

MONDAY, 13 JULY 2026

MORNING EDITION • 08:00 IST

ANTIM ASSURED 100+

"The Topper's Last Read. Every Morning." — TheIAS Akademia

PART II • ENVIRONMENT TO DIRECT HIT TRACKER

TODAY'S SECTIONS

1. Environment & Ecology
2. Places in News (Map)
3. Ethics & Integrity Cases (GS4)
4. Prelims MCQs (15 Questions)
5. Mains Questions (6)
6. Answer Writing Value Addition
7. AKADEMIA Direct Hit Tracker
8. Proof of Precision

← Part I covers: Headlines • Polity & Governance • IR • Defence • S&T • Economy

Environment & Ecology

GS3

Environmental Law · River Ecology

July 6, 2026 · Source: Down To Earth / NGT Order

NGT Flags Illegal Yamuna Sand Mining in Fatehpur (UP) — River Course Altered at Five Sites

Why in News: The National Green Tribunal (NGT), in an order dated July 6, 2026, directed Uttar Pradesh authorities to respond to allegations that illegal sand mining in Fatehpur district has altered the natural course of the Yamuna river at multiple sites, threatening biodiversity, agriculture, and downstream villages.

Background: Sand mining from riverbeds is regulated under the Environmental Impact Assessment (EIA) Notification 2006 and the Mines and Minerals (Development and Regulation) Act 1957. The NGT has repeatedly flagged riverbed mining as a major driver of riverine ecosystem collapse — destabilising banks, killing aquatic species, and lowering the water table.

⚡ KEY FACTS

- Five sites flagged: Korra Morang, Sangolipur Madiyan, Oti mine, Manjhil village (river course physically blocked for mining access), Lalouli area
- NGT directed responses from: Secretary (Environment UP), Director Mines & Geology, DM Fatehpur, DMO Fatehpur, UPPCB
- Ecological harm: Illegal mining within active river flow zone disrupts fluvial geomorphology, threatens Gangetic dolphin habitat, raises flood risk for villages
- Next hearing: September 7, 2026; violations under EIA 2006, MMDR Act 1957, and NGT Guidelines on Riverbed Mining

💡 TEACHING HOOK

For UPSC, sand mining raises three simultaneous issues: **Constitutional** (Entry 23, List II — regulation of mines), **Environmental** (NGT jurisdiction under NGT Act 2010), and **Ecological** (river morphology, Gangetic dolphin habitat, IUCN Endangered). Connect the Yamuna to its tributaries and the Upper Yamuna Basin Authority.

📄 PYQ LINKAGE

GS3 2018: "What are the impediments in the implementation of environmental laws in India? What role can judiciary play in ensuring environmental justice?" [GS3 Mains 2018]

GS3

NGT

Sand Mining

PYQ 2018

Yamuna

MMDR Act

Gharial (*Gavialis gangeticus*): India's Most Critically Endangered Reptile

Why in News: The Gharial remains one of the world's most critically endangered reptiles, with fewer than 650–850 breeding adults surviving almost exclusively in India's river systems. Sand mining — the same activity flagged in today's Yamuna NGT order — is the single largest direct threat to Gharial nesting sites.

Background: The Gharial is the sole surviving member of the family Gavialidae (order Crocodylia). India launched Project Crocodile in 1975, leading to significant recovery, but poaching for "ghara" (the bulbous nasal appendage of mature males, prized in traditional medicine) and riverbed degradation have pushed populations back to crisis levels.

⚡ KEY FACTS

- Classification: Kingdom Animalia; Family Gavialidae; Genus *Gavialis*; sole surviving species in its family
- IUCN Status: Critically Endangered (CR); CITES: Appendix I; WPA 1972: Schedule I
- Range: Chambal, Girwa, Son, Gandak, Mahanadi rivers; National Chambal Sanctuary (MP–UP–Rajasthan) is primary stronghold
- Threats: Sand mining on nesting banks, entanglement in fishing nets, gharial fat + ghara poaching, dam construction altering river morphology

💡 TEACHING HOOK

Remember: **Mugger** = *Crocodylus palustris* = LC (Least Concern), lives in still waters; **Gharial** = CR, long narrow snout (fish specialist), lives in fast-flowing rivers. The name "Gharial" comes from *ghara* (Hindi: earthen pot) — the bulbous snout growth. National Chambal Sanctuary spans 3 states: MP, UP, Rajasthan.

