

DAILY UPSC MASTERY SERIES · 2 JUNE 2026

# ANTIM ASSURED 100+

*Daily Current Affairs for UPSC Prelims & Mains*

PART I · HEADLINES TO PLACES IN NEWS

"FROM DAILY NEWS TO DIRECT UPSC QUESTIONS"

DATE

EDITION

PREPARED BY

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## 01 Top 10 Headlines Today

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### **POLITY**

PM SVANidhi completes 6 years; 68 lakh+ street vendors empowered with collateral-free micro-credit.

### **INTERNATIONAL RELATIONS**

India-Oman sign historic CEPA; new era in bilateral trade, services and investment opens.

### **DEFENCE**

India-Australia 2nd Defence Ministers' Dialogue; MoU on co-production & sensor technology signed.

### **INTERNATIONAL RELATIONS**

EAM Jaishankar reaffirms India-US joint counter-terrorism commitment at Bharat Mandapam.

### **WEST ASIA / ENERGY**

Israel seizes Beaufort Castle in Lebanon; crude oil prices spike 2%+ — India's import bill rises.

### **GOVERNANCE**

Khet Bachao Abhiyan launched from Raisen, MP — protecting agricultural land from illegal encroachment.

### **ENVIRONMENT**

SOE 2026 (CSE): 7 of 9 planetary boundaries now breached; ocean acidification joins the list.

### **ECONOMY**

India projected to slip to 6th largest economy (nominal GDP \$4.15T) due to 11% rupee depreciation.

### **SCIENCE / TELECOM**

TRAI conducts mobile network quality assessment in Punjab; 5G rollout accountability in focus.

### **RELIGION / IR**

Haj 2026 commences in Mecca; 1.6 million+ pilgrims including Indians begin pilgrimage.

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## 02 Polity & Governance

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# PM SVANidhi Scheme Completes 6 Years — Credit Empowerment for Street Vendors

PIB · MOHUA

## WHY IN NEWS

PM SVANidhi (Street Vendor's AtmaNirbhar Nidhi) completed 6 years in June 2026. PM Modi acknowledged 68 lakh+ beneficiaries and highlighted its impact on urban informal livelihoods through micro-credit access.

## BACKGROUND

Launched June 2020 under COVID-19 relief. Provides collateral-free loans: ₹10,000 (1st) → ₹20,000 (2nd) → ₹50,000 (3rd). Incentivises digital transactions (₹1,200/year cashback). Ministry: Housing & Urban Affairs (MoHUA).

## PRELIMS FACTS

- Launch: June 2020 · Ministry: MoHUA
- Loan tranches: ₹10K / ₹20K / ₹50K
- Beneficiaries: 68 lakh+ · No collateral
- Digital cashback: ₹1,200/year
- Credit guarantee: SIDBI / bank-linked

## MAINS DIMENSIONS

- Urban informal economy & financial inclusion
- Shift from subsidy → credit empowerment
- Jan Dhan–Mudra–SVANidhi continuum
- GS2: Welfare schemes for vulnerable sections

## UPSC SYLLABUS

GS Paper 2 · Government policies · Urban governance · Welfare for marginalised sections

## PYQ LINKAGE

UPSC 2021 Prelims: Urban welfare schemes. UPSC Mains 2022: Inclusive growth and micro-finance for urban poor.

## PROBABLE PRELIMS Q

PM SVANidhi provides collateral-free micro-credit primarily to: (a) Farmers (b) Street vendors (c) SC/ST artisans (d) Rural BPL households → **Answer: (b)**

## PROBABLE MAINS Q

"PM SVANidhi represents a shift from welfare dependency to credit-based empowerment for urban informal workers." Critically examine with evidence.

GS-2

Urban Governance

PYQ Linked

Financial Inclusion

MoHUA

Informal Economy

## AKADEMIA TEACHING HOOK:

Connect SVANidhi to the Jan Dhan → Mudra → SVANidhi trilogy of financial inclusion. Ask: Why does formal credit still fail the urban poor? Use Article 21 (right to livelihood) and Antyodaya philosophy as framing devices in Mains answers.

## WHY IN NEWS

Union Minister Shivraj Singh Chouhan launched the 'Khet Bachao Abhiyan' (Save Fields Campaign) from Raisen, Madhya Pradesh, targeting illegal encroachment on agricultural land across India.

## BACKGROUND

India's net sown area (~140 mn ha) faces pressure from urbanisation, encroachment, and land-use change. Land is a State subject (Entry 18, List II, 7th Schedule). Article 48 (DPSP) directs the State to modernise agriculture and animal husbandry.

