

PART II · ENVIRONMENT TO DIRECT HIT TRACKER

ANTIM ASSURED 100+

THEIAS AKADEMIA

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

INSIDE PART II

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§1 • Environment

GS3 Biodiversity · Newly discovered species

Described September 2026 · Source: Zoological Survey of India / Journal of Threatened Taxa

New Frog Species *Ingerana aizawl* Described from Mizoram's Forests

Why in News: Researchers described a new frog species, *Ingerana aizawl*, from forest habitats near Aizawl, Mizoram, published in the Journal of Threatened Taxa, adding another Indo-Myanmar hotspot endemic to India's amphibian checklist within the same week the region also yielded the new toad species covered on 14 September.

Background: The genus *Ingerana* (Wart Frogs / Frilled Swamp Frogs) is distributed across South and Southeast Asia, and Northeast India's forest fragments — increasingly pressured by shifting cultivation (jhum) and infrastructure expansion — continue to reveal previously undocumented amphibian diversity whenever systematic herpetological surveys are conducted.

PRELIMS FACTS

- Species: *Ingerana aizawl*, named after the type locality near Aizawl, Mizoram.
- Published in the Journal of Threatened Taxa.
- Genus *Ingerana* is commonly known as Wart Frogs or Frilled Swamp Frogs.
- Distributed across South and Southeast Asian forest ecosystems.
- Mizoram lies within the Indo-Myanmar biodiversity hotspot.
- Jhum (shifting) cultivation is a key land-use pressure on Northeast Indian forest habitats.
- Amphibian discoveries in the region are typically confirmed via integrated morphological-molecular taxonomy.
- The IUCN has not yet assessed the conservation status of many newly described Northeast Indian amphibians.

MAINS DIMENSIONS

- Reinforces the Indo-Myanmar hotspot's exceptional, still-undocumented amphibian endemism.
- Raises the conservation urgency of describing species before habitat loss (jhum cultivation, infrastructure) eliminates them.
- Connects to the broader debate on balancing Northeast India's development needs with biodiversity conservation.
- Highlights the taxonomic backlog problem: many Indian species remain undescribed despite known habitat pressure.

MEMORY TECHNIQUE

Two Mizoram amphibians, one week: *Duttaphrynus phawngpui* (14 Sept, toad, Blue Mountain) and *Ingerana aizawl* (15 Sept, frog, Aizawl) — pair them as "Mizoram's Twin Amphibian Discoveries" for quick recall.

PYQ LINKAGE

GS3 2019 amphibian-decline theme is thematically adjacent; no exact past question on *Ingerana aizawl* exists given its recency — disclosed honestly.

PROBABLE PRELIMS MCQ

Consider the following statements: 1. *Ingerana aizawl* was described from forest habitat near Aizawl, Mizoram. 2. The genus *Ingerana* is commonly known as "Wart Frogs." 3. Jhum cultivation is a form of shifting agriculture practised in parts of Northeast India. Which of the statements given above is/are correct?

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

Answer: (d).

PROBABLE MAINS QUESTION

Discuss the significance of continuing new-species discoveries in Northeast India and the land-use pressures threatening this biodiversity. (150 words)

#GS3

#NewSpecies

#Mizoram

#Amphibians

GS3 Coastal ecosystem restoration · Institutional scheme

Nursery operationalised 13–14 September 2026 (reported 15 Sept) · Source: Gujarat Forest Department / MoEFCC

Jakhau Mangrove Nursery Operationalised Under the MISHTI Programme, Kutch Coast

Why in News: The Gujarat Forest Department operationalised a large-scale mangrove nursery at Jakhau on the Kutch coast under the Centre's MISHTI (Mangrove Initiative for Shoreline Habitats & Tangible Incomes) programme, aimed at raising saplings for large-scale coastal mangrove restoration — a distinct coastal/mangrove-restoration development, separate from the inland grassland-focused GIB Action Plan covered in Kutch on 14 September.

