

ANTIM ASSURED 100+

DAILY CURRENT AFFAIRS FOR UPSC PRELIMS & MAINS

PART II • ENVIRONMENT TO DIRECT HIT TRACKER

Saturday, 06 June 2026

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"From News to Questions, From Questions to Selection"

PART II CONTENTS

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WHY IN NEWS

World Environment Day 2026 + State of India's Environment Report — Climate Risks, Wildlife Conflict & Monitoring Gaps

WORLD ENVIRONMENT DAY 2026

- Date: June 5 (observed annually since 1974)
- 2026 Theme: **"Inspired by Nature. For Climate. For Our Future"**
- Emphasis: Nature-based Solutions (NbS) for climate adaptation and mitigation
- Hosted by UNEP; India observed through MoEFCC
- International Big Cat Alliance (IBCA) Summit 2026: 14 nations; India hosted; HQ: Dehradun

PRELIMS FACTS

- CSE: Centre for Science and Environment — founded 1980, New Delhi; DG: Sunita Narain
- Lantana camara: Invasive alien species from Central America; Category II in India
- IBCA: Founded by India in 2023; covers protection of 7 big cat species
- India's Paris Agreement NDC: 50% non-fossil fuel capacity by 2030 — achieved 2025
- SoE Report is by CSE (civil society), NOT by MoEFCC — common exam trap

SOE 2026 KEY FINDINGS (CSE)

- Only ~15% of India's population (200 million) lives within 10 km of continuous air quality monitoring — 85% (1.2 billion) outside coverage
- Lantana camara (invasive alien plant) occupies ~50% of forest and scrublands — suppresses native grasses → forces tigers to prey on cattle → human-tiger conflict
- Rising frequency of extreme weather events and flood risks documented
- India achieved 50% non-fossil electricity capacity (2025) — 5 years ahead of NDC target
- Renewable energy capacity: 68 GW (2016) → 263 GW (2026)

MAINS DIMENSIONS

- Nature-based Solutions (NbS) as cost-effective climate strategy
- Human-wildlife conflict: Lantana-driven cascade — habitat loss → prey depletion → cattle predation → conflict
- Right to clean air as fundamental right (Art. 21, MC Mehta case)
- India's renewable energy milestone: global credibility, NDC leadership
- Invasive species under CBD Kunming-Montreal Global Biodiversity Framework

UPSC SYLLABUS MAPPING

GS3: Conservation · Biodiversity · Environmental Pollution

GS2: International Agreements (Paris, CBD)

PYQ LINKAGE

Lantana camara in Prelims 2023. IBCA in Prelims 2024. India's renewable targets in GS3 2021, 2022. Human-wildlife conflict in GS3 2022. Air quality (MC Mehta) in GS2 multiple times.

Q. Consider the following about State of India's Environment (SoE) 2026 Report:

1. It is published annually by the Ministry of Environment, Forests and Climate Change (MoEFCC).
2. It states Lantana camara occupies nearly 50% of forest and scrublands in India.
3. It notes only ~15% of India's population lives within air quality monitoring coverage.

Which is/are correct?

a) 1, 2 and 3

b) 2 and 3 only ✓

c) 1 and 2 only

d) 3 only

Statement 1 incorrect — SoE 2026 is published by CSE (civil society NGO), NOT MoEFCC. Statements 2 and 3 correct.

PROBABLE MAINS Q (GS3)

"The State of India's Environment 2026 report reveals a widening gap between India's environmental policy ambitions and ground-level implementation. Critically analyse this gap with reference to air quality monitoring and human-wildlife conflict management." (250 words)

GS3

GS2

PYQ-LINKED

WORLD ENVIRONMENT DAY

CSE SOE 2026

LANTANA CAMARA

IBCA

HUMAN-TIGER CONFLICT

RENEWABLE ENERGY

AKADEMIA TEACHING HOOK

WED 2026 theme (Prelims fact) + SoE 2026 data (Mains ammunition) packaged together. The Lantana-tiger cascade is the perfect "ecological policy failure" chain: invasive species → habitat change → prey shift → cattle predation → human-tiger conflict. One causal chain = top-score Mains structure. Critical trap: CSE (not MoEFCC) publishes SoE — tested every second year in Prelims.

02 Places in News

GS PAPER I · GEOGRAPHY · MAP-BASED QUESTIONS

PLACES IN NEWS — 06 JUNE 2026 | ANTIM ASSURED 100+



① New Delhi (Governance) ② Nepal (FM Visit) ③ Oman (CEPA) ④ Singapore (Shangri-La) ⑤ Cambodia (UPI)

⑥ Vietnam (BrahMos) ⑦ Philippines (BrahMos Offer) ⑧ Meghalaya (PRAGATI 2026)

NP Kathmandu, Nepal

WHY IN NEWS

Nepal FM Shishir Khanal's official visit to New Delhi (June 5–7, 2026) — first under PM Balendra Shah.

LOCATION

Capital of Nepal; Kathmandu Valley (UNESCO heritage clusters). Landlocked; India on 3 sides, China (Tibet) north.

PRELIMS ANGLE

1950 Treaty: open border. Kalapani-Limpiyadhura-Lipulekh: active dispute. Pashupatinath Temple: UNESCO. Nepal depends on India for transit.

MAINS ANGLE

Neighbourhood First Policy; China BRI; hydropower diplomacy (83,000 MW); 1950 Treaty renegotiation; 8 mn Nepali workers in India.

PYQ TREND

Kalapani-Lipulekh: Prelims 2020, 2021. Nepal: Mains GS2 2021, 2023.

OM Muscat, Oman

WHY IN NEWS

India–Oman CEPA entered into force June 1, 2026; PM Modi signed deal here December 2025.

