

ANTIM ASSURED 100+

The Topper's Last Read. Every Morning.

PART II · ENVIRONMENT TO DIRECT HIT TRACKER

Thursday, 13 August 2026

"The Topper's Last Read"

Morning Edition · 08:00 IST · TheIAS Akademia

INSIDE PART II

1. Environment & Ecology (2 cards)
2. Places in News (7 locations)
3. Ethics & Integrity Cases (6)
4. Prelims MCQs (20)
5. Mains Questions (9)
6. Answer Writing Value Addition
7. AKADEMIA Direct Hit Tracker
8. Proof of Precision

Environment & Ecology

GS3

GS2

13 AUG — TODAY

Access and Benefit Sharing — Nagoya Protocol

13 August 2026 · Source: PIB / National Biodiversity Authority, Ministry of Environment, Forest and Climate Change

₹15.52 Crore for Mustard: How India Shares Benefits When the Source Cannot Be Traced

Why in News: The National Biodiversity Authority released ₹15.52 crore this morning in access-and-benefit-sharing proceeds from a company that developed ten commercial mustard hybrid varieties using Indian biological resources. The interesting part is not the money but the legal problem it solved: the parental lines were bought from traders on the open market, so no single farmer or community could be identified as the source.

Background: Access and Benefit Sharing is the third objective of the Convention on Biological Diversity, operationalised through the Nagoya Protocol (2010) and implemented in India by the Biological Diversity Act, 2002. The principle is that when a country's genetic resources generate commercial value, a share must flow back to conservation and to the communities that sustained that diversity. The architecture runs from the National Biodiversity Authority through State Biodiversity Boards down to Biodiversity Management Committees at the local level.

⚡ KEY FACTS

- ₹15.52 crore released from a company that developed ten commercial mustard (*Brassica juncea*) hybrid varieties using Indian biological resources.
- Distributed to 26 State Biodiversity Boards and 3 Union Territory Biodiversity Councils, apportioned by area under mustard cultivation in each State.
- The novel legal problem: parental lines were sourced from the open market and traders, so no identifiable farmer or community was the source. The NBA constituted an Expert Committee, which ruled that where resources come through intermediaries, benefits are shared among the jurisdictions where the resource is *cultivated*.
- Cultivation-area data was sourced from the ICAR-Indian Institute of Rapeseed-Mustard Research, Bharatpur, Rajasthan.
- Funds must be used as prescribed under Section 32 of the Biological Diversity Act, 2002 — People's Biodiversity Registers, in-situ and ex-situ conservation, restoring degraded ecosystems, strengthening Biodiversity Heritage Sites, capacity building of Biodiversity Management Committees, and community livelihoods.
- Cumulative ABS released to date: ₹182.5 crore, of which ₹116.22 crore came in the last twelve months alone.
- Explicitly framed as implementing the Nagoya Protocol and Target 13 of the Kunming-Montreal Global Biodiversity Framework.

State	Share (₹ crore)	Note
Rajasthan	6.43	Roughly 42% of India's mustard area
Uttar Pradesh	2.28	Second largest share
Madhya Pradesh	1.86	

Haryana	1.21
West Bengal	1.10
Jharkhand / Assam / Gujarat	0.73 / 0.53 / 0.48
Bihar / Punjab / Others	0.15 / 0.08 / 0.67

MAINS DIMENSIONS / ANALYSIS

- The untraceable-source problem is the genuinely important element: most ABS frameworks assume an identifiable provider community, and commercial seed chains routinely defeat that assumption. India's cultivation-area formula is a workable answer to a global design gap.
- But the formula has a distributional consequence worth naming — it rewards where a crop is grown *now*, not where the genetic diversity was originally conserved, which may not be the same place at all.
- Section 32's earmarking matters because ABS money can otherwise disappear into general revenue; tying it to People's Biodiversity Registers and Biodiversity Management Committees keeps it in the conservation system.
- The scale is instructive: ₹182.5 crore cumulatively, with ₹116.22 crore in a single year, shows the mechanism moving from symbolic to material — while remaining small against the commercial value of the seed industry.
- Institutional weakness persists at the base: Biodiversity Management Committees exist across most panchayats on paper but vary enormously in capacity, so money reaching them does not automatically become conservation.