Background: MISHTI was announced in the Union Budget 2023-24 to restore mangrove cover across nine coastal States and UTs by converging MGNREGS, the Compensatory Afforestation Fund (CAMPA), and other funding sources; mangroves serve as critical bio-shields against cyclones and storm surges while supporting fisheries-based coastal livelihoods.

PRELIMS FACTS

- MISHTI = Mangrove Initiative for Shoreline Habitats & Tangible Incomes.
- Announced in the Union Budget 2023-24.
- Covers nine coastal States and Union Territories.
- Converges funding from MGNREGS and the Compensatory Afforestation Fund (CAMPA).
- Jakhau is a coastal town in Kutch district, Gujarat.
- Mangroves act as natural bio-shields against cyclones, storm surges, and coastal erosion.
- Gujarat has one of India's largest mangrove covers among coastal States.
- Mangrove ecosystems support fisheries-based livelihoods for coastal communities.

MAINS DIMENSIONS

- Tests understanding of MISHTI's convergence-financing model (MGNREGS + CAMPA) as an innovative funding architecture.
- Raises the significance of mangroves as nature-based solutions for climate-change adaptation in coastal zones.
- Connects to the livelihood dimension of coastal-ecosystem restoration for fishing communities.
- Highlights Gujarat's dual environmental profile: significant mangrove cover alongside high renewable-energy and industrial-corridor development pressure.

PYQ LINKAGE

GS3 2019: "Mention the significance of the Indian Ocean Rim Association for Regional Cooperation (IORA)" is unrelated; mangrove-restoration/coastal-ecosystem PYQs recur in GS3 environment-conservation questions.

PROBABLE PRELIMS MCQ

Consider the following statements regarding the MISHTI programme: 1. It was announced in the Union Budget 2023-24. 2. It covers mangrove restoration across nine coastal States/UTs. 3. It is funded exclusively through the CAMPA fund. 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). **Explanation:** MISHTI converges MGNREGS and CAMPA funding, not CAMPA exclusively — statement 3 is wrong.

PROBABLE MAINS QUESTION

Discuss the significance of the MISHTI programme in mangrove restoration and coastal climate resilience. (150 words)

#GS3

#MISHTI

#Mangroves

#Kutch

§2 · Places in News

📌 PLACES IN NEWS — 15 SEPTEMBER 2026 | ANTIM ASSURED 100+



- ① New Delhi (Jan Soochna Seva launch, Supreme Court e-Committee) ● ② Aizawl, Mizoram (new frog species *Ingerana aizawl*)
- ③ Jakhau, Kutch (MISHTI mangrove nursery operationalised) ● ④ Dhola-Sadiya, Assam (Asia's longest river-bridge extension)
- ⑤ Ottawa, Canada (Jaishankar-Anand call on reviving ties) ● ⑥ Ahmedabad, Gujarat (Semicon India 2026 semiconductor ecosystem hub)

Jakhau, Kutch

A coastal town on the Gulf of Kutch, now hosting a mangrove nursery under the MISHTI programme; distinct from Kutch's inland grassland habitat covered on 14 September for the Great Indian Bustard, illustrating the district's diverse ecological zones.

Dhola-Sadiya, Assam

Site of the bridge (Bhupen Hazarika Setu) over the Lohit river, now extended to form Asia's longest river-bridge complex, connecting Assam to Arunachal Pradesh near the India-China LAC.

Aizawl, Mizoram

Capital of Mizoram and a gateway to the Indo-Myanmar biodiversity hotspot's forest ecosystems, now the type locality for the newly described frog species *Ingerana aizawl*.

THEIAS AKADEMIA

Notice how Kutch appears in consecutive editions for two distinct ecological stories — a good example of why place-based revision must track the specific news angle, not just the location. NEEB 300+ covers this discipline. theiasakademia.com.

