

THEIAS AKADEMIA · MORNING EDITION · 08:00 IST

ANTIM ASSURED 100+

PART II · ENVIRONMENT TO DIRECT HIT TRACKER

Sunday, 02 August 2026

Supreme Court Directs National Compensation Framework for Stray-Cattle Road Accidents

Why in News: A bench of Justices Sanjay Karol and N. Kotiswar Singh expressed serious concern over rising road accidents involving stray cattle, directing the Centre and states to frame a proper compensation mechanism for victims and mandating digital tagging of stray animals for tracking and vaccination.

Background: Stray-cattle-related road accidents have grown into a recurring public-safety and civic-governance issue across several states; the case arose from an appeal by Nisha, whose husband died after being attacked by a stray bull in Sangrur, Punjab, in 2007 — a nearly two-decade-old grievance that reached apex-court resolution only now.

⚡ KEY FACTS

- Ruling dated July 31, 2026; Bench: Justices Sanjay Karol and N. Kotiswar Singh.
- Directed Centre/states to create a compensation mechanism covering both pedestrian and motor-vehicle stray-cattle accidents.
- Awarded ₹15 lakh lump-sum compensation to the appellant, payable within four weeks.
- Mandated digital tagging of stray cattle to support tracking, vaccination and owner accountability.

💡 LET'S REMEMBER THIS THROUGH A TRICK

Trick: remember "tag first, compensate always" — the ruling pairs a preventive measure (digital tagging) with a remedial one (compensation mechanism), a common two-part structure in Supreme Court public-safety directions.

📄 PYQ LINKAGE

GS3 (recurring): "Animal welfare governance and civic-administration failures — judicial directions as policy triggers."

🎯 PROBABLE PRELIMS MCQ

Q. The Supreme Court's stray-cattle compensation ruling (July 31, 2026) arose from an incident in: (a) Sangrur, Punjab (b) Hisar, Haryana (c) Meerut, UP (d) Bikaner, Rajasthan. **Answer: (a).**

GS3

Stray Cattle

Animal Welfare

Civic Governance

Species in News: The Great Indian Bustard, Rajasthan's Vanishing Desert Icon

Why in News (Static Profile): With today's Cabinet approval of the PM Surya Sarovar Yojana renewing focus on India's renewable-energy expansion, this static profile of the Great Indian Bustard (GIB) — whose desert habitat faces the same power-line collision risk already flagged for solar/wind transmission infrastructure — rounds out today's energy-versus-ecology theme.

Background: The Great Indian Bustard (*Ardeotis nigriceps*) is one of the world's heaviest flying birds, once found across India's grasslands but now restricted almost entirely to the Thar Desert region of Rajasthan.

⚡ KEY FACTS

- IUCN status: Critically Endangered; listed under CITES Appendix I and Schedule I of the Wildlife (Protection) Act, 1972.
- Fewer than 150 individuals survive in the wild, overwhelmingly concentrated in Rajasthan's Desert National Park, Jaisalmer.
- The Supreme Court has previously directed undergrounding of power lines in GIB habitat to reduce fatal collisions.

- Rajasthan's state bird; Project GIB (Species Recovery Programme) supports captive breeding and habitat protection.

AKADEMIA MEMORY TRIVIA

The GIB is one of the heaviest flying birds in the world, and its collision risk with overhead power lines has made it a recurring case study in the tension between renewable-energy infrastructure expansion and wildlife conservation.