Let's Remember This Through a Trick

Remember "no traceable farmer, so pay by acreage" — when a genetic resource arrives via traders, India now shares the benefit among States in proportion to where the crop is actually cultivated.

Probable Prelims MCQ (Statement-Based)

Consider the following statements about Access and Benefit Sharing in India:

1. It is implemented through the Biological Diversity Act, 2002.
2. The Nagoya Protocol is an agreement under the Convention on Biological Diversity.
3. Biodiversity Management Committees operate at the local body level.

Which of the statements given above is/are correct?

(a) 1 and 2 only (b) 2 and 3 only (c) 1 and 3 only (d) All three

Answer: (d) All three.

PYQ LINKAGE

GS3 2018 & 2022: Biodiversity conservation, the Biological Diversity Act and benefit-sharing mechanisms; GS2 on international agreements.

GS3

GS2

12-13 AUG

CBD Negotiations — KMGBF Review

SBI-7 closed 12 August 2026, Nairobi · Source: Convention on Biological Diversity / Down To Earth

Nairobi Ends in Brackets: The First Global Review of the Biodiversity Framework Stalls

Why in News: The seventh meeting of the Convention on Biological Diversity's Subsidiary Body on Implementation closed in Nairobi on 12 August 2026, having conducted the first global review of the Kunming-Montreal Global Biodiversity Framework. Fewer than half the Parties are on track for the 2030 targets, and the recommendations forwarded to COP17 remain heavily bracketed — negotiating shorthand for unagreed text.

Background: The Kunming-Montreal Global Biodiversity Framework, adopted at COP15 in 2022, set 23 action targets for 2030 including the well-known "30 by 30" commitment to protect 30% of land and seas. The Convention works through two subsidiary bodies: SBSTTA handles scientific and technical advice, while the Subsidiary Body on Implementation handles review, resource mobilisation and compliance. COP17, scheduled for Yerevan, Armenia in October 2026, marks the halfway point of the Framework's implementation period.

KEY FACTS

- Seventh meeting of the Subsidiary Body on Implementation (SBI-7) closed in Nairobi, Kenya on 12 August 2026, following SBSTTA-28 which had ended on 1 August.
- Core agenda: the first global review of the Kunming-Montreal Global Biodiversity Framework, to identify gaps and accelerate implementation.
- Fewer than half of CBD Parties are on track to achieve the Framework's targets by 2030; marine, coastal and inland-water targets lag behind terrestrial ones.
- Recommendations forwarded to COP17 remain heavily bracketed — meaning the text is unagreed and the substantive disputes were not resolved.
- The principal failure was on fair and equitable benefit-sharing from Digital Sequence Information, where developing countries pressed for transparency in the Cali Fund architecture.
- COP17 is scheduled for Yerevan, Armenia in October 2026 — the halfway point of Framework implementation.
- The Convention has convened a Kunming Dialogue in September 2026 in Kunming, China, to try to break the deadlock before Yerevan.

MAINS DIMENSIONS / ANALYSIS

- Digital Sequence Information is the defining new fault line in biodiversity diplomacy: once a genetic sequence is digitised and uploaded, the physical resource never crosses a border, and the entire Nagoya architecture — built on regulating physical access — is bypassed.
- This is exactly why today's Indian ABS release and the Nairobi failure belong in the same reading. India can operate benefit-sharing domestically on physical resources; it cannot capture value from sequences uploaded to open databases without a functioning global mechanism.
- Marine and inland-water targets lagging behind terrestrial ones has a structural cause — high seas lie beyond national jurisdiction, so protection depends on the separate BBNJ agreement rather than on national action.
- "Bracketed text" is worth understanding as a mechanism, not jargon: brackets preserve disagreement for later negotiation, and a heavily bracketed draft arriving at a COP usually means the political bargain has not yet been struck.
- The credibility problem is cumulative: the Aichi Targets to 2020 were largely missed, and a halfway review showing under half of Parties on track invites the question of whether voluntary national target-setting can work at all.

