

THE IAS AKADEMIA

PART I · HEADLINES TO PLACES IN NEWS

🌃 EVENING EDITION · 8:00 PM IST

ANTIM ASSURED

100+

Daily Current Affairs for UPSC CSE

FROM DAILY NEWS TO DIRECT UPSC QUESTIONS

05 JUNE 2026 · EVENING UPDATE

📌 Top 10 Headlines

🏛️ Polity & Governance

🌐 International Relations

🛡️ Defence & Security

🔬 Science & Technology

📊 Economy

🌱 Environment

📍 Places in News

Premium UPSC Current Affairs | © 2026 TheIAS Akademia | theiasakademia@gmail.com



EVENING DIGEST

Top 10 Evening Headlines

10 Stories

01

ENVIRONMENT

World Environment Day 2026 observed globally — theme "Inspired by Nature. For Climate. For Our Future" (#NowForClimate); hosted by Azerbaijan in Baku.

02

INTERNATIONAL RELATIONS

UNSC elects 5 new non-permanent members — Austria, Kyrgyzstan, Portugal, Trinidad & Tobago, Zimbabwe for 2027–28 term.

03

GOVERNANCE

Union Cabinet approves ₹10,000 crore ATF Price Stabilisation Fund for Oil Marketing Companies to support domestic and international airlines.

04

GOVERNANCE

Navachar Mantra — national grassroots innovator programme — launched by MoS Jayant Chaudhary at IIT-Delhi; applications open on Skill India Digital Hub.

05

POLITY

National Sports Governance (National Sports Board) Rules 2026 notified — National Sports Tribunal established as quasi-judicial body.

06

ECONOMY

India ranked 5th most digitalised economy globally (up from 8th in 2025); 4th in AI readiness — 2026 State of India's Digital Economy Report.

07

ECONOMY

ADB and Standard Chartered Bank sign supply chain finance agreement for India covering both USD and INR transactions.

08

SCIENCE & TECH

DRDO-ISRO collaboration launched to use satellite-based technology for snow cover and glacier monitoring in the Himalayan region.

09

DEFENCE

Rolls-Royce submits proposal for joint AMCA fighter jet engine development — marks milestone in India-UK defence tech co-production.

10

GOVERNANCE

FCI QR-tagging of foodgrain bags expanded to Andhra Pradesh, Telangana & Odisha — covering 20 lakh tonnes of rice this marketing season.



GS PAPER II

Polity & Governance

2 Stories

SKILL DEVELOPMENT · INNOVATION ECOSYSTEM

Navachar Mantra: National Grassroots Innovator Initiative

IMPORTANCE



WHY IN NEWS

Union Minister of State Jayant Chaudhary launched **Navachar Mantra** at IIT-Delhi on June 5, 2026 — a flagship national initiative for identifying, mentoring, and scaling grassroots innovators. Applications open until **July 5, 2026** on the **Skill India Digital Hub**.

BACKGROUND

India's innovation ecosystem has traditionally focused on startup hubs and urban entrepreneurs. Navachar Mantra aims to bridge the gap by targeting *jugaad-style innovators* from Tier-2/3 cities and rural areas. It aligns with the **National Education Policy 2020's** emphasis on experiential learning and the Atmanirbhar Bharat vision.

PRELIMS FACTS

- Launched by: Ministry of Skill Development and Entrepreneurship (MoSDE)
- Platform: Skill India Digital Hub (SIDH)
- Application window: June 5 – July 5, 2026
- Benefits: Year-long mentorship + investor connect
- Launch venue: IIT-Delhi
- Parent scheme linkage: Skill India Mission (2015)

MAINS DIMENSIONS

- **Inclusion:** Democratising innovation — reaching non-urban, non-English innovators
- **Governance:** Digital platform-based outreach vs traditional scheme delivery
- **Economic:** Converting informal innovation (jugaad) into scalable enterprises
- **Challenges:** Verification of grassroots innovations, mentorship quality at scale

 UPSC SYLLABUS MAPPING

GS-II: Government policies and interventions for development in various sectors; GS-III: Indian Economy — entrepreneurship, innovation; GS-III: Science & Technology — indigenisation

 PYQ LINKAGE

"Explain the significance of Atal Innovation Mission in promoting innovation culture in India." (GS-III, 2022) | "Examine the challenges facing India's skilling ecosystem." (GS-III, 2019)

 PROBABLE PRELIMS Q

Q. Consider the following statements about 'Navachar Mantra':

1. It was launched under the Ministry of Science & Technology.
2. Applications are submitted via the Skill India Digital Hub.
3. Selected participants receive year-long mentorship and investor connect.