PYQ LINKAGE

GS3 2020: "What are the salient features of the Wildlife Protection Act, 1972?" (Schedule I species protection linkage)

PROBABLE PRELIMS MCQ

Q. The Great Indian Bustard is primarily found today in: (a) Kaziranga NP (b) Desert NP, Rajasthan (c) Gir NP, Gujarat (d) Corbett NP. **Answer: (b).**

GS3

Great Indian Bustard

Schedule I

Renewable Energy Trade-off

§2 · PLACES IN NEWS

PLACES IN NEWS — 02 AUGUST 2026 | ANTIM ASSURED 100+



① New Delhi (PM-KISAN, Khelo India, Surya Sarovar Yojana approvals; Gaganyaan Parliament update)

② Patna, Bihar (SC compassionate-appointment case origin) ③ Sangrur, Punjab (SC stray-cattle compensation case origin)

④ Hyderabad (Astra Microwave HQ — Uttam AESA radar contract) ⑤ Bengaluru (HAL — Tejas Mk1A production)

⑥ Jaisalmer, Rajasthan (Desert NP — Great Indian Bustard habitat)

① New Delhi

Site of three major Cabinet approvals today (PM-KISAN, Khelo India, PM Surya Sarovar Yojana) plus the Gaganyaan astronaut-technology Parliament update.

② Patna, Bihar

Origin of the compassionate-appointment case that led to the Supreme Court's Article 14 ruling on married daughters' eligibility.

③ Sangrur, Punjab

Site of the 2007 stray-bull attack that culminated in today's Supreme Court compensation-framework ruling.

④ Hyderabad, Telangana

Headquarters of Astra Microwave Products, which won the ₹2,205 crore HAL contract for Uttam AESA radar components.

⑤ Bengaluru, Karnataka

HAL's production hub for the Tejas Mk1A fighter jets that will carry the indigenous Uttam AESA radar.

⑥ Jaisalmer, Rajasthan

Home to Desert National Park, the last stronghold of the Critically Endangered Great Indian Bustard.

§3 · ETHICS & INTEGRITY CASE STUDIES

Case 1 — Gender-Neutral Interpretation of Welfare Policy

A state welfare officer implementing a compassionate-appointment scheme is asked to informally continue excluding married daughters despite the Supreme Court's ruling, citing "administrative convenience." Discuss the officer's ethical duty to align implementation with constitutional equality even before formal policy revision.

Case 2 — Civic Accountability for Public Safety

A municipal official responsible for stray-cattle management has, for years, deprioritised tagging and shelter programmes due to budget constraints, despite repeated citizen complaints about road accidents. Evaluate the ethical tension between resource scarcity and the duty of care owed to the public.

Case 3 — Integrity in Large-Scale Welfare Disbursement

An implementing officer for the extended PM-KISAN scheme discovers duplicate or ineligible beneficiary entries inflating disbursement figures ahead of a review. Discuss the ethical obligation to flag data integrity issues even when doing so may delay fund release to genuine beneficiaries.

Case 4 — Balancing Renewable Energy Goals with Conservation

An engineer surveying sites for the PM Surya Sarovar Yojana's floating solar rollout identifies a reservoir that is also an important migratory bird habitat. Discuss the ethical responsibility to flag ecological risk versus pressure to meet renewable-energy expansion targets.

Case 5 — Conflict of Interest in Defence Contracting

ARDO/HAL procurement officer evaluating radar-component bids has a distant family connection to a competing supplier. Discuss the ethical duty of disclosure and recusal in high-value defence contracting to preserve public trust.

§4 · PRELIMS MCQS (18 QUESTIONS)

1. The Supreme Court's ruling on Bihar's compassionate appointment policy primarily invoked:

(a) Article 15 (b) Article 14 (c) Article 21 (d) Article 39

Answer: (b).

2. PM-KISAN provides eligible farmer families with annual financial assistance of:

(a) ₹4,000 (b) ₹6,000 (c) ₹8,000 (d) ₹10,000

Answer: (b).

3. The revamped Khelo India Scheme and ANSF support (2026-27 to 2030-31) carries a combined outlay of:

(a) ₹29,000 crore (b) ₹36,441 crore (c) ₹52,000 crore (d) ₹84,084 crore

Answer: (b).

4. The India-UK CETA is associated with a long-term cooperation roadmap known as:

(a) Vision 2030 (b) Vision 2035 (c) Roadmap 2047 (d) Strategic Partnership 2040

Answer: (b).

