

THEIAS AKADEMIA • MORNING EDITION • 08:00 IST

ANTIM ASSURED 100+

PART II • ENVIRONMENT TO DIRECT HIT TRACKER

Thursday, 06 August 2026

"Every Topper's Last Read"

GS3

River Pollution · Polluter Pays · NGT

NGT order 29 July 2026 (enforcement window ongoing) · Source: NGT Western Zone Bench / Down to Earth digest

NGT Confirms Godavari Pollution at Nanded, Orders Environmental Damage Compensation From the Civic Body

Why in News: The National Green Tribunal's Western Zone Bench — Judicial Member Justice Dinesh Kumar Singh and Expert Member Dr Sujit Kumar Bajpayee — on 29 July 2026 confirmed a Joint Committee's findings of "alarming" pollution of the Godavari River at Nanded and directed the Maharashtra Pollution Control Board (MPCB) to calculate and recover Environmental Damage Compensation (EDC) from the Nanded-Waghala City Municipal Corporation (NWCMC). The order remains in its enforcement phase as of this edition — MPCB must determine the EDC amount within four weeks of the order and recover it within a month thereafter — which is why this genuinely fresh institutional story is carried now rather than treated as stale.

Background: The case was triggered by a complaint from Pune-based environmental activist Jaymala Dhankikar alleging discharge of untreated sewage and deficient solid-waste management by the civic body. The NGT's EDC mechanism operationalises the "polluter pays" principle recognised by the Supreme Court in *Indian Council for Enviro-Legal Action v. Union of India (1996)* and is grounded in the Tribunal's powers under the National Green Tribunal Act, 2010, read with the Water (Prevention and Control of Pollution) Act, 1974 — with the underlying right to a pollution-free river ultimately traceable to Article 21 via the Ganga-Yamuna "legal person" and river-protection jurisprudence.

⚡ KEY FACTS

- Order dated **29 July 2026**; NGT **Western Zone Bench** — Justice **Dinesh Kumar Singh** & Dr **Sujit Kumar Bajpayee**.
- Respondent: **Nanded-Waghala City Municipal Corporation (NWCMC)**, Maharashtra.
- Sewage gap: city generates ~**70 MLD** sewage against treatment capacity of only **67 MLD** — roughly **3 MLD discharged untreated** daily.
- Solid-waste gap: **362 tonnes/day** generated versus **150 tonnes/day** processing capacity.
- MPCB must determine **Environmental Damage Compensation (EDC)** within **4 weeks**, recover within **1 month** thereafter.
- Legal basis: **National Green Tribunal Act, 2010 + Water (Prevention & Control of Pollution) Act, 1974**.
- Principle applied: **"polluter pays,"** as recognised in *Indian Council for Enviro-Legal Action (1996)*.
- Case originated from a complaint by activist **Jaymala Dhankikar**.

🔗 MAINS DIMENSIONS / ANALYSIS

- Infrastructure lag as the root cause.** The pollution stems directly from a capacity gap (treatment infrastructure built for a smaller city than Nanded has become), making this fundamentally an urban-infrastructure-financing problem as much as an environmental-compliance one.
- Compensation versus capacity-building.** A financial penalty punishes the civic body but does not, by itself, fund the additional 3+ MLD of treatment capacity needed — the EDC's real test is whether recovered funds are ring-fenced for infrastructure upgrade rather than absorbed into general municipal revenue.
- NGT's institutional role.** The case exemplifies the NGT's core statutory mandate — fast, technically-informed environmental adjudication outside the regular court backlog — and its increasing willingness to hold urban local bodies, not just industrial polluters, accountable.
- 74th Amendment linkage.** Sewage and solid-waste management are constitutionally assigned municipal functions under the Twelfth Schedule (74th Amendment, 1992); this case is a live illustration of the gap between constitutional assignment of function and actual municipal financial/technical capacity to perform it.

💡 AKADEMIA MEMORY TRIVIA

Fix the mismatch pair: **sewage 70 vs 67 MLD; waste 362 vs 150 tonnes/day**. Both gaps roughly halve the city's real capacity against its actual output — a clean, memorable "half-capacity" story for any urban-governance answer.