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 incorrect. It is under MoSDE (Skill Development), not Science & Technology.

 PROBABLE MAINS Q

"India's innovation potential lies untapped in its informal sector. In this context, evaluate the significance of grassroots innovation schemes like Navachar Mantra and discuss the structural challenges in converting jugaad to scalable enterprise."

GS-III | 15 Marks | 250 Words

 TAGS

- Prelims 2026
- Mains GS-III
- Skill Development
- Hot Topic

 AKADEMIA TEACHING HOOK

"The Navachar Mantra moment:" Ask students — "If NIF (National Innovation Foundation) already exists, why Navachar Mantra?" The answer reveals India's fragmented innovation architecture — a goldmine for answer differentiation in GS-III!

SPORTS GOVERNANCE · JUDICIAL BODIES

National Sports Governance (National Sports Board) Rules 2026

IMPORTANCE



 WHY IN NEWS

The Union Government notified the **National Sports Governance (National Sports Board) Rules, 2026** under the Ministry of Youth Affairs & Sports. A **National Sports Tribunal** has been established as a *quasi-judicial body* to adjudicate disputes related to National Sports Bodies.

 BACKGROUND

India's sports governance has long faced allegations of nepotism, political interference, and lack of transparency in NSF elections. The Supreme Court (in various orders) directed the government to reform sports bodies. These Rules follow the **National Sports Code** framework and aim for age/tenure limits and transparent governance in National Sports Federations (NSFs).

 PRELIMS FACTS

- Notified by: Ministry of Youth Affairs and Sports
- Key body: National Sports Tribunal (quasi-judicial)
- Jurisdictions: Disputes related to National Sports Bodies (NSBs/NSFs)
- Significance: Separates administrative governance from dispute resolution
- Related: IOA reforms, WFI suspension by UWW, ad-hoc committees by IOA

 MAINS DIMENSIONS

- **Governance:** Why quasi-judicial tribunal is better than civil courts for sports disputes (speed, expertise)
- **Rule of Law:** Constitutionalising sports governance — separation of powers at sector level
- **International:** Compliance with IOC/international federations' governance standards

 UPSC SYLLABUS MAPPING

GS-II: Structure, organisation and functioning of the Executive and Judiciary; GS-II: Government policies and interventions; GS-IV: Ethics in governance (sports ethics)

 PYQ LINKAGE

"Examine the ethical issues associated with doping in sports and the governance challenges faced by Indian sports federations." (GS-IV related concept, 2021)

 PROBABLE PRELIMS Q

Q. The 'National Sports Tribunal', recently established by the Government of India, is best described as:

- (a) A constitutional body under Article 323-B
- (b) A statutory judicial court under Ministry of Law

(c) A quasi-judicial body to adjudicate NSF-related disputes ✓

(d) An advisory committee under the Sports Authority of India

Answer: (c) — It is quasi-judicial, established under the National Sports Governance Rules 2026.

 PROBABLE MAINS Q

"Good governance in Indian sports has remained an aspiration rather than a reality. Critically examine the structural challenges facing National Sports Federations and assess whether the National Sports Tribunal can serve as a game-changer."

GS-II | 15 Marks | 250 Words

 TAGS

Prelims 2026

Mains GS-II

Sports Governance

New Rule Notified

 AKADEMIA TEACHING HOOK

"The WFI-IOA-UWW triangle:" Use the Wrestling Federation saga (2023) as a live case study of why this tribunal matters. Students immediately connect governance to ground reality — instant mains value-add!



GS PAPER II

International Relations

2 Stories

UNITED NATIONS • GLOBAL GOVERNANCE

UNSC Elects 5 New Non-Permanent Members for 2027–28

IMPORTANCE

★★★★★

 WHY IN NEWS

The UN General Assembly elected **5 new non-permanent members** to the UN Security Council on June 5, 2026, replacing Denmark, Greece, Pakistan, Panama, and Somalia. The newly elected nations — **Austria, Kyrgyzstan, Portugal, Trinidad & Tobago, and Zimbabwe** — will assume seats from **January 1, 2027** for a 2-year term ending December 31, 2028.

