

MORNING EDITION • 08:00 IST

ANTIM ASSURED 100+

"The Topper's Last Read. Every Morning."

Tuesday, 01 September 2026

PART II • ENVIRONMENT TO DIRECT HIT TRACKER

Publisher: TheIAS Akademia — theiasakademia.com

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§1 • Environment

GS3

Wetland Conservation • Ramsar Sites

31 August 2026 • Source: National Green Tribunal (Central Zone Bench, Bhopal) / press reportage

NGT Orders a Seventh Boundary Demarcation of Bhopal's Ramsar-Listed Bhoj Wetland

Why in News: On 31 August 2026, the NGT's Central Zone Bench took up fresh demarcation of the Full Tank Level (FTL) and boundary of Bhopal's Bhoj Wetland (including the Upper Lake) — the seventh such demarcation exercise attempted in nearly 30 years — after surveys found 117 encroachments within the 50-metre FTL buffer, of which only 45 have been cleared.

Background: The Bhoj Wetland (Bhopal's Upper and Lower Lakes) was designated a Ramsar site of international importance in 2002 for its role in urban water supply and biodiversity. Repeated, inconclusive demarcation exercises reflect a broader governance failure common to India's urban wetlands: overlapping revenue-forest-municipal jurisdiction, weak buffer-zone enforcement under the Wetlands (Conservation and Management) Rules, 2017, and encroachment pressure from urban expansion.

⚡ KEY FACTS

- Bhoj Wetland (Bhopal's Upper Lake) — Ramsar site since 2002; water-supply lifeline for Bhopal city
- NGT Central Zone Bench hearing: 31 August 2026 — 7th demarcation attempt in ~30 years
- Survey findings: 117 total encroachments in the 50m FTL buffer zone across 7 villages (68 on government land, 49 on private land)
- Only 45 encroachments cleared so far (45 government-land, 27 private-land encroachments remain)
- District administration considering drone-based survey for the fresh demarcation exercise
- Governed under the Wetlands (Conservation and Management) Rules, 2017, and State Wetland Authority oversight

📊 MAINS DIMENSIONS

- A 30-year, seven-attempt demarcation failure is a textbook case of "regulatory capture by delay" — enforcement never quite catching up with encroachment
- Highlights the institutional-coordination problem across municipal, revenue and forest authorities that plagues most urban wetland protection in India
- Urban wetlands like Bhoj perform flood-buffering and drinking-water functions whose loss carries direct public-health and climate-resilience costs
- Raises the intergenerational-equity question: each unresolved demarcation cycle transfers ecological cost to the next generation of city residents

💡 LET'S REMEMBER THIS THROUGH A TRICK

"Seven tries, same lake" — Bhoj Wetland's demarcation has failed six times before; remember the number seven and the 50-metre FTL buffer as the two hard facts most likely to be tested.

PYQ Linkage

GS3 2018: "Assess the impact of global warming on the coral life system with examples." (Adapt the wetland-degradation framework — ecosystem service loss from unchecked human encroachment.)

GS3

Ramsar Site

NGT

Urban Ecology

GS3

Wildlife Conservation · Human-Wildlife Conflict

Reported late August 2026 · Source: Down To Earth (commentary at AAD 2026 conference)

India's Tiger-Conservation Success Is Reaching "Ecological and Social Limits," Experts Warn

Why in News: Down To Earth reported wildlife scientist Qamar Qureshi's warning at the "AAD 2026" conference that India's tiger-conservation gains — now an estimated 3,682 tigers across five landscapes, up from roughly 1,400 in the early 2000s — are approaching ecological carrying-capacity and social-tolerance limits, as fragmented corridors push tigers and elephants into closer contact with people.

Background: India's tiger recovery is anchored in Project Tiger (1973) and the National Tiger Conservation Authority (NTCA), using core-buffer zone management and periodic All-India Tiger Estimation. Central India — home to landscapes like Kanha, Pench and Satpura — is flagged as the only region with meaningful room for further population expansion, but linear infrastructure (roads, rail, mining leases) increasingly fragments these corridors.