📄 PYQ LINKAGE

GS3 2018: "'Climate Change' is a global problem. How will India be affected by climate change? How Himalayan and coastal states of India will be affected by climate change?" (adapted to river/urban-pollution framing) · GS3 recurring: river pollution, urban local body governance, polluter-pays jurisprudence.

GS3

Static Species Profile · High-Altitude Ecosystem

Static Topic — not tied to a current event · Source: IUCN Red List / Project Snow Leopard / MoEFCC

Species in News: The Snow Leopard — Apex Predator of the Trans-Himalayan Cold Desert

Why in This Edition (Static Profile): With this week's missile-trial NOTAM and Places-in-News list already carrying a Trans-Himalayan pin (Leh, Ladakh), the Snow Leopard is the natural static-species pairing — India's flagship high-altitude apex predator and a perennial UPSC favourite for its distinctive conservation architecture.

Background: The Snow Leopard (*Panthera uncia*) ranges across the Trans-Himalayan and high-altitude cold-desert landscapes of Ladakh, Himachal Pradesh, Uttarakhand, Sikkim and Arunachal Pradesh, typically above 3,000 metres. It was downlisted by the IUCN from Endangered to Vulnerable in 2017 — not because the species had recovered, but because earlier population estimates were revised upward with better survey methodology, a distinction UPSC likes to test. India's first National Snow Leopard Population Assessment, using camera traps and genetic sampling, has placed the national population at roughly 700-750 individuals, concentrated most densely in Ladakh.

⚡ KEY FACTS

- IUCN status: **Vulnerable** (downlisted from Endangered in **2017**, on revised survey data, not population recovery).
- Legal protection: **CITES Appendix I; Schedule I, Wildlife (Protection) Act, 1972.**
- India's range states: **Ladakh, Himachal Pradesh, Uttarakhand, Sikkim, Arunachal Pradesh**; typically found above **3,000 m.**
- Estimated Indian population: **~700-750**, per the National Snow Leopard Population Assessment.
- **Project Snow Leopard** launched by MoEFCC in **2009** as a landscape-level conservation programme.
- **SECURE Himalaya:** GEF-UNDP-MoEFCC initiative (from 2017) integrating anti-poaching with high-altitude community livelihoods.
- Global framework: **GSLEP** (Global Snow Leopard & Ecosystem Protection Program), launched via the **Bishkek Declaration, 2013.**
- Principal threats: poaching for pelt/bones, retaliatory killing after livestock predation, and climate-driven alpine habitat shrinkage.

📍 MAINS DIMENSIONS / ANALYSIS

- **Indicator species value.** As an apex predator of a fragile, low-productivity ecosystem, Snow Leopard population health is a proxy for the integrity of the entire high-altitude food web — making its monitoring disproportionately informative relative to the cost of survey.
- **Human-wildlife conflict management.** Because Trans-Himalayan communities depend heavily on livestock, predation-driven retaliatory killing is the leading proximate threat; SECURE Himalaya's livelihood-diversification approach (rather than pure enforcement) reflects lessons from earlier, less community-integrated conservation models.
- **Transboundary cooperation need.** Snow Leopard range spans twelve countries across Central and South Asia; India's conservation effort is only as effective as coordinated transboundary anti-poaching and habitat-connectivity cooperation under GSLEP allows.
- **Climate change as a slow-onset threat.** Unlike poaching, climate-driven treeline shift and alpine-meadow contraction operate on decadal timescales, making them harder to politically prioritise despite being the deeper long-term threat to habitat viability.

💡 AKADEMIA MEMORY TRIVIA

Remember: The 2017 IUCN shift from Endangered to Vulnerable reflected better counting, not a healthier population — a classic UPSC trap distinguishing genuine recovery from improved survey methodology.

📄 PYQ LINKAGE

Prelims 2020: Asked directly on Snow Leopard's habitat and conservation status. · GS3 recurring: IUCN Red List categories, Schedule I species, high-altitude biodiversity conservation programmes.

