

PART II • ENVIRONMENT TO DIRECT HIT TRACKER

ANTIM ASSURED 100+

Daily Current Affairs for UPSC Prelims & Mains

Monday, 08 June 2026

MORNING EDITION • THEIAS AKADEMIA

"From News to Questions, From Questions to Selection."

SECTION INDEX — PART II

1. Environment
2. Places in News
3. Ethics & Integrity Cases
4. Prelims MCQs (15 Qs)
5. Mains Questions (6 Qs)
6. Answer Writing Value Addition
7. AKADEMIA Direct Hit Tracker
8. Proof of Precision

GS3

State of India's Environment 2026 — CSE–DTE Report: 7 Planetary Boundaries Breached

WHY IN NEWS

The CSE–DTE launched the State of India's Environment 2026 report on June 4, warning that 7 of 9 planetary boundaries have been pushed beyond safe limits, threatening India's development trajectory.

BACKGROUND

The planetary boundaries framework (Rockström et al., 2009) defines nine Earth-system processes within which humanity can safely operate; breaching them risks irreversible environmental tipping points.

PRELIMS FACTS

- 7 of 9 planetary boundaries breached globally: climate change, biosphere integrity, land-system change, freshwater, biogeochemical flows, novel entities, atmospheric aerosol loading.
- India diverted ~97,000 ha of forestland for non-forest use between 2020-21 and 2024-25.
- World Environment Day 2026 theme: "Inspired by Nature. For Climate. For Our Future." (June 5).
- CSE report: Tigers killed 40 people in first 6 months of 2025 — rising human-wildlife conflict.

MAINS DIMENSIONS

- India's development vs. ecology dilemma: rapid infrastructure expansion (roads, mining, urbanisation) is incompatible with the 97,000-ha forest diversion trend without robust compensatory afforestation.
- Planetary boundaries as a policy tool: India's NDC commitments, LiFE mission, and carbon capture ₹20,000-crore outlay reflect partial internalisation of this framework.
- Climate justice: India's per-capita emissions are still far below developed nations, yet it bears the heaviest ecological burden from global boundary breaches.

UPSC SYLLABUS

GS3 — Environment

GS3 — Biodiversity

GS3 — Climate Change

GS2 — Governance

PYQ LINKAGE

GS3 2022: "Environmental degradation is not merely an ecological issue but also a social justice issue." Discuss.

PROBABLE MCQ

The 'Planetary Boundaries' framework was originally proposed by:

(a) IPCC (b) UNEP (c) Rockström et al., Stockholm Resilience Centre (d) WWF

Ans: (c). Rockström et al. (2009) at the Stockholm Resilience Centre.

PROBABLE MAINS Q

Critically analyse the State of India's Environment 2026 report findings and their implications for India's sustainable development goals. (150 words)

GS3

PYQ 2022

Planetary Boundaries

CSE Report

Forest Diversion

Biodiversity

AKADEMIA TEACHING HOOK

The planetary boundaries framework is UPSC's favourite conceptual tool to test environment-development tension — 7 of 9 breached is the key statistic for 2026, and CSE–DTE report is the authoritative source to cite in answers.

§2

Places in News

PLACES IN NEWS — 08 JUNE 2026 | ANTIM ASSURED 100+



- ① New Delhi (BRICS Summit 2026)
- ② J&K (Operation Sheruwali)
- ③ Vietnam (BrahMos Deal ₹5,800 cr)
- ④ Indonesia (BrahMos — Next Customer)
- ⑤ Singapore (Shangri-La Dialogue)
- ⑥ Tehran (BRICS Foreign Ministers context)

① New Delhi, India

WHY IN NEWS

Host city for 18th BRICS Summit (Sep 12–13, 2026); India holds BRICS Presidency 2026.

PRELIMS ANGLE

4th time India chairs BRICS; theme: "Humanity First"; Putin confirmed to attend.

MAINS ANGLE

India's multilateral leadership and Global South advocacy through BRICS chairship.

