

THEIAS AKADEMIA · MORNING EDITION

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DAILY CURRENT AFFAIRS FOR UPSC PRELIMS & MAINS

PART I · HEADLINES TO ECONOMY

✧ Sunday, 14 June 2026 | Morning Edition — 8:00 AM IST

"From Daily News to Direct UPSC Questions"

SECTION INDEX — PART I

§1 Top 10 Headlines

§2 Polity & Governance

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Top 10 Headlines

UPSC-RELEVANT STORIES · 14 JUNE 2026

- 01** DRDO completes final flight tests of AD-1 & AD-2 missile interceptors + maiden NASM-MR anti-ship missile at ITR Chandipur, Odisha — India enters elite BMD club. PIB / Business Std
- 02** India signs BrahMos supersonic cruise missile deal with Vietnam (~₹60,000 cr); Indonesia agreement nearing completion after Shangri-La Dialogue. The Diplomat / IDN
- 03** India-UK Critical Minerals Global Supply Chain Observatory (GSCO) launched in New Delhi; IIT-ISM Dhanbad & Cambridge University co-manage. PIB / Business Std
- 04** PM Modi arrives in Bratislava for first-ever Indian PM visit to Slovakia (June 14–16); to meet PM Fico & President Pellegrini; focus on defence, AI & EU market access. Tribune India / ANI
- 05** Ayushman Bharat Digital Mission crosses 90 crore ABHA health IDs — largest digital health identity programme in the world. NHA / MoHFW
- 06** PFRDA launches StAR NPS Platform (June 3) — developed by BSE Technologies — for fully digital, assisted NPS pension onboarding. PFRDA / Business Std
- 07** Jagannath Temple Admin (SJTA), Puri secures trademark for Nilachakra logo, 'Patitapabana' & 'Ananda Bazaar' — first Indian shrine to do so. Business Standard
- 08** Mission Mausam: India's first SkyCast aviation weather system launched at IGI Airport; India becomes 19th nation to deploy this system. MoES / NewKerala
- 09** State of India's Environment 2026 (CSE-DTE, June 4): 7 of 9 planetary boundaries breached; extreme weather recorded on 99% of days in 2025. CSE / Down To Earth
- 10** India holds BRICS Chairship 2026; theme "Resilience, Innovation, Cooperation & Sustainability"; NDB headquarters in Shanghai. MEA



Polity & Governance

GS2 · WELFARE SCHEMES · STATUTORY BODIES

Ayushman Bharat Digital Mission — 90 Crore ABHA Accounts Milestone

GS2 PRELIMS PYQ 2022

WHY IN NEWS

ABDM crossed 90 crore Ayushman Bharat Health Account (ABHA) unique health IDs, making it the world's largest digital health identity programme under the National Health Authority.

BACKGROUND

ABDM launched September 2021 under NHA (Ministry of Health & Family Welfare); ABHA is a 14-digit unique health ID enabling citizens to link, access and share health records with consent.

PRELIMS FACTS

- ABHA = 14-digit voluntary unique health identifier
- UP leads: 15.3 cr ABHAs; Rajasthan 2nd (7.19 cr); Bihar 4th (6.3 cr)
- Growth: 14.7 cr (2021) → 72.2 cr (2024) → 90 cr+ (2026)
- NHA = National Health Authority under MoHFW (not MeitY)

PYQ LINKAGE

GS2 2022: Government schemes for health sector and digital health ecosystem

MAINS DIMENSIONS

- Digital health as enabler of Universal Health Coverage (UHC) — SDG 3
- Privacy: consent framework under DPDP Act 2023 and centralised data risk
- Digital divide: rural penetration, elderly adoption, & inclusion challenge

SYLLABUS MAPPING

GS2: WELFARE SCHEMES GS2: HEALTH POLICY

PROBABLE PRELIMS MCQ

With reference to ABDM: (1) ABHA is a 14-digit identifier. (2) NHA functions under MeitY. (3) ABDM was launched in September 2021. Which is/are correct?