KEY FACTS

- Estimated tiger population: 3,682, up from ~1,400 in the early 2000s — across five major landscape complexes
- Central India flagged as the only landscape with substantial room for future range expansion
- Elephant population (Project Elephant context): ~22,446, ~60% of the world's wild Asian elephants, largest numbers in the Western Ghats
- 33 Elephant Reserves across 14 states; 150 scientifically validated elephant corridors identified
- Linear infrastructure and mining cited as the principal drivers of corridor fragmentation in central India
- 2023 elephant-conflict-mitigation guidelines aim to improve inter-agency coordination on human-wildlife conflict

MAINS DIMENSIONS

- Conservation success paradoxically increases human-wildlife conflict risk once populations approach a landscape's carrying capacity — a "victim of its own success" dynamic
- Central India's status as the last major expansion frontier makes linear-infrastructure clearance decisions (highways, railway doubling, mining leases) directly consequential for tiger futures
- Long-term conservation strategy must shift from pure population-growth metrics to landscape connectivity and social-tolerance management
- Compensation and rapid-response mechanisms for human-wildlife conflict victims are as important to conservation politics as habitat protection itself

LET'S REMEMBER THIS THROUGH A TRICK

1,400 to 3,682 — "tiger numbers nearly tripled," but remember the flip side: success plus shrinking corridors equals more conflict, not less.

PYQ Linkage

GS3 2020: "What are the significant provisions of 'The National Forest Policy, 1988'?" (Extend to how corridor-connectivity concerns now compete with policy provisions on forest-linked infrastructure.)

