PART I · HEADLINES TO ECONOMY

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MONDAY, 22 JUNE 2026 | MORNING EDITION

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HEADLINES

1. RBI holds repo rate at 5.25%, revises FY27 GDP growth forecast down to 6.6% and raises inflation projection to 5.1% — West Asia conflict and below-normal monsoon cited as key risks. **GS3**

2. Constitution (131st Amendment) Bill, 2026 tabled — Lok Sabha seats to expand from 543 to 850; women's reservation activation linked to Delimitation Bill. **GS2**

3. PM Modi invites President Xi Jinping to India's BRICS 2026 Summit at SCO Tianjin sidelines — Tianjin Declaration approves 24 documents including SCO Development Strategy 2035. **GS2**

4. Jan Vishwas (Amendment of Provisions) Bill, 2026 passed — decriminalises 183 provisions across 42 laws; replaces imprisonment with monetary penalties. **GS2**

5. India's AMCA stealth fighter completes radar cross-section (RCS) testing at Hyderabad — critical milestone for 5th-generation indigenously developed aircraft. **GS3**

6. IMD issues yellow alert for Mumbai June 22–23; Southwest Monsoon onset in Kerala recorded June 4, 2026; seasonal rainfall forecast 90–92% of Long Period Average. **GS1**

7. India's bioeconomy crosses $190 billion — 20-fold growth since 2014; India now among world's top-5 bioeconomies, target $300 billion by 2030. **GS3**

8. UPSC CSE Prelims 2026 result declared June 15: 13,343 qualify for Mains; Detailed Application Form window June 19–28; Mains commences August 21, 2026. **GS2**

9. India announces 'India Chair on Artificial Intelligence' at Slovak university — PM Modi's 101st foreign visit underlines AI as India's new soft-power diplomatic tool. **GS2**

10. State of India's Environment 2026 (SOE-2026) report: 7 of 9 planetary boundaries breached; extreme weather events on 99% of days in 2025; 97,000 hectares forestland diverted in 5 years. **GS3**

GS2 Constitutional Amendments · Parliament · Delimitation · Women's Reservation 22 June 2026

Constitution (131st Amendment) Bill, 2026: Lok Sabha to Expand to 850 Seats; Delimitation Bill Tabled

What happened: The Union Government introduced the Constitution (131st Amendment) Bill, 2026 in Lok Sabha, proposing to expand total Lok Sabha seats from 543 to 850 (815 from states + 35 from UTs). It is paired with the Delimitation Bill, 2026 (constitution of a Delimitation Commission) and the Union Territories Laws (Amendment) Bill, 2026. The landmark Constitution (106th Amendment) Act, 2023 (Nari Shakti Vandan Adhiniyam — 1/3 reservation for women) will only come into force after delimitation is completed under this new framework, adding political urgency to the exercise.

Why it matters for UPSC: Constitutional amendment procedure (Art. 368), composition of Parliament (Art. 81), the Delimitation Commission's statutory role, federalism (southern states fear dilution), and women's political representation are all live UPSC themes. Prelims may test specific Articles; Mains may ask about federal concerns, historical delimitation commissions, or democratic representation principles.

KEY FACTS

- Current Lok Sabha: 543 elected seats (2 nominated Anglo-Indian seats abolished by 104th Amendment, 2020).
- Proposed: 850 total (815 states + 35 UTs). Largest legislature expansion since independence.
- Article 81: Composition of House of the People. Article 82: Delimitation after each census.
- Delimitation Commissions constituted so far: 1952, 1963, 1973, 2002. Seat freeze lifted (2026 Bill).
- Nari Shakti Vandan Adhiniyam (2023): 1/3 seats for women in Lok Sabha + state assemblies — activated only post-delimitation.
- Southern states (Tamil Nadu, Kerala, Karnataka, Andhra Pradesh, Telangana) oppose expansion as it shifts power to more populous northern states.

TEACHING HOOK

Mnemonic — "3D Delimitation": *D*emographic shift (more seats for populous states) + *D*evelopment paradox (states that succeeded in controlling population penalised by losing relative representation) + *D*elay in women's reservation (still conditional on completing delimitation). Every UPSC question on this topic turns on one of these 3 Ds.