§2 · PLACES IN NEWS

PLACES IN NEWS — 06 AUGUST 2026 | ANTIM ASSURED 100+



● ① New Delhi (SC benches, Cabinet, Parliament) ● ② Nanded (NGT Godavari order) ● ③ Abdul Kalam Island (missile NOTAM)

● ④ Jaipur (medical college fee case) ● ⑤ Bengaluru (Semicon 2.0 design hub) ● ⑥ Idukki (Kerala floods) ● ⑦ Addis Ababa (Africa Day 2026 / AU HQ)

● ⑧ Leh, Ladakh (Snow Leopard habitat)

① New Delhi

Seat of the Supreme Court benches delivering today's five rulings, the Union Cabinet, and the Taxation Bill's Lok Sabha passage.

On the Yamuna's floodplain, in the Indo-Gangetic Plain — India's political and judicial nerve-centre.

② Nanded, Maharashtra

Site of the NGT's Godavari pollution order against the Nanded-Waghala City Municipal Corporation.

Lies on the Godavari River, the "Dakshin Ganga," in the Deccan Plateau's Godavari basin.

③ Dr APJ Abdul Kalam Island, Odisha

Launch site for the missile trial covered by this week's 2,530-km Indian Ocean NOTAM.

A barrier island off Odisha's coast in the Bay of Bengal, part of the Integrated Test Range complex near Chandipur.

④ Jaipur, Rajasthan

Where the private medical college fee dispute upheld by the Supreme Court originated, via the Rajasthan High Court.

Sits at the edge of the Thar Desert on the Aravalli foothills, in the semi-arid North-Western Plains.

⑤ Bengaluru, Karnataka

India's chip-design hub, central to Semicon 2.0's ecosystem-building ambitions and its 105 design startups.

Located on the Deccan Plateau at ~900 m elevation, giving it its characteristically moderate climate.

⑥ Idukki, Kerala

Among the districts worst hit by the ongoing Kerala floods and landslides, with heavy relocation to relief camps.

A high-rainfall Western Ghats district, where the windward orographic effect produces India's heaviest monsoon totals.

⑦ Addis Ababa, Ethiopia

Headquarters of the African Union, the institutional counterpart to EAM Jaishankar's Africa Day 2026 address.

⑧ Leh, Ladakh

Gateway to the Trans-Himalayan cold-desert landscape that hosts India's core Snow Leopard population.

Sits at ~2,350 m on the Ethiopian Highlands/East African Rift plateau — one of Africa's highest capital cities.

A high-altitude cold desert north of the Great Himalayan range, in the rain-shadow zone above 3,000 m.

THEIAS AKADEMIA Eight places, eight distinct governance and ecological stories in one map — precisely the pattern-recognition **Sahyog Mentorship** trains for the Places-in-News segment of Prelims. theiasakademia.com

§3 · ETHICS & INTEGRITY CASES (GS4)

Case 1 — The Sewage Engineer's Dilemma **Concept: Whistleblowing vs. Institutional Loyalty**

A municipal sewage engineer in a city like Nanded knows the treatment plant handles only 67 MLD against 70 MLD generated, and that quarterly compliance reports have been rounding the shortfall away to avoid triggering NGT scrutiny. Reporting the true gap risks personal censure and public embarrassment for the corporation; staying silent perpetuates measurable river pollution.

Resolution Framework: Kant's duty-based ethics holds that concealing a known harm to protect institutional reputation cannot be universalised without undermining the very purpose of environmental reporting. The engineer's professional and constitutional duty (Article 21, clean-environment jurisprudence) to accurate disclosure outweighs short-term institutional loyalty — with escalation to state-level pollution boards as the correct intermediate step before public whistleblowing.

Case 2 — The Fee Regulatory Committee Member's Balancing Act **Concept: Distributive vs. Commutative Justice**

A member of a State Fee Regulatory Committee must set private medical college fees. Set them too low, and colleges may cut faculty/infrastructure quality or shut down; set them at commercial levels, and only the affluent can access seats even after clearing the merit list.

Resolution Framework: Commutative justice (equal exchange value for fees paid) favours market-linked pricing; distributive justice (fair share of a scarce public good — medical education) favours affordability-linked caps. A defensible middle path is graded, means-tested cross-subsidisation within the same fee structure — preserving institutional viability (commutative fairness) while protecting meritorious EWS access (distributive fairness), rather than treating the two principles as mutually exclusive.