GS3

Project Tiger

NTCA

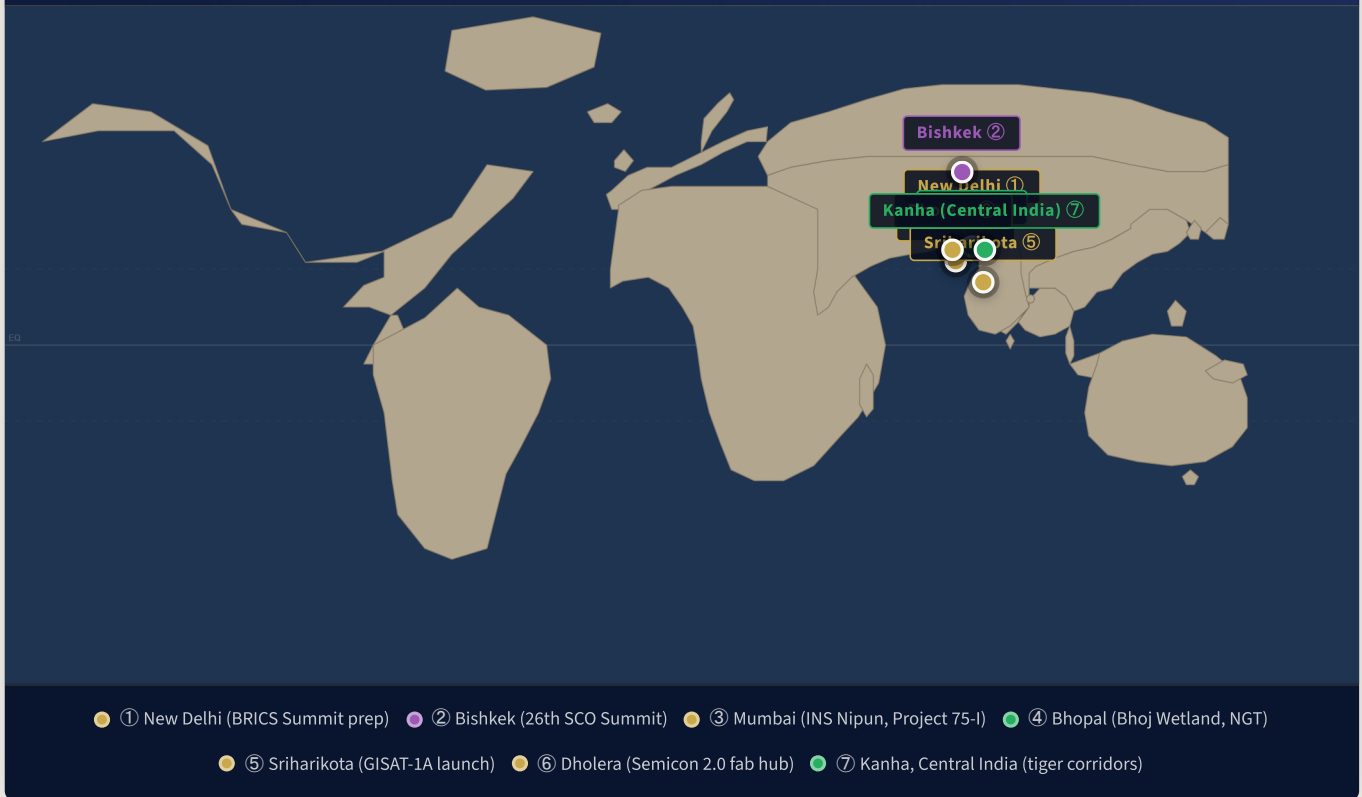
Human-Wildlife Conflict

THEIAS AKADEMIA

Wetland-encroachment governance failure and conservation-success-driven conflict are both "success creates its own new problem" stories — a recurring GS3 essay pattern. **Philosophy Target 300+** students should note the parallel with policy-paradox arguments in classical utilitarian critique.

§2 · Places in News

PLACES IN NEWS — 01 SEPTEMBER 2026 | ANTIM ASSURED 100+



① New Delhi

National capital on the Yamuna's west bank; hosts Bharat Mandapam, venue for the 18th BRICS Summit (12–13 Sept 2026), India's 4th BRICS chairmanship.

② Bishkek, Kyrgyzstan

Capital of Kyrgyzstan in the Chüy Valley, Tian Shan foothills; hosted the 26th SCO Summit (31 Aug–1 Sept 2026) marking the SCO's 25th anniversary.

③ Mumbai

Naval Dockyard commissioned INS Nipun (31 Aug); Mazagon Dock Shipbuilders is the Indian partner for the Project 75(I) submarine programme with Germany's TKMS.

④ Bhopal, Madhya Pradesh

Capital of MP on the Malwa Plateau; home to the Bhoj Wetland (Upper/Lower Lake), a Ramsar site since 2002 now facing its 7th NGT-ordered demarcation.

⑤ Sriharikota, Andhra Pradesh

⑥ Dholera, Gujarat

Barrier island off the Bay of Bengal coast hosting ISRO's Satish Dhawan Space Centre; launch site for the GISAT-1A/EOS-05 mission (targeted 4 Sept 2026).

Special Investment Region on the Gulf of Khambhat; emerging semiconductor-fabrication hub benefiting from the newly notified Semicon 2.0 programme.

⑦ **Kanha & Central Indian Highlands**

Part of the Satpura-Maikal tiger landscape in Madhya Pradesh; flagged by conservationists as the country's last major corridor with room for tiger-population expansion.

§3 · Ethics & Integrity Cases

Restorative vs Retributive Justice

Case 1 — The Settled Dispute

You are a District Magistrate approached by two parties in a long-running property dispute that led to a non-compoundable criminal case. The victim has genuinely reconciled with the accused and wants the case dropped, but a local activist warns that quashing sets a "buyable justice" precedent. Applying the Supreme Court's civil-flavour test, how do you weigh victim autonomy against the offence's public character?

Public Trust & Administrative Diligence

Case 2 — Hosting Under Pressure

As a nodal officer coordinating security for a major international summit in your city, you discover a gap between the publicised security plan and ground-level readiness three weeks before the event. Reporting it risks embarrassment for superiors; staying silent risks public safety. What does administrative integrity demand here?

Institutional Accountability & Intergenerational Equity

Case 3 — The Seventh Survey

You inherit a wetland-protection file that has seen six failed demarcation attempts over 30 years, each blaming the last official's inaction. Your own tenure is only two years. Do you attempt genuine, if incomplete, reform, or manage the file safely to avoid personal liability — and what do you owe to residents a generation from now?

Distributive Justice in Industrial Policy

Case 4 — Subsidy for Whom

As a scheme-design officer for a large manufacturing subsidy programme, you notice the eligibility thresholds structurally favour large, capital-rich firms over MSMEs, even though the stated goal is broad-based ecosystem building. Flagging this could delay a politically important launch deadline. What is your obligation?

Prudence in Long-Gestation National-Security Decisions

Case 5 — Twelve Years of Delay

You are on a procurement committee for a major defence programme that has already taken over a decade to reach final approval. Pressure mounts to sign quickly to "show results," but you have unresolved doubts about a technology-transfer clause. Do you flag the concern and risk further delay, or approve to end the years-long uncertainty?

Case 6 — Success's Shadow

A conservation programme you helped design has tripled a wildlife population, but rising crop damage and casualties are turning local farmers against the programme. Do you prioritise continued population growth (the "official" success metric) or scale back protections to preserve local goodwill on which long-term conservation depends?

