

PART I • HEADLINES TO ECONOMY

ANTIM ASSURED

100+

Daily Current Affairs for UPSC Prelims & Mains

Friday, 12 June 2026

☀ MORNING EDITION

From Daily News to Direct UPSC Questions

PART I — SECTION INDEX

§1 Top 10 Headlines of the Day

§2 Polity & Governance

§3 International Relations

§4 Defence & Security

§5 Science & Technology

§6 Economy

→ Continued in Part II: Environment • Places in News • Ethics • MCQs • Mains •
Direct Hit Tracker



Top 10 Headlines — 12 June 2026

01 PM Modi to attend G7 Summit at Évian-les-Bains, France (15–17 Jun) — India's 13th participation, Modi's 7th consecutive.

Source: MEA / ANI

02 Historic tripartite MoU signed by Centre, Assam & Nagaland for joint oil & gas exploration along border — 31 years after oil production halted in Nagaland.

Source: Republic World / Tribune

03 India-Nepal launch UPI–NPI cross-border P2P remittance corridor via NPCI International & Nepal Clearing House Ltd.

Source: Business Standard

04 11,442 residents evacuated near Chandipur ITR, Balasore (Odisha) ahead of imminent missile test — Agni-VI buzz grows.

Source: SSBCrack / The Week

05 RBI holds repo rate at 5.25%; cuts India's GDP forecast to 6.6% for FY27; FCNR(B) 3–5 year deposit window extended to Sep 2026.

Source: WION / RBI

06 Monsoon 2026 arrives under El Niño shadow; IMD forecasts below-normal rainfall at 90% of LPA; 7 of 9 planetary boundaries breached (SOE 2026).

Source: Down to Earth / IMD

07 Chandrayaan-4 lunar sample-return mission: ISRO plans two LVM3 launches; mission to collect up to 3 kg of lunar regolith.

Source: PIB / StudyIQ

08 Constitution (131st Amendment) Bill 2026 — Delimitation of Lok Sabha seats proposed ahead of 2029 General Elections.

Source: ForumIAS

09 India is now the world's largest producer of electric two-wheelers, overtaking China in annual output — 2026 industry data.

Source: Industry Reports

10 Athletics Federation of India announces inaugural Indian Athletic Awards to be held in New Delhi — recognising track & field excellence.

Source: AFI / Target Defence

§2

Polity & Governance

POLITY · CONSTITUTIONAL AMENDMENT · ELECTORAL REFORMS

Constitution (131st Amendment) Bill 2026: Delimitation & One Nation One Election

WHY IN NEWS

The Union Government has tabled the Constitution (131st Amendment) Bill 2026, proposing Delimitation of Lok Sabha seats based on post-2011 census data, expected before the 2029 General Elections. The Bill revives One Nation One

Election (ONOE) discussions and requires amendments to Articles 83, 85, 172, and 174.

BACKGROUND

Delimitation of constituencies has not occurred since 1976 (frozen by the 42nd Amendment). The 129th Amendment Bill (ONOE) was referred to a Joint Parliamentary Committee in Dec 2024. Simultaneous elections require a two-thirds supermajority in both Houses.

PRELIMS FACTS

- ▶ Delimitation Commission under Articles 82 & 170 of the Constitution.
- ▶ Last Delimitation Order: 2008 (for 2009 elections); seats frozen at 543 since 1976.
- ▶ ONOE requires amendment to Arts 83, 85, 172, 174 & Schedule 10 (Anti-defection).
- ▶ JPC chaired by BJP MP P.P. Chaudhary examines 129th Amendment Bill.

MAINS DIMENSIONS

- ▶ Delimitation and federal concerns: southern states fear losing seats despite higher population control success.
- ▶ ONOE — arguments for (cost reduction, policy stability) vs. against (federalism, diversity of mandates).
- ▶ Constitutional validity and the Basic Structure doctrine in context of electoral reforms.

SYLLABUS & PYQ

GS2: POLITY

GS2: PARLIAMENT

PYQ: GS2 2023: Discuss the significance of the Delimitation Commission and its implications for federal representation.