📄 PYQ LINKAGE

GS3 2019: "What is the significance of India's wetlands and river systems for biodiversity conservation? Examine the threats faced by freshwater ecosystems." [GS3 Mains 2019]

GS3

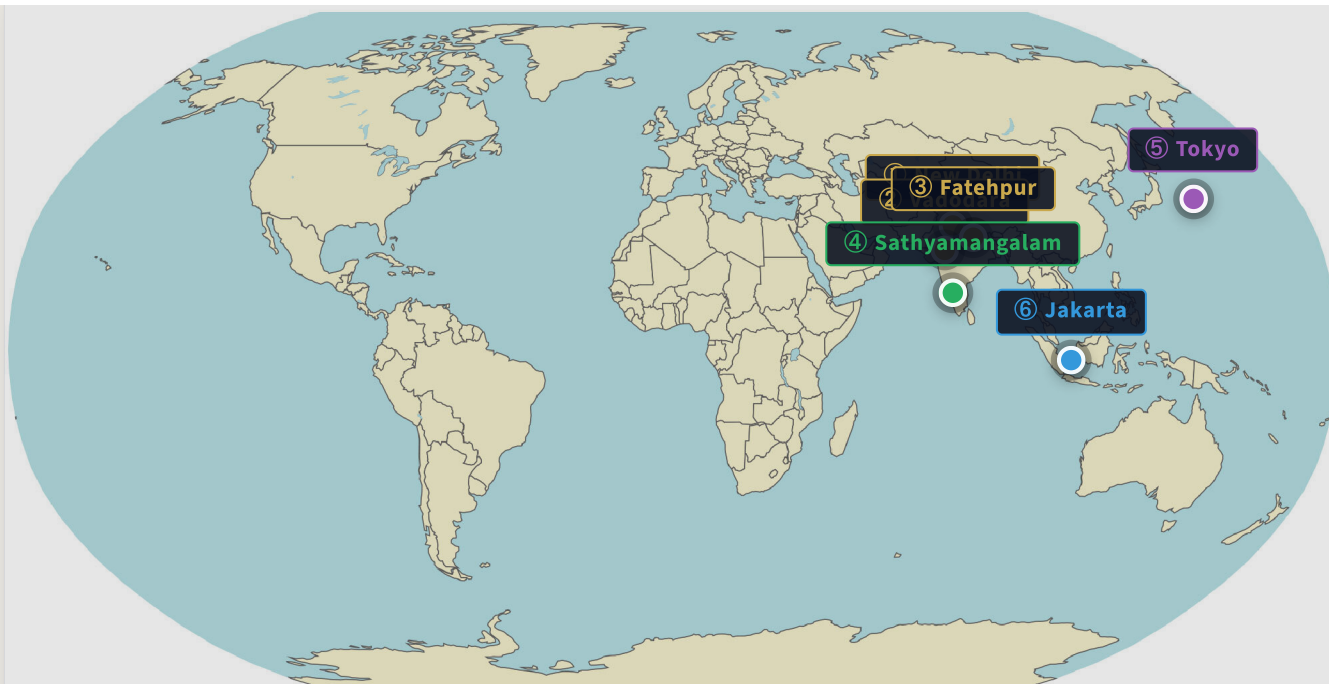
Gharial

IUCN CR

PYQ 2019

Chambal

Schedule I WPA



● ① New Delhi (India–Japan Summit; AMCA RFP) ● ② Vadodara (C-295 maiden flight)

● ③ Fatehpur, UP (Yamuna illegal mining — NGT) ● ④ Sathyamangalam, TN (Tiger Reserve — illegal resorts)

● ⑤ Tokyo, Japan (India–Japan 16th Annual Summit) ● ⑥ Jakarta, Indonesia (PM Modi state visit; SAIL–Krakatau JV)

① New Delhi, India

28.6°N · 77.2°E

Hosted India–Japan 16th Annual Summit (July 1–3); venue for AMCA RFP discussions. Capital and diplomatic centre.

② Vadodara, Gujarat

22.3°N · 73.2°E

Tata–Airbus C-295 facility; India's first privately manufactured military aircraft maiden flight (June 10, 2026).