PYQ TREND

BRICS tested in GS2 2021; expanded BRICS membership expected in 2026 paper.

② Jammu & Kashmir

WHY IN NEWS

Operation Sherawali — major counter-terrorism offensive targeting militant hideouts.

PRELIMS ANGLE

J&K is a UT (since 2019); AFSPA applicable; CRPF under MHA leads operations.

MAINS ANGLE

Security-development nexus in J&K; AFSPA human rights debate; border management.

PYQ TREND

Internal security and J&K tested in GS3 2020, 2022; persistent UPSC topic.

③ Vietnam (Hanoi)

WHY IN NEWS

India signed ₹5,800 crore BrahMos coastal missile deal with Vietnam — 2nd BrahMos export.

PRELIMS ANGLE

Vietnam: SE Asia, South China Sea claimant; BrahMos deal strengthens India's Act East Policy.

MAINS ANGLE

Defence exports as diplomatic tools; India-Vietnam strategic partnership; ASEAN security.

PYQ TREND

India-ASEAN relations tested GS2 2021; defence exports GS3 2022.

④ Indonesia (Jakarta)

WHY IN NEWS

Indonesia is set to be the next BrahMos export customer; pact in final stages per Defence Secretary.

PRELIMS ANGLE

Largest Southeast Asian economy; member of G20 and ASEAN; strategic Indian Ocean partner.

MAINS ANGLE

India's expanding defence footprint in Indo-Pacific; countering Chinese influence in ASEAN.

PYQ TREND

India-Indonesia strategic ties and Indo-Pacific security: emerging UPSC topic.

⑤ Singapore

WHY IN NEWS

Shangri-La Dialogue hosted in Singapore; India's Defence Secretary confirmed Indonesia BrahMos deal status here.

PRELIMS ANGLE

Shangri-La Dialogue: annual Asia-Pacific security summit; organised by IISS (UK-based think tank).

⑥ Tehran, Iran

WHY IN NEWS

Context of BRICS Foreign Ministers meeting in India (May 2026): Iran's ongoing conflict raised at the summit.

PRELIMS ANGLE

Iran is a new full BRICS member (since 2024); sits on Strait of Hormuz — critical oil transit route.

MAINS ANGLE

Asia-Pacific security architecture; India's growing role as a net security provider in the region.

PYQ TREND

Regional security forums tested in GS2; Shangri-La Dialogue is a Prelims MCQ-friendly topic.

MAINS ANGLE

India-Iran relations, Chabahar Port strategic importance, and BRICS' role in de-escalating regional conflicts.

PYQ TREND

India-Iran relations and Chabahar tested in GS2 2023; West Asia security is a recurring topic.

§3 Ethics & Integrity Cases

Case 1 — Whistleblower vs. Institutional Loyalty

NEWS EXAMPLE

A senior forest officer in a Central Indian state filed an official complaint against his superior for approving forest diversion illegally. He faced departmental proceedings and transfer.

ETHICAL ISSUES

Conflict between institutional loyalty and public duty; whistleblower protection vs. administrative retaliation; courage of conviction in civil services.

VALUES INVOLVED

Integrity, probity, moral courage, accountability, public service values.

GS4 MAPPING

GS4: Ethical issues in public administration; attitude, integrity, and moral courage in civil services; whistleblower protection framework.

Case 2 — Dual-Use Technology and Ethical Responsibility in Defence Exports

NEWS EXAMPLE

India's BrahMos missile exports to Vietnam and Indonesia raise questions about end-use monitoring, MTCR compliance, and the moral responsibility of defence technology transfer.

ETHICAL ISSUES

Non-proliferation vs. strategic interest; responsibility for downstream use of exported weapons; ethical dimensions of defence diplomacy.

VALUES INVOLVED

Global responsibility, non-violence (Ahimsa as a value), accountability, international ethical norms.

GS4 MAPPING

GS4: Ethics in international relations; ethical governance; humanitarian considerations in state policy.