Let's Remember This Through a Trick

Remember "SBSTTA advises, SBI implements" — one subsidiary body handles the science, the other the review and delivery. And brackets mean disagreement, not detail.

Consider the following statements:

1. The Kunming-Montreal Global Biodiversity Framework was adopted at CBD COP15 and contains 23 action targets for 2030.
2. SBSTTA is the CBD's subsidiary body for scientific, technical and technological advice.
3. Digital Sequence Information refers to physical samples of genetic material exchanged between Parties.

Which of the statements given above is/are correct?

(a) 1 and 2 only (b) 2 and 3 only (c) 1 and 3 only (d) All three

Answer: (a) 1 and 2 only. Digital Sequence Information is digitised genetic data, not physical samples — which is precisely the governance problem.

 PYQ LINKAGE

GS3 2019 & 2023: Conservation and international environmental agreements; GS2 on multilateral negotiation and India's positions in the Global South.

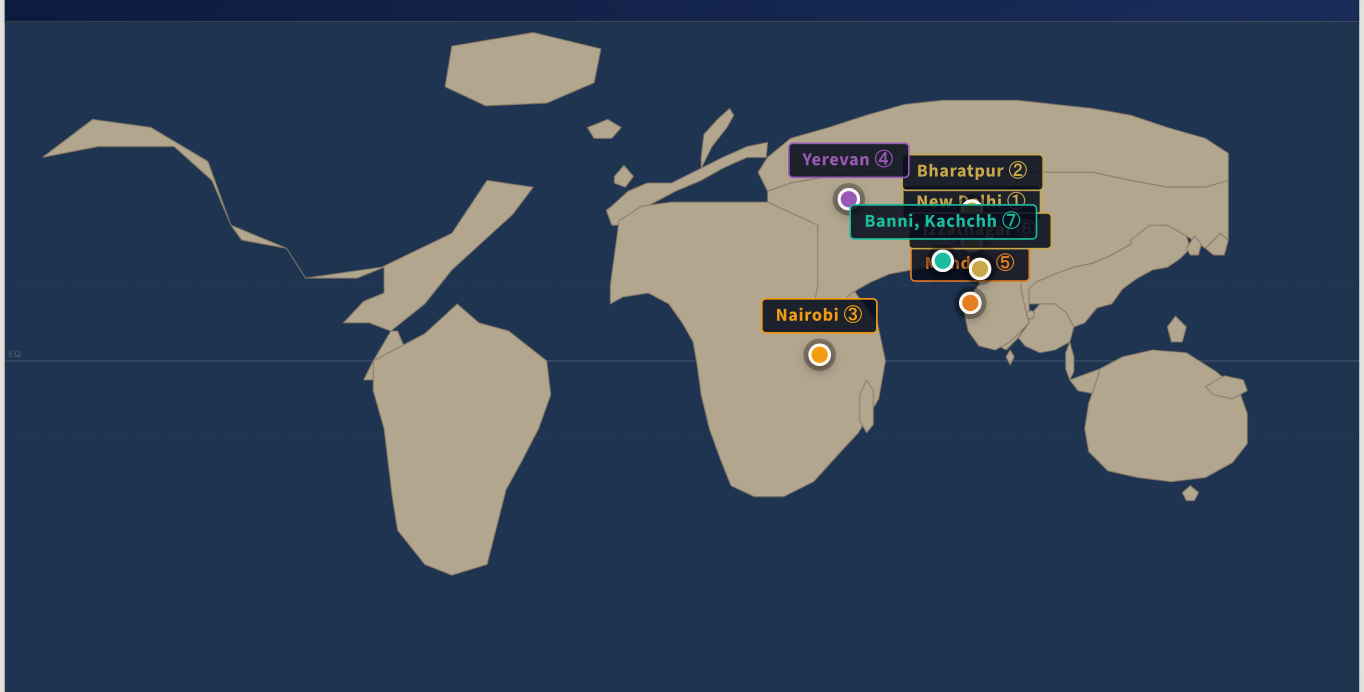
THEIAS AKADEMIA

Both Environment cards today are fresh news — the first from a PIB release issued this morning. Under the standing ladder, species and protected-area fallbacks were not needed. theiasakademia.com