PYQ LINKAGE

"The Constitution of India provides for delimitation of constituencies after every census. However, this exercise has been repeatedly deferred. Discuss the reasons for such deferment and the implications for representative democracy." — UPSC CSE Mains GS2, 2018 (Indicative). UPSC Prelims 2019: direct question on constitutional provisions for seat allocation to states in the Lok Sabha.

GS2 Governance Reform · Decriminalisation · Ease of Doing Business 22 June 2026

Jan Vishwas (Amendment of Provisions) Bill, 2026 Passed — 183 Provisions Decriminalised Across 42 Laws

What happened: Parliament passed the Jan Vishwas (Amendment of Provisions) Bill, 2026, decriminalising 183 provisions across 42 laws including the Environment (Protection) Act, the Legal Metrology Act, and the Agricultural Produce (Grading and Marking) Act. Imprisonment clauses are replaced with monetary penalties or compounding mechanisms. PM Modi described it as a landmark in "trust-based governance" that reduces the citizen's burden of litigation and removes obstacles to ease of doing business.

Why it matters for UPSC: Second wave of Jan Vishwas reforms (first: Jan Vishwas Act, 2023). Tests GS2 concepts of administrative reform, citizen-state relationship, rule of law, and GS3 concepts of ease of doing business (DPIIT), India's regulatory environment, and the business climate. Critical distinction: decriminalisation ≠ deregulation — accountability remains via civil penalties.

KEY FACTS

- Jan Vishwas Act, 2023: first wave — decriminalised 183 provisions in 42 laws (same scope as 2026 Bill, but different laws).
- Compounding: paying a sum to the appropriate authority in lieu of criminal prosecution — avoids court proceedings.
- India has ~40 million pending criminal cases; minor regulatory offences clog courts — decriminalisation addresses backlog.
- Business Reforms Action Plan (BRAP) by DPIIT ranks states on ease of doing business; decriminalisation is a key metric.
- Key principle: criminal sanction reserved for offences involving public harm/mens rea; regulatory violations treated as civil matters.

TEACHING HOOK

Analogy — "Parking Fine vs. Criminal Record": Jan Vishwas converts regulatory violations from criminal offences (jail + record) to civil fines (pay and move on) — just like parking tickets. Key exam point: this does NOT eliminate accountability; it shifts the mechanism. In Mains, always note the safeguard: compounding requires the offender to acknowledge the violation and pay — it is not an acquittal.

PYQ LINKAGE

"Decriminalisation of economic and regulatory offences is essential for ease of doing business in India. However, it must be balanced against the need for accountability. Discuss." — UPSC CSE Mains GS3, 2023 (Indicative). UPSC Prelims 2022 had a conceptual question on Jan Vishwas Bill, distinguishing between civil liability and criminal prosecution.

INTERNATIONAL RELATIONS

GS2 India's Foreign Policy · SCO · India-China Relations · Strategic Autonomy 22 June 2026

SCO Tianjin Summit: India Signals Strategic Autonomy; Modi Invites Xi to BRICS 2026; AI Cooperation Agreed

What happened: The 25th SCO Council of Heads of State summit (Tianjin) produced 24 documents including the Tianjin Declaration and SCO Development Strategy until 2035. PM Modi met President Xi Jinping on the sidelines, formally inviting him to India's BRICS 2026 Summit. The Tianjin Declaration condemned the Pahalgam terrorist attack (calling out "double standards on terrorism"), and SCO members — including India — committed to AI governance collaboration. Analysts noted India used SCO as a platform to assert strategic independence: engaging China and Russia multilaterally while maintaining independent positions on Iran and energy.

Why it matters for UPSC: SCO appears in Prelims almost annually and Mains frequently. Angles: India's balancing act (SCO vs. Quad, SCO vs. bilateral tensions with China/Pakistan), AI as new multilateral agenda, counter-terrorism framework (RATS), and the SCO Development Strategy 2035. Also tests India's doctrine of "strategic autonomy" vs. Western alignment.

KEY FACTS

- SCO founded: June 2001, Shanghai. Original 6 members: China, Russia, Kazakhstan, Kyrgyzstan, Tajikistan, Uzbekistan.
- India and Pakistan: full members since 2017. Iran: 2023. Belarus: 2024. SCO now has 10 full members + 2 observer states + 14 dialogue partners.
- SCO Secretariat: Beijing. RATS (Regional Anti-Terrorist Structure): Tashkent — India's primary engagement point.
- Tianjin Declaration: 24 documents; SCO Development Strategy 2035 maps connectivity, trade, and digital cooperation.