Case 3 — Data Privacy vs. Universal Health Access (ABHA)

NEWS EXAMPLE

As India crosses 90 crore ABHA registrations, concerns arise about consent architecture for health data sharing with insurance companies and private hospitals without explicit patient authorisation.

ETHICAL ISSUES

Bodily autonomy and health data sovereignty; informed consent in digital health; state's duty to provide health access vs. individual's right to privacy.

VALUES INVOLVED

Privacy as a fundamental right (K.S. Puttaswamy judgment), compassion, equity, accountability in governance.

GS4 MAPPING

GS4: Ethical issues in governance; digital ethics; rights-based approach to public service delivery.

Case 4 — Intergenerational Equity and Environmental Justice

NEWS EXAMPLE

The CSE–DTE 2026 report reveals 97,000 hectares of forest diverted in 5 years, mostly for mining and infrastructure — disproportionately affecting Adivasi communities and future generations.

ETHICAL ISSUES

Intergenerational equity: the right of future generations to inherit a liveable planet; distributive justice when the costs of development fall on the poorest communities.

VALUES INVOLVED

Environmental justice, empathy, equity, sustainability, trusteeship (Gandhian concept).

GS4 MAPPING

GS4: Environmental ethics; Gandhian trusteeship; compassion and equity in policy decisions; ethics of development.

§4 Prelims MCQs — 15 Questions

Q.1 | DEFENCE | HARD

Consider the following statements about BrahMos missile: 1. It is a joint venture between India's DRDO and Russia's NPO Mashinostroyeniya. 2. The Philippines was the first foreign country to purchase it. 3. It can only be launched from naval platforms. Which statements are correct?

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

✓ **Correct: (a) 1 and 2 only**

BrahMos has land, sea, and air-launched variants — Statement 3 is incorrect.

Hard

PYQ-type GS3 2022

Q.2 | IR | MODERATE

Consider: 1. India assumed BRICS Chairship in January 2026. 2. The 2026 BRICS Summit will be the 18th. 3. Saudi Arabia and UAE became full BRICS members in 2023. Which are correct?

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

✓ **Correct: (d) 1, 2 and 3**

All three are factually correct — new members joined at Johannesburg 2023 summit.

Moderate

PYQ-type GS2 2021

Q.3 | GOVERNANCE | EASY

The 'Land Stack Portal' was launched by which Ministry?

- (a) Ministry of Housing and Urban Affairs
- (b) Ministry of Rural Development
- (c) Ministry of Finance
- (d) NITI Aayog

✓ **Correct: (b) Ministry of Rural Development**

Land Stack is under MoRD, part of DILRMP for digital land governance.

Easy

Q.4 | S&T / SPACE | MODERATE

With reference to the Gaganyaan programme: 1. It is the first crewed mission. 2. The programme budget is ₹20,193 crore. 3. India would be the 3rd nation to independently send humans to space. Which are correct?

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

✓ **Correct: (a) 1 and 2 only**

India would be the 4th nation (after USSR/Russia, USA, China) — Statement 3 is wrong.

Moderate

PYQ-type GS3 2019

Q.5 | HEALTH / GOVERNANCE | EASY

ABHA (Ayushman Bharat Health Account) is:

- (a) A 10-digit unique identifier managed by MoHFW
- (b) A 14-digit health ID under ABDM managed by NHA
- (c) A BPL-only health account under PM-JAY
- (d) A biometric health database under Aadhaar

✓ **Correct: (b)**

ABHA is 14-digit, managed by NHA under ABDM; open to all citizens, not BPL-only.

Easy

Q.6 | INTERNAL SECURITY | MODERATE

Consider about AFSPA: 1. It gives armed forces the power to arrest without warrant in disturbed areas. 2. It applies only to J&K, not Northeast India. 3. NHRC has jurisdiction over cases filed against AFSPA actions. Which are correct?

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

✓ **Correct: (b) 1 and 3 only**

AFSPA applies to both J&K and several Northeast states — Statement 2 is wrong.

