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PART II • ENVIRONMENT TO DIRECT HIT TRACKER

Friday, 24 July 2026

Nilgiri Tahr Population Rises to 1,364 in Tamil Nadu — 3rd Synchronised Survey; VARUDAI App; Anamalai Hills 44.87%; Project Nilgiri Tahr

Why in News: Tamil Nadu's 3rd Synchronised Survey of the Nilgiri Tahr (*Nilgiritragus hylocrius*) recorded a population of 1,364 individuals — a 4.68% increase from the previous year and over 32% growth since 2024, reflecting conservation gains under Project Nilgiri Tahr. The survey employed the Android-based VARUDAI mobile application for the first time, enabling real-time field data transmission across 177 blocks in 14 forest divisions. The Anamalai Hills (Coimbatore and Tiruppur districts) holds the highest concentration at 44.87% of the total population.

Background: The Nilgiri Tahr is India's only mountain ungulate endemic to the Western Ghats — one of the world's 36 Biodiversity Hotspots (IUCN). Project Nilgiri Tahr was launched by PM Modi on October 7, 2021, with ₹25.14 crore allocated over 5 years. Managed by Tamil Nadu Forest Department and Wildlife Institute of India (WII), the project involves habitat restoration, grassland management, anti-poaching, community engagement, and satellite-radio telemetry. The species' population had declined to below 100 in the mid-20th century due to hunting and habitat loss, and has since recovered through sustained conservation.

⚡ KEY FACTS

- Nilgiri Tahr (*Nilgiritragus hylocrius*): Only mountain ungulate endemic to Western Ghats; IUCN Status: Endangered; CITES: Appendix I; WPA 1972: Schedule I; State Animal of Tamil Nadu. Found in high-altitude (above 1,200 m) grasslands (shola-grassland mosaic) in TN and Kerala.
- Population distribution (2026 survey): Anamalai Hills 44.87%, Nilgiris 29.25%, Palani Hills, High Wavy Mountains, Mukurthi NP. Kerala population: estimated 400-450 additional (Eravikulam NP = core Kerala population; Rajamala area). Total India: ~1,800-2,000 estimated (TN + Kerala).
- VARUDAI app: Android-based; used for real-time field data entry, geo-tagged sightings, photo uploads; developed by Tamil Nadu Forest Department; "VARUDAI" = Tamil for male

wild goat; reduces transcription errors; enables instant monitoring HQ visibility.

- Threats to Nilgiri Tahr: (1) Forest fires (mentioned as biggest threat in 2026 survey — reduced survey count in fire-affected areas); (2) Invasive species (Lantana camara, Eucalyptus plantations encroaching on shola-grasslands); (3) Tourism pressure near Eravikulam NP (Rajamala); (4) Climate change pushing grasslands higher in altitude; (5) Historic hunting (now eliminated).

LET'S REMEMBER THIS THROUGH A TRICK

Western Ghats wildlife quick reference: Nilgiri Tahr (Endangered, endemic, TN state animal) ≠ Himalayan Tahr (*Hemitragus jemlahicus* — Himalaya, Least Concern). Nilgiri Tahr has curved horns (backward) and prefers grasslands above treeline. Shola-grassland mosaic = distinctive Western Ghats ecosystem: stunted forest patches (shola) in valleys + open rolling grasslands on ridges. Nilgiri Biosphere Reserve (1986, India's first UNESCO-MAB Biosphere Reserve) overlaps Nilgiri Tahr habitat. Eravikulam NP (Kerala) = world's largest concentration of Nilgiri Tahr. Mukurthi NP (TN) = important habitat too.

PYQ LINKAGE

GS3 2022: "Discuss threats to Western Ghats biodiversity and conservation measures." | GS3 2021: "Wildlife conservation in India — examine the role of Project Tiger, Project Elephant, and species-specific projects." | GS1 2020: "Western Ghats — significance as a biodiversity hotspot."