③ Fatehpur, UP

25.9°N · 80.8°E

NGT order (July 6) on illegal Yamuna sand mining altering river course; five sites flagged. Located in Gangetic plain, UP.

④ Sathyamangalam, Tamil Nadu

11.5°N · 77.2°E

Sathyamangalam Tiger Reserve (Erode district); Madras HC found 24 additional illegal resorts beyond the 42 already under action (June 29 order).

⑤ Tokyo, Japan

35.7°N · 139.7°E

Counterpart capital for India–Japan 16th Annual Summit. PM Takaichi visited New Delhi for the summit — previous summits held in Tokyo.

⑥ Jakarta, Indonesia

6.2°S · 106.8°E

PM Modi's state visit (July 6–8); 16 MoUs signed at Istana Merdeka; SAIL–Krakatau JV, Prambanan Temple restoration announced.

Ethics & Integrity Cases

Case 1: AMCA Private vs. PSU — The HAL Exclusion Dilemma

You are a Section Officer in the Ministry of Defence. The AMCA RFP committee has deliberately excluded HAL from bidding. You learn that senior HAL officials are lobbying your minister with data suggesting HAL's exclusion weakens national security. Your minister asks you to prepare a note recommending re-inclusion.

What values are in conflict? What should you do?

Case 2: AI Hallucination — The Young Advocate's Dilemma

A junior advocate used an AI chatbot to research precedents for a client's NCLT case and unknowingly included three AI-hallucinated (fictitious) judgments in the submission. After filing, a colleague spots the error. The supervising partner says: "The submission is filed — let it go; no one will check." The SC's new zero-tolerance circular has just come out.

What should the junior advocate do? Discuss probity in legal practice.

Case 3: Yamuna Mining — The Silenced District Magistrate

As District Magistrate of Fatehpur, you receive multiple public complaints about illegal sand mining in the Yamuna riverbed. A local MLA, who is a senior member of the ruling coalition, tells you informally to "not create issues" before elections. Your departmental head has not issued any orders to act.

What would you do? Discuss the ethical principles that should guide an IAS officer in this situation.

Case 4: SAIL–Krakatau JV — Technology Transfer Trap

India's Steel Secretary is finalising the SAIL–PT Krakatau Steel JV. Indonesia is willing to sign only if India concedes a technology transfer clause that your legal team says disadvantages India in the long run. Political leadership wants the JV announced before the BRICS summit. You must submit a recommendation within 24 hours.

How do you balance national interest, diplomatic relations, and administrative integrity?

§4 · PRELIMS PRACTICE

Prelims MCQs — 15 Questions

Q1. Consider the following statements about the Nifty500 Ahimsa Index: (1) It is developed by NSE Indices in collaboration with Ahimsagain Foundation. (2) Companies in the 'Orange' band are eligible for inclusion. (3) It excludes firms involved in meat, alcohol, tobacco, and weapons. Which is/are correct?

(a) 1 and 3 only

(b) 2 and 3 only

(c) 1, 2 and 3

(d) 3 only

Answer: (a) Only 'Green' band companies are eligible; 'Orange' and 'Red' are excluded. Statements 1 and 3 are correct.

Q2. Consider the statements about India's AMCA project: (1) RFP was issued in May 2026. (2) HAL is the primary lead firm in one of the three shortlisted consortia. (3) It aims to be India's first 5th-generation stealth combat aircraft. How many are correct?

(a) Only one

(b) Only two

(c) All three

(d) None

Answer: (b) Statements 1 (May 27, 2026) and 3 (5th-gen stealth) are correct. Statement 2 is WRONG — HAL was EXCLUDED from the AMCA RFP.

Q3. The C-295 aircraft manufactured at Vadodara by Tata–Airbus is intended to replace which aircraft in the Indian Air Force fleet?

(a) AN-32

(b) IL-76

(c) Avro HS-748

(d) Dornier Do-228

Answer: (c) The C-295 replaces the ageing Avro HS-748 fleet. The AN-32 replacement is a separate process; IL-76 is a heavy airlifter; Dornier is a small utility aircraft.

