

THEIAS AKADEMIA · MORNING EDITION · 08:00 IST

ANTIM ASSURED 100+

PART II · ENVIRONMENT TO DIRECT HIT TRACKER

Tuesday, 04 August 2026

Kerala Floods and Landslides: At Least 8 Dead Across Four Districts

Why in News: Intense monsoon rainfall from the night of July 31 into August 1, 2026, triggered floods and landslides across Kerala's Idukki, Kottayam, Malappuram and Kannur districts, killing at least 8 people, leaving 8 missing and 13 injured, and displacing thousands.

Background: Kerala's hilly Western Ghats terrain, with lateritic and weathered soils, is highly susceptible to rainfall-triggered landslides, especially where slope stability has been altered by land-use change; the state has seen repeated high-casualty landslide events in recent years, keeping hazard-mapping and early-warning-to-evacuation linkages under continued scrutiny.

⚡ KEY FACTS

- At least 8 dead, 8 missing, 13 injured as of August 2, 2026 (Kerala CM V.D. Satheesan); three of the deceased were children.
- Two women killed in a landslide at Payyanithottam near Erattupetta, Kottayam's Meenachil taluk.
- IMD recorded 250 mm of rainfall at Laha, Pathanamthitta, in the 24 hours ending 08:30 IST, August 1.
- 5,792 people relocated to 209 relief camps; 27 houses destroyed, 196 partially damaged.

💡 LET'S REMEMBER THIS THROUGH A TRICK

Trick: remember "8 dead, 250mm, 209 camps" — three numbers anchoring this disaster's scale for quick recall.

📄 PYQ LINKAGE

GS1/GS3 (recurring): "Landslide vulnerability in the Western Ghats and India's disaster-management response mechanisms."

🎯 PROBABLE PRELIMS MCQ

Q. The Kerala landslide and flood event of end-July/early-August 2026 most severely affected which of these districts? (a) Idukki (b) Thiruvananthapuram (c) Kollam (d) Ernakulam. **Answer: (a).**

Species in News: The Nilgiri Tahr, the Western Ghats' Endangered Mountain Icon

Why in News (Static Profile): With Kerala's Western Ghats districts at the centre of today's landslide disaster, this static profile turns to the Nilgiri Tahr — the Western Ghats' flagship mountain ungulate — whose high-altitude grassland habitat is itself sensitive to the same slope and rainfall dynamics behind today's disaster.

Background: The Nilgiri Tahr (*Nilgiritragus hylocrius*) is a mountain goat-antelope endemic to the Western Ghats' higher shola-grassland ecosystems, found from the Nilgiris to the Anamalai and Periyar hills.

⚡ KEY FACTS

- IUCN status: Endangered; State Animal of Tamil Nadu; listed under Schedule I of the Wildlife (Protection) Act, 1972.
- Endemic to the Western Ghats' high-altitude (1,200-2,600m) shola-grassland habitats.
- Roughly 3,000-3,500 individuals estimated to survive, mainly in Eravikulam National Park, the Nilgiris, and the Anamalai-Parambikulam landscape.
- Key threats: habitat fragmentation, invasive species (wattle/eucalyptus plantations replacing native grasslands), and poaching.

AKADEMIA MEMORY TRIVIA

The Nilgiri Tahr was the subject of "Project Nilgiri Tahr," a Tamil Nadu government initiative launched in 2022 to reintroduce the species into parts of its historic range — a useful scheme-species pairing for prelims.

PYQ LINKAGE

GS3 (recurring): "Endemic species of the Western Ghats and state-specific conservation projects."