PROBABLE MCQ

Which Articles must be amended for One Nation One Election?

A) 72,74 B) **83,85,172,174** C) 110,111 D) 148,149

Ans B — These articles govern the term and dissolution of Lok Sabha and State Assemblies.

PROBABLE MAINS Q

"Simultaneous elections promise efficiency but may undermine federal diversity."
Critically examine. (GS2, 250 words)

 *Akademia Hook: Delimitation fears in South India are not just political — they are a federal equity argument. Link to Article 280 (Finance Commission) for a powerful mains answer.*

POLITY · SUPREME COURT · FUNDAMENTAL RIGHTS

Right to Safe Travel: Supreme Court Declares it Fundamental under Article 21

WHY IN NEWS

The Supreme Court of India, exercising its power of complete justice under Article 142, declared the Right to Safe Travel a Fundamental Right under Article 21 (Right to Life), and issued binding nationwide road safety directives, including mandatory helmet and seatbelt enforcement.

BACKGROUND

India accounts for approximately 1.5 lakh road deaths annually, the highest globally. Previous judicial interventions (e.g., MC Mehta case) have expanded Article 21 to include environment, health, and livelihood. Article 142 allows the SC to pass any decree to ensure complete justice.

PRELIMS FACTS

- ▶ Article 21: "No person shall be deprived of life or personal liberty except according to procedure established by law."
- ▶ Article 142: Supreme Court power to pass any order for "complete justice" — binding on all authorities.
- ▶ India: ~1.5 lakh road fatalities/year; 4.4 lakh accidents (NCRB 2023 data).
- ▶ Road safety is a Concurrent List subject (Entry 35, List III).

MAINS DIMENSIONS

- ▶ Evolution of Article 21: from Gopalan (1950) to Maneka Gandhi (1978) to present expansive interpretation.
- ▶ Role of PIL and judicial activism in expanding fundamental rights beyond the Constitutional text.
- ▶ Centre-State responsibility for road safety and Motor Vehicles Act enforcement gaps.

SYLLABUS & PYQ

GS2: JUDICIARY

GS2: FUNDAMENTAL RIGHTS

PYQ: GS2 2021: The expansion of Article 21 by the Supreme Court has transformed it into a fundamental charter of rights. Examine.

PROBABLE MCQ

Article 142 of the Constitution empowers which body?

A) Parliament B) President C) **Supreme Court** D) High Courts

Ans C — Art 142 empowers SC to pass any decree for complete justice in any matter pending before it.

PROBABLE MAINS Q

"Article 21 has become the most expansive provision in the Indian Constitution." Analyse with recent judicial interpretations. (GS2, 250 words)

 *Akademia Hook: Remember the Maneka Gandhi → Oleum Gas → Vishaka → Puttaswamy chain — Article 21 is a living provision. Each case expands it further.*

§3

International Relations

G7 Summit 2026: PM Modi to Attend in Évian-les-Bains, France (15–17 June)

WHY IN NEWS

The 52nd G7 Summit will be hosted by France at Évian-les-Bains, Haute-Savoie on 15–17 June 2026. PM Modi will participate for the 7th consecutive year — India's 13th overall — as a partner nation. President Macron invited Modi during the AI Impact Summit in Feb 2026. The agenda features Ukraine, Iran, AI governance, and climate.

BACKGROUND

G7 comprises USA, UK, Canada, France, Germany, Italy, Japan + EU. India has been invited as an outreach partner since 2005 (Gleneagles). France elevated ties with India to "Special Global Strategic Partnership" in 2026. PM Modi will hold bilateral meetings with Macron (Nice) and possibly Trump.

PRELIMS FACTS

- ▶ G7 = world's largest advanced economies; combined GDP ~45% of global GDP.
- ▶ Évian hosted G8 summit in 2003 (29th summit); 2026 is 52nd G7.
- ▶ India is not a G7 member; participates as an invited outreach partner.
- ▶ India–France: "Special Global Strategic Partnership" elevated in 2026; 2047 Roadmap exists.

