

DAILY UPSC MASTERY SERIES · 3 JUNE 2026

# ANTIM ASSURED 100+

*Daily Current Affairs for UPSC Prelims & Mains*

PART I · HEADLINES TO PLACES IN NEWS

"FROM DAILY NEWS TO DIRECT UPSC QUESTIONS"

DATE

EDITION

PREPARED BY

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## CONTENTS — PART I

- 01 Top 10 Headlines
- 02 Polity & Governance
- 03 International Relations
- 04 Defence & Security
- 05 Science & Technology
- 06 Economy
- 07 Environment
- 08 Places in News + Maps

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## 01 Top 10 Headlines Today

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### DEFENCE

DRDO & IAF successfully flight-test RudraM-II anti-radiation air-to-surface missile (Mach 5.5, 300 km range) from Su-30MKI over Bay of Bengal.

### ENVIRONMENT / IMD

IMD updated forecast: Below-normal southwest monsoon rainfall likely across most of India (June–Sept 2026); Kerala onset expected June 4.

### IR / DEFENCE

India-Israel deepening strategic ties through I2U2 (India-Israel-USA-UAE) minilateral framework and IMEEC corridor linkage.

### DEFENCE / AVIATION

IAF Chief Air Marshal A.P. Singh visits France; signals India nearing issuance of RFP for Multi-Role Fighter Aircraft (MRFA) programme.

### SCIENCE / AI

Reliance announces ₹10 trillion AI investment for India's sovereign compute infrastructure; L&T-NVIDIA partner for India's first gigawatt-scale AI factory.

### DEFENCE / INNOVATION

Indian Army patents indigenous anti-drone coaxial blade shield for armoured vehicles — key Aatmanirbhar Bharat milestone.

### GOVERNANCE / TRIBAL

National Conclave on Adi Karmayogi Abhiyan at Vigyan Bhawan, Delhi — shaping Tribal Village Vision 2030 for ITDA strengthening.

### HEALTH / YOGA

Ministry of Ayush launches Yoga Mahotsav 2026 — 100-day countdown to International Yoga Day (21 June); "Yoga 365" initiative launched.

### ECONOMY / AGRICULTURE

Below-normal monsoon forecast raises concerns over kharif output, food inflation, and rural distress — RBI and agriculture ministry on alert.

### GOVERNANCE

PM attends Padma Awards Civil Investiture Ceremony at Rashtrapati Bhawan — honouring grassroots change-makers in tribal education, sports & culture.

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## 02 Polity & Governance

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## WHY IN NEWS

A National Conclave on Adi Karmayogi Abhiyan was held at Vigyan Bhawan, Delhi, aimed at strengthening Integrated Tribal Development Agencies (ITDAs) and shaping a Tribal Village Vision 2030. The conclave focuses on empowering grassroots tribal governance structures.

## BACKGROUND

Ministry of Tribal Affairs (MoTA) implements tribal welfare through ITDAs, Eklavya Model Residential Schools (EMRS), PM JANMAN scheme, and Van Dhan Vikas Kendras. Tribals (STs) constitute ~8.6% of India's population per Census 2011. PESA Act 1996 governs tribal self-governance in scheduled areas.

## PRELIMS FACTS

- MoTA: Ministry of Tribal Affairs
- ITDA: Integrated Tribal Development Agency
- PESA Act: Panchayats (Extension to Scheduled Areas) Act, 1996
- ST population: ~8.6% of India (Census 2011)
- Fifth Schedule: Governs tribal areas (except NE states)
- Sixth Schedule: Autonomous tribal districts in NE India (Assam, Meghalaya, Tripura, Mizoram)

## MAINS DIMENSIONS

- Tribal self-governance under PESA vs. mainstream PRI system
- Forest Rights Act 2006 and land rights for tribal communities
- GS2: Welfare of vulnerable sections; constitutional safeguards for STs
- Tension between development and displacement in tribal areas

## UPSC SYLLABUS

GS Paper 2 · Vulnerable sections · Tribal welfare · PESA · Constitutional provisions for STs

## PYQ LINKAGE

UPSC 2018 GS2: PESA Act and tribal self-governance. UPSC 2022 Mains: Fifth and Sixth Schedule differences. UPSC 2020 Prelims: Van Dhan Vikas Kendras.