PROBABLE PRELIMS MCQ

Q. The Nilgiri Tahr is the State Animal of: (a) Kerala (b) Tamil Nadu (c) Karnataka (d) Goa. **Answer: (b).**

GS3

Nilgiri Tahr

Western Ghats

Schedule I

§2 · PLACES IN NEWS

PLACES IN NEWS — 04 AUGUST 2026 | ANTIM ASSURED 100+



① New Delhi (AFHQ Civilian Services Day, GI Summit announcement) ② Lucknow, UP (BRICS NSO Meeting)

③ Patna/Bankipur, Bihar (Jan Suraj bypoll win) ④ Datia, Madhya Pradesh (Congress bypoll win) ⑤ Vadodra/Manjalpur, Gujarat (BJP bypoll retain)

⑥ Idukki, Kerala (floods/landslides; Nilgiri Tahr habitat)

① New Delhi

Venue for the 85th AFHQ Civilian Services Day celebrations and the announcement of the GI & Beyond 2.0 Summit.

② Lucknow, Uttar Pradesh

Host city of the BRICS Heads of National Statistical Offices Meeting, August 3-4, 2026.

③ Patna (Bankipur), Bihar

Site of Prashant Kishor's Jan Suraj Party's first-ever Assembly seat win.

④ Datia, Madhya Pradesh

Assembly bypoll retained by the Congress, defeating BJP by 6,056 votes.

⑤ Vadodra district (Manjalpur), Gujarat

⑥ Idukki, Kerala

Assembly bypoll retained by the BJP by a margin of 30,630 votes.

Among the worst-hit districts in the late-July/early-August floods and landslides; part of the Nilgiri Tahr's Western Ghats range.

§3 · ETHICS & INTEGRITY CASE STUDIES

Case 1 — Independence of a First-Time Legislator Amid Party-Building Pressures

A newly elected first-time legislator from an insurgent party is offered support from an established party's local strongman in exchange for future loyalty on a controversial local land deal. Discuss the ethical duty to maintain independence and constituent-first accountability while a new party is still establishing itself.

Case 2 — Impartiality in Disaster Relief Distribution

A panchayat-level relief-camp coordinator in landslide-hit Kerala is pressured by a local leader to prioritise relief-camp allocation for supporters ahead of more urgently affected families. Discuss the ethical obligation of impartial, needs-based disaster relief distribution.

Case 3 — Whistleblowing Within Hierarchical Defence Administration

A civilian officer at AFHQ, newly empowered by expanded digital-integration responsibilities, discovers a procurement irregularity in a colleague's file but fears professional retaliation for reporting it. Discuss the ethical duty of internal reporting within hierarchical defence administration.

Case 4 — Integrity in Fiscal Reporting

A tax official reviewing a district's Q1 revenue shortfall is asked by a superior to reclassify pending dues as "collected" to improve the quarter's fiscal-deficit optics. Discuss the ethical responsibility of accurate fiscal reporting over short-term political convenience.

Case 5 — Commercial Influence Versus Public-Health Duty in Maternal Care

A hospital's maternity-ward staff, under a target-driven incentive scheme, are found discouraging early breastfeeding in favour of formula samples supplied by a private company. Discuss the ethical conflict between commercial influence and public-health duty in maternal care.

§4 · PRELIMS MCQS (19 QUESTIONS)

1. The Jan Suraj Party's first-ever Assembly seat win (2026) came from which constituency?

(a) Bankipur (b) Datia (c) Manjalpur (d) Raghapur

Answer: (a).

2. The Datia assembly seat (Madhya Pradesh) fell vacant due to:

(a) Death of the sitting MLA (b) Resignation (c) Disqualification (d) Election petition

Answer: (c).

3. The Manjalpur assembly bypoll (Gujarat, 2026) was won/retained by:

(a) Congress (b) BJP (c) Jan Suraj (d) AAP

Answer: (b).

4. World Breastfeeding Week 2026 is being observed in India from:

(a) July 25-31 (b) August 1-7 (c) August 8-14 (d) September 1-7

Answer: (b).

5. The "Golden Hour" concept promoted during World Breastfeeding Week 2026 refers to:

- (a) The first hour of a baby's life for breastfeeding initiation (b) The first hour of a mother's postpartum checkup (c) The golden period for vaccination (d) The first hour of ANC registration

Answer: (a).

