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EDITION
Morning

GS PAPERS
GS1 • GS3 • GS4

PART II • ENVIRONMENT TO DIRECT HIT TRACKER



Environment & Ecology

2 CARDS — CARD 1: CURRENT NEWS (DTE) • CARD 2: STATIC SPECIES (IUCN)

GS1 • GS3

Indian Climate • Monsoon • Disaster Management

June 2026 • Source: Down to Earth / IMD / PIB

Monsoon 2026 Crisis: 64% Rainfall Deficit, El Niño Shadow & Displaced Jet Streams Threaten Kharif Season

What happened: India's 2026 southwest monsoon has recorded a 64% rainfall deficit as of mid-June, with only about half the country covered by late June. IMD revised its full-season forecast to 90% of LPA — placing 2026 in the below-normal category with a 60% probability of a deficient season. The primary cause: an anomalous southward shift of the westerly jet stream interfering with the easterly jet stream, disrupting monsoon circulation. Residual El Niño influence in the Pacific compounds the deficit. The shortfall threatens Kharif crop sowing, rural incomes, and reservoir levels.

Why it matters for UPSC: Southwest monsoon is central to GS1 (climatology — jet stream mechanism) and GS3 (agriculture, food security, economic impact). UPSC frequently tests monsoon mechanism, El Niño/La Niña effects, IMD methodology, and monsoon variability's impact on farming and GDP. The 2026 deficit makes this a near-certain Prelims question.

⚡ KEY FACTS

- ▶ Deficit: 64% rainfall deficit by mid-June 2026; 75% of India's area recorded 20%+ deficiency
- ▶ IMD 2026 forecast: 90% of LPA (below-normal); 60% probability of deficient season (<90% LPA)
- ▶ Cause 1: Southward shift of westerly jet stream → interfering with easterly jet stream (monsoon driver)
- ▶ Cause 2: Residual El Niño in Pacific → reduces land-sea temperature differential
- ▶ Coverage: ~50% of India by late June (normal: ~70% by end-June)
- ▶ Kharif impact: Paddy, pulses, oilseeds sowing delayed in deficit regions; food inflation risk elevated
- ▶ LPA definition: IMD's Long Period Average = average rainfall over 1971–2020 (50 years) = 868.6 mm (June–Sept)

💡 TEACHING HOOK

Jet Streams — Traffic Signal Analogy: Easterly jet stream over India = GREEN signal for monsoon. Westerly jet stream shifting south = RED signal, blocking progress. 2026: both signals fighting. For Prelims: El Niño → warm Pacific SSTs → WEAK Indian monsoon. La Niña → cool SSTs → STRONGER monsoon. IMD LPA = 1971–2020 average (not older 50-year base).

PYQ LINKAGE

"Discuss the factors responsible for the origin of ocean currents and how they influence regional climates." — UPSC Mains GS1, 2022 (El Niño mechanism link). Monsoon mechanism directly tested in UPSC Prelims 2015, 2018, 2021, 2024.

GS3

Biodiversity · Species Conservation · IUCN Red List

Static UPSC Species · Source: IUCN Red List / WWF India / Oryx Journal

Gharial (*Gavialis gangeticus*): IUCN's First-Ever Green Status Assessment Labels It 'Critically Depleted' — India's Rarest Crocodilian

What happened: The IUCN conducted its first-ever 'Green Status' assessment of the Gharial and classified it as 'Critically Depleted' — meaning the species is far from its historical ecological function despite ongoing conservation. The gharial has lost over 98% of its former range and survives primarily in the Chambal River system with only ~800-900 mature adults. The IUCN Green Status concept (introduced 2022) assesses recovery level, not just extinction risk.

Why it matters for UPSC: Gharial is Schedule I, Wildlife Protection Act 1972 and Critically Endangered (IUCN Red List). The 'Green Status' concept distinguishes extinction risk (Red List) from recovery level (Green Status) — a conceptually important distinction. Chambal River and National Chambal Sanctuary are key geography points. Project Crocodile (1975) covers three species.