 BACKGROUND

The UNSC has **15 members: 5 permanent (P5)** — USA, UK, France, Russia, China — and **10 non-permanent** elected by UNGA for 2-year terms. Non-permanent seats are distributed regionally: Africa (3), Asia-Pacific (2), Latin America & Caribbean (2), Western Europe & Others (2), Eastern Europe (1). Currently serving non-permanent members continuing till Dec 2027: Colombia, Bahrain, DRC, Latvia, Liberia.

 PRELIMS FACTS

- Newly elected (2027–28): Austria, Kyrgyzstan, Portugal, Trinidad & Tobago, Zimbabwe
- Outgoing (end Dec 2026): Denmark, Greece, Pakistan, Panama, Somalia
- Continuing till Dec 2027: Colombia, Bahrain, DRC, Latvia, Liberia
- UNSC voting: requires 2/3 majority of UNGA members present and voting
- India's last UNSC term: 2021–22 (8th time)
- P5 veto power: Article 27(3) of UN Charter

 MAINS DIMENSIONS

- **UNSC Reform:** Why P5 veto remains the biggest obstacle to UNSC democratisation
- **India's case:** G4 (India, Germany, Japan, Brazil) seeking permanent membership
- **Regional representation:** Africa (54 nations) underrepresented in P5; "Ezulwini Consensus"
- **Effectiveness:** UNSC paralysis on Russia-Ukraine, Gaza — reform imperative

 UPSC SYLLABUS MAPPING

GS-II: Important International Institutions, agencies and fora — their structure, mandate; Bilateral, regional and global groupings and agreements involving India and/or affecting India's interests

 PYQ LINKAGE

"What are the impediments India faces in its quest for a permanent seat on the UN Security Council?" (GS-II, 2015) / "Discuss India's stand on the reform of UN Security Council." (Mains 2009)

 PROBABLE PRELIMS Q

Q. Which of the following countries were elected as non-permanent members of the UN Security Council for the 2027–2028 term?

1. Austria 2. Kyrgyzstan 3. Portugal 4. Zimbabwe 5. Algeria

Select the correct answer:

(a) 1, 2, 3 and 4 only

(b) 1, 2, 3, 4 and 5 — wait — Algeria was NOT elected ✓ Answer: 1, 2, 3 and 4

(c) 2, 3, 4 and 5 only

(d) 1, 3, 4 and 5 only

Answer: (a) — 1, 2, 3 and 4 only (Austria, Kyrgyzstan, Portugal, Zimbabwe + Trinidad & Tobago). Algeria was NOT elected.

 PROBABLE MAINS Q

"The UN Security Council's composition reflects a post-World War II world order that is increasingly at odds with 21st century geopolitical realities. Critically examine India's case for permanent UNSC membership in this context."

GS-II | 15 Marks | 250 Words

 TAGS

Prelims 2026

Mains GS-II

UN System

High Frequency

AKADEMIA TEACHING HOOK

"The UNSC seating map test:" Flash the 15 seats table. Ask students to fill in P5 vs rotating, regional groups, terms. Those who nail this in 90 seconds will ace any UNSC-related MCQ in Prelims 2026!

TRADE · BILATERAL RELATIONS

India-UK Steel Trade: UK Safeguard Measure July 2026

IMPORTANCE



WHY IN NEWS

Commerce Secretary **Rajesh Agarwal** met UK Permanent Secretary **Amanda Brooks** in New Delhi to address trade tensions. The most pressing issue is Britain's **steel safeguard measure** effective **July 1, 2026**, which will reduce tariff-free steel import quotas by **60%** and levy a **50% tariff** on imports beyond the quota.