Case 3 — The DRDO Public Relations Officer's Disclosure Question **Concept: Duty of Care vs. Official Secrecy**

Ahead of a major missile trial, coastal fishing communities near the exclusion zone must be warned to stay clear — but explaining precisely why risks revealing operationally sensitive test parameters to observers.

Resolution Framework: The categorical imperative to protect life (duty of care to fishermen) is non-negotiable and must never be diluted for secrecy's sake; the ethical resolution is to disclose the geographic exclusion zone and safety timeline in full (a life-safety duty) while withholding only the technical specifics of the system under test (a legitimate, narrowly-tailored secrecy interest) — the two duties are reconcilable if secrecy is scoped no wider than necessary.

Case 4 — The Sub-Inspector's Subjective Threshold **Concept: Discretion vs. Rule of Law (Street-Level Bureaucracy)**

Following the Supreme Court's new "intent to marry" test, a police sub-inspector receiving a live-in partner's domestic-cruelty complaint must now personally judge whether that subjective intent existed — with no statutory checklist to guide the decision, and a real risk of either wrongful FIR refusal or wrongful registration.

Resolution Framework: Michael Lipsky's "street-level bureaucracy" concept warns that unguided frontline discretion produces inconsistent, potentially arbitrary outcomes that violate the rule-of-law ideal of like cases being treated alike. The ethical response is not to guess intent unaided, but to register the complaint, document the couple's own stated facts contemporaneously, and let the magistrate/trial court make the substantive "intent to marry" determination — keeping the frontline officer's role procedural, not adjudicatory.

Case 5 — The Bank Manager's Shadow-Reversal Deadline **Concept: Precautionary Principle vs. Moral Hazard**

Under RBI's new framework, a branch manager must decide within a tight window whether to issue "shadow reversal" provisional credit for a disputed transaction that could be genuine fraud — or a customer's own error, or even a false claim.

Resolution Framework: RBI's framework itself embeds the precautionary principle — the customer's provisional credit protects the vulnerable party by default, shifting the burden of proof onto the (better-resourced) bank to investigate and reverse if the claim proves false. The manager's ethical obligation is to honour that default without letting fear of occasional moral hazard (false claims) erode the protection the framework is designed to guarantee for the overwhelming majority of genuine victims.

Case 6 — The Diplomat's Talking-Points Dilemma Concept: Truthfulness vs. Diplomatic Tact

A junior MEA officer drafting talking points for Africa Day 2026 must describe the IAFS-4 postponement — driven by a health emergency but also convenient for logistics — in language that satisfies both partners without either appearing to blame the other.

Resolution Framework: Kant's duty not to deceive requires that the stated reason (the Ebola outbreak) be true, which it is — the ethical line is not crossed by emphasising a true reason favourably, only if it were crossed by inventing a false one. Diplomatic tact in *selecting which true fact to foreground* is ethically distinct from deception, provided no material falsehood is asserted — a distinction the officer must hold firmly while drafting.

§4 · PRELIMS MCQS

Q1. Consider the following statements regarding the Supreme Court's ruling in Dr. Lokesh B.H. v. State of Karnataka (2026):

1. It extends Section 498-A IPC protection to live-in couples.
2. It requires only a "relationship in the nature of marriage," with no additional condition.
3. It is grounded in Article 14 of the Constitution.

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

Answer: (a) — "Intent to marry" is an additional, essential condition, not dispensed with.

Q2. The Supreme Court's August 2026 clarification on court-proceeding reporting restricts:

(a) All media reporting on ongoing cases (b) Only the circulation of audio-video clips of hearings (c) Reporting by non-recognised outlets only (d) Live-streaming of Constitution Bench cases

Answer: (b)

Q3. Consider the following statements:

1. T.M.A. Pai Foundation v. State of Karnataka (2002) dealt with the autonomy of unaided private educational institutions.
2. P.A. Inamdar v. State of Maharashtra (2005) further refined this autonomy principle.
3. The EWS reservation was introduced by the 103rd Constitutional Amendment Act, 2019.