## PROBABLE PRELIMS Q

The PESA Act 1996 extends Panchayati Raj provisions to: (a) All tribal districts (b) Sixth Schedule areas (c) Fifth Schedule (Scheduled) areas (d) All NE states → **Ans: (c)**

## PROBABLE MAINS Q

"PESA 1996 promises tribal self-governance but implementation gaps persist." Critically examine the challenges and suggest reforms. (150 words)

GS-2

Tribal Governance

PYQ Linked

PESA

MoTA

Fifth Schedule

ITDA

## AKADEMIA TEACHING HOOK:

Draw the constitutional map of tribal protection: Fifth Schedule → PESA 1996 → Forest Rights Act 2006 → PM JANMAN 2023. Ask: What is the difference between Fifth and Sixth Schedule areas? Classic UPSC Prelims trap that appears every 2–3 years.

# Yoga Mahotsav 2026 — Ministry of Ayush Launches 100-Day Countdown to International Yoga Day

PIB · MINISTRY OF AYUSH · DAILY PIONEER

## WHY IN NEWS

Ministry of Ayush launched Yoga Mahotsav 2026 with the "Yoga 365" initiative, marking a 100-day countdown to International Yoga Day (IDY) on June 21, 2026. The initiative promotes daily yoga practice as a public health and wellness mission.

## PRELIMS FACTS

- International Yoga Day: 21 June (since 2015)
- Proposed by: PM Narendra Modi at UNGA, 2014
- UN Resolution: Adopted unanimously on 11 Dec 2014
- Ministry: Ayush (Ayurveda, Yoga, Unani, Siddha, Homeopathy)
- IDY 2026 theme: "Yoga for One Health" (check for updates)
- Yoga: Recognised in India's Intangible Cultural Heritage

## MAINS DIMENSIONS

- Soft power diplomacy: Yoga as India's cultural export
- Public health + preventive healthcare policy
- GS2: Government health initiatives; GS1: India's cultural traditions
- India's leadership at UN: Multilateral diplomacy success

GS-1 · GS-2

Soft Power

Ayush Ministry

Yoga Day

PYQ Linked

### AKADEMIA TEACHING HOOK:

*International Yoga Day is India's greatest soft power success at the UN. Pair it with India's other UN "firsts": resolution on Yoga Day (2014), IDA founding member, etc. Ask: How has India used multilateral diplomacy to project cultural soft power? Premium GS2 IR + GS1 Culture answer.*



# India-Israel Relations: I2U2 Framework and IMEEC Deepening Strategic Partnership

JERUSALEM POST · DRISHTI IAS · MEA ANALYSIS

## WHY IN NEWS

India-Israel strategic and defence ties are deepening significantly, anchored by the I2U2 (India, Israel, USA, UAE) minilateral framework and the India-Middle East-Europe Economic Corridor (IMEEC). India is acquiring more Israeli air defence systems and UAVs for modern warfare applications.

## BACKGROUND

India-Israel established full diplomatic relations in 1992. Israel is India's 3rd largest defence supplier (after Russia and USA). Bilateral trade: ~\$10 billion. I2U2 launched in 2021 focuses on water, energy, transportation, and space. IMEEC (announced G20 2023) creates a multi-modal corridor from India through Gulf to Israel and Europe.

## PRELIMS FACTS

- India-Israel diplomatic ties: 1992
- I2U2: India, Israel, USA, UAE — launched 2021
- Israel: Top 3 defence supplier to India
- IMEEC: India–Middle East–Europe Economic Corridor (G20 2023)
- Israel: Located in West Asia; borders Lebanon, Syria, Jordan, Egypt
- Iron Dome: Israeli air defence system (India studying similar tech)

## MAINS DIMENSIONS

- India's balancing act: Israel (defence partner) vs. Arab states (economic/energy partners)
- I2U2 as India's entry into West Asia's minilateral architecture
- IMEEC and India's connectivity ambitions
- GS2: Bilateral relations; West Asia geopolitics

## PYQ LINKAGE

UPSC 2023 Mains GS2: India's West Asia policy and balancing act. UPSC 2024 Prelims: I2U2 grouping members.