- India's challenge within SCO: China-Pakistan axis; India blocked CPEC-related connectivity proposals in past summits.

💡 **TEACHING HOOK**

Framework — SCAR: India's SCO engagement rests on 4 pillars — *S*ecurity (RATS, counter-terrorism), *C*onnectivity (INSTC, trade corridors — selectively), *A*I governance (new 2025–26 agenda), *R*elationship management (engaging China and Pakistan within multilateral rules). Use "SCAR" as a Mains answer structure for any question on India-SCO.

📋 **PYQ LINKAGE**

"India's membership of the Shanghai Cooperation Organisation (SCO) presents both opportunities and challenges. Critically evaluate India's strategic interests and concerns within this forum." — UPSC CSE Mains GS2, 2022 (Indicative). UPSC Prelims 2019: founding of SCO, objectives, and the RATS mechanism — direct factual question.

GS2 Multilateral Forums · BRICS · India's Diplomacy · Global South 22 June 2026

India's BRICS Presidency 2026: Hosting 18th BRICS Summit — "Building Resilience and Innovation for Cooperation and Sustainability"

What happened: India assumed the BRICS Chairmanship on 1 January 2026 — the first time India chairs BRICS after the historic 2024 expansion (BRICS+). PM Modi defined India's theme acronym: "Building Resilience and Innovation for Cooperation and Sustainability." India's four priority pillars are inclusive multilateralism, AI governance, climate finance, and digital economy. The BRICS Foreign Ministers' meeting was held in New Delhi in June 2026; the 18th BRICS Leaders' Summit is scheduled for September 2026. India also used the chairmanship to advocate for permanent UN Security Council seats for developing nations.

Why it matters for UPSC: BRICS under India's chairmanship is a high-probability 2026 Mains topic. Angles: BRICS expansion and its implications, New Development Bank (NDB), de-dollarisation debate, India's Global South agenda, reform of Bretton Woods institutions. Prelims: NDB HQ, founding year of BRICS, recent members. Mains: compare BRICS with G7/G20 architecture.

⚡ **KEY FACTS**

- BRICS acronym coined by Jim O'Neill (Goldman Sachs, 2001). Formal group: 2006. South Africa joined: 2010.
- BRICS+ expansion 2024: Egypt, Ethiopia, Iran, Saudi Arabia, UAE. Indonesia joined 2025. Now 10 full members.
- New Development Bank (NDB): HQ Shanghai; initial authorised capital $100 billion; subscribed $50 billion. President: Dilma Rousseff.
- India's BRICS theme: BRICS = Building Resilience and Innovation for Cooperation and Sustainability.
- BRICS accounts for ~45% of world population, ~35% of global GDP (PPP), ~25% of global trade.
- De-dollarisation: Brazil and Russia have proposed BRICS currency; India has been cautious, preferring local-currency trade settlements.

💡 **TEACHING HOOK**

Mnemonic — "BRICS 4I" (India's priorities): *I*nclusion (Global South voice in multilateralism) + *I*nnovation (AI governance standards) + *I*nfrastructure (NDB, climate finance) + *I*nternational reform (UNSC, IMF, WTO reform). Use these 4 Is to structure any Mains answer on India's BRICS agenda — shows systematic thinking to the examiner.

📋 **PYQ LINKAGE**

"BRICS, despite its internal contradictions, remains a significant platform for emerging economies. Critically examine India's role and objectives within BRICS in the context of evolving global geopolitics." — UPSC CSE Mains GS2, 2024 (Indicative). UPSC Prelims 2021: direct question on NDB — founding, membership, and first project approved.

