

PART II • ENVIRONMENT TO DIRECT HIT TRACKER

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Daily Current Affairs for UPSC Prelims & Mains

Friday, 12 June 2026

☀ MORNING EDITION

From News to Questions, From Questions to Selection

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Environment & Ecology

ENVIRONMENT · CLIMATE · MONSOON · PLANETARY BOUNDARIES

Monsoon 2026 Under El Niño Shadow; 7 of 9 Planetary Boundaries Breached (SOE 2026)

WHY IN NEWS

The Southwest Monsoon 2026 arrived in Kerala on June 4 — 3 days late — with IMD forecasting below-normal rainfall at 90% of Long Period Average (LPA). NOAA warns El Niño may intensify during June–September 2026. Separately, the State of India's Environment (SOE) 2026 report by CSE/Down to Earth confirms 7 of 9 planetary boundaries have been breached.

BACKGROUND

El Niño suppresses Indian monsoon by warming Pacific SSTs and weakening the Walker Circulation. Planetary Boundaries framework (Rockström et al., 2009) identifies 9 Earth-system thresholds; crossing them risks irreversible tipping points. Ocean acidification is the newly-breached seventh boundary (CO₂ dissolves in ocean forming carbonic acid).

PRELIMS FACTS

- ▶ SW Monsoon Kerala onset (normal): June 1; 2026 onset: June 4 (3 days late).
- ▶ LPA (Long Period Average): average rainfall for June–Sep over 1971–2020 = ~87 cm.
- ▶ 7 breached planetary boundaries (2026): Climate change, Biosphere integrity, Land-system change, Freshwater depletion, Biogeochemical flows, Novel entities, Ocean acidification.
- ▶ El Niño (2026): NOAA probability >65% for moderate-to-strong El Niño by Nov 2026.

MAINS DIMENSIONS

- ▶ El Niño and food security: link to Kharif crop failures, inflation, and rural distress in India.
- ▶ Planetary boundaries as a governance framework — implications for India's NDC commitments under Paris Agreement.
- ▶ India's climate adaptation: PM-KUSUM, crop insurance, and millet promotion as resilience strategies.

SYLLABUS & PYQ

GS3: ENVIRONMENT

GS3: CLIMATE CHANGE

GS1: PHYSICAL GEOGRAPHY

PYQ: GS1 2021: What are the impacts of El Niño on Indian monsoon? GS3 2023: Planetary boundaries — discuss breaches and India's obligations.

PROBABLE MCQ

Which is the seventh planetary boundary to be breached (SOE 2026)?

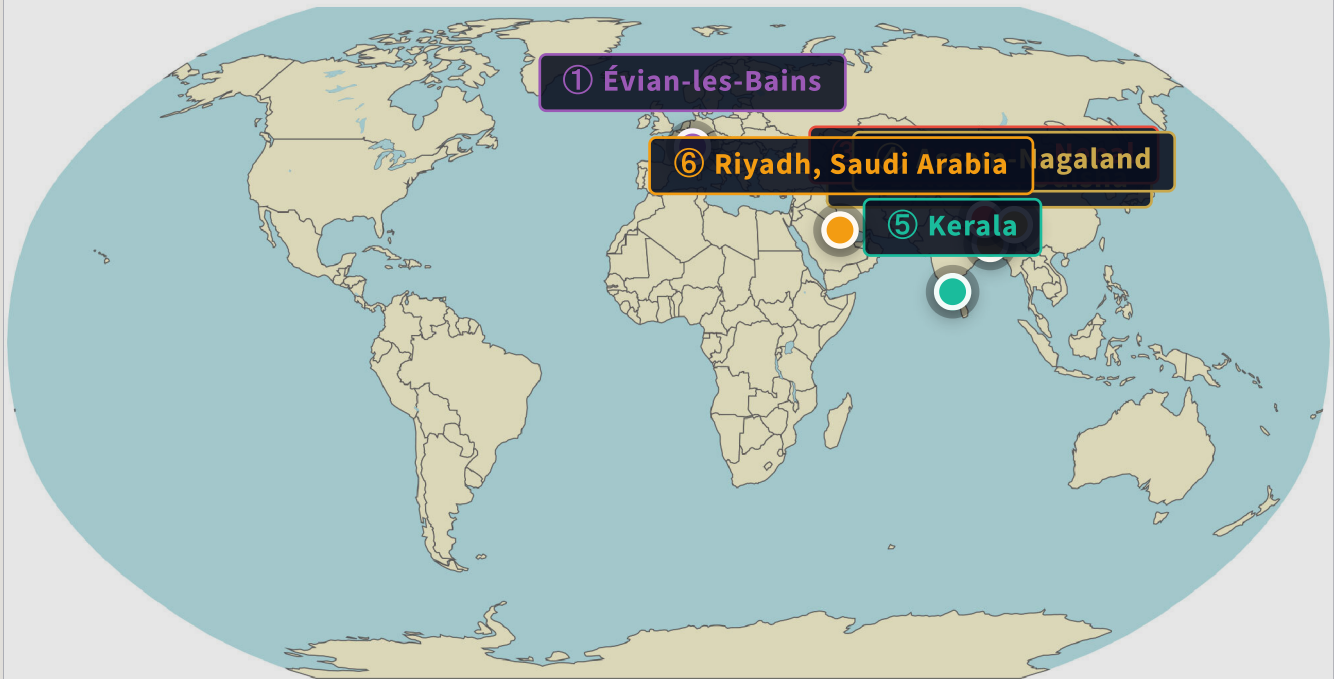
A) Ozone depletion B) Atmospheric aerosols C) **Ocean acidification** D) Phosphorus flows