LOCATION

Capital of Oman; Gulf of Oman + Arabian Sea. Salalah and Duqm ports south of Strait of Hormuz.

PRELIMS ANGLE

Muscat = Gulf of Oman. Duqm = deep-sea port + SEZ. ~7 lakh Indian diaspora in Oman. 99.38% duty-free for India's exports.

MAINS ANGLE

Act West policy; energy security via Oman; CEPA strategy in Gulf; Strait of Hormuz chokepoint.

PYQ TREND

Strait of Hormuz: Prelims 2018, 2021, 2024. Gulf diplomacy: Mains 2019, 2022.

SG Singapore (Shangri-La Dialogue)

WHY IN NEWS

India's Defence Secretary at Shangri-La Dialogue 2026; BrahMos-Vietnam deal signed here.

LOCATION

Island city-state; tip of Malay Peninsula. Controls Strait of Malacca — 40% of global trade.

PRELIMS ANGLE

Shangri-La Dialogue: IISS annual summit. India-Singapore CECA (2005). Singapore 3rd in global AI (SIDE 2026).

MAINS ANGLE

Indo-Pacific security hub; Strait of Malacca + India's maritime interests; ASEAN centrality.

PYQ TREND

Strait of Malacca: Prelims multiple years. ASEAN: GS2 annually.

KH Phnom Penh, Cambodia

WHY IN NEWS

UPI launched June 2, 2026; 4.5 million merchants. Cambodia = India's 9th cross-border UPI country.

LOCATION

Capital; confluence of Mekong, Bassac and Tonle Sap rivers. Lower Mekong sub-region. ASEAN member.

PRELIMS ANGLE

Constitutional monarchy (King Norodom Sihamoni). ACLEDA Bank Plc.: UPI partner (not National Bank of Cambodia).

MAINS ANGLE

India-ASEAN digital connectivity; UPI fintech diplomacy; Mekong-Ganga Cooperation (MGC).

PYQ TREND

MGC: Prelims 2020. ASEAN: GS2 regularly.

VN Vietnam (Hanoi)

WHY IN NEWS

Umroi, Meghalaya

WHY IN NEWS

India signed BrahMos missile deal with Vietnam at Shangri-La Dialogue 2026.

LOCATION

SE Asia; borders China (N), Laos, Cambodia; South China Sea coastline. Capital: Hanoi.

PRELIMS ANGLE

India-Vietnam: Comprehensive Strategic Partnership (2016). Claims Paracel + Spratly Islands vs. China's Nine-Dash Line. 2nd BrahMos buyer after Philippines.

MAINS ANGLE

Act East Policy; defence exports as leverage; South China Sea tensions; rules-based order.

PYQ TREND

SCS: Prelims 2016, 2019, 2022. Vietnam: Mains 2021.

PRAGATI 2026 — India's first 13-nation multinational military exercise at Umroi Cantonment.

LOCATION

Near Shillong (Meghalaya capital). NE India; borders Bangladesh, near Myanmar. Khasi Hills.

PRELIMS ANGLE

Meghalaya: "Abode of Clouds." Mawsynram: wettest place. Living root bridges: Khasi tribe. Garo, Khasi, Jaintia Hills.

MAINS ANGLE

NE India as ASEAN gateway (Act East Policy); counter-insurgency; Bangladesh connectivity corridor.

PYQ TREND

Mawsynram/Cherrapunji: Prelims frequently. NE connectivity: Mains 2022.

PH Manila, Philippines

WHY IN NEWS

India offered extended-range BrahMos missiles to Philippines amid South China Sea tensions.

LOCATION

SE Asian archipelago; 7,641 islands. South China Sea (W), Philippine Sea (E). Capital: Manila.

PRELIMS ANGLE

FIRST BrahMos buyer (2022, ₹2,670 crore). Scarborough Shoal + Spratly Islands: SCS disputes with China. 2016 UNCLOS Arbitration ruled against China.

MAINS ANGLE

India's ASEAN security partnerships; UNCLOS; freedom of navigation; rules-based order.

PYQ TREND

UNCLOS, SCS: Prelims 2017, 2022. Philippines-China: GS2 Mains multiple times.

South China Sea

WHY IN NEWS

Context for India's BrahMos export diplomacy to Vietnam, Philippines, Indonesia — all SCS claimants.

LOCATION

Semi-enclosed sea, SE Asia; ~3.5 mn sq km. Bordered by China, Vietnam, Philippines, Malaysia, Brunei, Indonesia.

PRELIMS ANGLE

China's "Nine-Dash Line": ~90% SCS claim. Paracel (China vs. Vietnam), Spratly (multiple claimants). 2016 UNCLOS ruling against China.

MAINS ANGLE

Freedom of navigation; India's energy tanker routes; QUAD's maritime role; rules-based international order.

PYQ TREND

UPSC's most-asked region — Prelims 2015, 2017, 2019, 2022, 2024. GS2 Mains regularly.

Digital Health Data and the Ethics of Privacy: ABDM & 90 Crore ABHAs

NEWS EXAMPLE

Ayushman Bharat Digital Mission has generated 90 crore Ayushman Bharat Health Accounts (ABHAs), creating the world's largest health DPI. Citizens' health records are now digitally linked.

ETHICAL ISSUE

Can the state compel or incentivise citizens to adopt a digital health ID without informed consent? Who owns the data — citizen or state? What happens when health data is breached or misused?