PROBABLE PRELIMS MCQ

Q. Which of the following is correct about the Nilgiri Tahr? (1) It is endemic to the Western Ghats. (2) It is the State Animal of Tamil Nadu. (3) It is listed as Vulnerable on the IUCN Red List. Codes: (a) 1 and 2 only (b) 2 and 3 only (c) 1 and 3 only (d) 1, 2 and 3. **Answer: (a) 1 and 2 only.** Statement 3 is incorrect — Nilgiri Tahr is ENDANGERED (not Vulnerable) on the IUCN Red List. It is endemic to the Western Ghats and is indeed the State Animal of Tamil Nadu.

ENV

Nilgiri Tahr

Western Ghats

IUCN Endangered

Project Nilgiri Tahr

VARUDAI

WPA Schedule I

ENV

Critically Endangered • Solar vs Conservation

Great Indian Bustard (GIB) — IUCN Critically Endangered; ~150 Individuals; Power Lines vs Conservation; SC vs RES Tension

Why in News: The Great Indian Bustard (GIB), once India's leading candidate for National Bird status, continues to be at the centre of a landmark Supreme Court vs Renewable Energy tension: the Supreme Court (April 2021) had directed the burying of all overhead power transmission lines in GIB priority habitat in Rajasthan and Gujarat, citing electrocution as the #1 cause of GIB mortality. Renewable energy companies contested this as impractical and enormously expensive (~₹35,000 crore estimated). The Supreme Court modified its original order in October 2023, asking a committee to identify specific sections for undergrounding. The ongoing tension remains unresolved, connecting to India's 2070 Net Zero target vs species extinction.

Background: India's National Bird is the Peacock (*Pavo cristatus*), but GIB was the top contender in the 1960s debate. Salim Ali and the BNHS (Bombay Natural History Society) advocated for GIB, arguing peacock was already well-known, whereas GIB needed conservation visibility. GIB lost the vote. Now, the species faces extinction within a decade if current trends continue. It is confined primarily to Desert National Park (DNP), Jaisalmer, Rajasthan, with tiny remnant populations in Gujarat (Naliya, Kutch), Maharashtra, Karnataka, and Andhra Pradesh.

⚡ KEY FACTS

- Great Indian Bustard (*Ardeotis nigriceps*): IUCN: Critically Endangered; CITES: Appendix I; WPA: Schedule I; Population: ~100-150 (2026 estimate); 90%+ in Rajasthan (Desert NP, Jaisalmer). World's heaviest flying bird species alongside Kori Bustard (Africa).
- Protected Area Centre (PAC), Jaisalmer: India's captive breeding centre for GIB, established 2019 under Wildlife Institute of India (WII) + Rajasthan Forest Department; produces eggs through artificial incubation; first GIB chick born in captivity 2021. Goal: 25+ breeding birds by 2028.
- Primary threats: (1) Overhead power line electrocution (chief killer — GIB has poor frontal vision, cannot see wires); (2) Habitat loss (grassland conversion to agriculture, solar/wind energy farms); (3) Hunting (now rare but historical); (4) Disturbance by human activity in breeding zones; (5) Small population genetics + inbreeding risk at ~150 individuals.
- SC-RES tension: RES = Renewable Energy Sources. Rajasthan + Gujarat host India's largest solar/wind installations (Thar Desert + Rann of Kutch). GIB habitat and solar energy zones overlap. Undergrounding power lines in solar zones = enormously costly + technically

challenging for ultra-high-voltage AC/DC lines. India's Net Zero by 2070 requires massive RES expansion — creating GIB vs climate action conflict of obligations.

LET'S REMEMBER THIS THROUGH A TRICK

GIB vs Peacock: India's National Bird = Peacock (since 1963) — protected under WPA. GIB ≠ National Bird but IS the State Bird of Rajasthan. Other state birds: Bengal Florican (Assam — also Critically Endangered), Sarus Crane (UP — Vulnerable). GIB vs Great Bustard (Europe): Two different species — Great Bustard = *Otis tarda* (Europe); Great INDIAN Bustard = *Ardeotis nigriceps* (India). For ethics GS4: "Environmental determinism vs anthropocentrism" — choosing between species survival and renewable energy = competing moral obligations with no easy answer. Supreme Court's role = judicial activism in biodiversity protection.