KEY FACTS

- ▶ Scientific name: *Gavialis gangeticus*; Order Crocodilia; unique narrow fish-eating snout
- ▶ IUCN Red List: Critically Endangered (CR)
- ▶ IUCN Green Status (2022 concept): 'Critically Depleted' — far from ecological recovery
- ▶ Population: ~800–900 mature adults; 98%+ range loss from historical distribution
- ▶ Habitat: National Chambal Sanctuary (UP–MP–Rajasthan); also Girwa and Ghaghara Rivers
- ▶ Threats: Sand mining, dam construction, fishing net entanglement, riverbank agriculture
- ▶ Protection: Schedule I WPA 1972; CITES Appendix I; Project Crocodile (1975) covers Gharial + Mugger + Saltwater Crocodile
- ▶ Unique: Only the MALE gharial has a 'ghara' (pot-like growth) on its snout — used for vocalisation

TEACHING HOOK

Red List vs Green Status: Red List asks "HOW CLOSE to extinction?" (risk). Green Status asks "HOW FAR from full recovery?" (recovery). A species can be CR AND Critically Depleted simultaneously — as the Gharial shows. For Prelims: Project Crocodile covers 3 species (Gharial = most endangered). Only MALE has ghara — classic Prelims trap.

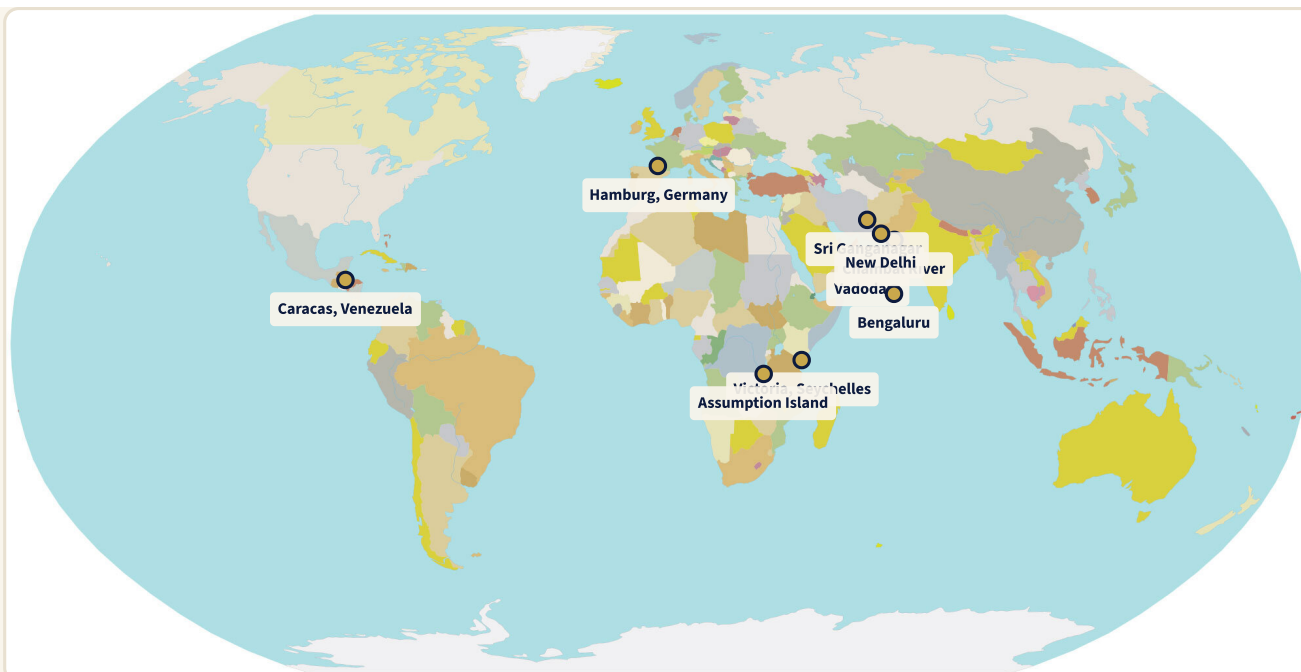
PYQ LINKAGE

"What are the major factors responsible for loss of biodiversity in India? Discuss steps taken to protect endangered species." — UPSC Mains GS3, 2023. Gharial tested directly in UPSC Prelims 2018 (conservation status, habitat). IUCN categories regularly tested.



Places in News

9 LOCATIONS · WORLD MAP WITH CSS PINS



Victoria, Seychelles

SC SEYCHELLES · INDIAN OCEAN

PM Modi's 3-day State Visit (June 27-29); 'Guardian of Blue Horizon' award; MAHASAGAR diplomacy; MoU signing; INR 1,250-cr LoC. Capital and only city of Seychelles.

GS2 · IR

Vadodara, Gujarat

IN INDIA

TASL (Tata Advanced Systems Ltd) facility where India's first Made-in-India C-295 military transport aircraft was assembled and completed its maiden test flight.