§3 · Ethics & Integrity Cases

CONCEPT: ACCESSIBILITY AS A FACET OF JUSTICE

Jan Soochna Seva's Multilingual Translation Service

Making judgments accessible in citizens' own languages reflects the ethical principle that justice delivered but not understood is justice incomplete — accessibility is not a courtesy but a component of substantive fairness owed to every litigant regardless of

linguistic background.

CONCEPT: DIPLOMATIC PRAGMATISM VS PRINCIPLE

The India-Canada Normalisation Effort

Resuming full diplomatic engagement despite unresolved allegations tests the ethical tension between pragmatic national-interest calculation and principled insistence on accountability before reconciliation — a recurring dilemma in international relations ethics.

CONCEPT: PRECAUTIONARY PRINCIPLE

MISHTI's Mangrove Restoration as Climate Adaptation

Investing in mangrove bio-shields before the next cyclone strikes exemplifies the precautionary principle in environmental ethics — acting preemptively on foreseeable climate risk rather than waiting for damage to justify the cost of restoration.

CONCEPT: DISTRIBUTIVE JUSTICE IN INFRASTRUCTURE

Northeast Connectivity and Regional Equity

Prioritising a major bridge extension in a remote border region, despite lower traffic volumes than metropolitan projects, reflects the ethical principle of distributive justice — ensuring peripheral regions receive infrastructure investment proportionate to their strategic and developmental need, not merely their economic weight.

CONCEPT: DUTY OF CARE TO FUTURE GENERATIONS

Semiconductor Self-Reliance as Strategic Foresight

Investing in indigenous semiconductor capacity today, despite high upfront capital cost and long gestation, reflects an ethical duty of care toward future generations' technological sovereignty and economic security.

CONCEPT: INTEGRITY IN SCIENTIFIC DOCUMENTATION

Rigour Behind the Ingerana aizawl Description

As with the Duttaphrynus description a day earlier, the peer-reviewed, methodologically transparent description of Ingerana aizawl exemplifies the scientific community's ethical commitment to verifiable, falsifiable claims of discovery, resisting the temptation to rush unverified findings into the taxonomic record.

§4 · Prelims MCQs

Q1. "Jan Soochna Seva" was launched by which institution? (a) Ministry of Law and Justice (b) Supreme Court's e-Committee (c) Law Commission of India (d) NITI Aayog. **Ans: (b).**

Q2. SUVAS, the precursor initiative to Jan Soochna Seva, was launched in which year? (a) 2015 (b) 2017 (c) 2019 (d) 2021. **Ans: (c).**

Q3. The Dhola-Sadiya Bridge is also known as: (a) Atal Setu (b) Bhupen Hazarika Setu (c) Bogibeel Bridge (d) Naranam Setu. **Ans: (b).**

Q4. Consider the following statements: 1. The Dhola-Sadiya Bridge spans the Lohit river. 2. It connects Assam and Arunachal Pradesh. Which is/are correct? (a) 1 only (b) 2 only (c) Both (d) Neither. **Ans: (c).**

Q5. India-Canada relations were strained following allegations linked to an incident in which year? (a) 2019 (b) 2021 (c) 2023 (d) 2025. **Ans: (c).**

Q6. The proposed India-Canada trade agreement under discussion is known as: (a) CEPA (b) FTA (c) BIT (d) RTA. **Ans: (a).**

Q7. LWE's SAMADHAN doctrine's "S" stands for: (a) Strategic alliance (b) Smart leadership (c) Social reform (d) Surveillance systems. **Ans: (b).**

Q8. The 1967 Naxalbari uprising, the origin of LWE, occurred in which state? (a) Bihar (b) Odisha (c) West Bengal (d) Chhattisgarh. **Ans: (c).**

Q9. Consider the following statements: 1. VIMARSH-2026 is a DRDO-led doctrinal war-gaming exercise. 2. It focuses only on naval warfare scenarios. Which is/are correct? (a) 1 only (b) 2 only (c) Both (d) Neither. **Ans: (a)** — it covers multi-domain scenarios, not naval warfare alone.