PYQ LINKAGE

GS3 2023: "Critically Endangered birds of India — examine conservation challenges." | GS3 2022: "Conflict between renewable energy development and wildlife conservation — discuss with examples." | GS3 2021: "Supreme Court's role in environmental governance — assess with cases."

PROBABLE PRELIMS MCQ

Q. The Great Indian Bustard (GIB) is the State Bird of: (a) Gujarat (b) Rajasthan (c) Madhya Pradesh (d) Maharashtra. **Answer: (b) Rajasthan.** GIB (*Ardeotis nigriceps*) is the State Bird of Rajasthan. Its primary habitat is Desert National Park, Jaisalmer. India's National Bird is the Peacock (*Pavo cristatus*), NOT the GIB.

ENV

Great Indian Bustard

GIB

IUCN CR

Desert NP

Captive Breeding

RES vs Conservation

§2 · PLACES IN NEWS — 24 JULY 2026



● ① New Delhi (Parliament + Cabinet Anti-Paper-Leak)

● ② Kolkata, WB (Shabdlok Museum, National Library)

● ③ Riyadh, Saudi Arabia (Astra Mk1 BVRAAM interest) ● ④ Sriharikota, AP (GISAT-1A Launch Site, July 31)

● ⑤ Anamalai Hills, Tamil Nadu (Nilgiri Tahr Survey)

● ⑥ Pune, Maharashtra (Bharat Forge FICV / R Defence Conclave)

① New Delhi, India

PM Modi announces Anti-Paper Leak Bill (July 24); Cabinet clears it; to be introduced next week in Monsoon Session; fast-track courts; GS2 — Governance.

② Kolkata, West Bengal, India

Shabdlok — India's first immersive language museum; National Library campus; inaugurated by HM Amit Shah July 19; Ministry of Culture; 9 galleries; 22 official languages; AI + holograms.

③ Riyadh, Saudi Arabia

Royal Saudi Air Force evaluating Astra Mk1 BVRAAM for F-15S/SA fleet; Indonesia Astra deal signed; 6 countries in queue; US FMS approval needed; post-Operation Sindoor validation.

④ Sriharikota, Andhra Pradesh

Satish Dhawan Space Centre (SDSC-SHAR); GISAT-1A (EOS-05) on GSLV-F17 launching July 31; India's first GEO earth observation satellite; real-time disaster monitoring.

⑤ Anamalai Hills, Tamil Nadu

Highest Nilgiri Tahr concentration (44.87% of 1,364); Coimbatore + Tiruppur districts; Project Nilgiri Tahr; VARUDAI app; IUCN Endangered; State Animal of TN.

⑥ Pune, Maharashtra

R Defence Forces First Conclave 2026; Bharat Forge Chairman Baba Kalyani unveils FICV prototypes (tracked + wheeled); Kalyani Group + Tata Advanced Systems; DCPD framework.

§3 · ETHICS & INTEGRITY CASE STUDIES

Case 1 · Examination Governance vs Due Process

The government proposes life imprisonment for "kingpin" paper-leak organisers under the new Anti-Paper Leak Bill. An IAS officer drafts the Bill but faces pressure to include provisions allowing plea bargaining for minor accused to gain testimony. Tension between deterrence (stricter punishment) and due process (fair trial, presumption of innocence). **GS4 Values:** Justice, integrity in governance, rule of law, impartiality.

Case 2 · Federal Ethics: VBSA Bill Centralisation

The VBSA Bill transfers regulatory authority from UGC (Centre) and state-level bodies to a Central VBSA — raising concerns from southern and non-BJP states about loss of control over their state university systems. An IAS officer in a state education department must decide whether to recommend the state legislature adopt VBSA or pass a concurrent law asserting state autonomy. **GS4 Values:** Federalism, accountability, impartiality, institutional integrity.