MAINS DIMENSIONS

- ▶ India's G7 participation: multi-alignment strategy vs. G20 leadership — how does India leverage both?
- ▶ France as India's strategic partner: defence (Rafale, nuclear), space, and digital collaboration.
- ▶ G7 agenda 2026: Ukraine ceasefire diplomacy and India's balancing act between Russia and the West.

SYLLABUS & PYQ

GS2: INTERNATIONAL ORGANISATIONS

GS2: INDIA'S FOREIGN POLICY

PYQ: GS2 2023: India's participation in G7 outreach reflects its growing diplomatic capital. Discuss.

PROBABLE MCQ

The 52nd G7 Summit 2026 is being held in:

A) Paris B) Lyon C) Nice D) **Évian-les-Bains**

Ans D — Évian-les-Bains, Haute-Savoie, France; previously hosted G8 in 2003.

PROBABLE MAINS Q

India's consistent participation in G7 outreach signals its emergence as an indispensable global actor. Critically examine. (GS2, 250 words)

 *Akademia Hook: G7 is the forum where India showcases multi-alignment. Connect to India's simultaneous engagement in BRICS, SCO, and Quad to write an outstanding GS2 answer on India's foreign policy architecture.*

IR · DIGITAL DIPLOMACY · NEIGHBOURHOOD FIRST

India–Nepal UPI–NPI Integration: Real-Time Cross-Border Remittance Corridor Launched

WHY IN NEWS

India and Nepal launched a peer-to-peer real-time cross-border remittance mechanism on 6 June 2026, linking India's UPI with Nepal's National Payments Interface (NPI). Executed by NPCI International Payments Limited (NIPL) and Nepal Clearing House Limited (NCHL), it enables mobile-based fund transfer via VPAs and mobile numbers.

BACKGROUND

India and Nepal share an open border; Nepalese workers in India send significant remittances home. India has already linked UPI with Singapore (PayNow), UAE, Bhutan, and Sri Lanka. Neighbourhood First Policy drives digital payment corridor expansion.

PRELIMS FACTS

- ▶ UPI: launched 2016 by NPCI; 13+ billion monthly transactions as of 2026.
- ▶ NPCI International: subsidiary of NPCI for UPI expansion globally.

- ▶ Nepal remittances from India: estimated \$1.5–2 billion annually.
- ▶ India has 15 FTAs covering 27 countries; India–Oman FTA in effect from June 2026.

MAINS DIMENSIONS

- ▶ India's digital diplomacy: UPI as soft power instrument in neighbourhood and global south.
- ▶ Financial inclusion and economic integration along India-Nepal open border.
- ▶ Geopolitical significance: countering Chinese digital payment influence (Alipay/WeChat) in South Asia.

SYLLABUS & PYQ

GS2: BILATERAL RELATIONS

GS3: DIGITAL ECONOMY

PYQ: GS2 2022: India's Neighbourhood First Policy — challenges and opportunities.

PROBABLE MCQ

NPCI International is a subsidiary of which body?

A) RBI B) SBI C) **NPCI** D) Ministry of Finance

Ans C — NPCI International Payments Limited is a wholly-owned subsidiary of NPCI set up to expand UPI globally.

PROBABLE MAINS Q

India's UPI-based cross-border payment corridors are redefining its digital diplomacy. Discuss with examples from neighbourhood countries. (GS2/GS3, 250 words)

 *Akademia Hook: UPI–NPI is the second such bilateral digital payment corridor after UPI–PayNow (Singapore). In Prelims, the examiner loves asking which country India linked UPI with first — answer: Bhutan (2021).*

DEFENCE · MISSILES · DRDO · ITR CHANDIPUR

Agni-VI Buzz: 11,442 Evacuated Near Chandipur ITR — India's ICBM Programme Advances

WHY IN NEWS

Over 11,442 residents from villages within 1–3.5 km radius of Launch Complex-3, Integrated Test Range (ITR), Chandipur, Balasore (Odisha) were evacuated on June 11, 2026, ahead of a major missile test. Social media and defence sources speculate on Agni-VI ICBM, though DRDO has not confirmed the missile type.