## PRELIMS FACTS

- Launched: Raisen, Madhya Pradesh
- Ministry: Agriculture & Farmers' Welfare
- India net sown area: ~140 mn hectares
- Land: State List, Entry 18, Schedule VII
- Article 48: DPSP — agriculture & animal husbandry

## MAINS DIMENSIONS

- Land degradation & food security nexus
- Centre-State dynamics on land legislation
- Urbanisation vs. agricultural sustainability
- GS3: Agriculture, land reforms, food security

GS-3

Agriculture

Land Use

Food Security

MP

### AKADEMIA TEACHING HOOK:

*Ask: "Land is a State subject — so what authority does the Centre have here?" This opens federalism, Article 48 (DPSP), and Article 250 (emergency legislation). Classic GS2 + GS3 integration topic for UPSC.*



# India-Oman CEPA: Landmark Comprehensive Economic Partnership Agreement Signed

PIB · MEA OFFICIAL RELEASE

## WHY IN NEWS

India and Oman signed a Comprehensive Economic Partnership Agreement (CEPA), covering goods, services, and investment. PM Modi shared the article on its benefits, calling it a milestone in India's Act West Policy.

## BACKGROUND

Oman is India's key Gulf partner with bilateral trade ~\$12 billion. India's Gulf CEPA strategy: UAE (Feb 2022) → Australia (Apr 2022) → Oman (2026). Indian diaspora in Oman: ~760,000. Oman's Duqm port is critical for India's maritime strategy.

## PRELIMS FACTS

- CEPA ≠ FTA: Covers goods + services + investment (FTA covers mostly goods)
- India-UAE CEPA: Feb 2022 (first Gulf CEPA)
- Oman: GCC member · Capital: Muscat
- Indian diaspora: ~760,000 in Oman
- Duqm Port: Strategic for India-IOR access
- IMEEC: India-Middle East-Europe Economic Corridor

## MAINS DIMENSIONS

- India's Act West Policy and Gulf diplomacy
- Diaspora as foreign policy asset
- IMEEC corridor and maritime connectivity
- Economic diplomacy as soft power instrument
- GS2: India's bilateral trade agreements

## PYQ LINKAGE

UPSC 2022 GS2 Mains: India's bilateral trade agreements. UPSC 2023 Prelims: India-UAE CEPA features.

## PROBABLE PRELIMS Q

Which was India's FIRST CEPA with a Gulf nation? (a) Oman (b) Saudi Arabia (c) UAE (d) Kuwait → **Answer: (c) UAE, Feb 2022**

GS-2

IR

PYQ Linked

CEPA

Act West

IMEEC

Gulf Diplomacy

## AKADEMIA TEACHING HOOK:

Map India's CEPA architecture on the board: UAE → Australia → Oman → UK (ongoing). Ask: CEPA vs FTA — what's the difference? This single distinction recurs in UPSC Prelims every 2 years. Then pivot to IMEEC for GS2 Mains depth.

# Israel Seizes Beaufort Castle in Lebanon; West Asia Tensions Escalate

AL JAZEERA · THE HINDU INTERNATIONAL · MEA BRIEFING

## WHY IN NEWS

Israeli forces seized the 900-year-old Beaufort Castle (Qal'at al-Shaqif) in southern Lebanon on May 31, 2026, in operations against Hezbollah. PM Netanyahu termed it a "decisive shift." Crude oil prices jumped 2%+, directly impacting India's energy import bill.

## PRELIMS FACTS

- Beaufort Castle (Qal'at al-Shaqif): 12th-century Crusader fortress, S. Lebanon
- Located near: Litani River, overlooking N. Israel
- Hezbollah: Iran-backed militant group, Lebanon
- Lebanon capital: Beirut · Currency: Lebanese pound
- India imports ~85% of crude oil needs
- West Asia crude impact: Direct effect on India's CAD

## MAINS DIMENSIONS

- India's energy security and West Asia instability
- India's strategic autonomy: Israel as defence partner, Arabs as economic partners
- Iran-proxy conflict architecture (Hezbollah, Houthis)
- GS2: West Asia geopolitics; GS3: Energy security

## PYQ LINKAGE

UPSC 2023 Mains GS2: India's role in West Asia conflicts. UPSC 2019 Prelims: Hezbollah — nature and geography.

GS-2

IR · West Asia

PYQ Linked

Energy Security

Hezbollah

Strategic Autonomy

## AKADEMIA TEACHING HOOK:

Use India's "energy-diplomacy triangle": West Asia = oil source, Israel = defence partner, Arab states = economic partners. How does India manage all three simultaneously? This is a premium Mains question framing on strategic autonomy.