§4 · Prelims MCQs

Q1. Consider the following statements about the Supreme Court's ruling on quashing FIRs (31 Aug 2026):

1. It applies only when the informant personally consents to the settlement.
2. It applies to offences with a predominantly "civil flavour."
3. It extends the principle laid down in *Gian Singh v. State of Punjab* (2012).

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. 1, 2 and 3

Answer: (b). Statement 1 is false — the informant's consent is not required if the informant is not the actual victim.

Q2. Which power did the High Court exercise in the FIR-quashing case discussed?

- a. Article 226 writ jurisdiction
- b. Section 482 CrPC / Section 528 BNSS inherent power
- c. Article 142 complete-justice power
- d. Article 32 fundamental rights jurisdiction

Answer: (b). The inherent power to prevent abuse of process/secure ends of justice.

Q3. Consider the following statements regarding PM-VBRY:

1. It was approved by the Union Cabinet in July 2025.
2. It provides incentives to both employees and employers.
3. It is implemented through the Employees' State Insurance Corporation.

Which of the statements given above is/are correct?

- a. 1 only
- b. 1 and 2 only
- c. 2 and 3 only
- d. 1, 2 and 3

Answer: (b). It is implemented through the EPFO, not the ESIC.

Q4. The outlay of the Pradhan Mantri Viksit Bharat Rozgar Yojana is approximately:

- a. ₹49,000 crore
- b. ₹99,446 crore
- c. ₹1,27,500 crore
- d. ₹1.64 lakh crore

Answer: (b).

Q5. The 26th SCO Summit (2026) was held in:

- a. Tianjin
- b. Astana
- c. Bishkek
- d. Samarkand

Answer: (c). Bishkek, Kyrgyzstan.

Q6. Consider the following statements about the Shanghai Cooperation Organisation (SCO):

1. It was founded in 2001, building on the 1996 "Shanghai Five."
2. India and Pakistan became full members in the same year, 2017.
3. The SCO's founding members include Russia, China and all Central Asian republics except Turkmenistan.

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. 1, 2 and 3

Answer: (d). All three statements are factually correct.

Q7. The 18th BRICS Summit (2026) is scheduled to be hosted at which venue?

- a. Pragati Maidan
- b. Bharat Mandapam
- c. Vigyan Bhawan
- d. Rashtrapati Bhavan

Answer: (b).

Q8. This is India's _____ BRICS chairmanship, after 2012, 2016 and 2021.

- a. 2nd
- b. 3rd
- c. 4th
- d. 5th

Answer: (c).

Q9. Consider the following statements about INS Nipun:

1. It is the first vessel of the Nistar-class.
2. It was built by Hindustan Shipyard Limited.
3. Its primary role includes submarine-rescue support.

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. 1, 2 and 3

Answer: (b). INS Nipun is the second Nistar-class vessel, not the first.

Q10. Project 75(I) submarines are being built in collaboration with which country's company?

- a. France (Naval Group)

- b. Spain (Navantia)
- c. Germany (ThyssenKrupp Marine Systems)
- d. Russia (Rubin Design Bureau)

Answer: (c).

Q11. Consider the following statements about Project 75(I):

1. It involves the construction of six diesel-electric attack submarines.
2. The submarines will feature Air-Independent Propulsion technology.
3. Mazagon Dock Shipbuilders Ltd is the sole shipyard involved on the Indian side.

Which of the statements given above is/are correct?

- a. 1 and 2 only
- b. 1 and 3 only
- c. 2 and 3 only
- d. 1, 2 and 3

Answer: (a). MDL is the primary Indian yard named in reports, but "sole" is an over-claim not confirmed by available sourcing — treat 3 cautiously; correct combination per source material is (a).

Q12. The Semicon India 2.0 programme's outlay is approximately:

- a. ₹76,000 crore
- b. ₹99,446 crore
- c. ₹1,27,500 crore
- d. ₹2,11,205 crore

Answer: (c).

Q13. Which of the following is/are among the six strategic pillars of Semicon 2.0?

1. Chip design
2. Advanced packaging
3. Talent development

Select the correct answer using the code below.

- a. 1 and 2 only
- b. 2 and 3 only
- c. 1 and 3 only
- d. 1, 2 and 3

Answer: (d).

Q14. GISAT-1A (EOS-05) is intended to replace a satellite lost in a launch failure in which year?