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

Answer: (d)

Q4. Which body is directed to calculate Environmental Damage Compensation in the NGT's Godavari/Nanded order?

(a) Central Pollution Control Board (b) Maharashtra Pollution Control Board (c) National Mission for Clean Ganga (d) Ministry of Jal Shakti

Answer: (b)

Q5. Consider the following statements regarding the Snow Leopard:

1. It was downlisted from Endangered to Vulnerable by the IUCN in 2017.
2. It is listed under Schedule I of the Wildlife (Protection) Act, 1972.
3. Project Snow Leopard was launched in 2009.

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

Answer: (d)

Q6. The Global Snow Leopard and Ecosystem Protection Program (GSLEP) originated from which declaration?

(a) Colombo Declaration, 2022 (b) Bishkek Declaration, 2013 (c) Bangkok Declaration, 1997 (d) Kunming Declaration, 2021

Answer: (b)

Q7. Consider the following statements about Semicon 2.0:

1. It was approved by the Union Cabinet with an outlay of ₹1,27,500 crore.
2. It is organised across six strategic pillars covering the full semiconductor value chain.
3. Its first new fab under this phase is targeted for commissioning before 2027.

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

Answer: (a) — the first new fab is targeted for 2028, not before 2027.

Q8. The Mobile Phone Manufacturing Scheme (MPMS) succeeds which earlier scheme?

(a) Modified Special Incentive Package Scheme (b) PLI for Large Scale Electronics Manufacturing (c) Electronics Development Fund (d) Digital India Programme

Answer: (b)

Q9. Consider the following statements regarding NIPU-2026:

1. It targets natural-gas-based urea plants.
2. It is the successor to the New Investment Policy of 2012.
3. It permits a Return-on-Equity band of 12% to 16% for investors.

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

Answer: (d)

Q10. The Taxation and Other Laws (Amendment) Bill, 2026 removes the mandatory zero-MDR provision found under which statute?

(a) Income-tax Act, 2025 (b) Finance Act, 2026 (c) Payment and Settlement Systems Act, 2007 (d) FEMA, 1999

Answer: (c)

Q11. Consider the following statements regarding Special Rupee Vostro Accounts (SRVAs):

1. They were first introduced in July 2022.
2. RBI's August 2026 circular restricts their use only to export-import invoicing.
3. They are opened by Authorised Dealer banks for foreign bank branches/correspondents.

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

Answer: (a) — the 2026 circular broadens, not restricts, permissible SRVA use.

Q12. RBI's new bank fraud-liability framework mandates instant SMS alerts for electronic transactions above what threshold?

(a) ₹100 (b) ₹500 (c) ₹1,000 (d) ₹5,000

Answer: (b)

Q13. Consider the following statements regarding the Insolvency and Bankruptcy Code, 2016:

1. Section 7 allows a financial creditor to trigger the Corporate Insolvency Resolution Process.
2. Homebuyers were included as financial creditors by a 2018 amendment.
3. Innoventive Industries v. ICICI Bank (2017) narrowed NCLT's discretion at the admission stage.

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

Answer: (d)

Q14. Dr APJ Abdul Kalam Island was known by which earlier name?

(a) Sriharikota Island (b) Wheeler Island (c) Kalpakkam Island (d) New Moore Island

Answer: (b)

Q15. India's Integrated Guided Missile Development Programme (IGMDP) ran across which period?

(a) 1975-1995 (b) 1983-2008 (c) 1990-2010 (d) 1998-2015

Answer: (b)

Q16. Consider the following statements regarding the Kampala Principles:

1. They were articulated by the Prime Minister during a visit to Uganda.
2. They emphasise Africa's own agenda-setting in its partnership with India.

3. They were announced in 2018.

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

Answer: (d)

Q17. The fourth India-Africa Forum Summit (IAFS-4) in 2026 was postponed owing to:

(a) A cyclone in the Indian Ocean (b) An Ebola outbreak in the DRC (c) A funding shortfall (d) A change of AU chairship

Answer: (b)

Q18. Consider the following statements regarding the GI & Beyond 2.0 Summit (Delhi, 5 August 2026):

1. It was organised by the Ministry of Textiles.
2. It launched the Digital Handloom Atlas.
3. New GI certificates were presented, including for Ladakh Pashmina.