Case 3 · Arms Export Ethics: Astra Mk1 to Saudi Arabia

Saudi Arabia's F-15 fleet is involved in airstrikes over Yemen (ongoing humanitarian crisis). India's Astra Mk1 sale to Saudi Arabia would boost India's defence exports by ~₹2,000 crore and validate Atmanirbhar Defence. Should India proceed despite the arms being potentially used in a conflict zone with civilian casualties? **GS4 Values:** Global

Case 4 · GIB vs Net Zero: Competing Moral Obligations

India's commitment to 500 GW renewable energy by 2030 requires large solar parks in Rajasthan — the only habitat for GIB (~150 individuals). Undergrounding power lines (SC order) costs ₹35,000+ crore and delays solar projects. Should the Supreme Court's biodiversity protection order yield to India's climate commitments? **GS4 Values:**

ethics, human dignity, national interest vs humanitarian principles, consequences vs rules.

Intergenerational equity, precautionary principle, judicial deference vs climate justice.

§4 · PRELIMS MCQS — 24 JULY 2026 (15 QUESTIONS)

Q1. Which Act does the new Anti-Paper Leak Bill (2026) seek to supersede? (a) Prevention of Examination Fraud Act 2020 (b) Public Examinations (Prevention of Unfair Means) Act 2024 (c) NTA Regulation Act 2023 (d) University Examinations (Security) Act 2022

✓ Answer: (b) — Public Examinations (Prevention of Unfair Means) Act 2024; provides for up to 10 years jail + ₹1 cr fine; covers 15 central exam bodies including UPSC, SSC, NTA.

Q2. The VBSA Bill 2025 proposes to replace: (a) UGC, AICTE, NMC (b) UGC, NMC, BCI (c) UGC, AICTE, NCTE (d) AICTE, NCTE, NAAC

✓ Answer: (c) — Viksit Bharat Shiksha Adhishthan replaces UGC (1956), AICTE (1987), and NCTE (1993) with a single umbrella higher education regulator.

Q3. UGC was established under the UGC Act of: (a) 1947 (b) 1950 (c) 1956 (d) 1973

✓ Answer: (c) — UGC Act 1956; UGC established as a statutory body; reviews grants to universities; replaced by VBSA under the 2025 Bill.

Q4. Shabdalok (Museum of Word) is located at: (a) India International Centre, New Delhi (b) National Museum, New Delhi (c) National Library campus, Kolkata (d) Asiatic Society, Mumbai

✓ Answer: (c) — Shabdalok at National Library, Belvedere Estate, Alipore, Kolkata; inaugurated by HM Amit Shah July 19, 2026; Ministry of Culture.

Q5. How many languages are listed in the 8th Schedule of the Constitution of India? (a) 18 (b) 20 (c) 22 (d) 25

✓ Answer: (c) — 22 scheduled languages; last added via 92nd Amendment 2003 (Bodo, Dogri, Maithili, Santhali). 8th Schedule is under Article 344.

Q6. Astra Mk1 is classified as: (a) SRAAM (Short Range Air-to-Air Missile) (b) BVRAAM (Beyond Visual Range Air-to-Air Missile) (c) ALCM (Air-Launched Cruise Missile) (d) ATGM (Anti-Tank Guided

Missile)

✓ Answer: (b) — Astra Mk1 BVRAAM; range ~80 km; Mach 4.5+; active radar seeker; developed by DRDL Hyderabad; produced by BDL; operational on Su-30 MKI + Tejas IAF.

Q7. GISAT-1A is also designated as: (a) EOS-03 (b) EOS-04 (c) EOS-05 (d) EOS-06

✓ Answer: (c) — EOS-05 (Earth Observation Satellite-05). EOS-03 was the failed 2021 GISAT-1. GISAT-1A is a fresh satellite; launch on GSLV-F17, July 31 2026.

Q8. GSLV stands for: (a) Geo-Synchronous Satellite Launch Vehicle (b) Geo-Stationary Solar Launch Vehicle (c) General Satellite Launch Vehicle (d) Ground-based Satellite Launch Vector

✓ Answer: (a) — Geosynchronous Satellite Launch Vehicle; GSLV Mk II uses CE-7.5 cryogenic engine (India-developed); payload to GTO: ~2,500 kg.