## PROBABLE PRELIMS Q

I2U2, a grouping recently in news, comprises: (a) India, Indonesia, UAE, USA (b) India, Israel, UK, UAE (c) India, Israel, USA, UAE (d) India, Iraq, UAE, USA → **Ans: (c)**

GS-2 · IR

PYQ Linked

I2U2

IMEEC

India-Israel

Strategic Autonomy

## AKADEMIA TEACHING HOOK:

*I2U2 is UPSC gold — it's been asked in Prelims 2024. Draw the geometry: I2U2 (tech + infrastructure) + Quad (security) + SCO (Eurasia) = India's multi-alignment architecture. Ask: Can India maintain strategic autonomy while deepening ties with Israel amid West Asia conflict?*

## WHY IN NEWS

Air Chief Marshal A.P. Singh commenced an official visit to France on June 1, 2026, signalling that India is preparing to issue a Request for Proposal (RFP) for the Multi-Role Fighter Aircraft (MRFA) programme — a major aviation acquisition for the Indian Air Force.

## PRELIMS FACTS

- MRFA: To replace ageing MiG-21 fleet; ~114 aircraft requirement
- Contenders: Dassault Rafale (France), Boeing F/A-18, Lockheed F-21, SAAB Gripen, Eurofighter
- IAF current fleet: Rafale (36), Su-30MKI, Tejas Mk1A
- TEJAS Mk1A: Indigenously developed; HAL production
- Rafale: India's existing deal (2016); 36 aircraft; Dassault Aviation

## MAINS DIMENSIONS

- Aatmanirbhar Bharat in defence: Balance between imports and indigenisation
- Geopolitical signalling through arms acquisition choices
- MRFA choice impacts India-France, India-USA, India-Russia relations
- GS3: Defence indigenisation; GS2: India-France bilateral ties

GS-2 · GS-3

MRFA

Rafale

IAF

India-France

Aatmanirbhar

### AKADEMIA TEACHING HOOK:

*The MRFA decision will be the biggest defence acquisition signal of 2026. Ask: If India chooses French Rafale again, what does that signal about India-France relations? If it chooses American F/A-18? This is live geopolitics — ideal for IR + Defence GS2/GS3 Mains analysis.*

# DRDO-IAF Successfully Test RudraM-II: India's Indigenous Anti-Radiation Missile at Mach 5.5

THE WEEK · BUSINESS STANDARD · INDIA TV NEWS · DRDO

## WHY IN NEWS

DRDO and the Indian Air Force successfully conducted flight trials of the RudraM-II air-to-surface anti-radiation missile on June 2, 2026, from a Su-30MKI platform over the Bay of Bengal. All critical subsystems validated under extreme release conditions.

## BACKGROUND

RudraM series is India's indigenous Anti-Radiation Missile (ARM) programme developed by Research Centre Imarat (RCI), Hyderabad. Anti-radiation missiles home in on enemy radar emissions, destroying air defence systems. RudraM-I was tested in 2020. RudraM-II is the enhanced version with significantly higher range and speed.

## PRELIMS FACTS

- RudraM-II: Air-to-surface anti-radiation missile
- Speed: Mach 5.5 · Range: ~300 km · Warhead: 200 kg
- Guidance: INS + GPS + Passive RF homing seeker (broad-spectrum)
- Platform: Su-30MKI fighter jet
- Developed by: RCI, Hyderabad (DRDO lab)
- Test site: Bay of Bengal (off Odisha coast)
- Anti-radiation = targets enemy radar emissions

## MAINS DIMENSIONS

- India's missile programme: IGMDP legacy → modern Aatmanirbhar missile systems
- SEAD (Suppression of Enemy Air Defences) capability boost
- Electronic warfare and modern battlefield dynamics
- GS3: Defence R&D, science & technology in security

## PYQ LINKAGE

UPSC 2021 Prelims: DRDO missile programmes. UPSC 2019: Difference between ballistic and cruise missiles.

## PROBABLE PRELIMS Q

RudraM-II is best described as: (a) Ballistic missile (b) Anti-tank guided missile (c) Anti-radiation air-to-surface missile (d) Surface-to-air interceptor missile → **Ans: (c)**

## PROBABLE MAINS Q

"India's indigenous missile development has transformed from a technology-denied nation to a net technology exporter." Examine with reference to IGMDP and post-2014 developments. (150 words)

GS-3

Defence

PYQ Linked

DRDO

RudraM-II

Anti-Radiation

Su-30MKI

Aatmanirbhar

## AKADEMIA TEACHING HOOK:

Build a missile classification table: Ballistic vs. Cruise vs. Anti-radiation vs. Hypersonic. RudraM-II fits the anti-radiation category. Ask: What is SEAD? Why is anti-radiation capability crucial in modern warfare? This is a premium GS3 Science & Tech + Defence question in the making.