Ans C — Ocean acidification, caused by rising CO₂ dissolving in seawater, is the newest boundary breached.

PROBABLE MAINS Q

India's agricultural sector faces a triple threat from El Niño, inflation, and climate change. Assess India's policy responses. (GS3, 250 words)

 **Akademia Hook:** 9 planetary boundaries: Climate, Biosphere, Land use, Freshwater, Biogeochemical flows, Novel entities, Ocean acidification, Ozone layer, Aerosol loading. 7 are now breached — memorise the 2 remaining safe ones for Prelims.



- ① Évian-les-Bains (G7 Summit 2026)
- ② Balasore, Odisha (Agni/Missile Test)
- ③ Kathmandu (UPI–NPI Launch)
- ④ Assam-Nagaland (Oil Gas MoU)
- ⑤ Kerala (Monsoon Onset 2026)
- ⑥ Riyadh (G20 Concluded)

① Évian-les-Bains, France

G7 Summit 2026 (15–17 Jun)

Location: Haute-Savoie, SE France; on Lake Geneva shore.

Prelims: France hosts 52nd G7; Évian also hosted 2003 G8 Summit. PM Modi's 7th consecutive G7.

Mains: India's multi-alignment strategy; France as Special Global Strategic Partner.

PYQ Trend: G7 outreach, India's role in multilateral forums — GS2 perennial.

② Balasore / Chandipur, Odisha

Missile Test ITR (Agni-VI buzz)

Location: Balasore district, Odisha coast; ITR (Integrated Test Range).

Prelims: 11,442 evacuated; DRDO tested RudraM-II here on Jun 2. Agni-VI: ICBM, 8,000–12,000 km.

Mains: India's nuclear deterrence; MIRV technology; DRDO indigenisation.

PYQ Trend: Missile testing, defence indigenisation — GS3 regular.

③ Kathmandu, Nepal

 UPI–NPI Remittance Corridor

Location: Capital of Nepal; India-Nepal open border ~1,850 km.

Prelims: NPCI International + Nepal Clearing House; P2P real-time transfer via VPA/mobile. Launch: June 6, 2026.

Mains: India's Neighbourhood First; digital soft power; countering China's influence.

PYQ Trend: India-Nepal relations — GS2 frequent.

④ Assam–Nagaland Border

 Tripartite Oil & Gas MoU

Location: NE India border belt; Nagaland borders Assam, Myanmar, Arunachal Pradesh.

Prelims: Signed Jun 11; Nagaland to produce oil after 31 years; 10x capacity increase; Rs 15,000 cr potential.

Mains: NE India development; resolving inter-state disputes; federalism and resource sharing.

PYQ Trend: NE India issues, inter-state water/resource disputes — GS2 & GS1.

⑤ Kerala

 Southwest Monsoon Onset 2026

Location: SW tip of India; traditional SW Monsoon landfall point.

Prelims: Normal onset: June 1; 2026: June 4 (3 days late); IMD forecast: 90% of LPA (below normal). El Niño developing.

Mains: Monsoon agriculture linkages; food security; RBI inflation management.

PYQ Trend: Monsoon mechanisms, El Niño, Indian agriculture — GS1 & GS3 frequent.