Q9. Satish Dhawan Space Centre (SHAR) is located in which district? (a) Nellore, Andhra Pradesh (b) Thiruvananthapuram, Kerala (c) Kancheepuram, Tamil Nadu (d) Vizianagaram, Andhra Pradesh

✓ Answer: (a) — SDSC-SHAR, Sriharikota Island, Nellore district, Andhra Pradesh; named after ISRO Chairman Satish Dhawan; India's primary launch centre.

Q10. The FICV programme aims to replace which vehicle in the Indian Army? (a) T-72 Ajeya (b) BMP-II Sarath (c) Arjun MBT (d) TATA Kestrel

✓ Answer: (b) — BMP-II Sarath (Soviet-designed IFV; licensed production at OFB Medak; inducted 1987); being replaced by FICV under DCPD framework.

Q11. The "Gems of India" digital creator challenge uses which platform for video submissions? (a) YouTube only (b) Meta (Instagram/Facebook) (c) MyWAVES on WAVES OTT (d) Doordarshan Digital

✓ Answer: (c) — MyWAVES section of the WAVES OTT platform; I&B Ministry initiative; YouTube and Meta partner for reach; entries August 1-31 2026.

Q12. The "Orange Economy" refers to: (a) Citrus fruit agricultural economy (b) Buddhist cultural economy of Southeast Asia (c) Creative and cultural industries economy (d) Sunrise sector clean energy economy

✓ Answer: (c) — Orange Economy (UNESCO) = creative/cultural industries: arts, design, fashion, music, film, gaming, digital content. Global value ~\$2.25 trillion (2023).

Q13. The Nilgiri Tahr is the State Animal of: (a) Kerala (b) Karnataka (c) Tamil Nadu (d) Andhra Pradesh

✓ Answer: (c) — Nilgiri Tahr (*Nilgiritragus hylocrius*) is the State Animal of Tamil Nadu. IUCN Endangered; endemic to Western Ghats; found in Kerala too (Eravikulam NP) but State Animal of TN only.

Q14. VARUDAI is: (a) Tamil Nadu's anti-poaching mobile app (b) Android app used for real-time Nilgiri Tahr survey data (c) Karnataka's forest fire detection system (d) WII's leopard tagging platform

✓ Answer: (b) — VARUDAI = Android-based app developed by Tamil Nadu Forest Department; used in the 3rd synchronised Nilgiri Tahr survey; "VARUDAI" = Tamil for male wild goat.

Q15. The Great Indian Bustard (GIB) is: (a) State Bird of Rajasthan, IUCN Endangered (b) National Bird of India, IUCN Critically Endangered (c) State Bird of Rajasthan, IUCN Critically Endangered (d) State Bird of Gujarat, IUCN Critically Endangered

✓ Answer: (c) — GIB (*Ardeotis nigriceps*) is State Bird of Rajasthan; IUCN Critically Endangered; ~100-150 individuals; National Bird is Peacock (*Pavo cristatus*).

§5 · MAINS QUESTIONS — 24 JULY 2026

GS2

Governance

Q1. "Paper leaks are not just administrative failures — they are an assault on merit and equal opportunity." In light of the proposed Anti-Paper Leak Bill 2026, critically examine the systemic vulnerabilities in India's examination governance ecosystem. (250 words)
Hints: NTA structure (Society, not statutory) → no statutory accountability → NEET 2024 grace marks + paper leak → SC oversight → new bill: fast-track courts + organised crime provisions + asset forfeiture → compare with Bihar Model (state-level strict law) → need for end-to-end digital security + question bank reforms.