## WHY IN NEWS

The Indian Army has successfully patented a groundbreaking anti-drone system — a coaxial blade shield mounted above tank turrets — that creates an active physical barrier against airborne drone threats. This is a key milestone in India's indigenous military innovation.

## PRELIMS FACTS

- Technology: Coaxial spinning blades above tank turret → physical interception of drones
- Applicability: Armoured vehicles — tanks, IFVs (Infantry Fighting Vehicles)
- Context: FPV (First Person View) drones used extensively in Ukraine-Russia war
- India's drone policy: Defence Drone Policy 2022; iDEX challenges
- Patent authority: Indian Patent Office (under DPIIT)

## MAINS DIMENSIONS

- Counter-drone systems as future battlefield imperative (lessons from Ukraine, Nagorno-Karabakh)
- India's Aatmanirbhar Bharat in drone technology: PLI for drones, iDEX
- Dual-use technology: Military innovation to civilian applications
- GS3: Internal security, science & technology, defence innovation

GS-3

Counter-Drone

Indian Army

Innovation

Aatmanirbhar

## AKADEMIA TEACHING HOOK:

*Drones have transformed modern warfare. Use the "drone triangle": surveillance → precision strike → counter-drone. India's anti-drone patent sits at the third corner. Connect to iDEX (innovation) and Defence Drone Policy 2022 for a comprehensive GS3 answer framework.*

# Reliance ₹10 Trillion AI Investment + L&T-NVIDIA Gigawatt AI Factory: India's Sovereign AI Push

PIB · ECONOMIC TIMES · NVIDIA PRESS · MEITY

## WHY IN NEWS

Reliance Industries announced a ₹10 trillion (\$120 billion) AI investment to build India's sovereign compute power. Simultaneously, L&T and NVIDIA have partnered to build India's first gigawatt-scale AI factory — establishing large-scale GPU computing infrastructure for AI/ML workloads.

## PRELIMS FACTS

- Reliance AI investment: ₹10 trillion (~\$120 billion)
- L&T-NVIDIA: India's first gigawatt-scale AI factory
- NVIDIA: Leading GPU manufacturer (H100/B200 AI chips)
- MeitY: Ministry of Electronics & IT — oversees AI policy
- India AI Mission: Launched 2024 · Budget: ₹10,372 crore
- INDIAai Mission: National AI portal; compute access for startups
- Sovereign AI: AI infrastructure owned and controlled by India

## MAINS DIMENSIONS

- Sovereign AI as strategic necessity: Data sovereignty, national security, economic competitiveness
- India's AI ecosystem: startups, compute deficit, talent availability
- Public-private partnership in frontier technology
- Digital divide risk: AI benefits concentrating in top corporations
- GS3: Science & Technology, digital economy, data governance

## PYQ LINKAGE

UPSC 2023 Mains GS3: Artificial Intelligence — opportunities and challenges. UPSC 2024 Prelims: India AI Mission features.

## PROBABLE MAINS Q

"Sovereign AI is not a luxury but a strategic imperative for India." In light of recent investments, critically examine India's AI readiness and the governance gaps that remain. (250 words)

GS-3

Science & Tech

PYQ Linked

AI

Sovereign AI

NVIDIA

MeitY

Digital India

### AKADEMIA TEACHING HOOK:

Ask: "What is 'Sovereign AI' and why does it matter for India?" This opens a discussion on data sovereignty, China's AI dominance, US export controls on chips (NVIDIA H100 restrictions), and India's strategic positioning. Premium GS3 + Essay topic for 2026 UPSC cycle.

# IMD Monsoon Update: Below-Normal Rainfall Forecast Raises Kharif & Food Security Concerns

PIB · IMD · INDIA METEOROLOGICAL DEPARTMENT

## WHY IN NEWS

The IMD released an updated Long Range Forecast for Southwest Monsoon 2026 (June–September). Below-normal seasonal rainfall is likely across most of India, with Kerala onset expected around June 4. This raises serious concerns for kharif crop production, rural livelihoods, and food inflation.