Q4. Which of the following is CORRECTLY matched regarding the revised WPI series (base year 2022–23)? (1) Solar and Wind energy added under Electricity group. (2) Crude Petroleum moved from Fuel & Power to Primary Articles. (3) Number of items expanded from 697 to 957. Select the correct answer:

(a) 1 and 3 only

(b) 1, 2 and 3

(c) 2 and 3 only

(d) 1 only

Answer: (a) Statement 2 is WRONG — Crude Petroleum was moved FROM Primary Articles TO Fuel & Power (not the reverse). Statements 1 and 3 are correct.

Q5. India–Japan annual summits have been held since: (a) 2000 (b) 2006 (c) 2010 (d) 2014. Also, the "Special Strategic and Global Partnership" between India and Japan was declared in which year?

(a) Summits from 2000; Partnership 2010

(b) Summits from 2006; Partnership 2014

(c) Summits from 2010; Partnership 2014

(d) Summits from 2006; Partnership 2010

Answer: (b) Annual summits began in 2006; the "Special Strategic and Global Partnership" was declared in 2014 under PM Modi and PM Shinzo Abe.

Q6. With reference to the India–Indonesia Joint Statement (July 2026), consider: (1) Indonesia will station an International Liaison Officer at India's IFC–IOR in Gurugram. (2) SAIL and PT Krakatau Steel signed a JV for stainless steel production. (3) 2026–27 is declared the Tagore–Dewantara Year. How many are correct?

(a) Only one

(b) Only two

(c) All three

(d) None

Answer: (c) All three statements are factually correct per the India–Indonesia Joint Statement, July 2026.

Q7. The 131st Constitution Amendment Bill proposes to expand Lok Sabha seats from 543 to: (a) 648 (b) 729 (c) 816 (d) 888. Additionally, the reservation is valid for how many years (sunset clause)?

(a) 816 seats; 10 years

(b) 729 seats; 15 years

(c) 816 seats; 15 years

(d) 888 seats; 20 years

Answer: (c) 543 → 816 LS seats; 33% women's reservation for 15 years from first election after enactment (sunset clause).

Q8. Which authority was directed by the Supreme Court to form a committee on AI guidelines for the legal profession following the AI-hallucinated judgment episode?

(a) Law Commission of India

(b) Bar Council of India

(c) NALSA (National Legal Services Authority)

(d) Ministry of Law and Justice

Answer: (b) The Bar Council of India (BCI) was directed to constitute a committee to frame ethical guidelines for AI use by advocates.

Q9. The NGT order on illegal Yamuna sand mining (July 6, 2026) pertained to which district of Uttar Pradesh?

(a) Varanasi

(b) Prayagraj

(c) Fatehpur

(d) Ghazipur

Answer: (c) The illegal sand mining allegations concerned the Yamuna river in Fatehpur district, UP — not Varanasi, Prayagraj, or Ghazipur (which has the Ghazipur case in a separate NGT order).

Q10. Which of the following is CORRECT about the Gharial (*Gavialis gangeticus*)? (1) It belongs to the family Gavialidae. (2) Its IUCN status is Endangered. (3) National Chambal Sanctuary is its primary stronghold. Select:

(a) 1 and 3 only

(b) 2 and 3 only

(c) 1, 2 and 3

(d) 3 only

Answer: (a) Statement 2 is WRONG — Gharial is CRITICALLY ENDANGERED (CR), not merely Endangered. Statements 1 (Gavialidae) and 3 (Chambal Sanctuary) are correct.

Q11. The National Chambal Sanctuary, primary habitat of the Gharial, spans how many states?

(a) Two (MP and UP)

(b) Three (MP, UP, Rajasthan)

(c) Four (MP, UP, Rajasthan, Bihar)

(d) Two (UP and Rajasthan)

Answer: (b) National Chambal Sanctuary spans Madhya Pradesh, Uttar Pradesh, and Rajasthan — three states along the Chambal river's course.

Q12. The Prambanan Temple Complex, for whose restoration India pledged support in the India–Indonesia Joint Statement (July 2026), is located in:

(a) Bali, Indonesia

(b) Central Java, Indonesia

(c) Sumatra, Indonesia

(d) West Java, Indonesia

Answer: (b) Prambanan is a 9th-century Hindu temple complex in Central Java (near Yogyakarta), Indonesia. It is a UNESCO World Heritage Site dedicated primarily to the Trimurti.