GS3 · Defence

Caracas, Venezuela

VE SOUTH AMERICA

Capital of Venezuela; struck by twin earthquakes (M 7.2 & 7.5); India's Operation Amistad HADR mission deployed here; 1,430+ deaths.

GS2 · Disaster Management

Bengaluru, Karnataka

IN INDIA

ISRO headquarters city; hosted BRICS HOSA (Heads of Space Agencies) meet under India's 2026 BRICS Chairship; BRICS Space Economy framework proposed.

GS3 · S&T

Hamburg, Germany

DE EUROPE

Host of Hamburg Sustainability Conference 2026 where UN SDG Index 2026 was released. India ranked 94th — its highest-ever position, up from 99th in 2025.

GS2 · International

National Chambal Sanctuary

IN UP-MP-RAJASTHAN, INDIA

Last stronghold of Critically Endangered Gharial (*Gavialis gangeticus*). IUCN's first Green Status assessment classified gharial as 'Critically Depleted'. Also habitat of Gangetic dolphin.

GS3 · Biodiversity

Sri Ganganagar, Rajasthan

IN INDIA

Recorded 48.2°C on May 27, 2026 — hottest spot on Earth that day. North India's 2026 heatwave peaked here; linked to weak monsoon and climate tipping point warnings from DTE.

GS1 · Climate

New Delhi

IN INDIA

Venue of first-ever National Rural Development Conference 2026 (June 28-29); AI-enabled Rural Internal Audit Portal launched; NCB Annual Report 2025 and Drug Control Vision released.

GS2 · Governance

Assumption Island

SC SEYCHELLES · INDIAN OCEAN

Sensitive India-Seychelles bilateral issue; proposed site for India-assisted maritime infrastructure. PM Modi's visit renewed discussion on development project; strategically near Indian Ocean shipping lanes.

GS2 · Maritime IR



Ethics & Case Studies (GS4)

4 PLAUSIBLE CIVIL SERVANT DILEMMAS

CASE STUDY 1 · GS4 · Governance Ethics

The Welfare Scheme Shortfall: PMAY-G Data Fraud vs. 2,000 Genuine Beneficiaries

SCENARIO

You are the District Magistrate of a drought-prone district. During an audit of PMAY-G, you discover 30% of approved beneficiaries are ineligible (above income threshold or already own pucca houses) — legacy data fraud from the previous administration. Correcting the records will displace 2,000 genuine poor households from the current fiscal year's approved list as reprocessing can't happen before year-end. Your superior pressures you to "let it pass" before elections.

VALUES IN CONFLICT

Integrity vs. immediate compassion; rule of law vs. welfare; institutional loyalty vs. conscience; accountability to the state vs. duty to the genuinely poor.

ETHICAL FRAMEWORK & RECOMMENDED ACTION

Kantian: Falsifying records violates categorical moral duty. **Consequentialist:** Passing the fraudulent list diverts resources from genuinely deserving poor long-term. **Action:** Report discrepancy through official channels; flag 2,000 genuine beneficiaries for Q1 priority; refuse to alter records; document superior's instruction in writing; use the new AI Audit Portal to create an immutable trail.

CASE STUDY 2 · GS4 · Defence Ethics

The Procurement Shortcut: Whistleblowing in the C-295 Component Supply Chain

SCENARIO

You are a mid-level officer in the Defence Acquisition Council overseeing the C-295 indigenisation programme. You discover that a Tier-2 vendor supplying avionics components has submitted falsified test certificates — components may not meet IAF airworthiness standards. Exposing this will delay deliveries by 8–12 months and embarrass a flagship Make-in-India programme. Senior officials hint it would be "career-limiting." National security is potentially at stake.

VALUES IN CONFLICT

National security vs. institutional reputation; transparency vs. programme momentum; individual courage vs. career risk; loyalty to superiors vs. duty to armed forces and nation.

ETHICAL FRAMEWORK & RECOMMENDED ACTION

Virtue Ethics: Courage and integrity are cardinal virtues — allowing compromised equipment to reach soldiers is a fundamental ethical failure. **Legal:** Whistle Blowers Protection Act, 2014 provides legal shield. **Action:** File complaint with Defence Quality Assurance authority; invoke WB Protection Act; escalate to CAG if internal reporting is suppressed; document all communications.

CASE STUDY 3 · GS4 · Disaster Management Ethics

Triage Under Pressure: Allocating BHISHM Cube Capacity in Venezuela

SCENARIO

You lead India's 41-member medical team in Venezuela under Operation Amistad. Your two BHISHM cubes can treat 50 critical patients per day; 200+ critically injured have arrived in 24 hours. Venezuelan officials demand priority for government workers; civil society groups insist on women, children, elderly first; foreign journalists demand immediate access. You must decide triage policy within 30 minutes.