SECTION 02

Places in News

 **PLACES IN NEWS — 13 AUGUST 2026 | ANTIM ASSURED 100+**



- ① New Delhi (Parliament, SACU ToR) ● ② Bharatpur (ICAR mustard institute) ● ③ Nairobi (CBD SBI-7) ● ④ Yerevan (CBD COP17 venue)
- ⑤ Mandya (Cauvery protests) ● ⑥ Izzatnagar (Kavach 4.0) ● ⑦ Banni (Prosopis invasion)

① New Delhi

Seat of Parliament, where the Monsoon Session adjourned *sine die* and the FCRA Bill was referred to a Joint Parliamentary Committee; also where the India-SACU Terms of Reference were signed and the Sangeet Natak Akademi investiture held.

Indo-Gangetic alluvial plain on the west bank of the Yamuna.

② Bharatpur, Rajasthan

Home of the ICAR-Indian Institute of Rapeseed-Mustard Research, whose cultivation-area data determined how the ₹15.52 crore in benefit-sharing proceeds was apportioned between States.

Eastern Rajasthan on the Gangetic alluvial plain at the north-eastern margin of the Aravalli range, within the Yamuna sub-basin; adjoins Keoladeo National Park.

③ Nairobi, Kenya

Venue of the CBD's seventh Subsidiary Body on Implementation meeting, which closed on 12 August with the first global review of the Kunming-Montreal Framework unresolved.

On the southern edge of the Kenyan Highlands at about 1,795 m, just east of the Eastern Branch of the East African Rift; the Gigiri complex is the global headquarters of UNEP and UN-Habitat, the only UN headquarters in the Global South.

④ Yerevan, Armenia

Venue for CBD COP17 in October 2026 — the halfway point of the Kunming-Montreal Framework, where the bracketed Nairobi text must be resolved.

On the Ararat plain along the Hrazdan river, within the Aras-Kura drainage, ringed by the Lesser Caucasus.

⑤ Mandya, Karnataka

Epcentre of the 13 August bandh over the Cauvery release directive, with farmers blocking the old Bengaluru-Mysuru highway.

In the Cauvery command area of the southern Deccan plateau, between the Krishna Raja Sagar reservoir and the river's course toward the Tamil Nadu border.

⑥ Izzatnagar, Uttar Pradesh

Division of North Eastern Railway sanctioned for Kavach 4.0 across 660 route kilometres at ₹295 crore, on a 4G-LTE backbone.

Near Bareilly in the Rohilkhand region of the upper Ganga plain, in the Ramganga sub-basin — part of the dense-fog belt where automatic train protection matters most in winter.

⑦ Banni grasslands, Kachchh, Gujarat

Asia's largest tropical grassland, roughly half of it now dominated by the invasive *Prosopis juliflora*, introduced in the 1960s to arrest desertification.

Saline-alluvial flats immediately south of the Great Rann of Kachchh, seasonally inundated and tectonically active along the Kachchh Mainland Fault; home to the Maldhari pastoralists.

SECTION 03

Ethics & Integrity Cases

Case 1 — Eleven Bills, No Committee

Concept: Procedural Duty vs Legislative Efficiency

A parliamentary official preparing the legislative calendar knows the session is short, the government wants eleven Bills through, and referral to a committee would push most of them to the next session. Referral is discretionary, so nothing is being broken. But a rule that is followed only when convenient stops functioning as a rule, and the official must decide whether a technically correct process that produces unexamined law discharges the duty owed to the institution, or only to the ministers who set the calendar.