Moderate

PYQ-type GS3 2020

Q.7 | ENVIRONMENT | MODERATE

The 'Planetary Boundaries' framework was originally proposed by scientists at:

- (a) IPCC, Geneva
- (b) Stockholm Resilience Centre
- (c) UNEP, Nairobi
- (d) World Resources Institute, Washington

✓ **Correct: (b) Stockholm Resilience Centre**

Johan Rockström et al. at Stockholm Resilience Centre proposed the 9 planetary boundaries in 2009.

Moderate

PYQ-type GS3 2022

Q.8 | ECONOMY | MODERATE

The 'Niryat Protsahan' scheme is related to which sector?

- (a) Agricultural export promotion
- (b) Defence export incentives
- (c) MSME export promotion
- (d) Pharmaceutical export subsidies

✓ **Correct: (c) MSME export promotion**

Niryat Protsahan provides Interest Subvention and Collateral Support specifically for MSME exporters.

Moderate

Q.9 | ENVIRONMENT | MODERATE

Consider: 1. The State of India's Environment 2026 report is published by CSE and Down To Earth. 2. It states that 97,000 ha of forest was diverted in 5 years. 3. World Environment Day 2026 theme is "Our Land, Our Future". Which are correct?

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

✓ **Correct: (a) 1 and 2 only**

WED 2026 theme is "Inspired by Nature. For Climate. For Our Future." — not "Our Land, Our Future" (that was 2024).

Q.10 | IR | EASY

The BRICS 2026 Summit theme — "Building for Resilience, Innovation, Cooperation and Sustainability" — reflects which approach?

- (a) Technology First
- (b) Humanity First
- (c) Market First
- (d) Security First

✓ **Correct: (b) Humanity First**

India's BRICS presidency adopts a "Humanity First" people-centric approach as its guiding philosophy.

Easy

Q.11 | S&T | MODERATE

Shubhanshu Shukla's Axiom Mission 4 (2025) was significant because: 1. He became the first Indian to visit the ISS. 2. The mission was launched on India's own rocket. 3. It directly supports Gaganyaan crew training. Which are correct?

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

✓ **Correct: (b) 1 and 3 only**

Ax-4 was launched on a SpaceX Dragon, not an Indian rocket — Statement 2 is wrong.

Moderate

PYQ-type GS3 2019

Q.12 | DEFENCE | HARD

Consider: 1. BrahMos range has been extended beyond 290 km after India joined MTCR. 2. The BrahMos JV is 51% Indian-owned (DRDO). 3. Operation Sindoor in May 2025 used BrahMos in live combat. Which are correct?

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

✓ Correct: (d) 1, 2 and 3

All correct: MTCR accession (2016) enabled range extension; DRDO holds 50.5%; Op Sindoor used it effectively.

Hard

PYQ-type GS3 2022

Q.13 | GOVERNANCE | MODERATE

The Shangri-La Dialogue is organised by:

- (a) ASEAN Secretariat, Jakarta
- (b) International Institute for Strategic Studies (IISS), UK
- (c) UN Security Council
- (d) Indian Ocean Rim Association

✓ Correct: (b) IISS (UK)

Shangri-La Dialogue is an annual Asia Security Summit held in Singapore, organised by the UK-based IISS.

Moderate

Q.14 | S&T | EASY

ISRO's budget allocation for 2026-27 is approximately:

- (a) ₹8,000 crore
- (b) ₹13,705 crore
- (c) ₹20,193 crore
- (d) ₹25,000 crore

✓ Correct: (b) ₹13,705.63 crore

ISRO budget 2026-27 is ₹13,705.63 crore; ₹20,193 crore is the total Gaganyaan programme budget.

Easy

Q.15 | ECONOMY / IR | HARD

Consider: 1. MSMEs contribute ~30% of India's GDP and ~45% of exports. 2. The RAMP scheme aims to boost MSME productivity through digitisation. 3. Udyam Portal is used for MSME registration. Which are correct?

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

✓ Correct: (d) 1, 2 and 3

All three statements are accurate — standard MSME factual set for UPSC Prelims.