VALUES IN CONFLICT

Equity vs. efficiency; medical need vs. diplomatic obligation; sovereignty of host country vs. universal humanitarian principles; impartiality vs. practical pressures.

ETHICAL FRAMEWORK & RECOMMENDED ACTION

Medical Ethics 4 Pillars: Beneficence, Non-maleficence, Autonomy, Justice. **International Humanitarian Law:** Geneva Conventions mandate triage based purely on medical need and survival probability — not nationality, occupation or status. **Action:** Implement standard START/SALT triage protocol; communicate neutral policy clearly; diplomatically decline the Venezuelan official's request citing IHL; document all decisions.

The Sand Mining Permit: Gharial Habitat vs. Tribal Livelihoods on the Chambal

SCENARIO

You are the District Collector of a Chambal region district. A major infrastructure company has applied for a 5-year sand-mining permit along a 10-km stretch of the Chambal River buffer zone. The project will create 2,000 jobs for marginalised tribal communities. The Forest Department has flagged this as a critical gharial nesting zone; the IUCN's Green Status just classified the gharial as 'Critically Depleted'. Granting the permit may functionally extirpate the nesting population. Denying it deepens poverty in an already marginalised community.

VALUES IN CONFLICT

Intergenerational equity vs. immediate welfare; ecological responsibility vs. economic development; legal duties (WPA, NGT orders) vs. practical compassion for marginalised communities.

ETHICAL FRAMEWORK & RECOMMENDED ACTION

Brundtland Sustainability: "Development meeting present needs without compromising future generations." **Legal:** Sand mining in sanctuary buffer zones requires NBWL clearance; NGT has issued multiple Chambal bans. **Action:** Reject permit in current form; convene multi-stakeholder committee to explore eco-tourism and conservation employment as alternatives; submit NBWL proposal for community-based conservation model; IUCN Green Status strengthens the legal case for refusal.



MCQs — 15 Statement-Based Questions

PRELIMS 2026 PRACTICE · GS1 / GS2 / GS3

Q1 · GS2 · IR — MAHASAGAR

Consider the following about India's MAHASAGAR initiative:

1. MAHASAGAR = Mutual and Holistic Advancement for Security and Growth Across Regions.
2. It was announced during PM Modi's visit to Mauritius in 2025.
3. It succeeds and updates the SAGAR doctrine announced in 2015.
4. The Coalition for Disaster Resilient Infrastructure (CDRI) is an integral component of MAHASAGAR.

Which are correct?

- (a) 1 and 2 only
- (b) 1, 2 and 3 only
- (c) 2 and 4 only
- (d) 1, 2, 3 and 4

Answer: (b) — Statement 4 is wrong. CDRI is a separate initiative (co-founded India-UK, 2019). While Seychelles joined CDRI during Modi's visit, CDRI is not an integral component of the MAHASAGAR framework itself.

Q2 · GS3 · Defence — C-295

With reference to India's C-295 aircraft programme:

1. The C-295 replaces the IAF's ageing Avro HS-748 fleet.
2. All 56 aircraft are to be manufactured in India by TASL.
3. The C-295 deal is the first Transfer of Technology for military aviation to a private entity in India.
4. The assembly facility is at Vadodara, Gujarat.

Which are correct?

- (a) 1, 3 and 4 only
- (b) 1 and 4 only
- (c) 2, 3 and 4 only
- (d) 1, 2, 3 and 4

Answer: (a) — Statement 2 is wrong. Only 40 of 56 aircraft are Made in India; the first 16 are delivered from Spain by Airbus.

Q3 · GS3 · Economy — ISP

About the Index of Services Production (ISP):

1. It is being launched by MoSPI.
2. Its base year is 2024-25.
3. It will be released monthly with an approximate lag of 60 days.
4. Health and education sectors will be included from Day 1 of launch.

Select correct:

- (a) 2 and 3 only
- (b) 1, 2 and 3 only
- (c) 3 and 4 only
- (d) 1, 3 and 4 only

Answer: (b) — All except statement 4 are correct. Health and education will be added later; they are not included in the initial launch of ISP.

Q4 · GS3 · Biodiversity — Gharial

About Gharial (*Gavialis gangeticus*):

1. It is Critically Endangered on IUCN Red List.
2. Only the male gharial has a 'ghara' (pot-shaped growth) on its snout.
3. National Chambal Sanctuary spans parts of UP, MP and Rajasthan.
4. Gharial is listed under Schedule I of the Wildlife Protection Act, 1972.