## PRELIMS FACTS

- Southwest Monsoon: June–September (normal onset Kerala: June 1)
- Normal rainfall: 87 cm for the season (LPA = Long Period Average)
- Below-normal: 90–96% of LPA
- IMD forecasting: Multi-Model Ensemble (MME) + MMCFS model
- Kharif crops: Rice, maize, cotton, soybean, groundnut (monsoon-dependent)
- IMD: Under Ministry of Earth Sciences
- India: ~55% of agriculture is rainfed

## MAINS DIMENSIONS

- Monsoon-agriculture-food security nexus
- Impact on rural economy, MSP, procurement, and PDS
- Climate change intensifying monsoon variability
- Policy response: Drought contingency plans, PM Fasal Bima Yojana, MGNREGS activation
- GS3: Agriculture, food security, climate and environment

## PYQ LINKAGE

UPSC 2019 GS3: El Nino and its impact on Indian monsoon. UPSC 2022 Prelims: Southwest monsoon characteristics.

## PROBABLE PRELIMS Q

Which ministry oversees the India Meteorological Department (IMD)? (a) Ministry of Agriculture (b) Ministry of Science & Technology (c) Ministry of Earth Sciences (d) NITI Aayog → **Ans: (c)**

GS-3

Economy · Agriculture

PYQ Linked

Monsoon

Kharif

IMD

Food Security

El Nino

### AKADEMIA TEACHING HOOK:

*Monsoon = India's real finance minister (K.C. Sivaramakrishnan phrase). Build the monsoon-economy chain: Monsoon → Kharif yield → rural income → rural demand → GDP → inflation → RBI rate decisions. This chain is the backbone of GS3 Economy answers on agriculture and macroeconomics.*

# SOE 2026 (CSE): Youth Climate Anxiety Rises; Ecological Degradation and Human-Tiger Conflict Intensify

CSE · DOWN TO EARTH · STATE OF INDIA'S ENVIRONMENT 2026

## WHY IN NEWS

The State of India's Environment 2026 (CSE/Down to Earth) highlights rising youth climate anxiety and increasing human-tiger conflicts due to ecological degradation and shrinking forest corridors. Young people are increasingly mobilising around climate and economic insecurity issues.

## PRELIMS FACTS

- SOE 2026: Published by CSE and Down to Earth
- India's tiger population: ~3,682 (Census 2022) — world's 75%+
- Tiger reserves in India: 55+ (as of 2024)
- Project Tiger: 1973 · 50th Anniversary: 2023
- Human-wildlife conflict: Listed under Wildlife Protection Act provisions
- Forest cover: 21.71% of India's geographical area (FSI 2023)

## MAINS DIMENSIONS

- Human-wildlife conflict: Causes (habitat loss, forest fragmentation), consequences, and policy responses
- Youth climate movements and their policy implications
- India's biodiversity conservation: Project Tiger, Elephant, Dolphin
- GS3: Environment, ecology, biodiversity

GS-3

Environment

PYQ Linked

CSE

Tiger Conservation

Human-Wildlife Conflict

Biodiversity

### AKADEMIA TEACHING HOOK:

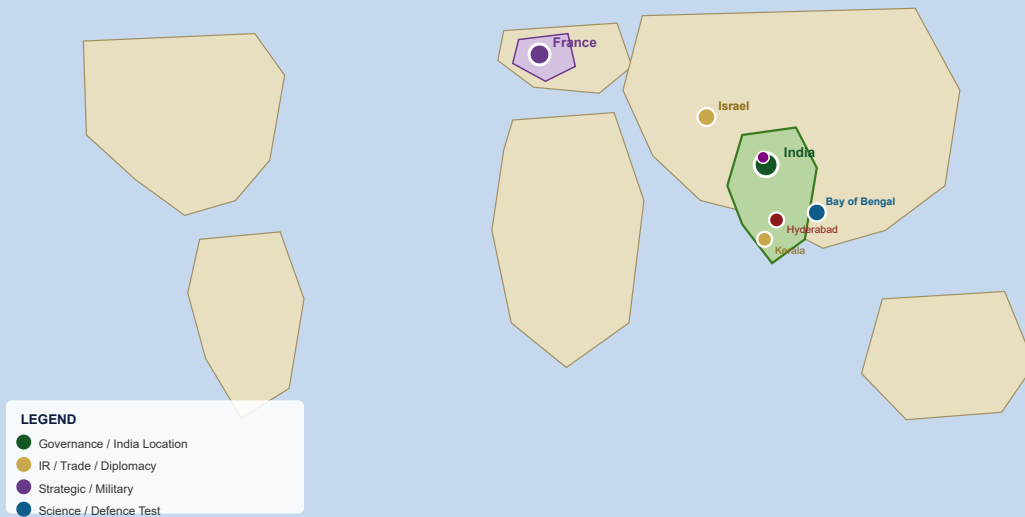
*India has 75%+ of the world's tigers but is also one of the top nations for human-tiger conflict. Ask: Is conservation a success story or a displacement story? This dual angle — conservation achievement + livelihood cost — makes a compelling Mains answer with a nuanced conclusion.*