⑥ Riyadh, Saudi Arabia

 G20 Summit 2026 Concluded

Location: Capital of Saudi Arabia; Arabian Peninsula.

Prelims: G20 Riyadh 2026 focused on climate finance and digital economy; India participated as permanent G20 member (hosted 2023 in New Delhi).

Mains: India-GCC relations; India's G20 legacy (New Delhi Declaration 2023); Global South

voice.

PYQ Trend: G20, India's multilateral engagement — GS2.



Ethics & Integrity Cases

CASE 01 · INTEGRITY & WHISTLEBLOWING

An IAS officer discovers a senior bureaucrat falsifying dam safety records to protect a contractor. Reporting risks transfer; silence risks lives.

Ethical Issue: Conflict between personal career security and professional duty; complicity by silence vs. risk of professional victimisation. **Values at stake:** Integrity, probity, public safety, courage of conviction.

GS4 Mapping: Foundational values (integrity, impartiality); attitude change; ethical governance; Rule 32 of CCS (Conduct) Rules. **Answer Use:** Open with the ARC report's view that whistleblowing protection is essential for clean governance.

Integrity

Whistleblowing

Moral Courage

Probity

CASE 02 · EMOTIONAL INTELLIGENCE & ACCOUNTABILITY

A DM distributes relief funds to flood victims, but discovers half the beneficiaries are ghost names inserted by a local NGO. He must act without inciting communal anger.

Ethical Issue: Accountability in welfare delivery; navigating political pressure; ensuring justice without inflaming tensions. **Values at stake:** Accountability, compassion, justice, emotional restraint.

GS4 Mapping: Emotional intelligence (self-regulation, social awareness); probity in public life; good governance; Article 14 (equal protection). **Answer Use:** Use Mahatma Gandhi's principle — "The test of a good law is how it treats the weakest."

CASE 03 · CONFLICT OF INTEREST & IMPARTIALITY

An environment ministry official, whose brother owns a mining company, is tasked with reviewing the company's environmental clearance application.

Ethical Issue: Direct conflict of interest; appearance of bias even if decision is objectively correct; systemic trust in regulatory bodies. **Values at stake:** Impartiality, conflict of interest management, transparency.

GS4 Mapping: Conflict of interest (Nolan Principles); impartiality; civil servant conduct; Prevention of Corruption Act. **Answer Use:** Quote Kautilya's Arthashastra — "A king who inflicts punishment on the innocent is equally guilty."

Impartiality

Conflict of Interest

Transparency

CASE 04 · LEADERSHIP & MORAL DILEMMA

An SP is asked by a politically connected MLA to look the other way during a local liquor racket. Defying the MLA risks his district posting; compliance undermines the law.

Ethical Issue: Political pressure on law enforcement; moral dilemma between career security and rule of law; trickle-down effect on institutional integrity. **Values at stake:** Rule of law, courage, moral leadership, public trust.

GS4 Mapping: Attitude and behaviour in public service; leadership ethics; Kohlberg's post-conventional morality; integrity over compliance. **Answer Use:** Begin with — "A public servant's first accountability is to the Constitution, not to political patrons."

Rule of Law

Leadership

Moral Courage

Public Trust

Q1. The 52nd G7 Summit 2026 is being hosted by: **Easy**

- A) Germany
- B) France ✓**
- C) Canada
- D) Italy

France holds the 2026 G7 Presidency; summit at Évian-les-Bains, 15–17 June 2026.

Q2. Consider the following statements about Chandrayaan-4: **Moderate**

1. It will be launched in two phases on two LVM3 rockets.
2. Its primary objective is to orbit and map the entire Moon.
3. It aims to collect up to 3 kg of lunar regolith and return to Earth.

Which are correct?

- A) 1 and 2 only
- B) 1 and 3 only ✓**
- C) 2 and 3 only
- D) 1, 2 and 3

Statement 2 is wrong — Chandrayaan-4 is a sample-return mission, not an orbital mapper.

Q3. 'Project Divyastra' is associated with: **Easy**

- A) Indigenous aircraft carrier
- B) India's space docking experiment
- C) Agni-V missile with MIRV capability ✓**
- D) BrahMos supersonic cruise missile

Project Divyastra was India's first successful MIRV test of Agni-V in March 2024.