Which are correct?

- (a) 1, 3 and 4 only
- (b) 2, 3 and 4 only
- (c) 1, 2 and 4 only
- (d) 1, 2, 3 and 4

Answer: (d) All four are correct. — Gharial: CR on IUCN Red List; only MALE has ghara; Chambal Sanctuary spans UP-MP-Rajasthan; Schedule I of WPA 1972.

Q5 · GS1 · Monsoon — Jet Streams

Which of the following statements about the Indian Southwest Monsoon are correct?

1. The Tropical Easterly Jet Stream drives the southwest monsoon inland.
2. The Subtropical Westerly Jet Stream normally shifts north of the Tibetan Plateau after May, enabling monsoon.
3. In 2026, anomalous southward shift of the westerly jet stream disrupted monsoon progress.
4. El Niño conditions in the Pacific typically strengthen the Indian Southwest Monsoon.

- (a) 1, 2 and 3 only
- (b) 2 and 4 only
- (c) 1 and 3 only
- (d) 1, 2, 3 and 4

Answer: (a) — Statement 4 is wrong. El Niño WEAKENS the Indian monsoon (warmer Pacific SSTs reduce land-sea temperature differential driving monsoon).

Q6 · GS1 · Population — TFR

About India's Total Fertility Rate (TFR) in 2026:

1. India's national TFR has fallen to 1.9, below replacement level of 2.1.
2. Urban TFR (1.6) is lower than rural TFR (2.1).
3. A TFR below replacement means India's population will start declining immediately.
4. Bihar, UP and Meghalaya continue to record TFR above the national average.

Which are correct?

- (a) 1, 2 and 4 only
- (b) 1, 3 and 4 only
- (c) 2 and 3 only
- (d) 1, 2, 3 and 4

Answer: (a) — Statement 3 is wrong. TFR below replacement ≠ immediate population decline. Population momentum (large young cohort still entering reproductive age) means India will keep growing until ~2064.

Q7 · GS2 · International Indices

The Sustainable Development Report and SDG Index is published by:

- (a) United Nations DESA (b) World Economic Forum (c) Bertelsmann Stiftung and SDSN (d) World Bank and UNDP jointly

Answer: (c) — SDG Index published by Bertelsmann Stiftung + Sustainable Development Solutions Network (SDSN). It is NOT an official UN publication, though it uses UN data. India ranked 94th in 2026 edition.

Q8 · GS2 · Internal Security — NCB

Consider the following about NCB:

1. NCB was established under NDPS Act, 1985.
2. Golden Crescent = Afghanistan-Pakistan-Iran narco zone.
3. Golden Triangle = Myanmar-Laos-Thailand narco zone.
4. NCB functions under the Ministry of Home Affairs.

Which are correct?

- (a) 1, 2 and 3 only
- (b) 2, 3 and 4 only
- (c) 1, 2, 3 and 4
- (d) 1 and 4 only

Answer: (c) All four are correct.

Q9 · GS3 · Space — BRICS

About BRICS space cooperation:

1. India holds BRICS Chairship in 2026.
2. BRICS RSSC = Remote Sensing Satellite Constellation (existing cooperation mechanism).
3. BRICS HOSA meet was hosted by ISRO in Bengaluru.
4. IN-SPACe was established in 2020 to enable private sector space activities in India.

Select correct:

- (a) 1, 2 and 3 only
- (b) 2, 3 and 4 only
- (c) 1, 3 and 4 only
- (d) 1, 2, 3 and 4

Answer: (d) All four are correct.

Q10 · GS3 · Disaster Management

BHISHM cube deployed in Operation Amistad refers to:

- (a) Military-grade armoured vehicle for urban warfare (b) Portable modular field hospital that can be rapidly deployed in disaster zones (c) Satellite-based communication system for disaster coordination (d) Naval vessel for maritime search and rescue

Answer: (b) — BHISHM (Bharat Health Initiative for Sahyog Hita & Maitri) = indigenously developed portable field hospital. Each 'cube' unfolds into a functional treatment facility with surgical and ICU capability, deployable within minutes.

Q11 · GS2 · Governance — VB-GRAM-G

VB-GRAM-G integrates which schemes?