Q13. SAIL (Steel Authority of India Limited) operates under which Ministry?

(a) Ministry of Heavy Industries

(b) Ministry of Steel

(c) Ministry of Mines

(d) Ministry of Commerce and Industry

Answer: (b) SAIL is a Navratna PSU under the Ministry of Steel. It has five integrated steel plants at Bhilai, Durgapur, Rourkela, Bokaro, and Burnpur.

Q14. The Producer Price Index (PPI) introduced alongside the revised WPI in June 2026 measures prices at which stage of production?

(a) Retail (consumer) stage

(b) Wholesale stage

(c) Point of first commercial transaction by the producer

(d) Import price at port of entry

Answer: (c) PPI measures prices received by domestic producers at the point of first commercial transaction — before trade and transport margins. Published by the Office of Economic Adviser, DPIIT.

Q15. India's defence production in FY 2025–26 was approximately: (a) ₹1.08 lakh crore (b) ₹1.54 lakh crore (c) ₹1.78 lakh crore (d) ₹2.04 lakh crore. The private sector's share was:

(a) ₹1.78L cr; 18%

(b) ₹1.54L cr; 24%

(c) ₹1.78L cr; 24%

(d) ₹2.04L cr; 30%

Answer: (c) FY26 production = ₹1.78 lakh crore (\$19B); private sector = ₹42,000 crore = ~24% (all-time high). FY25 was ₹1.54L cr; FY21 base was ₹84,643 cr.

THEIAS AKADEMIA

These 15 MCQs mirror the statement-based format UPSC has favoured for 8+ consecutive years. **NEEB 300+ Live PYQ Writing** at TheIAS Akademia trains your brain to decode MCQ traps under exam pressure — theiasakademia.com.

§5 · MAINS PRACTICE

Mains Questions — 6

GS1 · CULTURE · 150 WORDS

Q1. "Cultural diplomacy is the soft power complement to strategic partnerships." Discuss with reference to India–Indonesia (Prambanan Temple restoration) and India–Japan (Tagore–Dewantara Year) initiatives.

Hint: Define cultural diplomacy (Joseph Nye's soft power). Prambanan = Hindu heritage link (shared Sanatan civilisational bonds). Tagore–Dewantara = literary/educational diplomacy. Connect to SAARC, ICCR, and India's Buddhist circuit for broader framework.

GS2 · POLITY · 250 WORDS

Q2. Critically examine the constitutional and political challenges in implementing the 131st Constitution Amendment Bill linking women's reservation to delimitation and Lok Sabha seat expansion.

Hint: 106th Amendment 2023 (WRA) as predecessor. Delimitation issues: fear by southern states of seat reduction (reversed by expansion to 816). Sunset clause debates. OBC women's sub-reservation demand. Rajya Sabha vs Lok Sabha dynamics. Cite Punchhi Commission on Centre–State equity.

GS3 • DEFENCE • 250 WORDS

Q3. "India's defence production record of ₹1.78 lakh crore in FY26 reflects structural transformation rather than incremental growth." Analyse with reference to the private sector's role and the AMCA RFP.

Hint: DAP 2020, 4 PILs, iDEX, Tata-Airbus C-295, BrahMos, Adani Defence as structural shifts. AMCA = 5th-gen shift from import dependency. Export trajectory ₹38,424 cr. Challenge: DRDO-industry interface, technology gap, HAL's legacy role. SIPRI data optional.

GS3 • ECONOMY • 150 WORDS

Q4. What are the implications of revising India's WPI base year to 2022–23 and introducing the Producer Price Index? How does this improve inflation measurement?

Hint: WPI captures producer-level inflation; CPI captures retail. PPI fills the gap. 697→957 items = more representative. Renewable energy inclusion = reflects structural change. PPI globally: US PPI used by Fed for core inflation tracking. India's dual-index approach (WPI+CPI) for policy.

GS3 • ENVIRONMENT • 150 WORDS

Q5. Illegal riverbed sand mining is a multi-dimensional environmental crisis. Examine the ecological impacts and discuss the role of the National Green Tribunal in addressing mining violations.