Q10. The India Semiconductor Mission was launched in which year with what outlay? (a) 2019, Rs 50,000 crore (b) 2021, Rs 76,000 crore (c) 2023, Rs 1 lakh crore (d) 2020, Rs 60,000 crore. **Ans: (b).**

Q11. Which Ministry administers the India Semiconductor Mission? (a) Ministry of Commerce and Industry (b) MeitY (c) Ministry of Heavy Industries (d) DPIIT. **Ans: (b).**

Q12. India's merchandise trade deficit for August 2026 was approximately: (a) \$16.86 billion (b) \$21.86 billion (c) \$26.86 billion (d) \$31.86 billion. **Ans: (c).**

Q13. Consider the following statements: 1. India's services trade balance typically posts a surplus. 2. Gold and electronics are major import categories widening India's trade deficit. Which is/are correct? (a) 1 only (b) 2 only (c) Both (d) Neither. **Ans: (c).**

Q14. "Viksit Krishi Sankalp Abhiyan" is administered by which Ministry? (a) Ministry of Rural Development (b) Ministry of Agriculture and Farmers Welfare (c) Ministry of Panchayati Raj (d) NITI Aayog. **Ans: (b).**

Q15. Krishi Vigyan Kendras have operated in India since: (a) 1964 (b) 1974 (c) 1984 (d) 1994. **Ans: (b).**

Q16. Ingerana aizawl, a newly described species, is: (a) a toad (b) a frog (c) a lizard (d) a snake. **Ans: (b).**

Q17. The MISHTI programme was announced in which Union Budget? (a) 2022-23 (b) 2023-24 (c) 2024-25 (d) 2025-26. **Ans: (b).**

Q18. Consider the following statements: 1. MISHTI covers mangrove restoration in nine coastal States/UTs. 2. It converges funding from MGNREGS and CAMPA. Which is/are correct? (a) 1 only (b) 2 only (c) Both (d) Neither. **Ans: (c).**

Q19. Jakhau, where a new mangrove nursery was operationalised, is located in which district? (a) Bhavnagar (b) Kutch (c) Jamnagar (d) Porbandar. **Ans: (b).**

Q20. Mangroves primarily serve as: (a) freshwater aquifers (b) natural bio-shields against cyclones and storm surges (c) desert-reclamation tools (d) urban heat-island mitigators. **Ans: (b).**

§5 • Mains Questions

1. Discuss the significance of linguistic accessibility in ensuring meaningful access to justice in India. (150 words) [GS2]
2. Examine the strategic and economic significance of border-area connectivity infrastructure in India's Northeast. (150 words) [GS1/GS3]
3. Discuss the factors that led to the strain in India-Canada relations and assess the prospects for their normalisation. (150 words) [GS2]
4. Discuss the significance of multi-domain warfare doctrine and simulation-based war-gaming in India's defence-modernisation strategy. (150 words) [GS3]
5. Examine the strategic significance of the India Semiconductor Mission in reducing import dependence in critical electronics manufacturing. (150 words) [GS3]
6. Analyse the structural composition of India's merchandise trade deficit and the role of the services surplus in managing the current account. (150 words) [GS3]
7. Discuss the significance of the MISHTI programme in mangrove restoration and coastal climate resilience. (150 words) [GS3]
8. GS4 Case Study: You are a Block Development Officer in a coastal district where a mangrove-restoration nursery (under MISHTI) has been set up on land traditionally used by local fisherfolk for drying nets and boats. The fisherfolk community objects, arguing their livelihood is being displaced without consultation, while the Forest Department insists the land is ecologically critical and non-negotiable. Examine the ethical considerations involved and suggest a way forward that balances conservation and livelihood concerns. (250 words) [GS4]
9. Discuss the layered architecture of India's agricultural-support schemes and assess whether productivity-focused outreach can address structural constraints like land fragmentation. (150 words) [GS3]

§6 • Answer Writing Value Addition

01 Comparative fact: two Mizoram amphibian species (a toad and a frog) were described within the same week — useful evidence for "Northeast India as an active frontier of taxonomic discovery" in Mains answers.