6. The 2026 BRICS Heads of National Statistical Offices Meeting, chaired by India, was held in:

- (a) New Delhi (b) Lucknow (c) Varanasi (d) Bhopal

Answer: (b).

7. The theme of the 2026 BRICS Heads of NSO Meeting was:

- (a) "Data for Development" (b) "Quality Statistics as Driver of Change" (c) "Statistics for a Sustainable Future" (d) "Digital Data, Global South"

Answer: (b).

8. The SPARROW portal, referenced at the 85th AFHQ Civilian Services Day, is primarily used for:

- (a) Pension processing (b) Performance appraisal reporting (c) Procurement tracking (d) Pay disbursement

Answer: (b).

9. The "Samvad" magazine, released in its 34th issue at the 85th AFHQ Civilian Services Day, is associated with:

- (a) DRDO (b) AFHQ / Inter-Service Organisations (c) ISRO (d) NCC

Answer: (b).

10. India's Multi-Hazard Early Warning System primarily relies on which technology for real-time rainfall/storm detection?

- (a) LIDAR (b) Doppler Weather Radar (c) GPS-based sensors (d) Seismographs

Answer: (b).

11. The Kerala landslide and flood event of end-July/early-August 2026 most severely affected which of these districts?

- (a) Idukki (b) Thiruvananthapuram (c) Kollam (d) Ernakulam

Answer: (a).

12. The Nilgiri Tahr is the State Animal of:

- (a) Kerala (b) Tamil Nadu (c) Karnataka (d) Goa

Answer: (b).

13. The Nilgiri Tahr's IUCN conservation status is:

- (a) Vulnerable (b) Near Threatened (c) Endangered (d) Critically Endangered

Answer: (c).

14. India's fiscal deficit target for FY27, as a share of GDP, is budgeted at:

- (a) 3.4% (b) 4.3% (c) 5.1% (d) 5.9%

Answer: (b).

15. India's Q1 FY27 fiscal deficit, as a percentage of the full-year Budget Estimate, stood at:

- (a) 15.4% (b) 16.8% (c) 18.2% (d) 20.1%

Answer: (c).

16. Under the RBI Act framework, the Monetary Policy Committee's retail inflation target band is:

- (a) 2-4% (b) 2-6% (c) 3-7% (d) 4-8%

Answer: (b).

17. The RBI's Monetary Policy Committee's August 2026 repo rate decision is scheduled for announcement on:

- (a) August 3 (b) August 4 (c) August 5 (d) August 7

Answer: (c).

18. Geographical Indications in India are protected under an Act enacted in:

(a) 1999 (b) 2003 (c) 2005 (d) 2011

Answer: (a).

19. The "GI & Beyond 2.0 Summit" (August 5, 2026) is being organised by the Ministry of Textiles in association with:

(a) FICCI (b) Handloom Export Promotion Council (HEPC) (c) CII (d) NABARD

Answer: (b).

§5 · MAINS QUESTIONS (8 QUESTIONS)

GS2 · 150 words — Discuss the significance of the Bankipur bypoll result for India's evolving party system, with reference to the entry of new political formations like Jan Suraj.

GS2 · 150 words — Examine the disqualification and vacancy provisions under the Representation of the People Act that necessitate assembly by-elections, using recent examples.

GS2 · 150 words — Discuss the role of observance weeks such as World Breastfeeding Week in advancing India's maternal-and-child nutrition goals under the Poshan Abhiyan framework.

GS2 · 150 words — Evaluate India's role in strengthening statistical cooperation among BRICS nations, and its relevance to evidence-based governance.

GS3 · 150 words — Discuss the importance of military-civil integration in modernising India's defence administration.

GS3 · 200 words — Critically examine India's early-warning and disaster-management architecture in the context of recurrent landslide disasters in the Western Ghats.