(a) 1 only (b) 1 & 3 (c) 2 & 3 (d) All three

Answer: (b) 1 & 3

NHA operates under MoHFW, not MeitY. Statement 2 is incorrect.

PROBABLE MAINS QUESTION

Critically analyse how ABDM can bridge India's healthcare access gap. Discuss challenges in implementation. (250 words)

GS2 ABDM ABHA NHA Digital Health UHC PYQ-2022



AKADEMIA TEACHING HOOK

Jagannath Temple (Puri) Secures Trademark for Nilachakra & Sacred Identifiers

GS2 GS1 PRELIMS

WHY IN NEWS

SJTA (Shree Jagannath Temple Administration), Puri became the first Indian shrine to secure trademark registration for sacred identifiers: Nilachakra (logomark), 'Patitapabana' and 'Ananda Bazaar' (wordmarks).

BACKGROUND

The 12th-century Jagannath Temple is managed under Odisha's Shree Jagannath Temple Act 1954; Nilachakra is the sacred eight-spoked metal disc atop the main spire (Shikhar).

PRELIMS FACTS

- Nilachakra = 8-spoked sacred metal disc atop the Jagannath Temple spire
- Patitapabana = Lord Jagannath's form near Singhadwara (Lion Gate)
- Ananda Bazaar = venue inside temple for Mahaprasad distribution
- 26 more trademark applications pending with IP authorities

PYQ LINKAGE

GS1 2019: Temple administration and management of religious heritage in India

MAINS DIMENSIONS

- IP rights for religious heritage: protecting sacred cultural identifiers from commercial misuse
- Role of Odisha Temple Act 1954 vs Constitutional Art 25-26 in temple governance
- Tension between commodification of faith and cultural sanctity

SYLLABUS MAPPING

GS1: ART & CULTURE GS2: POLITY / RIGHTS

PROBABLE PRELIMS MCQ

The 'Nilachakra' is associated with which of the following?

(a) An ancient Indian warship (b) Eight-spoked metal disc atop Jagannath Temple spire (c) A classical dance form of Odisha (d) A Vaishnavite scripture

Answer: (b)

Nilachakra is the sacred wheel-disc atop the Shikhar of Jagannath Temple, Puri, Odisha.

PROBABLE MAINS QUESTION

Examine the need for intellectual property protection of India's religious and cultural heritage. (150 words)

GS2 GS1 Jagannath Temple SJTA Trademark Puri IP Rights Cultural Heritage

AKADEMIA TEACHING HOOK

Excellent GS1-GS2 crossover! Note: Jagannath Temple is NOT a UNESCO World Heritage Site — a classic UPSC trap. India's World Heritage temples: Sun Temple Konark, Khajuraho Group, Mahabodhi. The IP registration is a first for any Indian religious shrine.

§3 International Relations

GS2 · BILATERAL / MULTILATERAL DIPLOMACY

PM Modi's Historic First Visit to Slovakia — A New European Gateway

GS2 PRELIMS PYQ 2022

WHY IN NEWS

PM Narendra Modi arrived in Bratislava on June 14, 2026, for a state visit to Slovakia (June 14–16) — the first-ever visit by an Indian Prime Minister to Slovakia since the country gained independence in 1993.

BACKGROUND

India–Slovakia diplomatic relations established 1993. Slovakia is a NATO and EU member with a strong automobile and defence manufacturing base. The visit is part of Modi's Europe trip covering France, Slovakia, and Paris.