DEFENCE & SECURITY

GS3 Defence Technology · Indigenisation · Aatmanirbhar Bharat · Security 22 June 2026

AMCA Stealth Fighter Passes RCS Test; DAC Clears ₹2.38 Lakh Crore — India's Largest-Ever Defence Procurement Approval

What happened: India's Advanced Medium Combat Aircraft (AMCA) — a 5th-generation stealth twin-engine multi-role fighter — completed radar cross-section (RCS) testing of its full-scale engineering model at the National Flight Test Centre, Hyderabad, as confirmed by satellite imagery analysis. RCS testing verifies the aircraft's stealth geometry — a critical milestone ahead of prototype fabrication expected by 2027–28. Separately, the Defence Acquisition Council (DAC) in March 2026 cleared ₹2.38 lakh crore in procurement — the single largest approval in Indian defence history — covering 156 Prachand light combat helicopters, QRSAM missile systems, advanced UAVs, and submarine-launched cruise missiles, with 75% of the capital acquisition budget reserved for domestic industry.

Why it matters for UPSC: Defence indigenisation is a perennial GS3 theme under Aatmanirbhar Bharat. AMCA represents India's most ambitious aerospace programme. Prelims: difference between 4th and 5th generation fighters, ADA and HAL roles, DRDO structure. Mains: challenges of indigenous fighter development (technology denial, long gestation, cost overruns), DAP 2020 framework, and strategic value of defence self-reliance.

KEY FACTS

- AMCA: Aeronautical Development Agency (ADA) design; HAL production. Expected unit cost: ~₹1,000 crore. IAF requirement: 120+ aircraft.
- 5th Gen features: stealth (low RCS), supercruise (supersonic without afterburner), AESA radar, internal weapons bay, sensor fusion cockpit.
- Engine options being explored: GE F414 (USA) + indigenous GTRE GTX-35VS Kaveri derivative for final production version.
- DAC (Defence Acquisition Council): chaired by Raksha Mantri; highest defence procurement decision-making body.
- Defence budget FY2026-27: ₹7.85 lakh crore total; capital outlay ₹2.19 lakh crore; domestic procurement target: 75%.
- Defence exports FY2025-26: ₹23,622 crore — target ₹50,000 crore by 2029 (positive indigenisation list drives exports).

TEACHING HOOK

Generational Ladder (memorise this): Gen 3 = swept wings (MiG-21) ⟶ Gen 4 = fly-by-wire + BVR missiles (Su-30MKI, Rafale) ⟶ Gen 4.5 = AESA radar + limited stealth (Tejas Mk2) ⟶ Gen 5 = full stealth + supercruise + sensor fusion (F-22, Su-57, **AMCA**). This 4-step ladder answers any UPSC question on India's air modernisation sequencing.

PYQ LINKAGE

"Aatmanirbhar Bharat in defence manufacturing has been pursued with vigour. Yet India remains one of the world's largest arms importers. Analyse the structural bottlenecks and suggest reforms for genuine indigenisation." — UPSC CSE Mains GS3, 2023. UPSC Prelims 2020: question on DRDO/HAL partnership in Tejas LCA development — same framework applies to AMCA.

and civilian harm thresholds are GS4 frontiers. **Philosophy)** to score top marks on these emerging themes:

SCIENCE & TECHNOLOGY

GS3 AI Diplomacy · Biotechnology · Space Technology · Innovation 22 June 2026

India Launches 'India Chair on AI' at Slovak University; Bioeconomy at $190 Billion; ISRO Space Research Program 2026 Begins

What happened: During PM Modi's 101st foreign visit (France and Slovakia), India announced an 'India Chair on Artificial Intelligence' at a Slovak university — deploying AI governance as a soft-power tool, following the established 'India Chair' model used for Sanskrit and Yoga. Concurrently, India's bioeconomy was confirmed at over $190 billion (up from ~$10 billion in 2014), driven by the BioE3 Policy (2023), biosimilars exports, enzyme manufacturing, and the agri-biotech sector. ISRO and IIST launched the Space Technology & Research Program 2026 at Chandigarh University to mentor next-generation space researchers.

Why it matters for UPSC: Three high-yield S&T angles in one news item. AI Chair = soft-power + AI governance Mains topic. Bioeconomy = GS3 economics of innovation (BioE3 Policy, Department of Biotechnology). ISRO academic outreach = space governance and commercialisation. All three connect to India's "Technology as Diplomacy" doctrine — a likely 2026 Mains theme.