STAKEHOLDERS

- Citizens (patients, vulnerable groups)
- National Health Authority (NHA)
- Private hospitals and insurers
- Technology vendors
- Parliament & judiciary (data protection oversight)

VALUES AT STAKE

ACCOUNTABILITY

PROBITY

RIGHT TO PRIVACY

INFORMED CONSENT

PUBLIC SERVICE VALUES

GS4 MAPPING

Attitude & Aptitude · Ethical Governance · Constitutional Values (Art. 21 — Right to Privacy per K.S. Puttaswamy judgment 2017) · Transparency in Public Administration

HOW TO USE IN ANSWER WRITING: *Use this case for GS4 questions on "government schemes and individual rights" or "technology and ethics." Frame: (1) Utilitarian good — better healthcare for millions (2) Deontological concern — right to consent and privacy is absolute. Suggest: opt-in architecture, strong DPDP Act enforcement, independent data audits.*

Defence Exports & Ethical Dimensions: BrahMos to Vietnam — Arms Trade Morality

NEWS EXAMPLE

India signed ₹5,800-crore BrahMos missile export deal with Vietnam. The deal gives Vietnam supersonic strike capability directed largely at China's South China Sea aggression.

ETHICAL ISSUE

Is arms export inherently moral if it shifts power to a weaker nation against an aggressor? Does commercial interest in defence exports risk escalating regional conflicts? How should India balance strategic interests with its stated "Vasudhaiva Kutumbakam" values?

STAKEHOLDERS

- India (exporter, strategic interest)
- Vietnam (recipient, sovereignty interest)
- China (affected party)
- ASEAN civilians in potential conflict zones
- Indian defence industry (commercial beneficiary)

VALUES AT STAKE

INTEGRITY

MORAL DILEMMA

NATIONAL INTEREST

NON-ALIGNMENT

COMPASSION

GS4 MAPPING

Ethical Dilemmas in Governance · International Ethics · Public Policy & Moral Philosophy · Realism vs Idealism in Foreign Policy

HOW TO USE IN ANSWER WRITING: *For GS4 "ethical dilemmas in public policy" questions. Frame using Rawlsian justice (empowering the weaker party), Kantian ethics (universal law: if all nations freely traded weapons?), and consequentialism (does this deter aggression or escalate it?). India's answer: deterrence = stability = peace.*

Natural Farming & Farmer Welfare: APCNF's Ethical Model of Agricultural Leadership

NEWS EXAMPLE

APCNF (AP Community Managed Natural Farming) wins the 2026 Food Planet Prize. The programme

Counter-Space Weapons & International Ethics: India's ASAT Dilemma

NEWS EXAMPLE

Experts flag India's satellite vulnerability to China's ASAT missiles and counter-space weapons, urging India to expand its own ASAT deterrence. India's

involves 800,000+ farmers transitioning from chemical to natural farming, led by grassroots extension officers and community resource persons (CRPs).

ETHICAL ISSUE

What is the ethical responsibility of a civil servant administering a transition programme that asks subsistence farmers to take economic risk? How does a leader balance short-term farmer income loss during transition versus long-term ecological benefit?

STAKEHOLDERS

- Marginal and small farmers (primary affected)
- AP State Government & APCNF administrators
- Agricultural extension workers (frontline civil servants)
- Fertiliser and pesticide industry (disrupted)
- Consumers and future generations (environmental beneficiaries)

VALUES AT STAKE

LEADERSHIP

COMPASSION

EMOTIONAL INTELLIGENCE

PUBLIC SERVICE VALUES

SUSTAINABILITY

GS4 MAPPING

Empathy & Compassion in Administration · Servant Leadership · Ethical dimensions of Policy Implementation · Inter-generational Ethics (climate and ecology)

HOW TO USE IN ANSWER WRITING: *In case studies involving policy change that burdens present stakeholders for future benefit, use this APCNF model. The civil servant must: (1) show empathy through participatory planning (2) build trust through demonstration plots (3) provide transition support payments (4) ensure reversibility. This is "compassionate administration" in action.*

Mission Shakti (2019) was India's entry into this domain.

ETHICAL ISSUE

India's 2019 ASAT test created orbital debris — an ethical hazard for all space-faring nations. Is the pursuit of national security justification enough to pollute the global commons of outer space? At what point does deterrence become recklessness?

STAKEHOLDERS

- India & China (primary parties)
- Global space agencies (ISS, ESA, NASA)
- Future generations relying on satellite tech
- UN COPUOS (Committee on Peaceful Uses of Outer Space)

VALUES AT STAKE

ETHICAL GOVERNANCE

ACCOUNTABILITY

GLOBAL COMMONS

INTERGENERATIONAL EQUITY

GS4 MAPPING

International Ethics · Ethical Dilemmas in National Security · Global Commons & Responsibility · Outer Space Treaty obligations

HOW TO USE IN ANSWER WRITING: *Perfect for GS4 "ethical dilemma in international context" questions. Use: Tragedy of the Commons (Hardin) — each nation pursues ASAT capability, collectively destroying the space commons. India's ethical path: test non-debris-generating ASAT (co-orbital), push for international ASAT code of conduct at UN COPUOS, lobby for Outer Space Treaty modernisation.*

04

Prelims MCQs

15 QUESTIONS · STATEMENT-BASED (8+) · ANSWER + EXPLANATION

Q1

MODERATE

Consider the following statements about the Ayushman Bharat Digital Mission (ABDM):

1. ABDM is implemented by the National Health Authority (NHA) under the Ministry of Health and Family Welfare.

2. The Ayushman Bharat Health Account (ABHA) is a 14-digit unique health identifier.

3. ABDM is part of India's Digital Public Infrastructure (DPI) ecosystem.

Which of the statements given above is/are correct?

a) 1 only

b) 1 and 2 only

c) 1, 2 and 3 ✓

d) 2 and 3 only

Source: PIB / NHA

PYQ Style: UPSC 2023 (Ayushman Bharat)

GS2

Explanation: All three statements are correct. NHA implements ABDM. ABHA is indeed a 14-digit ID. ABDM sits within India's DPI stack alongside Aadhaar and UPI.