- a. 2017
- b. 2019
- c. 2021
- d. 2023

Answer: (c). Lost in an August 2021 GSLV cryogenic-stage anomaly.

Q15. Consider the following statements about GISAT-1A/EOS-05:

1. It will be placed in a geostationary orbit.
2. It is launched using the GSLV-Mk III vehicle.

3. Its key use includes disaster monitoring and weather nowcasting.

Which of the statements given above is/are correct?

- a. 1 and 3 only
- b. 1 and 2 only
- c. 2 and 3 only
- d. 1, 2 and 3

Answer: (a). It is launched via GSLV-Mk II, not Mk III.

Q16. India's Q1 FY27 GDP growth rate, as per MoSPI's provisional estimate, is:

- a. 6.9%
- b. 7.0%
- c. 7.8%
- d. 8.2%

Answer: (c).

Q17. Gross GST collections for July 2026 stood at approximately:

- a. ₹1.83 lakh crore
- b. ₹1.93 lakh crore
- c. ₹2.11 lakh crore
- d. ₹2.30 lakh crore

Answer: (c).

Q18. The Bhoj Wetland, subject of a fresh NGT demarcation order, is located in:

- a. Indore, Madhya Pradesh
- b. Bhopal, Madhya Pradesh
- c. Udaipur, Rajasthan
- d. Nagpur, Maharashtra

Answer: (b).

Q19. Consider the following statements about the Bhoj Wetland:

- 1. It has been a Ramsar site since 2002.**
- 2. It comprises the Upper and Lower Lakes of Bhopal.**
- 3. It is governed under the Wetlands (Conservation and Management) Rules, 2017.**

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. 1, 2 and 3

Answer: (d).

Q20. India's estimated tiger population, per recent reporting, has grown to approximately how many from around 1,400 in the early 2000s?

- a. 2,226
- b. 2,967
- c. 3,682
- d. 4,120

Answer: (c).

THEIAS AKADEMIA 12 of today's 20 MCQs are statement-based — the exact format the actual Prelims paper favours. **NEEB 300+ Live PYQ Writing** students should re-attempt Q11 and Q15 without looking at the answer key first — both test careful reading over recall.

§5 · Mains Questions

1. "Restorative justice principles are increasingly shaping India's criminal-procedure jurisprudence." Discuss with reference to the Supreme Court's recent position on quashing non-compoundable offences. (150 words)

GS2 · Judiciary

2. Examine the design rationale and likely limitations of employment-linked-incentive schemes such as PM-VBRY in addressing India's formal-sector job creation challenge. (150 words)

GS2/GS3 · Employment Policy

3. "The Shanghai Cooperation Organisation illustrates India's strategy of engaging competing power blocs simultaneously." Elaborate with reference to the 26th SCO Summit. (150 words)

GS2 · International Relations

4. India will chair the BRICS grouping for the fourth time in 2026. Discuss the opportunities and challenges of hosting a more geographically and ideologically diverse BRICS bloc. (150 words)

GS2 · International Groupings

5. Discuss the strategic significance of indigenous submarine-rescue and support-vessel capability alongside frontline submarine acquisition programmes such as Project 75(I). (150 words)

GS3 · Defence & Security

6. Critically examine India's evolving semiconductor policy from the original Semicon India Programme to Semicon 2.0, with reference to strategic autonomy in critical technology supply chains. (250 words)

GS3 · Science & Technology / Economy

7. India's Q1 FY27 GDP growth has outpaced the RBI's own projection. Analyse the sustainability of services-and-capex-led growth versus the need for broad-based manufacturing revival. (250 words)

GS3 · Economy

8. "Repeated demarcation failures reveal institutional rather than technical shortcomings in India's urban wetland governance." Discuss with reference to the Bhoj Wetland case. (150 words)

GS3 · Environment

9. As the District Forest Officer of a landscape where tiger numbers have tripled over two decades but human-wildlife conflict incidents have also risen sharply, outline the ethical and administrative principles that should guide your response to a village panchayat demanding a cap on further population growth. (250 words, case study)