PRELIMS FACTS

- UK measure: Steel safeguard — 60% cut in tariff-free quota; 50% tariff beyond quota
- Effective: July 1, 2026
- India-UK FTA: Negotiations ongoing since Jan 2022
- India-UK trade (2025-26): ~£36 billion bilateral trade
- Steel export significance: India is world's 2nd largest steel producer (2025)
- WTO angle: Safeguard measures permitted under GATT Article XIX

MAINS DIMENSIONS

- **Protectionism:** Rise of "economic nationalism" post-Brexit — UK steel industry lobbying
- **FTA negotiations:** Impact on ongoing India-UK FTA talks; steel as a sensitive sector
- **WTO compliance:** Safeguard measures and dispute resolution mechanisms

 UPSC SYLLABUS MAPPING

GS-II: Effect of policies of developed and developing countries on India's interests; GS-III: Infrastructure — Steel sector; Indian Economy and issues relating to planning, mobilization of resources; Effects of liberalisation on the economy

 PROBABLE PRELIMS Q

Q. Which WTO provision allows countries to impose emergency tariffs on imported goods that cause injury to domestic industry?

- (a) GATT Article VI (Anti-Dumping)
- (b) TRIPS Article 31 (Compulsory Licensing)
- (c) GATT Article XIX (Safeguard Measures) ✓**
- (d) SCM Agreement (Countervailing Measures)

Answer: (c) — GATT Article XIX allows safeguard measures for emergency protection of specific domestic industries.

 PROBABLE MAINS Q

"Rising protectionism in developed economies poses significant threats to India's export aspirations. Analyse the impact of UK's steel safeguard measures on India-UK trade relations and the ongoing FTA negotiations."

GS-II | 10 Marks | 150 Words

 TAGS

Trade Policy

Mains GS-II/III

India-UK FTA

WTO Angle

 AKADEMIA TEACHING HOOK

"Post-Brexit Britain's trade paradox:" Brexit promised more trade freedom, yet UK imposes safeguards on Indian steel. Use this to teach how domestic political pressures override free-trade commitments — perfect for GS-II answer enrichment!



GS PAPER III

Defence & Security

2 Stories

DEFENCE TECHNOLOGY · INDIGENISATION

Rolls-Royce Proposes Joint AMCA Fighter Engine Development

IMPORTANCE



WHY IN NEWS

Rolls-Royce has submitted a groundbreaking proposal to **jointly develop a new fighter jet engine** for India's **Advanced Medium Combat Aircraft (AMCA)** programme — India's indigenous 5th-generation stealth fighter under development by **ADA (Aeronautical Development Agency)** and **HAL**.



PRELIMS FACTS

- AMCA: 5th generation stealth fighter; twin-engine; developed by ADA under DRDO/DMSRDE
- Manufacturing: HAL (Hindustan Aeronautics Limited)
- Engine problem: India lacks indigenous fighter jet engine capability (Kaveri engine shelved)
- Rolls-Royce: UK-based; makes Trent series (civil) and EJ200 (Eurofighter) engines
- India-UK Defence: Part of India-UK JETCO (Joint Economic & Trade Committee) framework
- AMCA target: First flight ~2028; induction by 2035
- Current fleet: IAF uses AL-31FP (Su-30MKI), F404 (Tejas), M88 (Rafale)

 MAINS DIMENSIONS

- **Indigenisation:** AMCA as a test case for India's aerospace self-reliance under Atmanirbhar Bharat
- **Strategic autonomy:** Co-development with UK — balancing technology transfer vs dependency
- **Critical gap:** Engine is the most critical dependency in Indian defence — why 'Kaveri' failed
- **India-UK relations:** Defence co-production as a pillar of the revamped bilateral relationship

 UPSC SYLLABUS MAPPING

GS-III: Defence technology; Indigenisation of defence production; Role of external state and non-state actors; Science and Technology — developments and their applications

 PYQ LINKAGE

"What is India's policy on privatisation of defence sector? Discuss the challenges in indigenising the defence sector with reference to self-reliance." (GS-III, 2014) / "Analyse the challenges India faces in developing indigenous defence technology." (GS-III concept, multiple years)

 PROBABLE PRELIMS Q

Q. Consider the following statements about the Advanced Medium Combat Aircraft (AMCA):

1. It is a 5th-generation stealth fighter being developed by ADA.
2. Manufacturing will be undertaken by DRDO directly.
3. The Kaveri engine has been successfully integrated into AMCA.

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: (a) — Statement 2 is wrong (HAL manufactures); Statement 3 is wrong (Kaveri was shelved for AMCA).