BACKGROUND

Chandipur ITR is India's premier missile testing range under DRDO. India's Agni series: Agni-I to Agni-V (operational); Agni-V has MIRV capability (tested 2024). Agni-VI is projected as a 3–4 stage solid-fuel ICBM with 8,000–12,000 km range and Multiple Independently targetable Reentry Vehicles (MIRVs).

PRELIMS FACTS

- ▶ ITR Chandipur: located at Balasore, Odisha; under DRDO; established 1989.
- ▶ Agni-V: range ~5,000 km; successfully tested with MIRV (Project Divyastra, March 2024).
- ▶ Agni-VI: estimated range 8,000–12,000 km (ICBM class); will have MIRV, manoeuvrable warheads.
- ▶ DRDO's RudraM-II air-to-surface missile also tested at Chandipur on June 2, 2026.

MAINS DIMENSIONS

- ▶ India's nuclear deterrence strategy: credible minimum deterrence (CMD) and second-strike capability.
- ▶ MIRV technology and strategic stability: implications for India-China-Pakistan nuclear triangle.
- ▶ Missile development under the DRDO ecosystem and indigenisation push.

SYLLABUS & PYQ

PYQ: GS3 2022: India's indigenisation of defence — discuss key milestones and challenges.

PROBABLE MCQ

Project Divyastra refers to India's successful test of:

A) Agni-IV B) BrahMos-NG C) **Agni-V with MIRV** D) Prithvi-III

Ans C — Project Divyastra was the first MIRV test of Agni-V missile in March 2024.

PROBABLE MAINS Q

Assess India's missile programme in the context of its "credible minimum deterrence" doctrine and the emerging multi-polar nuclear order. (GS3, 250 words)

 **Akademia Hook:** MIRV = Multiple Independently targetable Reentry Vehicles. One missile, multiple warheads, multiple targets. This is a game-changer in deterrence — UPSC loves asking about this concept.

§5

Science & Technology

SPACE · ISRO · LUNAR PROGRAMME

Chandrayaan-4: India's Lunar Sample Return Mission — Design and Strategic Significance

WHY IN NEWS

ISRO's Chandrayaan-4 lunar sample-return mission has received Cabinet approval and will be launched in two phases aboard two LVM3 (GSLV Mk-III) rockets. The

mission aims to collect up to 3 kg of lunar regolith and return it to Earth — a critical technology demonstrator for India's crewed lunar landing by 2040.

BACKGROUND

Chandrayaan-1 (2008) discovered water molecules on Moon; Chandrayaan-2 (2019) partially failed; Chandrayaan-3 (2023) became first to soft-land near lunar south pole. Chandrayaan-4 validates rendezvous-docking in lunar orbit — technology needed for Gaganyaan and future crewed missions.

PRELIMS FACTS

- ▶ Chandrayaan-4: 5 modules, two LVM3 launches; target: lunar sample return (3 kg regolith).
- ▶ Chandrayaan-3 landed near 69.37°S, 32.35°E on 23 Aug 2023 — Shiv Shakti Point.
- ▶ LVM3 (GSLV Mk-III): India's heaviest rocket; payload 10T to LEO, 4T to GTO.
- ▶ India's Human Spaceflight Programme (Gaganyaan) target: 2025–26 crewed mission.

MAINS DIMENSIONS

- ▶ Strategic importance of lunar sample return: scientific (water ice, helium-3), geopolitical (Artemis vs China-Russia Lunar Base).
- ▶ Dual-launch mission design: docking and rendezvous technology — India's self-reliance in space.
- ▶ Space economy: India's target of \$44B space economy by 2033; role of IN-SPACe in private sector.

SYLLABUS & PYQ

GS3: SPACE TECHNOLOGY

GS3: S&T ACHIEVEMENTS

PYQ: GS3 2023: India's space programme has evolved from communication to exploration. Discuss milestones and future roadmap.

PROBABLE MCQ

Where did Chandrayaan-3's Vikram lander touch down?

