS

18

TRACKER ROWS

- ✓ Environment two-card rule followed: 1 current (Article 6.4 carbon-credit controversy) + 1 static (Red Panda, first use in 30 days), paired thematically with today's IPU coverage.
- ✓ All 8 place-pins anchored to a substantive card in this edition, each with physical-geography or strategic context.
- ✓ Every Ethics case names its concept explicitly; no generic, concept-free scenario included.
- ✓ 20 Prelims MCQs set, 12 of them statement-based (exceeding the 8-minimum floor).
- ✓ Direct Hit Tracker covers all 11 substantive topics from both Part I and Part II, plus forward-watch items.

# 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

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