Case 2 — The Benefit With No Beneficiary

Concept: Distributive Justice When the Rightful Claimant Is Unidentifiable

An officer must distribute benefit-sharing proceeds from a genetic resource bought through traders, where the community that conserved the parental lines cannot be traced. Paying by current cultivation area is administrable and defensible. Yet it may reward States where the crop is now commercially grown rather than the communities whose seed-saving generated the diversity in the first place. When the just claimant cannot be found, the officer must choose between a workable proxy and no distribution at all — and be honest that the proxy is a second-best.

Case 3 — Brackets as a Bargaining Tactic

Concept: Good Faith in Negotiation vs Legitimate Defence of National Interest

A negotiator at a biodiversity meeting is instructed to bracket text on benefit-sharing from digital sequence data until financing commitments are firm. Bracketing is a recognised procedural tool, and holding out for reciprocity is a legitimate defence of her country's interest. But if every delegation brackets everything, a halfway review passes with nothing agreed and the collective loss falls on the ecosystems the process exists to protect. The dilemma is whether good faith requires conceding first, or whether it only requires not pretending to agree.

Case 4 — Ordered to Release Water He Does Not Have

Concept: Obedience to Lawful Authority vs Responsibility to the Immediate Community

A reservoir engineer receives a directive to release four times the previous quantity downstream, while his own district's drinking-water storage is below average and a bandh is under way outside. The direction comes from a statutory authority and is lawfully binding. Compliance may leave his own city short; refusal makes entitlements a function of political resistance rather than law. He

cannot escape the choice by calling it political — the release order lands on his desk, and someone will be worse off whichever way he signs.

Case 5 — Attribution Without a Trial

Concept: Institutional Credibility vs Evidentiary Standards

An official contributing to a multilateral monitoring report must decide how firmly to attribute an attack to a named group on intelligence that would not survive a criminal court. Firm attribution supports sanctions and constrains States that shelter the group; overstated attribution, if later contradicted, damages the credibility of the whole sanctions architecture, which depends on being believed. The ethical requirement is to match the strength of the claim to the strength of the evidence, especially when the reader cannot check the sources.

Case 6 — Whose Benchmark, Whose Risk?

Concept: Regulatory Paternalism vs Market Autonomy

A market regulator sees retail investors losing money persistently in options trading, especially on expiry days. He can restrict access, mandate warnings, raise costs, or publish the loss data and let people decide. Restriction protects households from a product most of them misunderstand; it also substitutes the regulator's judgment for the individual's about their own money. The honest question is whether informed consent is achievable at all in a product whose payoff structure most participants cannot model — and if not, whether disclosure is protection or alibi.

SECTION 04

Prelims MCQs (20)

Q1.

Consider the following statements about parliamentary committees:

1. Referral of a Bill to a Standing Committee is mandatory before passage.
2. A Joint Committee draws members from both Houses.
3. A Select Committee dissolves once it reports.

Which are correct?

(a) 1 and 2 only (b) 2 and 3 only (c) 1 and 3 only (d) All three

Answer: (b) 2 and 3 only. Referral is discretionary.

Q2.

The Joint Parliamentary Committee constituted for the FCRA Amendment Bill, 2026 has how many members?

(a) 21 (b) 30 (c) 31 (d) 45

Answer: (c) 31 — 21 from the Lok Sabha and 10 from the Rajya Sabha.

Q3.

Consider the following statements:

1. In *Noel Harper v. Union of India* (2022) the Supreme Court held that receipt of foreign contribution is not a fundamental right.
2. The FCRA 2020 amendment cut the administrative-expense cap from 50% to 20%.

Which are correct?

- (a) 1 only (b) 2 only (c) Both (d) Neither

Answer: (c) Both.

Q4.

Consider the following statements about inter-State river water disputes:

1. Article 262 permits Parliament to bar the jurisdiction of courts.
2. The Cauvery Water Management Authority was constituted following a Supreme Court judgment.
3. Biligundlu is the inter-State flow-measurement point on the Cauvery.

Which are correct?

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

Answer: (d) All three.

Q5.

The Cauvery Water Disputes Tribunal was constituted in:

- (a) 1976 (b) 1990 (c) 2007 (d) 2018

Answer: (b) 1990. Its final award came in 2007 and was modified by the Supreme Court in 2018.