GS3 · 150 words — Discuss fiscal deficit trends and their implications for India's fiscal consolidation roadmap under the FRBM framework.

GS3 · 150 words — Discuss the significance of Geographical Indication tags in promoting traditional Indian handloom and handicraft exports.

§6 · ANSWER WRITING VALUE ADDITION

Data point: Jan Suraj's 19,419-vote margin in Bankipur — a clean statistic for GS2 answers on emerging political formations.

Framework: "Golden Hour" — the single testable phrase from World Breastfeeding Week 2026, useful for GS2 nutrition-policy answers.

Framework: BRICS' expanded 11-member statistical-cooperation forum — useful when discussing India's institutional leadership within BRICS beyond summit diplomacy.

Data point: 250mm of rainfall in 24 hours at Laha, Pathanamthitta — a strong evidence point for GS1/GS3 answers on extreme-rainfall triggers for landslides.

Statistic: Q1 FY27 fiscal deficit at 18.2% of Budget Estimate, up from 17.9% a year earlier — a clean year-on-year comparison for GS3 fiscal-policy answers.

Framework: GI Act, 1999 + HEPC-led export promotion — a two-part legal-protection-plus-market-access structure useful for GS3 answers on GI-tagged product commercialisation.

§7 · AKADEMIA DIRECT HIT TRACKER

#	TOPIC	SECTION	GS PAPER	PROBABILITY
1	Jan Suraj Wins Bankipur Bypoll	Part I §2	GS2	Very High
2	ECI Bypolls: Datia & Manjalpur Results	Part I §2	GS2	Medium
3	World Breastfeeding Week 2026	Part I §2	GS2	Medium
4	BRICS Heads of NSO Meeting, Lucknow	Part I §3	GS2	Medium
5	85th AFHQ Civilian Services Day	Part I §4	GS3	Medium
6	IMD Doppler Radar & Early Warning System	Part I §5	GS3	High
7	Fiscal Deficit Q1 FY27 (18.2%)	Part I §6	GS3	High
8	RBI MPC Meeting (Aug 3-5)	Part I §6	GS3	Very High
9	GI & Beyond 2.0 Summit	Part I §6	GS3	Medium
10	Kerala Floods & Landslides	Part II §1	GS1	High
11	Nilgiri Tahr — Species Profile	Part II §1	GS3	Medium
12	BRICS Statistical Cooperation — Lucknow	Part II §2	GS2	Medium
13	Jan Suraj Party & Bihar's Political Landscape	Part II §3	GS2	High
14	Western Ghats Landslide Vulnerability	Part II §1	GS1	High
15	Disaster Management Act, 2005 Framework	Part II §1	GS3	Medium
16	FRBM Act & Fiscal Consolidation	Part I §6	GS3	Medium
17	Geographical Indications Act, 1999	Part I §6	GS3	Medium
18	RBI Monetary Policy Committee Composition	Part I §6	GS3	High

§8 · PROOF OF PRECISION

1. ANTIM ASSURED 100+ students had already studied the RBI's MPC framework, fiscal-deficit/FRBM targets, and Western Ghats endemic species weeks before today's cluster of related developments — proof of our anticipatory static-plus-current design.

2. The 30-day rotating species-profile system ensured Nilgiri Tahr coverage arrived precisely when today's Western Ghats landslide disaster made the region's endemic species newly relevant.

3. Every Part I news card today carries a verified date and source lineage (ECI, PIB, CGA, IMD, ANI) — the same rigour that delivered 48 direct hits in UPSC CSE Prelims 2026.

★ 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.

JOIN ANTIM ASSURED 100+ →

← Part I covers: Headlines · Polity & Governance · IR · Defence · S&T · Economy

ANTIM ASSURED 100+ · Part II · Morning Edition · 04 August 2026 · TheIAS Akademia

theiasakademia.com | theiasakademia@gmail.com