5. The indigenous Uttam AESA radar is being fitted to which fighter jet?

(a) Su-30MKI (b) Tejas Mk1A (c) Rafale (d) MiG-29

Answer: (b).

6. The Bharatiya Antariksh Station's first module is targeted for launch in:

(a) 2027 (b) 2028 (c) 2030 (d) 2032

Answer: (b).

7. The PM Surya Sarovar Yojana targets floating solar capacity addition of:

(a) 2,000 MW (b) 3,500 MW (c) 5,000 MW (d) 7,500 MW

Answer: (c).

8. India's gross GST collection for July 2026 stood at approximately:

(a) ₹1.81 lakh crore (b) ₹1.95 lakh crore (c) ₹2.11 lakh crore (d) ₹2.30 lakh crore

Answer: (c).

9. The Supreme Court's stray-cattle compensation ruling (July 31, 2026) arose from an incident in:

(a) Sangrur, Punjab (b) Hisar, Haryana (c) Meerut, UP (d) Bikaner, Rajasthan

Answer: (a).

10. The Great Indian Bustard is primarily found today in:

(a) Kaziranga NP (b) Desert NP, Rajasthan (c) Gir NP, Gujarat (d) Corbett NP

Answer: (b).

11. The Great Indian Bustard is listed under which Schedule of the Wildlife (Protection) Act, 1972?

(a) Schedule I (b) Schedule II (c) Schedule III (d) Schedule IV

Answer: (a).

12. Under PM-Surya Sarovar Yojana, the Central Financial Assistance post-commissioning is:

(a) ₹50 lakh per MW (b) ₹75 lakh per MW (c) ₹1 crore per MW (d) ₹1.5 crore per MW

Answer: (c).

13. Astra Microwave Products, which won the ₹2,205 crore HAL radar contract, is headquartered in:

(a) Bengaluru (b) Hyderabad (c) Pune (d) Chennai

Answer: (b).

14. HLVM3, developed for the Gaganyaan programme, refers to India's:

(a) Human Rated Launch Vehicle (b) Heavy Lift Vehicle Mk3 (c) Hypersonic Launch Vehicle Module (d) High-altitude Lunar Vehicle Mission

Answer: (a).

15. India's floating solar installed capacity currently stands at approximately:

(a) 300 MW (b) 700 MW (c) 1,200 MW (d) 2,000 MW

Answer: (b).

16. Compassionate appointment schemes in India are primarily tested against which constitutional provision when found discriminatory?

(a) Article 14 (b) Article 16(4) (c) Article 46 (d) Article 51A

Answer: (a).

17. Khelo India's new "Feeder Schools" initiative is designed to:

(a) Fund Olympic athletes directly (b) Build a grassroots-to-elite athlete pipeline (c) Replace National Sports Federations (d) Provide only urban sports infrastructure

Answer: (b).

18. Net GST revenue (post-refunds) for July 2026 grew year-on-year by approximately:

(a) 10.1% (b) 12.5% (c) 15.8% (d) 20.2%

Answer: (c).

§5 · MAINS QUESTIONS (8 QUESTIONS)

GS2 · 150 words — Examine the Supreme Court's evolving jurisprudence on gender-neutral eligibility in compassionate appointment schemes, with reference to its recent ruling on Bihar's policy.

GS2 · 150 words — Assess the significance of extending PM-KISAN till 2030-31 for India's farm-income-security architecture.

GS2 · 150 words — Discuss how the revamped Khelo India Scheme seeks to build a continuous grassroots-to-elite sporting pipeline.

GS2 · 150 words — Evaluate the trajectory of India-UK relations since the entry into force of the CETA, in light of the Vision 2035 roadmap.

GS3 · 150 words — Discuss the significance of indigenous AESA radar development, such as the Uttam radar, for India's defence self-reliance.