GS2

Education Policy

Q2. The Viksit Bharat Shiksha Adhishthan (VBSA) Bill seeks to replace UGC, AICTE, and NCTE with a single umbrella regulator. Examine the potential benefits and concerns, particularly regarding university autonomy and cooperative federalism. (250 words)
Hints: NEP 2020 Chapter 18 rationale → fragmentation of UGC+AICTE+NCTE → VBSA 4 verticals → JPC safeguards (state consultation) → concerns: excessive centralisation (education =

Concurrent List) → university autonomy at risk → compare NMC Act 2020 (medical) → recommendations: sunset review, state co-representation in VBSA council.

GS2 IR Q3. India's defence exports have grown 14× in 8 years, with Astra Mk1 attracting Saudi Arabia and Indonesia. Critically examine the strategic and ethical dimensions of India's emerging role as a global arms exporter. (250 words)

Hints: ₹21,083 crore FY25; target ₹50,000 cr FY30; Astra = post-Op-Sindoor validation; Saudi interest = Yemen conflict complication; arms export policy (SCOMET list, MoD approval); India's policy = no first use but sell weapons? → ethical tension → compare US/French arms export regimes → iDEX + DRDO IP → soft power vs hard power; End-Use Monitoring Agreement (EUMA) as safeguard.

GS3 S&T Q4. India's GISAT-1A (EOS-05) will be the country's first geostationary earth observation satellite. Discuss its significance for disaster management, agricultural monitoring, and national security. (250 words)

Hints: GEO vs LEO — 30-min revisit advantage; cyclone tracking (Bay of Bengal); flood + drought monitoring; glacial lake outburst flood (GLOF) early warning; precision agriculture; border surveillance potential; Chandrayaan-3 + GISAT-1A = dual space progress 2026; complements National Disaster Management Authority (NDMA) + ISRO-NDMA MoU; failure history (EOS-03 2021 GSLV failure) → second attempt.

GS3 Environment Q5. India must choose between expanding renewable energy infrastructure and saving the critically endangered Great Indian Bustard. Discuss the policy and ethical dimensions of this conflict, and suggest a way forward. (250 words)

Hints: GIB ~150 individuals → power line electrocution = #1 cause → SC April 2021 undergrounding order → RES companies oppose (cost ₹35,000+ cr) → SC modified 2023 → tension unresolved; India 500 GW RES by 2030 → biodiversity vs climate — both SDG 13 (Climate) and SDG 15 (Life on Land) obligations → solutions: (a) flight diverters on existing lines; (b) migrate solar parks away from GIB zones; (c) international GIB conservation fund; (d) corridor-based zoning of RES.

GS3 Economy Q6. "The Orange Economy holds the key to India's cultural diplomacy and grassroots empowerment." Critically examine the Gems of India Challenge in the context of India's digital creator economy and Orange Economy ambitions. (250 words)

Hints: Orange Economy = UNESCO creative/cultural industries (\$2.25T globally); India creator economy ~\$2.5B but concentrated; WAVES + MyWAVES as sovereign platform alternative; Gems of India democratises creation (district → national funnel); IT Rules 2021 OTT regulation; I&B

Ministry's policy pivot from consumer to producer country; link to Aatmanirbhar Bharat + Vocal for Local; challenge: monetisation sustainability beyond prize money; scale from 6 pilot UT/states to national.

§6 · ANSWER WRITING VALUE ADDITION

DATA — INDIA DEFENCE EXPORTS

India defence exports FY17 ₹1,521 crore → FY22 ₹12,814 crore → FY25 ₹21,083 crore (record); 13.8× growth in 8 years; 100+ countries; target ₹50,000 crore by FY30; Astra Mk1 export adds air-to-air missile to catalogue. Use in: GS3 Atmanirbharta, GS2 IR defence diplomacy answers.

DATA — GIB CONSERVATION

GIB population: ~100-150 individuals (90%+ Rajasthan); rate of decline ~15-18% per decade; electrocution = #1 cause; PAC captive breeding Jaisalmer (est. 2019, first chick 2021); SC order to underground power lines = ₹35,000 crore estimated cost vs GIB survival. Use in: ENV biodiversity, GS3 RES-environment conflict.