1. Pradhan Mantri Awas Yojana-Gramin
2. Pradhan Mantri Gram Sadak Yojana
3. Deendayal Antyodaya Yojana-National Rural Livelihoods Mission
4. National Food Security Act provisions

- (a) 1 and 2 only
(b) 1, 2 and 3 only
(c) 2, 3 and 4 only
(d) 1, 2, 3 and 4

Answer: (b) — VB-GRAM-G integrates housing (PMAY-G), roads (PMGSY), livelihoods (DAY-NRLM), skill development and social security. National Food Security Act is not explicitly part of this framework.

Q12 · GS1 · Demography — DTM

Which best describes Demographic Transition Stage 3?

- (a) High BR, high DR, stable population (b) High BR, falling DR, rapid growth (c) Falling BR, low DR, slowing but positive growth (d) Low BR, low DR, stable or declining population

Answer: (c) — Stage 3: falling birth rate + low death rate = slowing but still positive growth. Where India is nationally. Stage 4 (d) = Western Europe, Japan.

Q13 · GS2 · CDRI

About CDRI:

1. Co-founded by India and UK at UN Climate Action Summit, New York, 2019.
2. Seychelles joined CDRI during PM Modi's June 2026 visit.
3. CDRI focuses exclusively on road and railway infrastructure.
4. CDRI has 40+ member nations.

Which are correct?

- (a) 1, 2 and 4 only
(b) 2 and 3 only
(c) 1 and 4 only
(d) 1, 2, 3 and 4

Answer: (a) — Statement 3 is wrong. CDRI covers ALL types of infrastructure (energy, transport, telecom, water, social — not just roads/railways).

Q14 · GS3 · SDG — Off-track Goals

According to the UN SDG Index 2026, India remains significantly off-track on which SDGs?

1. SDG 2 — Zero Hunger

2. SDG 7 — Affordable and Clean Energy

3. SDG 14 — Life Below Water

4. SDG 15 — Life on Land

(a) 1, 3 and 4 only

(b) 2 and 4 only

(c) 1, 2, 3 and 4

(d) 1 and 4 only

Answer: (a) — India has made strong progress on SDG 7 (electricity access via Saubhagya, PM-KUSUM). Remains off-track on SDG 2 (hunger), SDG 14 (oceans), SDG 15 (biodiversity).

Q15 · GS3 · IUCN Green Status

Which best describes the IUCN Green Status vs. Red List distinction?

(a) Red List measures extinction risk; Green Status measures recovery toward full ecological function (b) Red List covers plants only; Green Status covers animals only (c) Red List is published annually; Green Status every 5 years (d) Green Status replaced the Red List in 2022

Answer: (a) — Red List = backward-looking risk assessment (how close to extinction?). Green Status = forward-looking recovery assessment (how close to full ecological restoration?). Both coexist; Green Status introduced 2022 as a complement.

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15 MCQs done. How many right in under 20 minutes? **NEEB 300+ Live PYQ Writing** simulates real Prelims conditions with 100+ MCQ sprints every week. Join at theiasakademia.com



Mains Questions

6 QUESTIONS — 2 GS1 · 2 GS2/GS3 · 2 GS4 · WITH FRAMEWORKS

GS1 · 15 Marks · 250 Words

Q1. "India's sub-replacement fertility rate of 1.9 is both a demographic dividend and a demographic debt in the making." Critically examine with reference to regional disparities, social security implications, and policy responses.

Framework: Intro (TFR 1.9, below 2.1 replacement; SRS 2024/NFHS-6) → Dividend: young working-age population, 2 more decades of labour advantage → Debt: ageing, pension pressure, healthcare costs, labour shortages → Regional disparity: Bihar/UP still high vs Kerala/TN low → Policy response: NITI Aayog on population policy, social security reform, skilling → Conclusion: Window narrowing; policy action urgently needed.

GS1 · 10 Marks · 150 Words

Q2. Explain the role of jet streams in the origin and progress of the Indian Southwest Monsoon. How does the El Niño Southern Oscillation (ENSO) affect the monsoon's performance?

Framework: Jet streams defined → Easterly Jet Stream (drives moisture northward) → Westerly Jet Stream (shifts north of Tibet in May = "switches on" monsoon) → ENSO: El Niño (warm Pacific SSTs) → reduces temperature differential → weakens monsoon → La Niña → stronger monsoon → 2026: jet stream not retreating fully, disrupting monsoon → Conclusion: Global climate patterns make monsoon prediction challenging.

GS2 · 15 Marks · 250 Words

Q3. India's humanitarian diplomacy — as evidenced by Operation Amistad, Maitri and Dost — has evolved from a regional to a global role. Analyse the strategic, soft power and operational dimensions of India's HADR doctrine.