Q4. NPCI International Payments Limited was set up to: **Moderate**

A) Regulate domestic payment systems in India

B) Manage India's forex reserves

C) Expand UPI and other NPCI products globally ✓

D) Issue digital rupee (e-RUPI)

NIPL is NPCI's wholly-owned subsidiary for international deployment of India's payment infrastructure.

Q5. Which Article of the Indian Constitution grants the Supreme Court the power to pass any order for "complete justice"? **Easy**

A) Article 136

B) Article 139

C) Article 142 ✓

D) Article 144

Article 142 gives the Supreme Court exclusive power to pass decrees needed for complete justice in any cause pending before it.

Q6. The Southwest Monsoon normally arrives in Kerala on: **Easy**

A) May 25

B) May 31

C) June 1 ✓

D) June 5

IMD's normal onset date for Kerala is June 1. In 2026 it arrived on June 4, three days late.

Q7. Consider statements about FCNR(B) deposits: **Moderate**

1. They can be held only by Non-Resident Indians.

2. They are denominated in Indian Rupees.

3. Minimum tenure is 1 year.

Which are correct?

A) 1 and 2

B) 1 and 3 ✓

C) 2 and 3

D) 1, 2 and 3

Statement 2 is wrong — FCNR(B) deposits are in foreign currencies (USD, GBP, EUR, etc.), not rupees.

Q8. How many planetary boundaries had been breached as per the State of India's Environment Report 2026? Moderate

A) 5

B) 6

C) 7 ✓

D) 8

SOE 2026 by CSE/Down to Earth reported 7 of 9 planetary boundaries breached; ocean acidification is the latest addition.

Q9. Which of the following is NOT a G7 member country? Easy

A) Japan

B) Canada

C) India ✓

D) Germany

India participates in G7 summits as an invited outreach partner, not as a member. G7 = USA, UK, Canada, France, Germany, Italy, Japan + EU.

Q10. The Integrated Test Range (ITR) for missile testing is located at: Easy

A) Wheeler Island, Odisha

B) Pokhran, Rajasthan

C) Chandipur, Balasore (Odisha) ✓

D) Sriharikota, Andhra Pradesh

ITR Chandipur in Balasore district, Odisha is India's premier missile testing range under DRDO; established in 1989.

Q11. The Delimitation Commission in India derives its authority from:

Moderate

- A) Articles 83 and 172
- B) Articles 82 and 170 ✓**
- C) Articles 243 and 280
- D) Articles 324 and 326

Art 82 (readjustment after census — Lok Sabha) and Art 170 (readjustment — State Assemblies) are the Delimitation Commission's constitutional basis.

Q12. Long Period Average (LPA) for Indian monsoon covers the period:

Moderate

- A) 1951–2000
- B) 1961–2010
- C) 1971–2020 ✓**
- D) 1981–2010

IMD updated LPA to 1971–2020 baseline (~87 cm); previously it used 1961–2010 (~88 cm).

Q13. India's Neighbourhood First Policy primarily emphasises: **Easy**

- A) Military cooperation with SAARC nations
- B) Connectivity, trade, and people-to-people ties with immediate neighbours ✓**
- C) Nuclear technology sharing with Nepal and Bhutan
- D) Establishing permanent military bases in neighbourhood nations

Neighbourhood First (since 2014) prioritises connectivity (roads, digital, energy), trade, and development assistance with SAARC + Myanmar.

Q14. The tripartite MoU on Assam-Nagaland oil exploration was signed in the presence of which Union Minister? **Moderate**

- A) Rajnath Singh
- B) Amit Shah ✓**
- C) Hardeep Puri

D) Piyush Goyal

Union Home Minister Amit Shah presided over the signing of the tripartite MoU on June 11, 2026, along with CM Himanta Biswa Sarma and CM Neiphiu Rio.

Q15. India's target for its space economy by 2033 is: Hard

A) \$22 billion

B) \$33 billion

C) \$44 billion ✓

D) \$55 billion

India targets \$44 billion space economy by 2033 (current: ~\$8.4B); IN-SPACe is the regulatory body enabling private sector participation.

§5

Mains Questions — 12 June 2026

GS2 — IR

"India's growing participation in G7 outreach sessions reflects its emergence as an indispensable partner in shaping the new global order." Critically evaluate. (250 words)

Cover: India's non-membership, multi-alignment, G20 presidency legacy, India-France Special Partnership, Ukraine position, AI governance.