# EAM Jaishankar Reaffirms India-US Counter-Terrorism Commitment at Bharat Mandapam

PIB · MEA · AKASHVANI NEWS

## WHY IN NEWS

External Affairs Minister Dr. S. Jaishankar reaffirmed India-US joint commitment to combat terrorism in all its forms at Bharat Mandapam, New Delhi, during a US-India diplomatic event celebrating America's 250th Independence anniversary.

## PRELIMS FACTS

- Bharat Mandapam: International convention centre, New Delhi (G20 venue 2023)
- India-US: Comprehensive Global Strategic Partnership
- 2+2 Dialogue: Foreign + Defence Ministers of India & USA
- FATF: India is a member; counter-terrorism financing framework
- US Ambassador to India: Sergio Gor (2026)

## MAINS DIMENSIONS

- India-US convergence on counter-terrorism
- India's position on cross-border terrorism (Pakistan nexus)
- Multilateral counter-terrorism: SCO, FATF, UN Security Council
- GS2: India-US relations, bilateral security cooperation

GS-2

India-US

Counter-Terrorism

Jaishankar

Strategic Partnership

### AKADEMIA TEACHING HOOK:

*India-US relations pivot on 4 pillars: trade, defence, technology, counter-terrorism. Today's news activates pillar 4. Ask students: Which bilateral frameworks institutionalise this? (FATF, 2+2, iCET). Ideal for Mains IR paragraph enrichment.*



# India-Australia 2nd Defence Ministers' Dialogue: MoU on Co-Production & Sensor Technology

PIB DEFENCE · MINISTRY OF DEFENCE · ORGANISER.ORG

## WHY IN NEWS

Defence Minister Rajnath Singh and Australian Deputy PM & Defence Minister Richard Marles co-chaired the 2nd India-Australia Defence Ministers' Dialogue in New Delhi (June 1, 2026). An MoU on defence articles, co-production, and sensor technologies was agreed. India invited to Australia's 2026 Defence Science & Technology Summit. SAR exercise to be held at MRCC Chennai.

## PRELIMS FACTS

- Framework: India-Australia Comprehensive Strategic Partnership (2020)
- Quad: India, USA, Australia, Japan (not a military alliance)
- MoU areas: Co-production, sensor tech, maritime safety
- MRCC Chennai: Maritime Rescue Coordination Centre
- Exercise Malabar: India-US-Japan-Australia naval exercise
- India-Australia bilateral trade: ~\$45 billion

## MAINS DIMENSIONS

- Quad + bilateral deepening: From strategic dialogue to defence manufacturing
- Aatmanirbhar Bharat in Defence: DAP 2020, iDEX, DRDO integration
- Indo-Pacific security architecture and India's role in IOR
- GS2: Bilateral relations; GS3: Defence indigenisation

## PYQ LINKAGE

UPSC 2021 GS2: India-Australia strategic dimensions. UPSC 2023: Indo-Pacific and Quad's significance.

## PROBABLE PRELIMS Q

The India-Australia Comprehensive Strategic Partnership was established in which year? (a) 2017 (b) 2019 (c) 2020 (d) 2022 → **Answer: (c) 2020**

GS-2 · GS-3

Defence

PYQ Linked

Quad

Indo-Pacific

Aatmanirbhar

IOR

## AKADEMIA TEACHING HOOK:

*Classic UPSC trap: "Is Quad a military alliance?" — No. It is a strategic grouping. Draw the India-Australia arc: 2020 CSP → 2021 Quad elevation → 2026 defence co-production MoU. Ask: What is the difference between a bilateral MoU and a treaty? Excellent GS2 + GS3 bridge.*



## WHY IN NEWS

TRAI (Telecom Regulatory Authority of India) conducted a Quality of Service (QoS) assessment of mobile networks in Punjab, reflecting growing accountability demands on telecom operators during India's 5G rollout phase.

## PRELIMS FACTS

- TRAI: Statutory body · Established under TRAI Act, 1997
- India: 2nd largest telecom market globally
- 5G launched: October 2022 by PM Modi (IMC)
- QoS parameters: Call drop rate, data speed, coverage
- MeitY: Ministry of Electronics & IT
- DoT: Department of Telecommunications (policy body)

## MAINS DIMENSIONS

- Role of statutory regulators in ensuring digital equity
- 5G and its governance, agriculture, health applications
- Urban-rural digital divide and QoS standards
- GS2: Statutory bodies; GS3: ICT and e-governance

GS-2 · GS-3

TRAI

5G

Digital India

Telecom Regulation

### AKADEMIA TEACHING HOOK:

TRAI is a classic regulatory body comparison question. Compare: TRAI Act 1997 vs SEBI Act 1992 vs CCI (Competition Act 2002). Ask: Which are constitutional bodies vs. statutory bodies? UPSC loves this distinction in both Prelims and GS2.