 PROBABLE MAINS Q

"India's quest for a home-grown fighter jet engine has remained elusive despite decades of effort. In this context, critically evaluate the significance of the proposed Rolls-Royce joint development for the AMCA engine and its implications for India's strategic autonomy."

GS-III | 15 Marks | 250 Words

 TAGS

Prelims 2026

Mains GS-III

Defence Indigenisation

5th Gen Fighter

 AKADEMIA TEACHING HOOK

"The engine paradox of Atmanirbhar Bharat:" India builds nuclear weapons but cannot make a fighter jet engine. This single insight unlocks a 5-mark edge in any defence indigenisation mains answer!

INDIAN NAVY · FLEET EXPANSION

INS Dunagiri & INS Mahendragiri Commissioned — Project 17A

IMPORTANCE


 WHY IN NEWS

The Indian Navy commissioned **INS Dunagiri** and **INS Mahendragiri**, both **Project 17A stealth frigates**, as part of a major fleet expansion (5 indigenously-built platforms inducted in June 2026). The Navy is targeting a fleet of **200 warships and submarines by 2035**.

 PRELIMS FACTS

- Project 17A: Stealth frigates — successor to Project 17 (Shivalik class)
- Features: BrahMos supersonic cruise missiles, Barak-8 SAM, MF-STAR AESA radar
- Builder: Mazagon Dock Shipbuilders (MDL) — Mumbai
- Displacement: ~6,670 tonnes; Speed: 28+ knots

- Andaman: New C-in-C of Andaman & Nicobar Command: Vice Admiral Vineet McCarty (June 1, 2026)
- India's 200-warship target: By 2035 (currently ~140 ships)

 PROBABLE PRELIMS Q

Q. Which of the following is/are features of the Project 17A stealth frigates recently commissioned by the Indian Navy?

1. BrahMos supersonic cruise missiles
2. Barak-8 surface-to-air missile system
3. MF-STAR AESA radar

(a) 1 only

(b) 1 and 2 only

(c) 1, 2 and 3 ✓

(d) 2 and 3 only

Answer: (c) — All three systems are onboard Project 17A frigates (INS Dunagiri, INS Mahendragiri etc.).

 TAGS

Prelims 2026

Indian Navy

Indigenisation

 AKADEMIA TEACHING HOOK

"Project 17A Quick Drill:" Name → class → builder → key weapon → radar. Five facts in 30 seconds. This is the formula for Naval MCQs that come every 2-3 years in UPSC Prelims!



SPACE TECHNOLOGY · CLIMATE MONITORING

DRDO-ISRO Join Hands for Himalayan Snow & Glacier Monitoring

IMPORTANCE



WHY IN NEWS

DRDO and ISRO have launched a collaboration to use **satellite-based technology** for enhanced monitoring of snow cover, glaciers, and terrain in the **Himalayan region**. Focus: development of SAR (Synthetic Aperture Radar) algorithms, high-resolution satellite meteorological forecasts, and sharing of field data/satellite imagery for operational geospatial products.

PRELIMS FACTS

- Technology used: SAR (Synthetic Aperture Radar) — works through clouds and night
- DRDO lab involved: DMSRDE (Ghaziabad) — snow & avalanche research
- ISRO's SAR satellite: RISAT-2BR series; future NISAR (joint with NASA)
- Purpose: Better glacier retreat tracking, avalanche prediction, water resource management
- Glaciological significance: Himalayas have ~9,575 glaciers — "Third Pole"
- Recent ISRO course: SAR Data Analysis course (July 6–10, 2026)

MAINS DIMENSIONS

- **Climate:** Himalayan glacier retreat — implications for river systems (Indus, Ganga, Brahmaputra) and food security
- **Strategic:** SAR satellites and border surveillance (dual-use technology)
- **Disaster:** Improved avalanche and GLOF (Glacial Lake Outburst Flood) prediction
- **Water security:** Glaciers as "water towers of Asia"

UPSC SYLLABUS MAPPING

GS-I: Important Geophysical phenomena — glaciers; GS-III: Science & Technology; Disaster Management; GS-III: Environment and conservation

✓ PROBABLE PRELIMS Q

Q. Synthetic Aperture Radar (SAR) technology, used in the DRDO-ISRO Himalayan monitoring project, is significant because it:

- (a) Requires clear sky and daylight conditions for imaging
- (b) Uses optical sensors to capture high-resolution images
- (c) Can penetrate clouds and operate at night, providing all-weather imaging ✓**
- (d) Works only at altitudes below 5,000 metres

Answer: (c) — SAR (microwave-based) is all-weather and day-night capable, unlike optical satellites.