A) Lunar equator B) Mare Imbrium C) **Near lunar south pole** D) Oceanus Procellarum

Ans C — Landed at ~69°S, 32°E near the lunar south pole on 23 August 2023.

PROBABLE MAINS Q

Evaluate Chandrayaan-4 as a strategic and scientific mission in the context of the new geopolitics of space exploration. (GS3, 250 words)

 **Akademia Hook:** The Chandrayaan-4 docking test is also preparation for Gaganyaan's space station assembly. One mission, three purposes — sample return, docking tech, and crewed mission readiness.

§6

Economy

ECONOMY · RBI · MONETARY POLICY · NRI FINANCE

RBI Holds Repo at 5.25%; Cuts GDP Forecast to 6.6%; Extends FCNR(B) Window to Attract NRI Capital

WHY IN NEWS

The RBI's Monetary Policy Committee kept the repo rate unchanged at 5.25% in its June 2026 review, revised India's FY27 GDP growth forecast downward to 6.6% (from 6.9%), and raised inflation projection to 5.1%. To bolster capital inflows, RBI extended the 3–5 year FCNR(B) deposit window with concessional swap rates until September 30, 2026.

BACKGROUND

India's growth faces headwinds from El Niño-affected monsoon and global slowdown. FDI and FPI outflows of \$13.7B since Jan 2026 have pressured the rupee. FCNR(B) deposits allow banks to accept foreign currency deposits from NRIs, providing stable forex inflows.

PRELIMS FACTS

- Repo Rate (Jun 2026): 5.25%; Standing Deposit Facility Rate: 5.00%.

- ▶ FCNR(B): Foreign Currency Non-Resident (Banks) deposits — minimum 1 year, max 5 years.
- ▶ World Bank India FY27 GDP forecast: 6.5%; RBI (Jun 2026): 6.6%.
- ▶ India–Oman FTA in effect from June 1, 2026; India now has 15 FTAs covering 27 nations.

MAINS DIMENSIONS

- ▶ Monetary policy dilemma: balancing growth support vs. inflationary pressures from weak monsoon.
- ▶ External sector management: FCNR(B) as a tool for forex stability — lessons from 2013 currency crisis.
- ▶ India's FTA strategy and trade diversification as a resilience mechanism.

SYLLABUS & PYQ

GS3: MONETARY POLICY

GS3: EXTERNAL SECTOR

PYQ: GS3 2021: Discuss the tools available with the RBI to manage external sector vulnerabilities.

PROBABLE MCQ

FCNR(B) deposits can be maintained by:

- A) Indian residents B) **Non-Resident Indians (NRIs)** C) Only FIIs D) Both A and C

Ans B — FCNR(B) accounts are only for NRIs/PIOs, held in foreign currency with Indian banks.

PROBABLE MAINS Q

Evaluate the RBI's monetary policy toolkit in managing India's growth-inflation trade-off in an era of external uncertainty. (GS3, 250 words)

 **Akademia Hook:** In 2013, Raghuram Rajan used FCNR(B) to stabilise the Rupee — this is a proven playbook. RBI is following the same 2013 script in 2026. Excellent answer for GS3 external sector questions.

→ Continued in Part II

Part II covers: **Environment • Places in News • Ethics & Integrity Cases • 15 Prelims MCQs • 6 Mains Questions • Answer Writing Value Addition • AKADEMIA Direct Hit Tracker • Proof of Precision**

★ THEIAS AKADEMIA — PROOF OF PRECISION

UPSC CSE Prelims 2026 Results

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

48

QUESTIONS FROM
ANTIM ASSURED 100+

7

QUESTIONS FROM
A SINGLE DOCUMENT

6

QUESTIONS FROM
A SINGLE CLASS

Our students had seen 48 questions before the paper was opened.

This is not luck. This is TheIAS Akademia.

JOIN ANTIM ASSURED 100+ →

ANTIM ASSURED 100+ | TheIAS Akademia | theiasakademia@gmail.com

Part I of II · Friday, 12 June 2026 · Morning Edition

→ **Continue to Part II:** Environment · Places in News · Ethics · MCQs · Mains Questions · Direct
Hit Tracker