Q6.

Consider the following statements about the Southern African Customs Union:

1. Established in 1910, it is the world's oldest customs union.
2. Members are South Africa, Botswana, Namibia, Lesotho and Eswatini.
3. A customs union involves a common external tariff.

Which are correct?

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

Answer: (d) All three.

Q7.

A Preferential Trade Agreement differs from a Free Trade Agreement in that it:

- (a) Eliminates tariffs on all goods (b) Reduces tariffs on selected tariff lines (c) Establishes a common external tariff (d) Permits free movement of labour

Answer: (b).

Q8.

Consider the following statements:

1. The New Development Bank was established by the BRICS states.
2. Viability Gap Funding makes economically justified but financially unviable projects attractive to private investors.
3. India assumed the BRICS Chairship in 2026.

Which are correct?

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

Answer: (d) All three.

Q9.

Consider the following statements about the UNSC 1267 sanctions regime:

1. It was established by Security Council Resolution 1267 of 1999.
2. It applies asset freezes, travel bans and arms embargoes.
3. Its Monitoring Team produces periodic analytical reports.

Which are correct?

(a) 1 and 2 only (b) 2 and 3 only (c) 1 and 3 only (d) All three

Answer: (d) All three.

Q10.

Consider the following statements about India's defence architecture:

1. The Group of Ministers report of 2001, following the Kargil Review Committee, recommended a Chief of Defence Staff.
2. The CDS heads the Department of Military Affairs.
3. The Cabinet Committee on Security is chaired by the Defence Minister.

Which are correct?

(a) 1 and 2 only (b) 2 and 3 only (c) 1 and 3 only (d) All three

Answer: (a) 1 and 2 only. The CCS is chaired by the Prime Minister.

Q11.

Consider the following statements about Kavach:

1. It is an indigenously developed Automatic Train Protection system.
2. It prevents Signal Passed at Danger events.
3. Version 4.0 uses an LTE communication backbone.

Which are correct?

(a) 1 and 2 only (b) 2 and 3 only (c) 1 and 3 only (d) All three

Answer: (d) All three.

Q12.

Consider the following statements:

1. The Pharmacopoeia Commission for Indian Medicine and Homoeopathy functions under the Ministry of Ayush.
2. Sowa-Rigpa is a recognised traditional medicine system in India.
3. A pharmacopoeia is a legally recognised compendium of drug standards.

Which are correct?

(a) 1 and 2 only (b) 2 and 3 only (c) 1 and 3 only (d) All three

Answer: (d) All three.

Q13.

Consider the following statements:

1. The Sangeet Natak Akademi is an autonomous body under the Ministry of Culture.
2. Sattriya is among India's recognised classical dance forms.
3. The Lalit Kala Akademi is India's national academy of letters.

Which are correct?

(a) 1 and 2 only (b) 2 and 3 only (c) 1 and 3 only (d) All three

Answer: (a) 1 and 2 only. The Sahitya Akademi is the academy of letters.

Q14.

Sattriya, one of India's classical dance forms, is associated with which State?

(a) Odisha (b) Manipur (c) Assam (d) West Bengal

Answer: (c) Assam — linked to the Vaishnavite *sattras*.

Q15.

Consider the following statements about India's inflation framework:

1. The target is 4% CPI inflation with a band of plus or minus 2 percentage points.
2. Statutory failure means breaching the band for three consecutive quarters.
3. The Wholesale Price Index includes services.

Which are correct?

(a) 1 and 2 only (b) 2 and 3 only (c) 1 and 3 only (d) All three

Answer: (a) 1 and 2 only. The WPI excludes services.

Q16.

Consider the following statements:

1. SEBI became the unified regulator for commodity derivatives after the Forward Markets Commission was merged into it.
2. Price discovery and hedging are the two principal functions of a derivatives market.
3. Basis risk is the gap between the hedging price and the actual transaction price.

Which are correct?

(a) 1 and 2 only (b) 2 and 3 only (c) 1 and 3 only (d) All three

Answer: (d) All three.