Hard

PYQ-type GS3 2022

§5 Mains Questions

GS2 — Governance

Examine how digital land governance platforms like the Land Stack Portal can reduce land disputes and improve transparency in India. What are the challenges in achieving uniform implementation across states?

Syllabus: Government policies and interventions | e-Governance | Land reform

Intro: Land disputes constitute ~67% of civil court cases; digital governance is the transformative solution — but federalism creates implementation gaps.

- Land Stack integrates records, maps, mutation data — reduces scope for arbitrary manipulation.
- GoRT standardises revenue terminology — addresses ambiguity exploited in rent-seeking.
- Land is a State subject; Centre's role is incentivisation via DILRMP grants, not mandate.
- Rural-digital divide: last-mile computerisation requires connectivity, hardware, and trained staff.
- FRA (Forest Rights Act) and tribal land rights must be integrated into digital records.

DILRMP

Land Stack

e-Governance

7th Schedule

FRA

GS2 — International Relations

How can India leverage its 2026 BRICS Presidency to advance Global South interests and reform multilateral institutions? Critically examine the opportunities and constraints.

Syllabus: India's foreign policy | Multilateral groupings | Reforms in global governance

Intro: India's BRICS Presidency is a unique platform — fourth-time chair, expanded 10-member grouping, amid a fractured global order.

- Opportunity: Push for UNSC reform with India's P-5 permanent seat aspiration.
- Opportunity: De-dollarisation debate — BRICS payment system to reduce USD dependency.
- Constraint: India-China bilateral tensions complicate intra-BRICS consensus.
- Expanded BRICS includes adversarial pairs (Iran-Saudi, Ethiopia-Egypt) — coordination challenge.

- India can use BRICS to amplify climate finance demands from developed nations at COP 31.

BRICS+

UNSC Reform

De-dollarisation

Multi-alignment

Global South

GS3 — Defence Exports

"BrahMos exports to Southeast Asia represent India's transition from a defence importer to a credible defence manufacturing hub." Critically examine this statement in light of recent deals.

Syllabus: Defence indigenisation | Security in Indo-Pacific | India's foreign policy

Intro: Operation Sindoor's combat validation of BrahMos has catalysed demand from ASEAN nations facing Chinese assertiveness.

- Philippines (2022), Vietnam (2026), Indonesia (pending) — a systematic export arc in SE Asia.
- India's defence export target: \$5 billion by 2025 — HAL, BEL, and DRDO products are the core.
- MTCR membership (2016) enabled range extension beyond 300 km — critical for credibility.
- Non-proliferation concerns: MTCR end-use monitoring provisions must be enforced.
- Geopolitical dividend: BrahMos buyers become strategic partners, strengthening India's Act East Policy.

BrahMos

MTCR

Act East

Defence Exports

Indo-Pacific

GS3 — Science & Technology

Evaluate the strategic, scientific, and economic significance of India's Gaganyaan human spaceflight programme. What milestones have been achieved and what challenges remain?

Syllabus: Space technology | Science and innovation | India's strategic programmes

Intro: Gaganyaan is not just a prestige project — it is the bedrock of India's ₹1-trillion space economy aspirations.

- G1 uncrewed mission 90% complete; 8,000+ tests; crewed H1 mission targeted for 2027.
- Ax-4's Shubhanshu Shukla gives ISRO direct ISS experience — crucial for HSFC training protocols.
- Strategic: Makes India 4th independent human spaceflight nation — deterrence and prestige.
- Economic: Spin-off tech in materials science, telemedicine, and precision manufacturing.
- Challenge: Any uncrewed mission failure delays the crewed timeline significantly.

Gaganyaan

ISRO

HSFC

Space Economy

Bharatiya Antariksha Station

GS3 — Environment

Critically analyse the State of India's Environment 2026 report. How do its findings challenge India's developmental narrative and what course corrections are needed?

Syllabus: Environmental degradation | Biodiversity | Climate change and India

Intro: When 7 of 9 planetary boundaries are breached and 97,000 ha of forest disappears in 5 years, development and ecology can no longer be treated as sequential priorities.