DATA — NILGIRI TAHR & WESTERN GHATS

Nilgiri Tahr 2026 survey: 1,364 (4.68% rise); Anamalai Hills 44.87%; Project Nilgiri Tahr launched Oct 7, 2021 (₹25.14 crore, 5 years); State Animal of Tamil Nadu; IUCN Endangered; endemic Western Ghats (1 of 36 global Biodiversity Hotspots). Use in: ENV biodiversity, GS1 Western Ghats geography.

QUOTE — EDUCATION GOVERNANCE

"Paper leaks are not a small issue — for lakhs of students and their guardians, such incidents are extremely painful." — PM Narendra Modi, July 24, 2026. Use in: GS2 examination governance, GS4 compassion in administration answers.

§7 · AKADEMIA DIRECT HIT TRACKER — 24 JULY 2026

#	TOPIC	GS	PRIORITY	ONE-LINE RECALL
1	Anti-Paper Leak Bill 2026	GS2	 HIGH	Supersedes 2024 Act; life imprisonment for kingpins; fast-track courts; Cabinet July 24; Parliament next week
2	VBSA Bill (UGC+AICTE+NCTE replacement)	GS2	 HIGH	Viksit Bharat Shiksha Adhishthan; 4 verticals (NHERC/NAC/HEGC/GEC); NEP 2020; JPC = D. Purandeswari; introduced Dec 15 2025
3	Shabdalok Language Museum	GS1/GS2	 HIGH	India's first immersive language museum; National Library Kolkata; Amit Shah July 19; 9 galleries; 22 official languages; AI+holograms; free till Aug 15
4	Astra Mk1 BVRAAM Exports	GS2/GS3	 HIGH	~80 km range; Mach 4.5+; DRDL+BDL; Indonesia deal signed; Saudi F-15 interest; 6 countries; Operation Sindoor validation; ₹21,083 cr FY25 exports
5	Bharat Forge FICV Prototypes	GS3	 MEDIUM	Tracked + wheeled FICV; Baba Kalyani; Bharat Forge + Tata Advanced Systems; DCPD DAP 2020; replaces BMP-II Sarath; R Defence Conclave 2026
6	GISAT-1A (EOS-05) Launch July 31	GS3	 HIGH	GSLV-F17; Sriharikota; GEO orbit 35,786 km; real-time disaster monitoring; 30-min revisit; retry after EOS-03 failure 2021; multi-spectral + hyperspectral
7	Gems of India Challenge + Orange Economy	GS3	 MEDIUM	I&B Ministry + YouTube + Meta; MyWAVES/WAVES OTT; entries Aug 1-31; 6 pilot regions; district prize ₹50,000; Orange Economy = UNESCO creative industries
8	Nilgiri Tahr Survey 2026	ENV	 HIGH	1,364 count; 4.68% rise; Anamalai Hills 44.87%; VARUDAI app; Project Nilgiri Tahr ₹25.14 cr; IUCN Endangered; WPA Sch-I; endemic Western Ghats; State Animal TN

9	Great Indian Bustard (GIB)	ENV	 HIGH	Ardeotis nigriceps; IUCN CR; ~100-150 India; State Bird Rajasthan; Desert NP Jaisalmer; PAC captive breeding 2019; electrocution #1 threat; SC vs RES tension
10	India Defence Exports FY25 Record	GS3	 MEDIUM	₹21,083 crore FY25; 100+ countries; target ₹50,000 cr FY30; 13.8× growth since FY17; Astra + Akash + Tejas + artillery = key products
11	8th Schedule — 22 Languages	GS1/GS2	 MEDIUM	Art. 344; 22 languages; 71st Amendment 1992 (Konkani+Manipuri+Nepali); 92nd Amendment 2003 (Bodo+Dogri+Maithili+Santhali); Classical Languages = 9 (Tamil 2004 first)
12	NEP 2020 + VBSA/HECI Reform	GS2	 MEDIUM	NEP 2020 Chapter 18 = single light-but-tight regulator per domain; VBSA operationalises for HE; NMC 2020 already did medical; BCI = legal; NCVET = vocational

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48

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QUESTIONS FROM
A SINGLE DOCUMENT

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