📄 PROBABLE MAINS Q

"The Himalayas serve as the water tower of Asia, yet their accelerating glacial retreat poses grave risks to South Asian water security. Evaluate the role of satellite-based remote sensing in addressing this challenge."

GS-III | 15 Marks | 250 Words

🏷️ TAGS

Prelims 2026

Mains GS-III

Space Tech

Climate Change

🎓 AKADEMIA TEACHING HOOK

"The dual-use SAR insight:" Tell students SAR doesn't just see glaciers — it sees enemy bunkers through rain clouds too. When defence meets climate science, UPSC LOVES asking this cross-dimensional question!



GS PAPER III

Economy

2 Stories

AVIATION · ENERGY · CABINET DECISION

Union Cabinet: ₹10,000 Crore ATF Price Stabilisation Fund

IMPORTANCE



WHY IN NEWS

The Union Cabinet approved a **one-time budgetary support of ₹10,000 crore** for **Oil Marketing Companies (OMCs)** to provide **Aviation Turbine Fuel (ATF) price stabilisation** support to scheduled Indian airlines for both domestic and international operations.

PRELIMS FACTS

- Amount: ₹10,000 crore (one-time budgetary support)
- Beneficiaries: Scheduled Indian airlines (domestic + international routes)
- Route: OMCs (HPCL, BPCL, IOC) → Airlines
- ATF: Currently accounts for ~35–40% of airline operating costs in India
- India aviation market: World's 3rd largest domestic aviation market
- Related: PM UDAN Scheme (regional connectivity); India aims 220 airports by 2030

PROBABLE PRELIMS Q

Q. What is the primary purpose of the ₹10,000 crore ATF Price Stabilisation Fund recently approved by the Union Cabinet?

(a) To subsidise ATF for private aircraft owners

(b) To provide fuel cost support to scheduled Indian airlines via OMCs ✓

(c) To fund ISRO's satellite launch vehicles

(d) To reduce retail petrol prices for consumers

Answer: (b) — Support routed through OMCs (HPCL/BPCL/IOC) to scheduled Indian airlines for ATF costs.

 TAGS

Cabinet Decision

Aviation Economy

Budget Support

 AKADEMIA TEACHING HOOK

"ATF as economic indicator:" ATF prices directly track crude oil prices (Brent). Ask students — "If India imports 85% of crude, how does a USD 10 crude price spike affect every airline ticket?" This builds economic thinking — Mains differentiation made easy!

DIGITAL ECONOMY · TECHNOLOGY POLICY

India: 5th Most Digitalized Economy; 4th in AI Readiness (2026 Report)

IMPORTANCE



 WHY IN NEWS

According to the **2026 State of India's Digital Economy Report**, India has emerged as the **world's 5th most digitalised economy** (up from 8th in 2025) and ranks **4th globally in AI readiness**. The RBI also projects India's GDP growth at **6.9% in FY27** with repo rate held at **5.25%**.

 PRELIMS FACTS

- Digital Economy rank: 5th (2026) vs 8th (2025) — 3-rank jump
- AI Readiness rank: 4th globally
- RBI GDP projection FY27: 6.9%
- Repo rate (2026): 5.25% (neutral stance)
- India DigiLocker users: 250+ crore documents stored
- UPI transactions: 18+ billion/month (global benchmark)

- Key drivers: Jan Dhan-Aadhaar-Mobile (JAM trinity), Digital India, BharatNet

 PROBABLE PRELIMS Q

Q. According to the 2026 State of India's Digital Economy Report, India's ranking in global AI readiness is:

- (a) 1st
- (b) 2nd
- (c) 3rd

(d) 4th ✓

Answer: (d) — India ranked 4th globally in AI readiness; 5th in overall digital economy ranking.