- Forest diversion for mining and roads disproportionately displaces Adivasi communities — justice issue.
- Rising human-wildlife conflict (40 tiger deaths in 6 months) signals shrinking ecological corridors.
- CAMPA fund utilisation must improve — compensatory afforestation must match diversion in quality.
- India's NDC targets and LiFE mission provide a framework but lack binding sub-national enforcement.
- Need to integrate planetary boundaries into EIA (Environmental Impact Assessment) methodology.

Planetary Boundaries

CAMPA

EIA

Forest Rights

LiFE Mission

GS4 — Ethics

"Environmental justice demands that those least responsible for climate change bear the least burden." Discuss the ethical dimensions of India's environmental governance with reference to recent evidence. (150 words)

Syllabus: Ethics in governance | Environmental ethics | Distributive justice

Intro: India's per-capita emissions remain among the world's lowest, yet its forests and tribal communities absorb the heaviest toll of global boundary breaches.

- Distributive justice: Adivasis displaced by forest diversion carry the development costs while benefiting least.
- Intergenerational equity: 97,000 ha of forest lost is a debt charged to future generations.
- Trusteeship (Gandhi): State holds natural resources in trust for all citizens — present and future.
- Climate justice at BRICS: India can use its presidency to demand climate finance from historic emitters.

Environmental Ethics

Intergenerational Equity

Trusteeship

Climate Justice

Distributive Justice

\$6

Answer Writing Value Addition

"The Earth does not belong to us; we belong to the Earth."

Usage: Environmental ethics questions (GS4), planetary boundaries, forest rights issues. Attribute to Chief Seattle (1854 speech, widely cited in environmental ethics).

"Space is for all of humanity, but the nations that lead in space will lead on Earth."

Usage: Gaganyaan, India's space ambitions, ISRO strategy questions (GS3 S&T). Paraphrase and use as conclusion.

"Defence self-reliance is not just an economic goal — it is the foundation of strategic autonomy."

Usage: Defence indigenisation, BrahMos exports, Atmanirbhar Bharat in defence (GS3). Attribute as a policy principle.

Topic	Key Data Point	Source
Forest Diversion	~97,000 ha diverted 2020-25; 26 states increased diversion	CSE–DTE SoIE 2026
BrahMos Exports	Vietnam: ₹5,800 cr; Philippines: ₹2,671 cr (2022)	The Week / BharatShakti
ABHA Registrations	90 crore+ ABHA IDs registered under ABDM	NHA / PIB 2026
Gaganyaan Budget	₹20,193 crore total; ISRO budget FY27: ₹13,705.63 cr	Union Budget 2026-27
BRICS Members	10 full members (5 original + 5 new from 2024)	brics2026.gov.in
MSME Contribution	~30% of GDP, ~45% exports, ~110 million jobs	Ministry of MSME

Committee / Report	Relevance
SoIE 2026 (CSE–DTE)	Planetary boundaries, forest diversion, pollution monitoring — GS3 Environment
DILRMP Guidelines	Digital land records modernisation — GS2 Governance / GS3 Land Reform
DPDP Act 2023	Digital health data privacy (ABHA) — GS2 Rights / GS4 Digital Ethics
Forest Conservation Amendment Act 2023	Context for 97,000 ha forest diversion — GS3 Environment

NEWS STORIES
COVERED TODAY

6
PLACES IN NEWS
PINNED ON MAP

PRELIMS MCQS
GENERATED

5
GS PAPERS
COVERED (1-4)

MAINS QUESTIONS
READY

8
STATEMENT-BASED
MCQS

ETHICS CASES
MAPPED TO GS4

12
PYQ LINKAGES
IDENTIFIED

Domain	Stories	MCQs	Mains Qs
Polity & Governance	2	3	1
International Relations	2	3	1
Defence & Security	1	3	1
Science & Technology	1	3	1
Economy	1	2	0
Environment	1	2	2
Ethics (GS4)	4 cases	—	1

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