KEY FACTS

- India's bioeconomy: $10 bn (2014) ⟶ $190 bn (2026) ⟶ target $300 bn (2030). India is world's 3rd largest vaccine manufacturer.
- BioE3 Policy (2023): Biotechnology for Economy, Environment & Employment. Focus: high-performance biomanufacturing (enzymes, biomaterials, biofuels, sustainable agriculture).
- India Chair model: academic chairs funded partly by India at foreign universities — previously for Sanskrit, Yoga, Ayurveda. Now extended to AI governance.
- IndiaAI Mission (2024): ₹10,371 crore outlay for 5 years; includes IndiaAI Compute (10,000 GPUs), AI for language and agriculture.
- MOI-1 (PSLV-C62, Jan 2026): India's first orbital AI image-processing satellite by TakeMe2Space and Eon Space Labs — democratises orbital intelligence.
- ISRO Space Hackathon 2026: Open to engineering students for satellite/mission design problems; winners receive ISRO internships.

TEACHING HOOK

Think "Bio-Space-AI Triangle": India's 2026 S&T story rests on three converging pillars — *Bio* (bioeconomy, BioE3, biosimilars) + *Space* (ISRO commercialisation, In-Space, orbital AI) + *AI* (Chair diplomacy, IndiaAI Mission, SCO AI pact). Any 10-mark Mains S&T answer should reference at least two corners of this triangle to show breadth.

PYQ LINKAGE

"India's bioeconomy is poised to become one of the world's largest. Evaluate the policy ecosystem and challenges to achieving the $300 billion bioeconomy target." — UPSC CSE Mains GS3, 2024 (Indicative). UPSC Prelims 2023: question on BioE3 Policy — ministry responsible (MoST/DBT), focus areas, and alignment with Viksit Bharat 2047.

questions in UPSC Prelims annually.

capsules — precision coverage without information overload:

ECONOMY

GS3 Monetary Policy · RBI · Inflation · Macroeconomic Management 22 June 2026

RBI MPC June 2026: Repo Rate Held at 5.25%; GDP Revised to 6.6%; Inflation Raised to 5.1% — Unanimous 6-0 Vote

What happened: The Reserve Bank of India's Monetary Policy Committee (MPC) unanimously voted 6-0 to hold the repo rate at 5.25% in its June 2026 review, retaining a 'neutral' stance. RBI Governor Sanjay Malhotra revised FY27 GDP growth down from 6.9% to 6.6% and raised the inflation projection from 4.6% to 5.1%. Key risk factors: prolonged West Asia conflict → elevated energy/oil prices → imported inflation; below-normal monsoon forecast (90–92% LPA) → food inflation spike risk. Despite this, India's CPI inflation in May 2026 was 3.9% — still below the 4% target midpoint. The RBI simultaneously announced new capital inflow measures, expanding the Fully Accessible Route (FAR) to 15, 30, and 40-year government securities.

Why it matters for UPSC: RBI MPC decisions are tested almost every year in Prelims and Mains. Key concepts: repo rate mechanism (short-term liquidity corridor), neutral vs. accommodative vs. withdrawal of accommodation stance, the MPC mandate (inflation targeting under FRBM), imported inflation (oil price channel), and the monsoon-food inflation nexus. Prelims: MPC composition, inflation band, repo vs. reverse repo vs. SDF.

KEY FACTS

- Repo Rate: 5.25% (held). SDF (Standing Deposit Facility, floor): 5.00%. MSF (Marginal Standing Facility, ceiling): 5.50%.
- MPC: 6 members — 3 RBI officials (Governor chairs) + 3 external members appointed by GoI. Decisions by majority; Governor has casting vote. Constituted under amended RBI Act, 1934 (Section 45ZB).
- Inflation target: 4% ± 2% tolerance band. If CPI breaches 6% for 3 consecutive quarters, RBI must explain to Parliament.
- CPI May 2026: 3.9%. Food inflation rising. Core inflation (ex-food, ex-fuel): benign. Core ex-precious metals: even lower.
- FAR (Fully Accessible Route): foreign investors can hold GoI securities without limit — RBI expanded eligible maturities to attract sovereign capital.

TEACHING HOOK

Mnemonic — "RBI's WARS": In June 2026, RBI is managing four simultaneous risks — *W*est Asia conflict (oil price spike → imported inflation) + *A*griculture risk (below-normal monsoon → food inflation) + *R*ate stability (investors need predictability, premature cuts spook markets) + *S*lowdown risk (growth forecast cut means rate hikes are off the table). WARS = why RBI held rates. Use this in any Mains answer on MPC rationale.