PRELIMS FACTS

- Slovakia gained independence: January 1, 1993 (Velvet Divorce from Czech Republic)
- Capital: Bratislava; EU + NATO member since 2004
- PM Robert Fico + President Peter Pellegrini — both to meet Modi
- Focus sectors: Defence, AI, quantum tech, automobile/railway manufacturing

MAINS DIMENSIONS

- Slovakia as EU gateway: Indian companies accessing single market of 450 million consumers
- Defence tech synergy: Slovakia's arms exports history + India's defence indigenisation
- India's multi-alignment: deepening ties with Central/Eastern Europe beyond the G7 West

SYLLABUS MAPPING

GS2: BILATERAL RELATIONS GS2: INTERNATIONAL ORGANISATIONS (EU/NATO)

PROBABLE PRELIMS MCQ

Consider the statements about Slovakia: (1) It became independent via the 'Velvet Divorce' in 1993. (2) It is a member of both NATO and the EU. (3) Its capital is Prague. Which is/are correct?

PYQ LINKAGE

GS2 2022: India's expanding European partnerships and multi-alignment strategy

(a) 1 & 2 (b) 2 & 3 (c) 1 & 3 (d) All

Answer: (a) 1 & 2

Prague is the capital of the Czech Republic; Bratislava is Slovakia's capital.

PROBABLE MAINS QUESTION

How does PM Modi's first visit to Slovakia signal India's expanding strategic footprint in Central Europe? (250 words)

GS2 India-Slovakia Europe NATO EU Multi-alignment PYQ-2022

AKADEMIA TEACHING HOOK

First-ever PM visit to Slovakia — classic Prelims trigger. Velvet Divorce (1993) = Czech Republic + Slovakia split peacefully; contrast with Yugoslavia's violent breakup. Slovakia is NATO + EU, not a G7 member. Prague ≠ Bratislava — examiners love this swap.

India-UK Critical Minerals GSCO Launch & BrahMos Vietnam Deal

GS2 GS3 PRELIMS

WHY IN NEWS

India and UK launched the Critical Minerals Global Supply Chain Observatory (GSCO) on June 5, 2026. Separately, India signed a BrahMos missile deal with Vietnam (~₹60,000 crore); Indonesia deal near completion.

BACKGROUND

GSCO announced during UK PM Keir Starmer's India visit (Oct 2025); partners are TEXMiN (IIT-ISM Dhanbad) & Cambridge University. BrahMos: Indo-Russian JV missile (Mach 2.8+); Philippines signed first in 2022.

PRELIMS FACTS

- GSCO covers: lithium, cobalt, nickel, REEs, titanium, tungsten
- Launched by Minister G. Kishan Reddy & UK FS Yvette Cooper
- BrahMos: range ~290–500 km; Vietnam is 3rd SE Asian buyer
- Defence exports target: USD 50,000 crore by FY 2029

PYQ LINKAGE

GS2 2021: India's defence diplomacy and strategic partnerships in Indo-Pacific

MAINS DIMENSIONS

- Critical minerals as geopolitical currency: EV supply chains, clean energy transition
- BrahMos exports: India's shift from defence importer to strategic exporter
- Act East via maritime security — countering China's BRI and South China Sea assertion

SYLLABUS MAPPING

GS2: FOREIGN POLICY GS3: DEFENCE EXPORTS

PROBABLE PRELIMS MCQ

The Critical Minerals GSCO launched in 2026 is a collaboration between India and:

(a) USA (b) Australia (c) United Kingdom (d) Japan

Answer: (c) United Kingdom

GSCO = joint initiative of IIT-ISM Dhanbad (TEXMiN) and University of Cambridge, UK.

PROBABLE MAINS QUESTION

Discuss how India's defence exports and critical mineral diplomacy reflect evolving strategic autonomy in the Indo-Pacific. (250 words)

GS2 GS3 India-UK GSCO Critical Minerals BrahMos Vietnam Defence Exports

AKADEMIA TEACHING HOOK

Critical minerals = new geopolitical oil. UPSC 2024 asked about lithium. India's REE reserves: Kerala + Odisha monazite sands. GSCO fills India's supply chain intelligence gap — link to PM Modi's "Tech & Trust" diplomacy for a complete Mains answer.