 TAGS

Prelims Fact

Mains GS-III

Digital India

AI Policy

 AKADEMIA TEACHING HOOK

"The JAM trinity power:" Jan Dhan + Aadhaar + Mobile — this infrastructure explains why India leapfrogged 3 digital economy ranks in one year. Use for GS-III answers on technology-enabled inclusion!



GS PAPER III • ENVIRONMENT

Environment & Ecology

1 Story

WORLD ENVIRONMENT DAY · UNEP

World Environment Day 2026: #NowForClimate — Hosted by Azerbaijan

IMPORTANCE



WHY IN NEWS

World Environment Day is observed annually on **June 5** since 1974. The 2026 edition is hosted by **Azerbaijan (Baku)**, with the theme "**Inspired by Nature. For Climate. For Our Future**" and campaign hashtag **#NowForClimate**. GRAMMY-nominated Brazilian DJ **Alok** was named Global Goodwill Ambassador by UNEP.



BACKGROUND

World Environment Day was established at the **1972 Stockholm Conference** (UN Conference on Human Environment) — the same conference that established UNEP. The day is the largest global platform for positive environmental public outreach. India's participation is anchored through **Mission LiFE** (Lifestyle for Environment) — launched at COP26.



PRELIMS FACTS

- Date: June 5 annually (since 1974); established by UNGA in 1972
- 2026 Theme: "Inspired by Nature. For Climate. For Our Future" | #NowForClimate
- 2026 Host: Azerbaijan (Baku) — also hosted COP29 (November 2024)
- UNEP HQ: Nairobi, Kenya
- India's Mission LiFE: Launched PM Modi at COP26, Glasgow (2021)
- Past hosts: Sweden (2022), Côte d'Ivoire (2023), Kingdom of Saudi Arabia (2024), Spain (2025)
- WED 2025 theme: "Land Restoration, Desertification and Drought Resilience"



MAINS DIMENSIONS

- **Climate justice:** Developing vs developed nations debate — who owes #NowForClimate action
- **Nature-based solutions:** How protecting ecosystems (mangroves, wetlands, forests) reduces climate vulnerability
- **India's role:** Mission LiFE as India's alternative narrative to climate action — individual behaviour change
- **Azerbaijan significance:** Oil-producing nation as environmental day host — paradox or opportunity?

 UPSC SYLLABUS MAPPING

GS-III: Environment and ecology; Conservation, environmental pollution; GS-II: International organizations and multilateral bodies (UNEP, UNGA); GS-III: Climate change and its effects

 PYQ LINKAGE

"What is 'Agenda 21'? Discuss the main objectives of this agenda." (Prelims 2015) / "Explain the significance of Stockholm Convention on Persistent Organic Pollutants." / "Describe the major outcomes of UNFCCC COPs and India's position." (GS-III multiple years)

 PROBABLE PRELIMS Q

Q. Consider the following statements about World Environment Day 2026:

1. The theme is "Inspired by Nature. For Climate. For Our Future."
2. It is hosted by the United Arab Emirates.
3. World Environment Day has been observed annually on June 5 since 1974.

Which of the statements given above is/are correct?

- (a) 1 only
- (b) 2 and 3 only
- (c) 1 and 3 only ✓**
- (d) 1, 2 and 3

Answer: (c) — Statement 2 is incorrect. The host is Azerbaijan (Baku), not UAE. Statements 1 and 3 are correct.

 PROBABLE MAINS Q

"World Environment Day 2026's theme '#NowForClimate' signals an era of urgency. In this context, critically evaluate India's Mission LiFE as an alternative paradigm to conventional climate action frameworks and its potential for global replication."

GS-III | 15 Marks | 250 Words

 TAGS

Prelims 2026

Mains GS-III

UNEP

WED 2026

 AKADEMIA TEACHING HOOK

"The Stockholm 1972 → Baku 2026 arc:" 54 years of WED — from reactive environmentalism to proactive climate action. Drawing this timeline in class gives students a UPSC-tested 50-year perspective that examiners reward with bonus marks!