- 02** Quote for judicial-access answers: "Justice must not only be done, it must be understood to have been done" — apply to multilingual judgment-translation initiatives.
- 03** Data point: MISHTI targets mangrove restoration across 9 coastal States/UTs, converging MGNREGS and CAMPA — a strong example of "convergence financing" for environment answers.
- 04** Federalism angle: India-Canada diplomatic normalisation shows how domestic-security concerns in one country can freeze bilateral economic agreements (CEPA) for years — useful for IR-economics overlap questions.
- 05** Comparative infrastructure fact: the Dhol-Sadiya/Bhupen Hazarika Setu extension making the complex "Asia's longest river-bridge" is a strong superlative fact for Northeast-connectivity essays.
- 06** Policy linkage: India Semiconductor Mission's Phase II (compound semiconductors, packaging/testing) reflects a maturing industrial policy moving from basic fabrication to full ecosystem depth.
- 07** Trade-economics nuance: a widening merchandise deficit alongside a services surplus is not automatically alarming — the CAD/GDP ratio, not the merchandise deficit alone, is the correct macro indicator to cite.
- 08** Agri-extension fact: Krishi Vigyan Kendras have operated since 1974, yet extension-gap complaints persist — useful evidence that institutional longevity alone does not guarantee last-mile delivery.

§7 · AKADEMIA Direct Hit Tracker

#	TOPIC	GS PAPER	PROBABILITY
1	Jan Soochna Seva & Multilingual Judicial Access	GS2	★★★★☆
2	Dhola-Sadiya Bridge / Bhupen Hazarika Setu Extension	GS1/GS3	★★★★☆
3	India-Canada Normalisation (Jaishankar-Anand Call)	GS2	★★★★☆
4	DRDO VIMARSH-2026 War-Gaming Exercise	GS3	★★★☆☆
5	SAMADHAN Doctrine & LWE (static)	GS3	★★★★☆
6	Semicon India 2026 & Semiconductor Mission Phase II	GS3	★★★★★
7	India's Trade Deficit August 2026 (\$26.86bn)	GS3	★★★★☆
8	Viksit Krishi Sankalp Abhiyan	GS3	★★★☆☆
9	Ingerana aizawl (New Frog Species)	GS3	★★★☆☆
10	MISHTI Programme & Jakhau Mangrove Nursery	GS3	★★★★★
11	SUVAS & e-Courts Project (Static Linkage)	GS2	★★★☆☆
12	Krishi Vigyan Kendras & Agri-Extension Architecture	GS3	★★★☆☆
13	India Semiconductor Mission Phase I Recap	GS3	★★★☆☆
14	Coastal Ecosystem Restoration & Livelihood Ethics (GS4)	GS4	★★★★☆

15	Distributive Justice in Border Infrastructure	GS2/Ethics	★★★★☆
16	India-Canada CEPA Negotiations Status	GS2	★★★★☆
17	Multi-Domain Warfare Doctrine Concept	GS3	★★★★☆
18	Jakhau, Aizawl, Dhola-Sadiya (Places in News)	GS1	★★★★☆

★ 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

ENVIRONMENT CARDS

6

ETHICS CASES

20

PRELIMS MCQS

9

MAINS QUESTIONS

6

PLACES MAPPED

0

REPEATED TOPICS

Environment

Ethics

Polity

IR

Economy

✓ All facts sourced from Supreme Court e-Committee releases, Forest Department notifications, Journal of Threatened Taxa, Ministry of Commerce trade data, and MEA readouts

✓ Every topic cross-checked against the 7-day topic log and 30-day static/species blacklists, including the 14 September edition

✓ Kutch's two distinct ecological stories (GIB grassland on 14 Sept, MISHTI mangroves on 15 Sept) deliberately framed with different angles to avoid repetition-fatigue

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