§4 Defence & Security

GS3 · INTERNAL & EXTERNAL SECURITY

DRDO Tests AD-1, AD-2 Interceptors & NASM-MR — India Joins Elite BMD Nations

GS3 PRELIMS PYQ 2022

WHY IN NEWS

DRDO conducted three flight tests on June 10–11, 2026 from ITR Chandipur, Odisha — final validation trials of AD-1 and AD-2 interceptors (multi-layered BMD) + maiden flight of NASM-MR (Naval Anti-Ship Missile – Medium Range).

MAINS DIMENSIONS

- Strategic deterrence: credible BMD alters nuclear calculus in India-Pak-China triangle
- NASM-MR enhances Indian Navy's A2/AD (Anti-Access/Area Denial) in IOR

BACKGROUND

India's BMD programme began after Pakistan's Ghauri tests (1998). AD-1 and AD-2 form the Phase-I BMD shield. NASM-MR is an indigenous sea-skimming anti-ship missile. Tests place India alongside USA, Russia, and Israel in ICBM-class interception.

PRELIMS FACTS

- AD-1: long-range, 2-stage solid-fuel; exo-atmospheric & low exo-atmospheric
- AD-2: shorter-range; endo-atmospheric (within atmosphere, lower tier)
- ITR Chandipur: Integrated Test Range, Balasore district, Odisha
- NASM-MR: sea-skimming, ship-launched anti-ship missile

PYQ LINKAGE

GS3 2022: Indigenisation of defence — achievements, challenges, and way forward

- Atmanirbhar Bharat in defence: DRDO indigenisation reducing import dependency

SYLLABUS MAPPING

GS3: DEFENCE TECHNOLOGY & SECURITY

PROBABLE PRELIMS MCQ

Consider: (1) AD-1 is designed for exo-atmospheric interception. (2) AD-2 handles endo-atmospheric threats. (3) ITR Chandipur is located in Odisha. Which is/are correct?

(a) 3 only (b) 1 & 2 (c) 1, 2 & 3 (d) 2 & 3

Answer: (c) All three are correct

AD-1 handles exo-atmospheric/ICBM threats; AD-2 handles endo-atmospheric (lower) threats; ITR is in Balasore, Odisha.

PROBABLE MAINS QUESTION

Analyse how India's BMD capability alters the strategic balance in South Asia. (250 words)

GS3 DRDO AD-1 AD-2 BMD NASM-MR Chandipur Odisha PYQ-2022

AKADEMIA TEACHING HOOK

BMD = two-layer umbrella: AD-2 (endo) blocks missiles inside atmosphere; AD-1 (exo) intercepts them in space before re-entry. Chandipur, Odisha is THE geography trap — never write Andhra Pradesh. India's elite BMD club membership: USA, Russia, Israel, China, India.

§5 Science & Technology

GS3 · S&T DEVELOPMENTS

Mission Mausam: India's First SkyCast Aviation Weather System at IGI Airport

GS3 PRELIMS

WHY IN NEWS

India launched its first SkyCast aviation weather monitoring system at IGI Airport, New Delhi under Mission Mausam — making India the 19th country globally to deploy this integrated real-time aviation weather intelligence system.

BACKGROUND

Mission Mausam is a Cabinet-approved flagship MoES initiative (September 2024) to make India "weather-ready and climate-smart." SkyCast provides real-time fog, visibility, wind, and turbulence data to reduce flight disruptions.