Q17.

Consider the following statements about Access and Benefit Sharing in India:

1. It is implemented through the Biological Diversity Act, 2002.
2. The Nagoya Protocol is an agreement under the Convention on Biological Diversity.
3. Biodiversity Management Committees operate at the local body level.

Which are correct?

(a) 1 and 2 only (b) 2 and 3 only (c) 1 and 3 only (d) All three

Answer: (d) All three.

Q18.

Consider the following statements:

1. The Kunming-Montreal Global Biodiversity Framework contains 23 action targets for 2030.
2. SBSTTA is the CBD's body for scientific and technical advice.
3. Digital Sequence Information refers to physical genetic samples.

Which are correct?

(a) 1 and 2 only (b) 2 and 3 only (c) 1 and 3 only (d) All three

Answer: (a) 1 and 2 only. DSI is digitised genetic data, which is precisely the governance gap.

Q19.

Prosopis juliflora, an invasive species dominating roughly half the Banni grasslands, is native to:

(a) Australia (b) Mexico and Central/South America (c) Southern Africa (d) Southeast Asia

Answer: (b). It was introduced to Kachchh around the 1960s to arrest desertification.

Q20.

Pteris madhusoodananii, newly described from the Kolli Hills, is a:

(a) Fern (b) Orchid (c) Bamboo species (d) Lichen

Answer: (a) A fern of family Pteridaceae, assessed Critically Endangered and known from about 8 sq km across two sites in the Eastern Ghats.

SECTION 05

Mains Questions (9)

GS1 Explain the significance of official classification of "classical" dance forms in India, and discuss whether state patronage preserves or freezes living traditions. (150 words)

GS1 Account for the ecological transformation of the Banni grasslands following the introduction of *Prosopis juliflora*, and the physical geography that made Kachchh susceptible. (150 words)

GS2 "A session in which no Bill is referred to a committee is not a busy Parliament but a bypassed one." Critically examine with reference to the discretionary nature of committee referral. (250 words)

GS2 Discuss the constitutional questions a Joint Parliamentary Committee must address in examining the Foreign Contribution (Regulation) Amendment Bill, 2026. (150 words)

GS2 "India's inter-State river water dispute machinery can adjudicate but cannot compel." Examine with reference to recent developments on the Cauvery. (250 words)

GS2 Evaluate the significance of India's first Terms of Reference for a Preferential Trade Agreement with an African bloc, and the challenges of negotiating with a customs union. (150 words)

GS3 Digital Sequence Information threatens to make the Nagoya Protocol obsolete. Discuss, with reference to the outcome of the first global review of the Kunming-Montreal Framework. (250 words)

GS3 Examine how benefit-sharing can be operationalised where the community that conserved a genetic resource cannot be identified. (150 words)

GS4 "Match the strength of the claim to the strength of the evidence." Discuss this principle for a public official contributing to an attribution or intelligence assessment, naming the ethical values in tension. (150 words)

SECTION 06

Answer Writing Value Addition

The scrutiny statistic of the session: 12 Bills introduced, 11 passed, zero referred to a Standing Committee — against 5 of 13 referred in the previous Monsoon Session.

Where debate time actually went: one Bill consumed 17 hours 34 minutes while seven Bills received 28 minutes between them in the Lok Sabha.

JPC composition to cite: 31 members — 21 Lok Sabha, 10 Rajya Sabha — reporting by the first week of the Winter Session.

Cauvery escalation in two numbers: the directive rose from 3,500 to 12,000 cusecs while the Supreme Court hearing was adjourned — the enforcement gap in a sentence.

Trade-architecture ladder: PTA reduces tariffs on selected lines, FTA eliminates them on substantially all trade, a customs union adds a common external tariff, a common market adds factor mobility.

ABS number-pair: ₹15.52 crore released this month against ₹182.5 crore cumulatively, of which ₹116.22 crore came in the last twelve months — the mechanism is scaling fast.