GS3 · 150 words — Examine the challenges of achieving self-reliance in human-spaceflight-critical technologies for India's Gaganyaan and Bharatiya Antariksh Station programmes.

GS3 · 200 words — Critically evaluate floating solar photovoltaic schemes like the PM Surya Sarovar Yojana as a strategy for expanding renewable energy without land-use conflict.

GS3 · 150 words — Discuss the governance failures underlying India's stray-cattle road-safety crisis and the role of judicial intervention in policy formation.

§6 · ANSWER WRITING VALUE ADDITION

Quote: "Any classification differentiating a daughter from a son is, per se, unconstitutional" — Supreme Court, July 2026 — a strong citation for GS2 answers on gender-neutral constitutional interpretation.

Data point: PM-KISAN has disbursed nearly ₹4.5 lakh crore to date, with over ₹1.06 lakh crore reaching women farmers — useful for GS2 welfare-delivery answers.

Framework: "29+7=36" — Khelo India's ₹29,054 crore plus ANSF's ₹7,387 crore sum to the ₹36,441 crore headline figure, a clean numeric anchor for sports-governance answers.

Comparative note: floating solar's ₹1 crore/MW CFA rate versus land-based solar's typical viability-gap-funding model — useful to illustrate policy differentiation by technology type in GS3 energy answers.

Ecological point: the Great Indian Bustard's power-line collision risk is a recurring case study in the renewable-energy-versus-conservation trade-off — cite alongside any solar/wind expansion answer.

Statistic: GST's import-linked revenue grew nearly 29% versus 10% domestic growth in July 2026 — a nuanced data point for answers distinguishing consumption-led versus trade-led tax buoyancy.

§7 · AKADEMIA DIRECT HIT TRACKER

#	TOPIC	SECTION	GS PAPER	PROBABILITY
1	SC — Compassionate Appointment/Article 14	Part I §2	GS2	High
2	PM-KISAN Extension (2026-27 to 2030-31)	Part I §2	GS2	Very High
3	Revamped Khelo India Scheme + ANSF	Part I §2	GS2	High
4	India-UK Vision 2035 / CETA	Part I §3	GS2	Medium
5	Uttam AESA Radar — HAL/Astra Microwave	Part I §4	GS3	High
6	Indigenous Astronaut Technologies — Gaganyaan/BAS	Part I §5	GS3	Very High
7	PM Surya Sarovar Yojana — Floating Solar	Part I §6	GS3	Very High
8	GST Collections July 2026	Part I §6	GS3	Medium
9	SC — Stray Cattle Compensation Framework	Part II §1	GS3	High
10	Great Indian Bustard — Species Profile	Part II §1	GS3	Medium
11	Renewable Energy vs Wildlife Conservation Trade-off	Part II §1	GS3	High
12	Bharatiya Antariksh Station Timeline	Part I §5	GS3	High
13	Tejas Mk1A Fighter Programme	Part I §4	GS3	Medium
14	PM-KISAN Beneficiary Impact Data	Part II §6	GS2	Medium
15	Floating Solar CFA Structure	Part I §6	GS3	Medium
16	India-UK CETA Implementation	Part I §3	GS2	Medium

§8 · PROOF OF PRECISION

1. ANTIM ASSURED 100+ students had already studied compassionate-appointment jurisprudence, PM-KISAN's DBT architecture, and floating solar policy frameworks weeks before today's Cabinet approvals and Court ruling — proof of our anticipatory static-plus-current design.
2. The 30-day rotating species-profile system ensured Great Indian Bustard coverage arrived precisely when the PM Surya Sarovar Yojana made renewable-energy-versus-conservation trade-offs newly relevant.

3. Every Part I news card today carries a verified date and source lineage (PIB, LiveLaw, Bar & Bench, Business Standard) — the same rigour that delivered 48 direct hits in UPSC CSE Prelims 2026.

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48

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7

QUESTIONS FROM
A SINGLE DOCUMENT

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