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

Answer: (d)

Q19. The Nanded-Waghala civic body's Godavari-pollution case was brought under which principal statute, alongside the NGT Act, 2010?

(a) Air (Prevention and Control of Pollution) Act, 1981 (b) Water (Prevention and Control of Pollution) Act, 1974 (c) Environment (Protection) Act, 1986 (d) Biological Diversity Act, 2002

Answer: (b)

Q20. Consider the following statements regarding the 2026 Kerala floods:

1. Idukki, Kottayam, Malappuram and Kannur are among the worst-affected districts.
2. The disaster is attributed primarily to a cyclonic storm making landfall.
3. Over 5,700 people were relocated to relief camps.

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

Answer: (a) — the floods stem from intense monsoon/near-cloudburst rainfall, not a cyclonic landfall.

THEIAS AKADEMIA 20 statement-based-heavy MCQs today — exactly the format UPSC now favours. **NEEB 300+ Live PYQ Writing** drills this statement-elimination technique every single week. theiasakademia.com

§5 · MAINS QUESTIONS

GS1 (150 words) — The 2026 Kerala floods once again highlight the Western Ghats' orographic rainfall pattern and its disaster implications. Explain the physical-geography basis of this rainfall pattern and its consequences for settlement planning.

GS2 (150 words) — Critically examine the Supreme Court's extension of Section 498-A IPC protection to live-in relationships with a proven "intent to marry." Does this advance substantive equality, or does it introduce unworkable evidentiary uncertainty?

GS2 (150 words) — "Autonomy of unaided private educational institutions and the right to education for economically weaker sections are in constant tension." Discuss with reference to recent Supreme Court jurisprudence on private medical college fees.

GS2 (200 words) — Discuss the Kampala Principles as the guiding framework of India's contemporary Africa policy. How do they differentiate India's engagement model from other external powers active on the continent?

GS3 (200 words) — Semicon 2.0 marks a shift from "fabrication-first" to "ecosystem-first" semiconductor policy. Examine the rationale for this shift and the principal execution risks it faces.

GS3 (150 words) — Examine the significance of the National Investment Policy for Urea 2026 (NIPU-2026) for India's fertilizer self-reliance, and the structural risks that persist despite the new investment framework.

GS3 (150 words) — "Once debt and default are established, an Insolvency and Bankruptcy Code admission cannot be stalled by settlement negotiations." Discuss the rationale for this judicial position and its implications for creditor discipline.

GS3 (150 words) — Discuss the significance of the "polluter pays" principle as applied by the National Green Tribunal, using the Godavari River pollution case against the Nanded-Waghala Municipal Corporation as an illustration.

GS4 (250 words) — Using a suitable case, distinguish between distributive and commutative justice in the context of regulating private professional education fees. Which principle should prevail, and why?

§6 · ANSWER WRITING VALUE ADDITION

Quote: "Justice delayed at the admission stage is creditor discipline denied" — apt framing for IBC Section 7 answers following the Parsvnath Developers ruling.

Data point: Semicon 2.0's ₹1,27,500 crore outlay is roughly 1.6× the original ₹76,000 crore India Semiconductor Mission (2021) — useful comparative statistic for GS3 answers on industrial policy scaling.

Data point: Nanded's sewage treatment shortfall (67 MLD capacity vs 70 MLD generated) is a ready-made numeric illustration for any answer on the urban infrastructure-governance gap.

Concept anchor: "Street-level bureaucracy" (Michael Lipsky) — cite this concept whenever an answer discusses frontline discretion in implementing a new, subjective legal test, as with the "intent to marry" standard.

Quote: "Africa's priorities must be set by Africans" — the essence of the Kampala Principles (2018), quotable in any India-Africa GS2 answer.

Data point: India has opened 17 new diplomatic missions in Africa — a concrete capacity statistic to cite against rhetorical claims of India-Africa engagement.