The new biodiversity fault line: Digital Sequence Information bypasses Nagoya entirely, because a digitised sequence never crosses a border and physical-access regulation cannot reach it.

Inflation triad for July: headline 4.45%, food 5.52%, rural-urban gap 88 basis points — the last number tells you who actually felt it.

SECTION 07

AKADEMIA Direct Hit Tracker

Topic	GS	Capsule	Probability
Monsoon Session — zero committee referrals	GS2	12 introduced, 11 passed, 0 referred; 32h59m total	★★★★★

FCRA Amendment Bill referred to JPC	GS2	31 members (21+10); cancelled/surrendered/ceased vesting	★★★★★
<i>Noel Harper v. Union of India</i> (2022)	GS2	Foreign contribution is not a fundamental right	★★★★
Cauvery — 12,000 cusecs, bandh, hearing deferred	GS1/GS2	CWRC/CWMA architecture; Article 262; Biligundlu	★★★★★
India-SACU Preferential Trade Agreement ToR	GS2/GS3	First with Africa; SACU 1910, oldest customs union; \$16.81bn	★★★★★
PTA vs FTA vs customs union	GS3	Selected lines vs substantially all trade vs common tariff	★★★★
BRICS FMCBG Jaipur / New Development Bank	GS2/GS3	Public capital as catalyst not substitute; VGF, HAM, InvITs	★★★★
UNSC 1267 Monitoring Team 38th report	GS2/GS3	AQIS attribution; decentralised cells; CBRN intent vs capability	★★★★★
Higher Defence Organisation & theatrisation	GS2/GS3	Kargil 2000 → GoM 2001 → CDS 2020; DMA; PME institutions	★★★★
Kavach 4.0 on LTE backbone	GS3	660 route km, ₹295 cr; prevents SPAD; fog capability	★★★★
"One Herb, One Standard" — PCIM&H and IPC	GS2/GS3	Uniform monographs across five traditional systems; TKDL link	★★★★
Sangeet Natak Akademi & the three Akademis	GS1	115 artists; 8 classical dances; Sattriya the newest	★★★★
CPI July 2026 at 4.45%	GS3	19-month high; food 5.52%; rural 4.84 vs urban 3.96	★★★★★
SEBI on Indian commodity benchmarks	GS3	Price discovery and hedging; basis risk; Project Jagrook	★★★★
NBA mustard ABS — ₹15.52 crore	GS3/GS2	Untraceable-source formula; Section 32; ₹182.5 cr cumulative	★★★★★
CBD SBI-7 Nairobi → COP17 Yerevan	GS3/GS2	Under half of Parties on track; DSI deadlock; bracketed text	★★★★★
<i>Prosopis juliflora</i> in the Banni grasslands	GS3	~50% invaded; fodder 4,000 → 620 kg/ha; biochar economics	★★★★
Ethics: matching claim strength to evidence strength	GS4	Attribution, institutional credibility, sanctions legitimacy	★★★

VERIFIED · PART II

Proof of Precision

Every item dated. Every claim verified.

2

ENVIRONMENT CARDS

6

ETHICS CASES

20

MCQS GENERATED

9

MAINS QUESTIONS

7

3

PLACES MAPPED

POLITY CARDS (CAPPED)

Environment

Geography

Culture (GS1)

Ethics (GS4)

Cross-GS Integration

✓ Both Environment cards are fresh news — the lead card from a PIB release issued this morning; no species or protected-area fallback was needed

✓ Polity capped at three cards; freed slots given to IR, Defence, Science, Culture and Economy

✓ Zero static filler across Part I; every card is news-anchored and carries an explicit date stamp

ANTIM ASSURED 100+ is a TheIAS Akademia daily flagship.

Programs: EMP · ANTIM 2027 · Sahyog Mentorship · LAKSHYAM AIR1 · NEEB 300+ · Philosophy Target 300+

theiasakademia.com

★ 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 · Science, Technology & Culture · Economy

ANTIM ASSURED 100+ · Morning Edition · 13 August 2026 · Part II of II

© TheIAS Akademia · theiasakademia.com · theiasakademia@gmail.com