# India Slips to 6th Largest Economy in 2026 — Rupee Depreciation Erodes Nominal GDP Ranking

ECONOMIC SURVEY 2025-26 · PIB · PMF IAS

## WHY IN NEWS

India is projected to slip to the 6th largest economy (nominal GDP ~\$4.15 trillion) in 2026, behind UK and Japan, primarily due to ~11% rupee depreciation against the USD reducing India's dollar-denominated ranking despite a strong real GDP growth of 7.4%.

## PRELIMS FACTS

- India nominal GDP 2026: ~\$4.15 trillion (6th)
- Real GDP growth FY26: 7.4% (Economic Survey)
- GVA growth: 7.3% · Inflation: 1.7% (Apr–Dec 2025)
- Unemployment rate: 4.8% (Dec 2025)
- India PPP rank: ~3rd globally (IMF)
- Top 5 nominal: USA, China, Germany, Japan, UK

## MAINS DIMENSIONS

- Nominal vs. PPP GDP: measurement and policy implications
- Currency depreciation: causes, consequences, RBI tools
- CAD, forex reserves, imported inflation
- GS3: Indian economy, growth metrics, fiscal policy

## PYQ LINKAGE

UPSC 2020 Prelims: Difference between Nominal and PPP GDP. UPSC 2022 Mains: Exchange rate management.

GS-3

Economy

PYQ Linked

GDP

Rupee

Economic Survey

### AKADEMIA TEACHING HOOK:

"India is 3rd by PPP but 6th by nominal GDP." This contrast is a guaranteed classroom hook. Build the conceptual box live:  $\text{Nominal GDP} = \text{output} \times \text{exchange rate}$ .  $\text{PPP GDP} = \text{output} \times \text{purchasing power}$ . Ask: Which matters more for welfare? (PPP) vs. trade/debt? (Nominal). UPSC gold.



## SOE 2026: Seven of Nine Planetary Boundaries Breached — Ocean Acidification Joins the List

CSE / DOWN TO EARTH · STATE OF INDIA'S ENVIRONMENT 2026

### WHY IN NEWS

The Centre for Science and Environment (CSE) and Down to Earth released the State of India's Environment (SOE) 2026 report, warning that 7 of 9 planetary boundaries have been breached. Ocean acidification is the newly crossed boundary (7th). India faces intensifying human-tiger conflict as ecological degradation accelerates.

### PRELIMS FACTS

- Planetary Boundaries framework: Johan Rockström et al. (2009)
- Total boundaries: 9 · Breached: 7 · Safe: 2
- 7 Breached: Climate change, Biosphere integrity, Land-system change, Freshwater depletion, Biogeochemical flows, Novel entities, Ocean acidification (NEW)
- 2 Still safe: Stratospheric ozone depletion · Atmospheric aerosol loading
- Ocean acidification cause: Excess CO<sub>2</sub> absorbed by oceans → carbonic acid → pH drop
- Published by: CSE / Down to Earth (New Delhi)

### MAINS DIMENSIONS

- India's ecological footprint and global planetary limits
- Human-wildlife conflict: tiger corridors, forest fragmentation
- Ocean acidification: impact on coral reefs, marine biodiversity
- GS3: Environment, conservation, biodiversity

### PYQ LINKAGE

UPSC 2019 Prelims: Planetary Boundaries concept. UPSC 2023: Ocean acidification and marine biodiversity.