Q2

HARD

With reference to the India–Oman CEPA (2026), consider the following statements:

1. The agreement was signed in New Delhi on 18 December 2025.

2. Under the CEPA, 99.38% of India's exports to Oman by value will receive zero-duty access.

3. Prior to CEPA, only 15.33% of India's exports entered Oman duty-free under the MFN regime.

4. The CEPA covers trade in goods only and excludes services.

Which of the statements is/are correct?

a) 2 and 3 only

b) 2 and 3 only ✓

c) 1, 2 and 3 only

d) 1, 2, 3 and 4

Source: Commerce Ministry / PIB

PYQ Style: UPSC 2023 (India-UAE CEPA)

GS2

GS3

Explanation: Statement 1 is incorrect — CEPA was signed in Muscat, Oman. Statement 4 is incorrect — CEPA covers 127 service sub-sectors and professional labour mobility. Statements 2 and 3 are correct.

Q3

EASY

BrahMos supersonic cruise missile is a joint venture between India and which country?

a) France

b) USA

c) Russia ✓

d) Israel

Source: DRDO / BrahMos Aerospace

PYQ: Prelims 2014, 2020

GS3

Explanation: BrahMos Aerospace Pvt. Ltd is a joint venture between DRDO (India) and NPO Mashinostroyeniya (Russia). Its name is derived from Brahmaputra (India) + Moskva (Russia) rivers.

Q4

MODERATE

Consider the following statements about the RudraM-II missile:

1. RudraM-II is classified as an air-to-surface anti-radiation missile.

2. It was developed by the Research Centre Imarat (RCI), Hyderabad.

3. It can reach speeds of up to Mach 5.5 and has a range of approximately 300 km.

4. It was tested from an MiG-29 fighter aircraft.

Which of the statements is/are correct?

a) 1, 2 and 4 only

b) 2, 3 and 4 only

c) 1, 2 and 3 only ✓

d) 1, 2, 3 and 4

Source: DRDO / Business Standard

PYQ Style: UPSC 2022 (Missile tech)

GS3

Explanation: Statement 4 is incorrect — RudraM-II was flight-tested from a Su-30MKI. Statements 1, 2 and 3 are all correct.

Q5

MODERATE

Consider the following about the India–UK Critical Minerals Global Supply Chain Observatory (GSCO):

1. It is a joint initiative between TEXMiN (IIT-ISM Dhanbad) and University of Cambridge.
2. It was formally launched on 5 June 2026 in New Delhi.
3. GSCO is designed to monitor global supply chains of critical minerals like lithium, cobalt, and rare earth elements.

How many of the above statements are correct?

a) None

b) Only one

c) Only two

d) All three ✓

Source: PIB / News on AIR / Insights IAS

PYQ Style: UPSC 2024 (Critical Minerals)

GS2

GS3

Explanation: All three statements are correct. TEXMiN (at IIT-ISM Dhanbad, under DST) and University of Cambridge co-host the GSCO. It was launched June 5, 2026 and focuses on critical mineral supply chain intelligence.

Q6

MODERATE

With reference to India's Index of Industrial Production (IIP), consider the following statements:

1. The IIP is published by the Ministry of Statistics and Programme Implementation (MoSPI).
2. In the new 2026 series, the base year has been shifted from 2011-12 to 2022-23.
3. The new IIP series now includes water supply and gas supply as additional sectors.
4. Manufacturing sector has the highest weightage in IIP at approximately 77.6%.

Which of the statements is/are correct?

a) 1 and 2 only

b) 1, 2 and 3 only

c) 2, 3 and 4 only

d) 1, 2, 3 and 4 ✓

Source: MoSPI / Business Standard

PYQ: Prelims 2018, 2022

GS3

Explanation: All four statements are correct. MoSPI publishes IIP. New base year is 2022-23. Water supply and gas supply are newly included sectors. Manufacturing (~77.6%) has the highest weight in IIP.

Q7

EASY

India conducted its Anti-Satellite (ASAT) test "Mission Shakti" in which year?

a) 2017

b) 2018

c) 2019 ✓

d) 2021

Source: DRDO / MEA

PYQ: Prelims 2020

GS3

Explanation: Mission Shakti was conducted on 27 March 2019. India became the 4th country to demonstrate ASAT capability after USA, Russia and China. Target satellite: Microsat-R at ~283 km LEO altitude.

Q8

MODERATE

Consider the following statements about India's ALMM (Approved List of Models and Manufacturers) framework for solar energy:

1. ALMM List-I covers solar modules; List-II covers solar cells.
2. From June 1, 2026, all net-metering and open-access solar projects must use cells from ALMM List-II approved manufacturers.
3. ALMM List-III (covering solar ingots and wafers) is scheduled to take effect from June 2028.
4. ALMM is administered by the Ministry of Power.

Which of the statements is/are correct?

a) 1 and 2 only

b) 2 and 3 only

c) 1, 2 and 3 only ✓

d) 1, 2, 3 and 4

Source: MNRE

PYQ Style: Prelims 2022 (Solar Policy)

GS3

Explanation: Statement 4 is incorrect — ALMM is administered by MNRE (Ministry of New and Renewable Energy), not the Ministry of Power. Statements 1, 2 and 3 are correct.

Q9

MODERATE

Consider the following about the Andhra Pradesh Community Managed Natural Farming (APCNF) programme:

1. It operates on zero-budget natural farming principles with no synthetic chemical inputs.
2. "Jeevamrutha" used in APCNF is a type of chemical fertiliser derived from factory processing.
3. APCNF won the 2026 Food Planet Prize worth USD 1.5 million.
4. The Food Planet Prize is given by the EAT Foundation, Sweden.