Framework: HADR defined → Evolution: Maitri (Nepal 2015) → Dost (Turkey 2023) → Amistad (Venezuela 2026) → Strategic: projects India as 'Net Security Provider', counters China's influence → Soft power: BHISHM cubes, medical diplomacy, 'first responder' image → Operational: C-17s, NDRF, 41-member teams → Challenges: sovereignty, speed, coordination → MAHASAGAR link: IOR primary zone + expanding beyond → Conclusion: HADR is strategic statecraft, not charity.

GS3 · 15 Marks · 250 Words

Q4. "India's indigenisation of defence production is a necessary but insufficient condition for strategic autonomy." Critically evaluate with reference to the C-295 programme and Atmanirbhar Bharat policy in defence.

Framework: Strategic autonomy defined → C-295 milestone: first private-sector military aircraft, ToT, 14,000+ components → Progress: DAP 2020, private sector allowed → Why insufficient: engines/avionics still imported; shallow domestic vendor base → Comparison: Israel, South Korea's indigenous defence (20-30 year journeys) → Policy needs: DRDO reform, R&D budget, export push → Conclusion: C-295 is a milestone, not the destination.

GS4 · 10 Marks · 150 Words

Q5. An IAS officer discovers 30% of PMAY-G beneficiaries in her district are ineligible due to legacy data fraud. Correcting the records will displace 2,000 genuine beneficiaries in the current fiscal year. Her superior asks her to "let it pass." What should she do and why?

Framework: Identify dilemma (integrity vs. immediate compassion) → Values: accountability, rule of law, duty to genuinely poor → Stakeholders: ineligible households, 2,000 genuine poor, institution, superior → Decision: Report through official channels; flag 2,000 for Q1 priority; refuse to alter records; document superior's instruction → Principles: Kant (duty to honesty), Consequence (correcting fraud protects poor long-term) → Conclusion: Integrity must prevail; short-term discomfort ≠ long-term injustice.

GS4 · 10 Marks · 150 Words

Q6. "In environmental governance, the rights of present communities and the rights of future species are often irreconcilable." Discuss with reference to the Gharial conservation vs. livelihood dilemma in the Chambal region.

Framework: Define tension (present human welfare vs. intergenerational ecological duty) → Gharial context: CR, IUCN 'Critically Depleted', last 800-900 adults → Legal: WPA 1972 Schedule I, NGT Chambal orders → Ethical frameworks: Brundtland sustainability, Deep ecology → Resolution: Not truly irreconcilable if alternatives found — eco-tourism, conservation employment, MGNREGS → Conclusion: Tension is real but navigable with inclusive, multi-stakeholder governance.

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Q6 bridges GS4 ethics and Philosophy optional — deep ecology, intergenerational equity, environmental ethics. Philosophy Target 300+ connects these themes to your optional Paper syllabus. Visit theiasakademia.com



Value Addition

5 QUOTES · 1 DATA TABLE · 1 ACTS/COMMITTEES TABLE

"The Indian Ocean is not just a body of water — it is a shared home. Its security, sustainability and prosperity is our collective responsibility."

— PM Narendra Modi, Seychelles National Assembly, June 2026 (MAHASAGAR vision)

"The difference between a demographic dividend and a demographic debt depends entirely on what a nation does with its human capital in the window of opportunity."

— Adapted from Amartya Sen, Development as Freedom

"Sustainable development is development that meets the needs of the present without compromising the ability of future generations to meet their own needs."

— Brundtland Commission Report, Our Common Future, 1987

"The strength of a nation's science is like the strength of a rope — it comes not from any single strand but from the collective weaving of many."

— Dr. APJ Abdul Kalam — relevant to BRICS Space Economy and India's cooperative science diplomacy

"A civil servant's first allegiance is not to any political master, but to the Constitution, the rule of law, and the citizen at the bottom of the pyramid."