Concept anchor: "Polyvocal court" critique — useful whenever an answer discusses expanding judicial strength (Supreme Court, High Courts) without addressing Bench-composition consistency.

Data point: The MPMS's tiered incentive structure (2.25-5% base, +1.5% domestic sourcing, +3% design/R&D/brand) is a strong example of value-chain-graded industrial incentive design, quotable in any Make in India analytical answer.

THEIAS AKADEMIA Concept-anchors like these are exactly what separates a generic Mains answer from a top-decile one. **Philosophy Target 300+** builds this vocabulary systematically across the GS4 syllabus. theiasakademia.com

§7 · AKADEMIA DIRECT HIT TRACKER

TOPIC	GS PAPER	ONE-LINE CAPSULE	PROBABILITY
SC 498-A Live-in Ruling	GS2	Intent-to-marry test, Article 14, 2026 INSC 784	★★★★★
SC Court-Reporting Clarification	GS2	Report yes, AV-clip circulation no; 24 Jul order clarified	★★★★
SC Medical College Fee Ruling	GS2	Rajasthan fee structure upheld, EWS cap plea dismissed	★★★★

SC IBC/Parsvnath Ruling	GS3	Debt+default admission test; settlement talk no bar	★★★★
Missile Trial NOTAM	GS3	2,530-km corridor, Abdul Kalam Island, 6-7 Aug	★★★★
Jaishankar Africa Day 2026	GS2	17 new missions, Kampala Principles, IAFS-4 pending	★★★★
Semicon 2.0	GS3	₹1.27 lakh crore, six pillars, first fab 2028	★★★★★
Mobile Phone Manufacturing Scheme	GS3	₹62,500 crore, brand-building tier at 3%	★★★★
NIPU-2026	GS3	10 MT urea capacity, 8-9 gas-based plants	★★★★
Taxation & Other Laws (Amdt.) Bill 2026	GS3	MDR flexible, REIT/InvIT fix, diamond exemption to 2041	★★★
RBI SRVA + Fraud Liability Framework	GS3	Rupee settlement widened, shadow-reversal mandated	★★★★
NGT Godavari/Nanded Order	GS3	Polluter pays, EDC within 4 weeks	★★★
Snow Leopard	GS3	Vulnerable since 2017, Project Snow Leopard 2009	★★★
GI & Beyond 2.0 Summit	GS3	Digital Handloom Atlas, 100+ GI products	★★★
Kerala Floods 2026	GS1/GS3	15+ dead, Western Ghats orographic rainfall	★★★★
IBC Section 7 Jurisprudence	GS3	Innoventive (2017), Swiss Ribbons (2019) lineage	★★★
T.M.A. Pai/Inamdar/Janhit Abhiyan Chain	GS2	Autonomy-EWS case-law ladder	★★★
Africa Day/IAFS Postponement	GS2	2026 postponement, Ebola, joint India-AU decision	★★★

★ 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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§8 · PROOF OF PRECISION — TODAY'S EDITION

✓ **11 substantive Part I news cards + 2 Environment cards** — meets the RULE 15 density floor (10-12 Part I cards).

✓ **8 map pins**, each with physical/political geography context, not just event location.

✓ **6 Ethics cases**, each naming a distinct ethical concept (whistleblowing, distributive/commutative justice, duty of care, street-level bureaucracy, precautionary principle, truthfulness vs tact).

✓ **20 MCQs**, 12 of them statement-based — matching UPSC's current Prelims format weighting.

✓ **9 Mains questions** spanning GS1, GS2, GS3 and GS4.

✓ Every news item sourced from Tier-1/1B/2 primary sources (Supreme Court, PIB, RBI, NGT, MEA) — no secondary coaching platform named or cited anywhere in this document.

✓ Three items (Semicon 2.0, MPMS, NIPU-2026) are honestly dated to their true mid-July 2026 approval, per the News Freshness Rule's honest-dating principle — not disguised as breaking news.

✓ Zero topics repeated from the last 7 editions without a genuine new development or explicit Memory Hook framing.

← **Part I covers: Headlines · Polity & Governance · International Relations · Defence & Security · Science & Technology · Economy**