Multi-alignment

G7 outreach

India-France

Global South

GS3 — Defence

India's missile programme has evolved from dependence to indigenisation. Evaluate its current state and strategic

significance in the evolving nuclear order. (250 words)

Cover: Agni series, MIRV (Divyastra), credible minimum deterrence, DRDO ecosystem, Atmanirbhar Bharat in defence.

MIRV

DRDO

Deterrence

Atmanirbhar

GS3 — Environment

The breach of seven of nine planetary boundaries signals that humanity is approaching irreversible tipping points. Assess India's responsibilities and response. (250 words)

Cover: Planetary boundary framework, India's NDC commitments, LiFE Mission, renewable energy, loss and damage at COP.

Planetary Boundaries

NDC

COP

Climate Justice

GS3 — Space

Chandrayaan-4 is more than a science mission — it is a strategic, technological, and economic milestone. Justify. (250 words)

Cover: Sample return tech, docking for Gaganyaan, lunar geopolitics (Artemis vs ILRS), IN-SPACe, space economy.

Chandrayaan-4

ISRO

Space Economy

IN-SPACe

GS2 — Polity

Simultaneous elections (One Nation One Election) promise efficiency but may compromise federal diversity. Critically analyse. (250 words)

Cover: Arts 83, 85, 172, 174; JPC findings; federalism concerns; financial savings; South India delimitation fears.

GS3 — Economy

India's UPI has become a geopolitical instrument, not merely a payment system. Examine with examples of cross-border deployments. (250 words)

Cover: UPI-PayNow (Singapore), UPI-NPI (Nepal), Bhutan, UAE; NPCI International; countering China's digital yuan; soft power.

UPI

Digital Diplomacy

NPCI International

Soft Power

§6

Answer Writing Value Addition

Quote Bank — 12 June 2026

*"The Earth does not belong to us. We belong to the Earth." — Chief Seattle
(Use for planetary boundaries, climate justice answers)*

"Science is the best tool ever devised for understanding how the world works." — Michael Shermer (Use for space, defence tech answers)

"In matters of conscience, the law of majority has no place." — Mahatma Gandhi (Use for Ethics/GS4 cases on whistleblowing, moral courage)

"Real integrity is doing the right thing, knowing that nobody's going to know whether you did it or not." — Oprah Winfrey (Use for integrity ethics cases)

Key Data Points

Topic	Data	Source
India G7 participation (2026)	13th time; Modi's 7th consecutive	MEA, June 2026
Monsoon LPA	~87 cm (June–Sep); 2026 forecast 90% of LPA	IMD, June 2026
India Space Economy target	\$44 billion by 2033	IN-SPACe / Gol
Agni-VI range (projected)	8,000–12,000 km (ICBM class)	DRDO / SSBCrack
India FTAs (2026)	15 FTAs covering 27 countries	Commerce Ministry
Planetary boundaries breached	7 of 9 (ocean acidification = 7th)	CSE SOE 2026

Key Reports & Committees

Report/Article/Body	Relevance
SOE 2026 — CSE/Down to Earth	Environment: planetary boundaries, monsoon, renewables
RBI MPC June 2026 Statement	Economy: repo rate 5.25%, GDP 6.6%, FCNR(B)

Rockström et al. (2009)

Planetary Boundaries framework — cite in
GS3 environment

Nolan Principles (UK Cabinet
Office)

GS4: conflict of interest, impartiality,
accountability

§7

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6

NEWS CARDS
(PART I)

1

ENVIRONMENT
CARD (PART II)

6

PLACES IN
NEWS

4

ETHICS
CASES

15

PRELIMS
MCQS

6

MAINS
QUESTIONS

4

VALUE ADDITION
QUOTES

2

GS PAPERS
COVERED TODAY

Domain	Today's Coverage	GS Paper
Polity & Governance	ONOE/Delimitation; Art 142 Right to Travel	GS2
International Relations	G7 Summit France; India-Nepal UPI-NPI	GS2
Defence & Security	Agni-VI buzz; Chandipur ITR evacuation	GS3
Science & Technology	Chandrayaan-4 design & strategy	GS3
Economy	RBI repo 5.25%; GDP 6.6%; FCNR(B)	GS3
Environment	Monsoon 2026; El Niño; Planetary Boundaries	GS1/GS3
Ethics	4 original GS4 cases (integrity, EI, conflict, leadership)	GS4

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In what critics called the most unpredictable Prelims paper in a decade —

48

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A SINGLE DOCUMENT

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QUESTIONS FROM
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