How many of the above statements are correct?

a) Only one

b) Only two

c) Only three ✓

d) All four

Source: Deccan Chronicle / Insights IAS

PYQ Style: Prelims 2024 (Natural Farming)

GS3

Explanation: Statement 2 is incorrect — Jeevamrutha is a natural microbial inoculant prepared from cow dung, cow urine, jaggery and water. It is not a chemical product. Statements 1, 3 and 4 are correct.

Q10

HARD

Consider the following statements about India's defence export milestones:

1. India's first BrahMos missile export was to the Philippines in 2022.
2. India's defence export target is ₹50,000 crore by FY 2029.

3. The BrahMos deal with Vietnam (2026) is India's largest single defence export agreement in value terms.

4. Indonesia has already signed its BrahMos agreement with India as of June 2026.

Which of the statements is/are correct?

a) 1, 2 and 3 only

b) 1 and 2 only

c) 1, 2 and 3 only ✓

d) 1, 2, 3 and 4

Source: Herald Goa / India TV News

PYQ Style: GS3 Defence Indigenisation

GS3

Explanation: Statement 4 is incorrect — As of June 2026, Indonesia's deal is still in "final stages" and has not been formally signed. Statements 1, 2 and 3 are correct.

Q11

MODERATE

Which of the following correctly describes the "TEXMiN" organisation?

1. TEXMiN stands for Technology Innovation Hub for Critical and Strategic Minerals.

2. It is located at IIT (Indian School of Mines), Dhanbad, Jharkhand.

3. It operates under the Department of Science and Technology's NM-ICPS programme.

Select the correct answer using the codes below:

a) 1 and 2 only

b) 2 and 3 only

c) 1 and 3 only

d) 1, 2 and 3 ✓

Source: DST / IIT-ISM Dhanbad

PYQ Style: S&T institutions

GS3

Explanation: All three statements are correct. TEXMiN is a DST-NM-ICPS funded Technology Innovation Hub at IIT(ISM) Dhanbad focused on critical and strategic minerals research and industry linkage.

Q12

EASY

Which of the following is the nodal DRDO laboratory that developed the RudraM series of anti-radiation missiles?

a) Defence Research and Development Laboratory (DRDL), Hyderabad

b) Advanced Systems Laboratory (ASL), Hyderabad

c) Research Centre Imarat (RCI), Hyderabad ✓

d) Armament Research & Development Establishment (ARDE), Pune

Source: DRDO

PYQ Style: DRDO lab mapping

GS3

Explanation: Research Centre Imarat (RCI), Hyderabad is the nodal DRDO lab for guided missile systems including RudraM, Astra and Helina. DRDL handles propulsion; ARDE handles warheads and armaments.

Q13

HARD

Consider the following statements about India's counter-space and ASAT landscape:

1. India's Defence Space Agency (DSA) was established in 2019.

2. China conducted its first ASAT test in 2007 by destroying the Fengyun-1C weather satellite, creating the

largest debris field in space history.

3. As of 2026, India has more operational military satellites than China.

4. China's Guowang LEO constellation aims to deploy 36,000+ satellites by 2030.

Which of the statements is/are correct?

a) 1, 2 and 4 only

b) 1, 3 and 4 only

c) 1, 2 and 4 only ✓

d) 1, 2, 3 and 4

Source: Business Standard / PMF IAS Analysis

PYQ Style: GS3 Space Security 2023

GS3

Explanation: Statement 3 is incorrect — China has 400+ military satellites vs India's approximately 60 operational satellites. Statements 1, 2 and 4 are correct.

Q14

MODERATE

Consider the following statements about the PM Research Chair (PMRC) Scheme:

1. PMRC is distinct from PMRF (PM Research Fellowship) — PMRC targets senior academics while PMRF targets PhD scholars.

2. PMRC is administered by the Department of Higher Education under the Ministry of Education.

3. PMRC complements the Anusandhan National Research Foundation (NRF).

How many of the above statements are correct?

a) None

b) Only one

c) Only two

d) All three ✓

Source: PIB / Ministry of Education

PYQ Style: GS2 Education Policy

GS2

Explanation: All three statements are correct. PMRC and PMRF serve different beneficiary groups. PMRC is under Dept. of Higher Education. It aligns with Anusandhan NRF's mandate to boost India's research ecosystem.

Q15

HARD

Consider the following pairs of places and their significance in today's current affairs (June 2026):

1. Salalah — Oman port outside Strait of Hormuz, key to India–Oman CEPA strategic value

2. Chandipur — Integrated Test Range used for India's missile testing programmes

3. Bay of Bengal — Location where RudraM-II was flight-tested in June 2026

4. Dhanbad — Home of IIT (Indian School of Mines) and TEXMiN hub for critical minerals

Which of the pairs are correctly matched?

a) 1, 2 and 3 only

b) 2 and 4 only

c) 1, 3 and 4 only

d) 1, 2, 3 and 4 ✓

Source: Composite — Multiple

PYQ Style: Match the pair format 2021

GS1

GS3

Explanation: All four pairs are correctly matched. Salalah is indeed outside the Strait of Hormuz. ITR Chandipur, Odisha is India's primary missile test range. RudraM-II was tested over Bay of Bengal. Dhanbad hosts IIT (ISM) and the TEXMiN hub.

GS2

"India's CEPA strategy in the Gulf represents a structural shift from tactical diplomacy to deep economic integration." Critically examine with reference to the India–Oman CEPA and India's Act West policy. (250 words)

SYLLABUS TOPIC

India & its Neighbourhood; Bilateral, Regional & Global Groupings; Effect of policies & politics of developed & developing countries on India's interests.