— T.N. Seshan, former Chief Election Commissioner — applicable to all four ethics cases today

India's Monsoon 2026 vs Historical Benchmarks

PARAMETER	2026 (CURRENT)	NORMAL / LPA	WORST RECENT YEAR
Seasonal forecast (% of LPA)	90% (below-normal)	100%	2009: 77% (49-yr low)
Mid-June rainfall deficit	64%	0% deficit	2009: ~43% by mid-June
Country coverage by end-June	~50%	~70%	2014: ~55%
Deficient season probability	60%	—	—
IMD LPA base period	1971–2020 (50-year average = 868.6 mm, June–Sept)		

Key Acts, Articles & Bodies in Today's News

ACT / BODY	RELEVANCE TODAY	UPSC ANGLE
NDPS Act, 1985	NCB Annual Report; Drug Control Vision 2026-29	GS3 Internal Security
Wildlife Protection Act 1972, Schedule I	Gharial protection (highest level)	GS3 Biodiversity
Defence Acquisition Procedure (DAP) 2020	C-295 Made in India; private sector defence	GS3 Defence indigenisation
Whistle Blowers Protection Act, 2014	Ethics Case 2 — defence procurement fraud	GS4 Ethics; GS2 Governance
Geneva Conventions (1949) — ICRC	Ethics Case 3 — HADR triage principles	GS4 Ethics; International humanitarian law
National Food Security Act (NFSA), 2013	Food security risk from Monsoon 2026 deficit	GS3 Food security



Direct Hit Tracker

12 HIGH-PROBABILITY EXAM TOPICS · PRELIMS + MAINS 2026

MAHASAGAR & SAGAR

GS2 · IR

SAGAR (2015, Mauritius) →
MAHASAGAR (2025, Mauritius);
Indian Ocean doctrine;
Seychelles visit.



C-295 Indigenisation

GS3 · DEFENCE

First private-sector military
aircraft; TASL-Airbus; DAP
2020; 40 Made in India;
Vadodara.



Index of Services Production

GS3 · ECONOMY

New MoSPI index; base 2024-
25; analogous to IIP; fills
statistical gap for services
(55% GDP).

Gharial + IUCN Green Status

GS3 · BIODIVERSITY

First Green Status = Critically
Depleted; CR Red List;
Chambal; only male has
ghara; Schedule I.

★★★★★

BHISHM Cube / Op Amistad
GS2 · GS3
Portable field hospital; Venezuela earthquake; India's HADR evolution; first Latin America deployment.
★★★★

★★★★★

India TFR = 1.9
GS1 · POPULATION
Sub-replacement; SRS 2024/NFHS-6; urban 1.6, rural 2.1; Bihar 3.0, UP 2.4; DTM Stage 3.
★★★★

★★★★★

Monsoon Deficit 2026
GS1 · GS3
64% deficit; jet stream disruption; El Niño; 90% LPA IMD forecast; Kharif impact; food security.
★★★★

★★★★★

SDG Index 2026 — India 94th
GS2 · INTERNATIONAL
68.3/100; Bertelsmann + SDSN; strong SDG 7; off-track SDG 2, 5, 14, 15, 16.
★★★★

★★★★★

BRICS Space Economy
GS3 · S&T
HOSA in Bengaluru; RSSC; IN-SPACE; India BRICS Chair 2026; BRICS Space Council proposed.
★★★★

★★★★★

VB-GRAM-G
GS2 · GOVERNANCE
Integrated housing + roads + livelihoods + skills; National Rural Development Conference 2026.
★★★★

★★★★★

CDRI
GS2 · IR
India-UK co-founded 2019; 40+ members; Seychelles joined June 2026; disaster-resilient infrastructure.
★★★★

★★★★★

IUCN Green Status Concept
GS3 · ENVIRONMENT
Launched 2022; measures recovery not just extinction risk; complements Red List; Gharial first major Indian case.
★★★★

VERIFIED · PART II

Proof of Precision

Every item mapped. Every claim verified.

2
ENVIRONMENT CARDS

9
PLACES MAPPED

4
ETHICS CASES

15
MCQS GENERATED

6
MAINS QUESTIONS

0
REPEATED TOPICS

Environment & Ecology

Places in News

Ethics GS4

MCQs Prelims

Mains Frameworks

Direct Hit Tracker

✓ Section order verified: Environment → Places → Ethics → MCQs → Mains → Value Addition → DHT → Precision

✓ Env Card 1 (Current): DTE/IMD — Monsoon 2026 deficit, verified against PIB forecast data

✓ Env Card 2 (Static): IUCN Red List / WWF India / Oryx Journal — Gharial Green Status verified

✓ 15 MCQs — each has exactly one unambiguously correct answer with explanation

✓ 6 Mains questions span GS1(2), GS2/GS3(2), GS4(2) with detailed frameworks

✓ 4 Ethics cases use named frameworks (Kantian, Consequentialist, Virtue, Brundtland)

✓ GoDaddy compliance: no external JS, single embedded CSS block, self-contained HTML5

✓ Map fallback implemented — shows guidance if Maps/world_outline_color.jpg not found

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