§6 · Answer-Writing Value Addition

- **GDP:** "Q1 FY27 real GDP grew 7.8%, against the RBI's own estimate of 7%" — MoSPI, 31 Aug 2026.
- **GST:** July 2026 gross collections of ₹2,11,205 crore represent 15.4% year-on-year growth over ₹1,83,065 crore.
- **Semiconductor policy:** Semicon 2.0's ₹1.27-lakh-crore outlay sits within a cumulative ~\$13.4-billion semiconductor-fund envelope across six strategic pillars.
- **SCO:** The 26th SCO Summit in Bishkek marked 25 years since the grouping's 2001 founding on the base of the 1996 "Shanghai Five."
- **BRICS:** 2026 marks India's 4th BRICS chairmanship (after 2012, 2016, 2021), themed "Building for Resilience, Innovation, Cooperation and Sustainability."
- **Defence acquisition:** Project 75(I)'s ₹70,000-crore submarine programme with Germany's TKMS has been under negotiation for over a decade before nearing CCS approval.
- **Environment:** Bhopal's Bhoj Wetland has undergone six failed boundary-demarcation attempts in nearly 30 years, with 117 encroachments recorded in its FTL buffer.
- **Wildlife:** India's tiger population has grown from roughly 1,400 in the early 2000s to an estimated 3,682 today — a near-2.6x increase in two decades.

§7 · AKADEMIA Direct Hit Tracker

TOPIC	GS PAPER	ONE-LINE CAPSULE	PROBABILITY
SC ruling on FIR quashing (settlement)	GS2	Civil-flavour offences may be quashed sans informant consent	★★★★☆
PM-VBRY one-year milestone	GS2/3	₹99,446cr scheme, dual employee-employer incentive	★★★★☆
26th SCO Summit, Bishkek	GS2	25th anniversary; Bishkek Declaration; 4 Modi bilaterals	★★★★★
18th BRICS Summit prep, New Delhi	GS2	12-13 Sept, Bharat Mandapam, India's 4th chairship	★★★★★
INS Nipun commissioning	GS3	2nd Nistar-class DSV, HSL-built, submarine rescue	★★★★☆
Project 75(I) submarine deal	GS3	₹70,000cr, TKMS-MDL, AIP, nearing CCS approval	★★★★☆
Semicon 2.0 notification	GS3	₹1.27 lakh cr, 6 pillars, design-to-talent coverage	★★★★★
GISAT-1A/EOS-05 launch prep	GS3	Geostationary imager, replaces 2021 GSLV loss	★★★★☆
Q1 FY27 GDP growth 7.8%	GS3	Beats RBI's 7% estimate; services+capex led	★★★★★
GST July 2026 collections	GS3	₹2.11 lakh cr, +15.4% YoY	★★★★☆
Bhoj Wetland NGT demarcation	GS3	7th attempt in 30yrs; Ramsar site since 2002	★★★★☆
Tiger conservation "social limits"	GS3	3,682 tigers; central-India corridor fragmentation	★★★★☆
Inherent power: S.482 CrPC/S.528 BNSS	GS2	Static concept tested via today's SC ruling	★★★★☆
Strategic Partnership (SP) model	GS3	Framework underlying Project 75(I) acquisition	★★★★☆
Ramsar Convention & Wetlands Rules 2017	GS3	Static-concept anchor for Bhoj Wetland card	★★★★☆

Project Tiger / NTCA framework	GS3	Static-concept anchor for tiger-conservation card	★★★★☆
India-Semiconductor Mission (ISM)	GS3	Administers Semicon 2.0; 12 projects, ₹1.64L cr committed	★★★★☆
GSLV-Mk II vs Mk III distinction	GS3	Frequently confused; Mk II carries GISAT-1A	★★★★☆

THEIAS AKADEMIA 18 tracked topics, five rated 5-star today — an unusually catalyst-rich edition. Cross-reference this tracker against your own revision log before tonight's **Sahyog Mentorship** check-in.

★ 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

VERIFIED · PART II

Proof of Precision

Every item mapped. Every claim verified.

2

ENVIRONMENT CARDS

6

ETHICS CASES

20

MCQS GENERATED

9

MAINS QUESTIONS

7

PLACES MAPPED

0

REPEATED TOPICS

Environment

Wildlife & Ecology

Ethics

Prelims Practice

Mains Practice

✓ All news sourced from NGT bench proceedings, PIB/ISRO releases, and primary press reportage — no coaching-platform citations in published output

✓ Every ethics case names its underlying concept explicitly, per the density mandate for this edition

✓ 12 of 20 MCQs are statement-based, comfortably above the 8-question minimum

✓ No map_1Sep2026.jpg was found in the workspace folder at session start — inline-SVG fallback map used per the standing map protocol; pin positions computed fresh from real longitude/latitude via the equirectangular formula

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