Hint: Ecological: fluvial geomorphology disruption, aquifer depletion, biodiversity loss (Gharial, Gangetic dolphin), flood risk amplification. Legal: MMDR 1957, EIA 2006, NGT Act 2010. Role of Pollution Control Boards. M–Sand (manufactured sand) as alternative. Cite NGT orders — Yamuna (Fatehpur), Mahanadi, Goa sand mining case.

GS4 • ETHICS • 150 WORDS

Q6. You are a civil servant who discovers that illegal sand mining is being protected by a politically connected local leader. Your departmental superior says 'don't create issues before elections.' What will you do?

Hint: Values in conflict: loyalty to superior vs. Constitutional oath (Art 311 protection) vs. public interest. ARC II report on ethics in governance. Nolan Principles: Selflessness, Integrity, Objectivity. Options: document in writing, escalate to DM/Commissioner, invoke whistleblower protection (PIDPI Act 2014), file note on record. Cite foundational values of public service.

Answer Writing Value Addition

Key Quotes for Today's Topics

"The strength of a nation derives in the first instance from its material resources and physical strength, but the real strength lies in the will and character of its people." — Sardar Vallabhbhai Patel

Use in: Women's Reservation / Defence industrialisation answers

"Science and technology, without values, is a hollow vessel; what fills it determines its human worth." — APJ Abdul Kalam

Use in: AI hallucination in judiciary / AMCA technology development answers

"Rivers are the arteries of the earth. When we destroy them, we sever the veins of life itself." — Sunderlal Bahuguna

Use in: Yamuna sand mining / Gharial conservation answers

Data Table: India Defence Production Trajectory

Year	Production (₹ cr)	Exports (₹ cr)	Pvt Sector %
FY 2021	84,643	8,434	~18%
FY 2023	1,08,684	15,920	~21%
FY 2025	1,54,600	23,622	~22%
FY 2026 ★	1,78,000	38,424	24%

AKADEMIA Direct Hit Tracker

Topics with highest probability of appearing in UPSC CSE Prelims 2027 or Mains 2026–27, based on syllabus mapping and 25-year PYQ pattern analysis.

131st Amendment — Women + Delimitation

GS2 · POLITY

India Defence Production FY26

GS3 · DEFENCE

AMCA — Private Consortia

GS3 · DEFENCE S&T

5th-gen stealth; 3 pvt consortia; HAL excluded; RFP May 2026

33% reservation; LS 543→816; 15-yr sunset; post-2026 census



₹1.78L cr; exports ₹38,424 cr; private 24%; DAP 2020 impact



WPI Base Year 2022-23 + PPI

GS3 • ECONOMY

697→957 items; DPIIT; PPI = producer prices; solar+wind added



Gharial — Critically Endangered

GS3 • ENVIRONMENT

Gavialidae; IUCN CR; Chambal (3 states); CITES App I; Schedule I



C-295 Vadodara — First Pvt Military Aircraft

GS3 • DEFENCE

Tata-Airbus JV; replaces Avro HS-748; ₹21,935 cr deal; June 10



India-Japan Special Strategic Partnership

GS2 • IR

16th Summit; PM Takaichi; semiconductor MoU; Quad; since 2006



India-Indonesia Joint Statement

GS2 • IR

16 documents; SAIL-Krakatau; Prambanan; IFC-IOR; Act East



SC Zero-Tolerance — AI Hallucination

GS2 • JUDICIARY

NCLT case; BCI committee; contempt risk; Art 21 fair trial link



NSE Nifty500 Ahimsa Index

GS3 • ECONOMY

AIM framework; Ahimsagain Fdn; Green band; July 11, 2026



Yamuna Illegal Mining — NGT

GS3 • ENVIRONMENT

Fatehpur UP; 5 sites; river course altered; Jul 6 order; MMDR



Sathyamangalam Tiger Reserve

GS3 • ENVIRONMENT

Erode, Tamil Nadu; HC: 24 more illegal resorts; Madras HC order



★ THE IAS 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+ | Morning Edition | Monday, 13 July 2026

TheIAS Akademia · theiasakademia@gmail.com · theiasakademia.com

← *Part I covers: Headlines · Polity & Governance · IR · Defence · S&T · Economy*

Please also upload the Maps/ folder to GoDaddy alongside HTML files for the high-quality local map. If Maps/ is missing, the Wikimedia fallback map is used automatically.