MODEL INTRODUCTION

India's Gulf engagement has evolved from remittance-driven diaspora diplomacy to structured economic integration. The India–Oman CEPA (June 2026) — India's fourth CEPA with a strategic partner after UAE, Australia, and Mauritius — marks this transition institutionally.

BODY POINTS (5–6)

- **Strategic significance of Oman:** Salalah and Duqm ports outside Strait of Hormuz — insurance against energy supply disruption; Oman as neutral interlocutor in Iran-GCC tensions.
- **Economic transformation:** From 15.33% to 99.38% duty-free access — textiles, pharma, marine products gain massive competitiveness in Omani market.
- **Services and diaspora:** 127 service sub-sectors covered; professional mobility provisions benefit ~7 lakh Indian nationals in Oman.
- **CEPA as template:** India is replicating the UAE CEPA success (2022) — fast-track, bilateral, comprehensive — in contrast to slow multilateral WTO rounds.
- **Limitations:** India-GCC FTA still pending due to Gulf states' concerns on petrochemical and aluminium competition; Oman's own economic vulnerability (post-oil transition under Oman Vision 2040) creates opportunity but also risk of asymmetric dependence.
- **Geopolitical layer:** China's growing Gulf investments (Saudi Aramco-Chinese deals) make India's CEPA urgency strategic, not merely commercial.

CONCLUSION

India's CEPA strategy in the Gulf is a mature articulation of economic diplomacy — converting strategic partnerships into institutional trade frameworks. However, deepening this integration requires India to also address services liberalisation at home, improve logistics, and negotiate the larger India–GCC FTA.

KEYWORDS FOR ANSWER

Act West Policy

CEPA

Strait of Hormuz

Duqm Port

Economic Diplomacy

India-GCC FTA

Oman Vision 2040

GS3

"Critical minerals are the new oil — and securing their supply chains is as strategically vital to India's future as energy security was in the 20th century." Discuss, with reference to the India–UK Critical Minerals Global Supply Chain Observatory. (250 words)

SYLLABUS TOPIC

Infrastructure; Energy; Awareness in the field of IT, Space, Computers, Robotics, Nanotechnology, Biotechnology;

MODEL INTRODUCTION

The 21st-century economy runs on critical minerals — lithium for EV batteries, cobalt for clean energy, rare earths for semiconductors and guided missiles. China

Conservation, Environmental pollution, Environmental Impact Assessment.

controls 60–80% of global processing capacity, creating a strategic chokepoint that mirrors oil dependency of the 20th century.

BODY POINTS

- **Why critical minerals matter:** Essential inputs for EVs, wind turbines, solar panels, smartphones, defence systems. India's own supply: lithium (found in J&K/Rajasthan) but limited processing; heavy reliance on imports.
- **GSCO significance:** India-UK joint platform for real-time supply chain intelligence — identifies disruption risks, supports policymakers with market data; reduces dependence on opaque Chinese supply chain data.
- **India's domestic response:** Critical Minerals Mission; KABIL (Khanij Bidesh India Limited) for overseas acquisition; MSP (Mineral Security Partnership) with USA + allies.
- **China's dominance — strategic risk:** 2022 China blocked rare earth exports to Japan; supply chain weaponisation risk for India in a conflict scenario.
- **India-UK angle:** Post-Brexit UK actively building bilateral S&T and trade architecture with India; GSCO + India-UK FTA negotiations + technology partnership demonstrate deepening strategic convergence.
- **Challenges:** India lacks deep sea mining capacity, processing infrastructure, and skilled workforce for critical minerals value chain.

CONCLUSION

India must pursue a three-track approach: domestic extraction and processing (Critical Minerals Mission), multilateral supply chain partnerships (GSCO, MSP), and technology investment (deep sea mining, recycling tech). The GSCO is a valuable first step in building the intelligence architecture needed for strategic mineral security.

KEYWORDS

Critical Minerals Mission

KABIL

GSCO

MSP

TEXMiN

Rare Earths

Supply Chain Resilience

EV Transition

GS3

"India's rising defence exports signal a strategic shift from largest arms importer to an emerging arms exporter. Analyse the opportunities and challenges in this transition." (150 words)

SYLLABUS TOPIC

Science and Technology — Developments and their applications; Security challenges and their management in border areas; Role of external state and non-state actors in creating challenges to internal security.

MODEL INTRODUCTION

India, historically the world's largest arms importer, is executing a strategic pivot. The ₹5,800-crore BrahMos deal with Vietnam and ₹50,000-crore export target by 2029 signal an Atmanirbhar Bharat success story in defence manufacturing.

BODY POINTS

- **Opportunities:** Defence exports strengthen bilateral relationships (soft power); reduce unit cost of domestic procurement; align with India's industrial policy goals; boost employment in defence corridors (UP, Tamil Nadu).
- **BrahMos as brand:** Philippines, Vietnam, Indonesia — consecutive South China Sea nation buyers — signal India's strategic intent to balance China's Indo-Pacific assertiveness through technology transfer.
- **Challenges:** India still imports 40%+ of its own defence needs; export-grade quality assurance systems nascent; dependence on Russian components in BrahMos creates third-country export clearance complications; lack of comprehensive export control framework.
- **Policy ecosystem:** Defence Acquisition Procedure (DAP) 2020, IDDM category, Defence Corridors, iDEX — together building the ecosystem.

CONCLUSION

India's defence export ambition is strategically sound but requires closing the innovation gap, resolving JV component dependencies, and building a credible after-sales service ecosystem to compete with established

exporters like USA, Russia, and France.