GEOGRAPHY · CURRENT AFFAIRS

Places in News

7 Places

EVENING EDITION · JUNE 5, 2026 · KEY LOCATIONS



AZ

Baku, Azerbaijan

Eastern Europe / South Caucasus

WHY IN NEWS

Host of World Environment Day 2026 (#NowForClimate); also hosted COP29 (November 2024)

LOCATION FACTS

Capital of Azerbaijan; on the Caspian Sea coast; Caucasus region between Russia and Iran

PRELIMS ANGLE

AT

Austria

Western/Central Europe

WHY IN NEWS

Elected as UNSC non-permanent member for 2027–28 term

LOCATION FACTS

Landlocked; borders Germany, Czech Republic, Slovakia, Hungary, Slovenia, Italy, Switzerland, Liechtenstein; capital Vienna is seat of multiple UN agencies

KG

Kyrgyzstan

Central Asia

WHY IN NEWS

Elected as UNSC non-permanent member 2027–28; first Central Asian nation to hold UNSC seat in recent decades

LOCATION FACTS

Landlocked; borders China, Kazakhstan, Tajikistan, Uzbekistan; capital Bishkek; Tian Shan mountain range

Azerbaijan: major oil/gas producer (Caspian basin); TRACECA corridor; Nagorno-Karabakh resolved 2023

MAINS ANGLE

Paradox of oil-rich nations hosting climate events — greenwashing or genuine transition?

PYQ TREND

COP host nations asked in Prelims every 1-2 years

PRELIMS ANGLE

Vienna: IAEA headquarters, UNIDO, UNODC, CTBTO

MAINS ANGLE

Austria's neutral status historically (1955 State Treaty) — implications for UNSC voting positions

PRELIMS ANGLE

SCO member; China's BRI passes through; Manas air base (historical US use)

MAINS ANGLE

India-Kyrgyzstan: SCO connect; India's Central Asia engagement strategy

ZW Zimbabwe

Southern Africa

WHY IN NEWS

Elected UNSC non-permanent member for 2027–28; represents Africa (along with an existing member)

LOCATION FACTS

Landlocked; borders Zambia, Mozambique, South Africa, Botswana; capital Harare; Victoria Falls shared with Zambia

PRELIMS ANGLE

Hyperinflation history (world's highest 2007-09); rare earth minerals; Mugabe era

MAINS ANGLE

African representation in UNSC — "Ezulwini Consensus" demands 2 permanent African seats

TT Trinidad & Tobago

Caribbean / Latin America

WHY IN NEWS

Elected UNSC non-permanent member for 2027–28 (represents Latin America & Caribbean group)

LOCATION FACTS

Island nation off Venezuela's coast; capital Port of Spain; significant oil & gas producer; CARICOM member

PRELIMS ANGLE

CARICOM; ACP-EU relations; Indian diaspora (40% Indo-Trinidadian)

MAINS ANGLE

India-Caribbean diaspora diplomacy; CARICOM's climate vulnerability (SIDS)

PT Portugal

Southwestern Europe

WHY IN NEWS

Elected UNSC non-permanent member 2027–28 (Western Europe & Others group)

LOCATION FACTS

Iberian Peninsula; Atlantic coast; borders only Spain; capital Lisbon; NATO founding member; EU member

PRELIMS ANGLE

Goa's colonial history; Lusophone (Portuguese-speaking) world — CPLP; Vasco da Gama route

MAINS ANGLE

India-Portugal historical ties (Goa); CPLP — India as observer; India-EU relations



Himalayas (Indian Sector)

South Asia · High Altitude

WHY IN NEWS

DRDO-ISRO collaboration for SAR-based snow cover and glacier monitoring launched for Himalayan region

LOCATION FACTS

Spans India, Nepal, Bhutan, Pakistan, China; ~2,400 km length; highest peak: Mt Everest (8,849m); 9,575 Indian glaciers

PRELIMS ANGLE

"Third Pole" — world's largest freshwater repository outside poles; Siachen Glacier (world's highest battlefield)

MAINS ANGLE

Glacier retreat → water stress for 1.5 billion people
→ geopolitical flashpoint (India-China-Pakistan)

PYQ TREND

Himalayan glaciology asked in GS-III and GS-I (physical geography) almost every 2 years

ANTIM ASSURED 100+ | Evening Edition · 05 June 2026 | Part I: Headlines to Places in News

© 2026 TheIAS Akademia | theiasakademia@gmail.com | Premium UPSC Current Affairs — Not for Redistribution

Disclaimer: All facts verified against multiple sources. For UPSC preparation purposes only. Always cross-verify with official sources before the exam.