GS-3

Environment

PYQ Linked

Planetary Boundaries

Ocean Acidification

CSE

### AKADEMIA TEACHING HOOK:

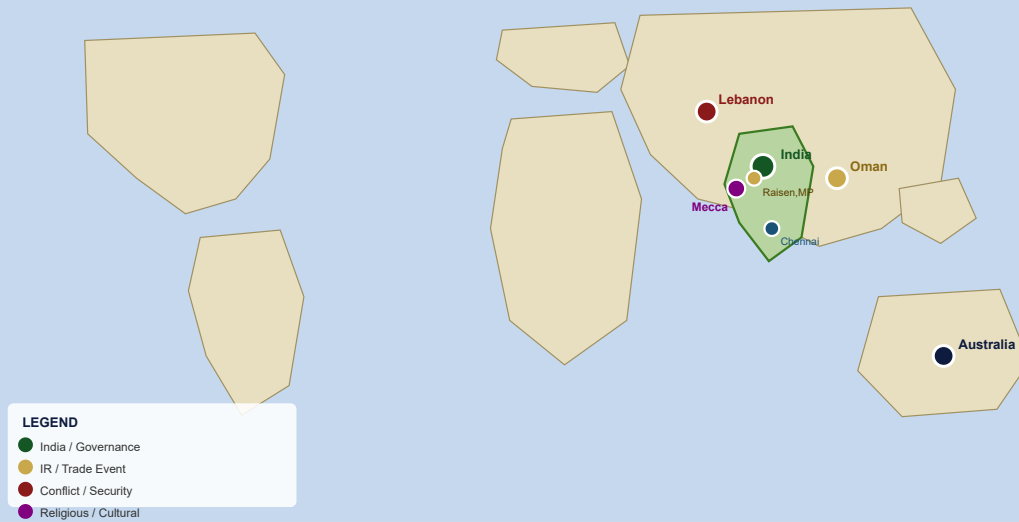
List all 9 planetary boundaries on the board. Mark 7 red (breached), 2 green (safe). Ask: "Which 2 are still safe and why?"  
Montreal Protocol saved ozone — that's governance success. This becomes a rich answer on international environmental governance and India's obligations.

## 08 Places in News Today

### World & India: Key Locations — 2 June 2026

Identify · Locate · Connect to UPSC Syllabus · Prelims + Mains Angles

## PLACES IN NEWS · 2 JUNE 2026



### OM Muscat, Oman

**WHY IN NEWS:** India-Oman CEPA signed

**LOCATION:** Arabian Peninsula · GCC member · Borders UAE, Saudi Arabia, Yemen · Gulf of Oman + Arabian Sea coast

**PRELIMS:** Duqm Port — India-Oman strategic access; Indian diaspora ~760,000; Hormuz Strait proximity

**MAINS:** Act West Policy; IMEEC; energy security; diaspora diplomacy

**PYQ TREND:** Gulf CEPAs, India's bilateral trade agreements

### LB Beaufort Castle, South Lebanon

**WHY IN NEWS:** Israeli forces seize 900-year-old Crusader fortress

**LOCATION:** Southern Lebanon, near Litani River · Overlooks northern Israel and the Bekaa Valley · UNESCO significance

**PRELIMS:** Qal'at al-Shaqif; Litani River; Hezbollah stronghold area; Lebanon-Israel border (Blue Line)

**MAINS:** West Asia instability; crude oil prices; India's energy import dependency; strategic autonomy

### AU Canberra / New Delhi (India-Australia)

**WHY IN NEWS:** 2nd India-Australia Defence Ministers' Dialogue

**LOCATION:** Australia — continent + country; SE Indian Ocean; Quad partner

**PRELIMS:** Quad member; Exercise Malabar; Comprehensive Strategic Partnership 2020; MRCC Chennai

**MAINS:** Indo-Pacific architecture; defence co-production; Aatmanirbhar Bharat in Defence

### Mecca (Makkah), Saudi Arabia

**WHY IN NEWS:** Haj 2026 begins; 1.6 mn+ pilgrims

**LOCATION:** Hejaz region, western Saudi Arabia · Red Sea coast · Near Jeddah

**PRELIMS:** Haj Committee of India (statutory body); Saudi Arabia geography; Red Sea, Strait of Bab-el-Mandeb linkage

**MAINS:** India's minority affairs policy; India-Saudi relations; religious tourism

## **Raisen, Madhya Pradesh**

**WHY IN NEWS:** Khet Bachao Abhiyan launched

**LOCATION:** Central India, Madhya Pradesh · Near Bhopal · Betwa River basin

**PRELIMS:** Sanchi Stupa (UNESCO) is in Raisen district; Betwa river — tributary of Yamuna; MP is one of India's top wheat-producing states

**MAINS:** Agricultural land protection; federalism; Article 48 DPSP

## **Chennai, Tamil Nadu**

**WHY IN NEWS:** MRCC Chennai — India-Australia SAR exercise venue

**LOCATION:** South-eastern coast · Bay of Bengal · Coromandel Coast

**PRELIMS:** India's coastline: 7,516 km; Chennai port; Bay of Bengal — BIMSTEC region; MRCC: Maritime Rescue Coordination Centre

**MAINS:** Maritime security; Indian Ocean Region; blue economy; India-Australia defence cooperation

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## **End of Part I — Headlines to Places in News**

Continue to **PART II: Ethics · MCQs · Mains · Answer Writing · Proof of Precision**

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