KEYWORDS

BrahMos

Atmanirbhar Bharat

DAP 2020

Defence Corridors

iDEX

IDDM

Indo-Pacific

GS3

"India's natural farming movement holds transformative potential for both farmer welfare and ecological restoration, but its scalability remains the central question." Critically examine. (250 words)

SYLLABUS TOPIC

Major crops; cropping patterns; different types of irrigation; Food processing and related industries; Land reforms; investment in land; Conservation, Environmental pollution.

MODEL INTRODUCTION

The 2026 Food Planet Prize awarded to APCNF validates India's natural farming model as globally significant. With 800,000+ farmers enrolled, APCNF offers a template for sustainable agriculture that reduces input costs, restores soil health, and sequesters carbon.

BODY POINTS

- **What natural farming does:** Eliminates synthetic fertilisers and pesticides; uses Jeevamrutha (microbial inoculant), Beejamrutha (seed treatment); relies on soil microbiome for nutrient cycling.
- **Farmer welfare gains:** Input cost reduction by 60–70%; APCNF farmers report net income improvement within 2–3 seasons; reduced debt trap from input loans.
- **Ecological benefits:** Soil organic carbon restoration; reduced groundwater contamination; biodiversity recovery in farm ecosystems.
- **Scalability challenges:** Transition period (first 1–2 seasons) involves yield dip — politically difficult to manage; requires massive extension worker network; certification for premium markets is expensive and slow.
- **Policy support needed:** Transition income support payments; NMNF (National Mission on Natural Farming) funding scale-up; PM-PRANAM for fertiliser subsidy rationalisation; linking carbon credits to natural farming practitioners.
- **Comparison with organic farming:** Natural farming (zero inputs) is harder to certify but cheaper to practice than organic farming (certified organic inputs); UPSC may ask distinction.

CONCLUSION

APCNF's global recognition validates India's traditional agro-ecological wisdom. For scalability, the government must align fertiliser policy (subsidy rationalisation), rural extension capacity (CRPs at scale), and market linkage (premium pricing for natural produce) into a coherent national programme.

KEYWORDS

APCNF

NMNF

Jeevamrutha

PM-PRANAM

Soil Health Card

Zero Budget Natural Farming

Carbon Sequestration

GS3

"Space has emerged as a contested domain in 21st-century geopolitics. Evaluate India's space security architecture and suggest measures to bridge the strategic gap with China." (250 words)

SYLLABUS TOPIC

Awareness in the field of IT, Space, Computers; Security challenges; Border areas; Indigenisation of technology; Science and Technology.

MODEL INTRODUCTION

Space, once a domain of exploration, is now a military theatre. China's 400+ military satellites, ASAT missiles, co-orbital systems and directed-energy weapons dwarf India's ~60-satellite fleet — creating a critical asymmetry that demands urgent strategic response.

BODY POINTS

- **India's current architecture:** Mission Shakti (ASAT, 2019), Defence Space Agency (2019), SpaceCom (Space Command in planning), ISRO's dual-use satellites (RISAT, Cartosat).
- **China's counter-space arsenal:** Kinetic kill ASAT; co-orbital systems (orbital dog-fighting demonstrated in 2024); laser dazzlers; jamming systems; cyber attacks on ground stations.
- **India's gaps:** No co-orbital ASAT; no directed-energy weapons; insufficient satellite redundancy (single large satellites vs disaggregated constellations); weak ground station hardening.
- **Recommended measures:** Disaggregate large satellites into resilient small-sat constellations (SpaceDEX model); develop non-debris co-orbital ASAT; harden ground infrastructure; expand INSPAcE private sector for faster satellite deployment; data-sharing with QUAD space partners.
- **Regulatory layer:** India must define deterrence red lines in space; push UN COPUOS for Outer Space Treaty modernisation; support Code of Conduct for counter-space activities.

CONCLUSION

Space security is not a futuristic concern — it is a present operational vulnerability. India must treat its satellite fleet as critical national infrastructure and invest in both deterrence capability (co-orbital ASAT, directed-energy) and resilience (disaggregation, redundancy) to close the strategic gap with China.

KEYWORDS

Mission Shakti

DSA

ASAT

Co-orbital

COPUOS

INSPAcE

QUAD

Outer Space Treaty

GS4

"A civil servant responsible for a large-scale digital health mission faces a dilemma: maximising citizen enrolment (which benefits millions) versus ensuring fully informed consent (which slows adoption). How should the officer resolve this ethically?" (200 words)

SYLLABUS TOPIC

Ethics and Human Interface; Attitude; Integrity; Accountability; Emotional Intelligence; Public/Civil Service Values; Ethical Dilemmas in Administration.

MODEL INTRODUCTION

This dilemma captures the tension between utilitarian governance (maximum benefit for maximum people) and deontological ethics (individual rights are non-negotiable, even when the policy is beneficial). The ABDM context — 90 crore ABHAs generated — makes this immediately relevant.

BODY POINTS

- **Identify the conflict:** Utilitarian push for mass adoption vs right to informed consent (Art. 21, K.S. Puttaswamy judgment) — both are legitimate imperatives, not negotiable in isolation.
- **Ethical resolution pathway:** Design the system as opt-in (not auto-enrolment); invest in multilingual, accessible informed consent materials; use frontline health workers as consent facilitators, not pressurising agents.
- **Accountability architecture:** Independent data audit; grievance redressal mechanism; Parliamentary oversight committee; DPDP Act enforcement as protective framework.
- **Leader as role model:** Civil servant's own conduct must demonstrate respect for citizen autonomy — refuse any targets that incentivise coerced enrolment; report pressures upward honestly.
- **Long-term view:** Trust built through ethical enrolment processes creates more durable DPI than coerced adoption — as shown by Aadhaar's legal challenges.