PRELIMS FACTS

- Mission Mausam: Ministry of Earth Sciences (MoES), Cabinet-approved Sep 2024
- Inaugurated by Dr. Jitendra Singh (Union Minister, MoES & S&T)
- India = 19th country with SkyCast; next site = Jewar Airport, Uttar Pradesh
- IMD founded 1875; moved under MoES in 2006

PYQ LINKAGE

GS3 2020: India's weather monitoring network and early warning systems

MAINS DIMENSIONS

- Fog disruptions cost Indian aviation ₹500+ crore annually — SkyCast has direct economic value
- Dual-use: SkyCast technology applicable to cyclone, flood, and disaster early warning
- Mission Mausam links to Sendai Framework 2015-2030 and India's NDC commitments

SYLLABUS MAPPING

GS3: SCIENCE & TECHNOLOGY GS3: DISASTER MANAGEMENT

PROBABLE PRELIMS MCQ

The SkyCast system recently launched at IGI Airport is part of which government initiative?

(a) Digital Sky (b) Mission Mausam (c) UDAN Scheme (d) GAGAN Programme

Answer: (b) Mission Mausam

SkyCast is deployed under Mission Mausam of Ministry of Earth Sciences (MoES).

PROBABLE MAINS QUESTION

How can Mission Mausam contribute to India's climate adaptation and aviation safety simultaneously? (150 words)

GS3 Mission Mausam SkyCast IGI Airport MoES IMD Aviation Weather

AKADEMIA TEACHING HOOK

§6 Economy

GS3 · FINANCIAL SECTOR · PENSION REFORMS

PFRDA Launches StAR NPS Platform for Digital Pension Onboarding

GS3

PRELIMS

WHY IN NEWS

PFRDA launched the 'StAR NPS' Platform on June 3, 2026 — developed by BSE Technologies Pvt. Ltd. (BTPL) — for fully digital, assisted onboarding of National Pension System (NPS) subscribers through Points of Presence (PoPs).

BACKGROUND

NPS launched 2004 (government employees), extended to all citizens 2009. PFRDA is statutory regulator under PFRDA Act 2013. StAR lets subscribers choose Pension Fund Manager, investment option, and asset allocation digitally.

PRELIMS FACTS

- StAR NPS developed by: BSE Technologies Pvt. Ltd. (BTPL), launched June 3
- Eligible: resident Indians aged 18–85 years
- PoP = Point of Presence (includes MF distributors, banks)
- PFRDA Act 2013; regulates both NPS and APY (Atal Pension Yojana)

PYQ LINKAGE

GS3 2020: India's pension sector reforms and UPS vs NPS debate

MAINS DIMENSIONS

- Digital financial inclusion: extending pension coverage to informal/gig workers
- NPS vs UPS (2025): market-linked returns vs guaranteed 50% last-pay annuity
- Data security in retirement accounts: long-term trust and cybersecurity challenge

SYLLABUS MAPPING

GS3: ECONOMY — SOCIAL SECURITY & FINANCE

PROBABLE PRELIMS MCQ

The StAR NPS Platform launched in 2026 was developed by which entity?

(a) NSDL e-Gov (b) CAMS (c) BSE Technologies Pvt. Ltd. (d) NPCI

Answer: (c) BSE Technologies Pvt. Ltd.

StAR NPS was developed by BTPL (BSE Technologies) for PFRDA's digital onboarding initiative.

PROBABLE MAINS QUESTION

How can digitisation of pension systems like StAR NPS address India's old-age social security challenge? (150 words)

GS3

PFRDA

NPS

StAR Platform

BSE Technologies

Pension

Digital Finance



AKADEMIA TEACHING HOOK

Pension trinity for Prelims: NPS (2004/2009, market-linked), APY (2015, ₹1000–5000/month guaranteed for unorganised workers), UPS (2025, 50% guaranteed for government employees). UPSC has tested all three. StAR is the digital onboarding upgrade to NPS — not a new scheme.

→ **Continue to Part II:** Environment · Places in News · Ethics & Integrity Cases · 15 Prelims MCQs · 6 Mains Questions · Answer Writing Value Addition · Direct Hit Tracker

★ 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
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7

QUESTIONS FROM
A SINGLE DOCUMENT

6

QUESTIONS FROM
A SINGLE CLASS

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

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