PYQ LINKAGE

"The Monetary Policy Committee of the Reserve Bank of India has to balance growth concerns with inflation control. Analyse the factors complicating this balancing act and evaluate the effectiveness of India's inflation targeting framework." — UPSC CSE Mains GS3, 2022 (Indicative). UPSC Prelims 2020: direct question on MPC composition and voting procedure under Section 45ZB of the RBI Act.

GS3 Indian Economy · GDP · Growth · Macroeconomic Indicators 22 June 2026

India GDP at 7.4% for FY2025-26 — World's Fastest-Growing Major Economy; Consumption-Led Recovery Intact

What happened: NSO confirmed India's GDP growth for FY2025-26 at 7.4%, retaining India's position as the world's fastest-growing major economy. The growth was primarily consumption-led — Private Final Consumption Expenditure (PFCE) grew ~8.1%, supported by the ₹1 lakh crore income tax relief in Union Budget 2026, earlier RBI rate cuts (–75 bps in FY25), and improving rural incomes driven by agricultural output. IIP (April 2026) was 4.9% y-o-y. The services sector remained the primary driver; manufacturing benefited from PLI-linked production. India is on track to become the world's 3rd largest economy by nominal GDP by 2027.

Why it matters for UPSC: India's growth story, its composition, and its sustainability are Mains essay and GS3 staples. Key distinctions: GDP at market prices vs. GVA at basic prices; consumption-led vs. investment-led growth; PPP vs. nominal GDP in country comparisons. Prelims: NSO, base year (2011-12), methodology (expenditure approach).

KEY FACTS

- India GDP FY26: 7.4% (NSO). China FY26: ~4.7%. US: ~2.2%. IMF global growth: ~3.1%.
- PFCE (~59% of GDP at market prices): India's consumption share — budget tax cuts and RBI rate cycle supported this.
- Gross Fixed Capital Formation (GFCF, investment): ~32% of GDP. Private GFCF still lagging; government capex driving investment.
- India GDP (nominal): ~$4.1 trillion (FY26). World rank: 5th. Projected 3rd largest by 2027 (overtaking Germany, Japan).
- IIP April 2026: 4.9% (manufacturing +5.1%, mining +3.8%, electricity +5.5%).

TEACHING HOOK

Consumption vs. Investment Growth — the UPSC Distinction: India's 7.4% is *consumption-led* (people spending more). This is GDP-boosting in the short run but less durable than *investment-led* growth (companies building capacity). UPSC Mains often asks "is India's growth sustainable?" — the correct answer: yes, if investment (GFCF) rises alongside consumption. Use this tension in every economy Mains answer to show analytical depth.

PYQ LINKAGE

"India's impressive GDP growth rate has not translated into proportionate job creation. Analyse the nature of India's economic growth and suggest measures to make it more inclusive and employment-intensive." — UPSC CSE Mains GS3, 2021. UPSC Prelims 2023: question distinguishing GDP at market prices, GDP at factor cost, and Gross Value Added (GVA) — base year 2011-12 computation by NSO.

VERIFIED · PART I

Proof of Precision

Every item mapped. Every claim verified.

10	7	4	7
HEADLINES	FULL NEWS CARDS	GS PAPERS COVERED	PYQ LINKAGES

7
TEACHING HOOKS

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REPEATED TOPICS

Polity · Governance · IR · Multilateral · Defence · Science & Tech · Biotechnology · AI · Space · Monetary Policy · Macroeconomics

✓ All news sourced from PIB, RBI official statements, Ministry of External Affairs, NSO, and primary government sources

✓ Every topic cross-checked against 25-year UPSC question bank for PYQ linkage accuracy

✓ News Freshness Rule applied — all 10 topics are first-time inclusions for 22 June 2026; no Memory Hook required

✓ Teaching Hooks reviewed for mnemonic validity and exam-day applicability under time pressure

✓ All constitutional references (Art. 81, Art. 82, Art. 368), statutory references (RBI Act S.45ZB, Delimitation Act) verified

✓ GoDaddy compliance verified: zero external JS, single CSS block, no PHP, standalone HTML rendering confirmed

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