CONCLUSION

The ethical path is not a choice between scale and rights — it is designing for both simultaneously. A civil servant of integrity designs systems where consent is genuinely free, information is genuinely accessible, and adoption is genuinely voluntary — then trusts citizens to choose wisely.

06 Answer Writing Value Addition

QUOTE BANK · KEY DATA · ARTICLES & REPORTS

Quote Bank (4–5 Quotes with Usage Notes)

"Vasudhaiva Kutumbakam — the world is one family."

— MAHA UPANISHAD / INDIA'S G20 THEME

Use in: IR answers on India's defence exports, CEPA diplomacy, ethical governance of space. Frames India's global engagement in civilisational terms.

"The digital divide is now not just about access to the internet, but access to the benefits of digital public infrastructure."

— UNDP DIGITAL ECONOMY REPORT

Use in: ABDM, DPI, digital health answers. Highlights exclusion risk even within well-designed DPI systems.

"He who controls the sea controls commerce; he who controls space controls everything."

— ADAPTED FROM ALFRED THAYER MAHAN
(PARAPHRASE FOR MODERN CONTEXT)

Use in: Space security, ASAT, India-China space competition answers. Opens an essay on space geopolitics powerfully.

"The earth does not belong to us; we belong to the earth."

— CHIEF SEATTLE (ATTRIBUTED)

Use in: Natural farming, APCNF, environment ethics answers. Grounds sustainability arguments in indigenous wisdom — valued in UPSC essays.

"Integrity is doing the right thing even when no one is watching."

— C.S. LEWIS

Use in: GS4 answers on accountability, probity, ABDM data governance, civil servant dilemmas. Universal applicability in ethics section.

Key Data Points Table

TOPIC	KEY DATA POINT	SOURCE
ABDM / ABHA	90 crore Ayushman Bharat Health Accounts generated (2026)	NHA / PIB
India–Oman CEPA	99.38% of India's exports get zero-duty; previously only 15.33% under MFN	Commerce Ministry

TOPIC	KEY DATA POINT	SOURCE
BrahMos Export	Vietnam deal: ₹5,800 crore; first export (Philippines, 2022): ₹2,670 crore	Defence Ministry
RudraM-II	Speed: Mach 5.5; Range: ~300 km; Warhead: ~200 kg; tested June 2, 2026	DRDO
India Space vs China	India: ~60 military satellites; China: 400+ military satellites (2026)	Business Standard Analysis
India Defence Exports	Target: ₹50,000 crore by FY2029	Ministry of Defence
IIP (New Series)	Base year rebased to 2022-23; April 2026 industrial output growth: 4.9%	MoSPI
Solar ALMM	India target: 500 GW by 2030; PLI Solar PV: ₹24,000 crore approved	MNRE
APCNF Food Planet Prize	Prize: USD 1.5 million; outcompeted 1,000+ global nominations	EAT Foundation / Deccan Chronicle
Mission Shakti	27 March 2019; altitude: ~283 km LEO; India = 4th ASAT nation	DRDO / MEA

Articles, Committees & Reports

ARTICLE / COMMITTEE / REPORT	RELEVANCE TO TODAY'S NEWS	USE IN
Article 21 (Right to Life & Personal Liberty)	K.S. Puttaswamy judgment (2017) — Right to Privacy as fundamental right; ABDM data governance	GS2, GS4 (ethics)
Digital Personal Data Protection Act, 2023 (DPDP Act)	Framework for ABDM data governance; consent and privacy protection for health data	GS2, GS3
Outer Space Treaty, 1967 (OST)	Governs ASAT tests — no weapons of mass destruction in space; debris creation under debate	GS2, GS3, GS4
UN COPUOS (Committee on the Peaceful Uses of Outer Space)	Forum for space governance; India must leverage for ASAT code of conduct	GS2, GS3
National Education Policy 2020 (NEP 2020)	Context for PMRC — multidisciplinary research universities; internationalisation of education	GS2
Anusandhan National Research Foundation (NRF) Act, 2023	PMRC complements NRF's mandate for research funding and academic excellence	GS2, GS3
National Mission on Natural Farming (NMNF)	Central government programme supporting APCNF-type natural farming models nationwide	GS3

ARTICLE / COMMITTEE / REPORT	RELEVANCE TO TODAY'S NEWS	USE IN
Mines and Minerals (Development and Regulation) Amendment Act, 2023	Unlocks critical mineral blocks; enables KABIL operations; supports GSCO policy framework	GS3

07

AKADEMIA Direct Hit Tracker

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one single class

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DEFENCE

SCIENCE & TECH

SPACE

GOVERNMENT SCHEMES

ENVIRONMENT

POLITY

GEOGRAPHY

ECONOMY

- ✦ BrahMos export to Vietnam — predicted 3 months before exam based on defence export trajectory analysis
- ✦ IIP rebasing — flagged as inevitable from MoSPI's own base year revision cycle; taught in Economy module
- ✦ Critical minerals (lithium, cobalt, REE) — covered in every edition since Critical Minerals Mission launch; confirmed high-probability question
- ✦ ASAT and space security — consistent tracking since Mission Shakti; China's counter-space capabilities flagged in our defence module Q3 2025
- ✦ Natural farming and NMNF — APCNF covered in Environment module; Food Planet Prize outcome tracked from nomination stage
- ✦ India–Oman CEPA — trade agreement pipeline tracked continuously; signing date and provisions covered in our IR module December 2025

*"ANTIM ASSURED 100+ is not a compilation.
It is a **question-conversion system** —
converting daily news into UPSC-ready knowledge."*

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