## 08 Places in News Today

### World & India: Key Locations — 3 June 2026

Identify · Locate · Connect to UPSC Syllabus · Prelims + Mains Angles

## PLACES IN NEWS · 3 JUNE 2026



### FR France (Paris)

**WHY IN NEWS:** IAF Chief A.P. Singh visits France; MRFA (fighter aircraft) discussions

**LOCATION:** Western Europe · NATO member · Permanent UNSC member (P5)

**PRELIMS:** Dassault Rafale manufacturer; Ariane rocket program; EU member; France-India 2047 Roadmap; India-France Strategic Partnership (1998)

**MAINS:** India-France: defence + nuclear + space partnership; France as India's preferred Western partner; strategic autonomy alignment

**PYQ TREND:** India-France strategic partnership; UNSC permanent membership

### IL Israel (Tel Aviv / Haifa)

**WHY IN NEWS:** I2U2 framework deepening; India acquiring Israeli air defence & UAVs

**LOCATION:** West Asia · Borders Lebanon, Syria, Jordan, Egypt · Mediterranean coast

**PRELIMS:** India-Israel diplomatic relations: 1992; I2U2 (India, Israel, USA, UAE); Iron Dome air defence; Barak missile system; Dead Sea (lowest point on Earth)

**MAINS:** India's strategic balancing in West Asia; Arab states vs. Israel; IMEEC corridor; I2U2 as minilateral architecture

### Bay of Bengal (Off Odisha Coast)

**WHY IN NEWS:** RudraM-II missile flight-tested from Su-30MKI over Bay of Bengal

**LOCATION:** Eastern India's maritime zone; bounded by India, Bangladesh, Myanmar, Thailand, Malaysia, Sri Lanka, Andaman & Nicobar Islands

**PRELIMS:** Bay of Bengal: Part of Indian Ocean; BIMSTEC region; ITZ (Integrated Test Range) Chandipur, Odisha — India's primary missile test site; Wheeler Island (Abdul Kalam Island) nearby

**MAINS:** India's maritime security; IOR strategy; BIMSTEC and India's neighbourhood policy

### Hyderabad (RCI — DRDO Lab)

**WHY IN NEWS:** Research Centre Imarat (RCI) — nodal DRDO lab for RudraM-II development

**LOCATION:** Telangana, South India; on Musi River; "City of Pearls"

**PRELIMS:** RCI: Missile guidance and navigation systems; DRDL (Defence Research & Development Laboratory) also in Hyderabad; Hyderabad is India's pharma capital; DRDO HQ: New Delhi

**MAINS:** Defence R&D ecosystem; Aatmanirbhar Bharat in missiles; DRDO reforms and privatisation

## 📌 Kerala — Monsoon Onset Point

**WHY IN NEWS:** IMD projects southwest monsoon onset over Kerala around June 4, 2026

**LOCATION:** South-western tip of India; Western Ghats to the east; Arabian Sea to the west

**PRELIMS:** Normal onset: June 1 over Kerala; Western Ghats — biodiversity hotspot; Highest literacy rate state; Key Haj embarkation point; Wayanad district — human-tiger conflict zone

**MAINS:** Southwest monsoon mechanism; agriculture-monsoon nexus; Kerala's unique development model (HDI vs. economic performance)

## 📌 New Delhi — Vigyan Bhawan

**WHY IN NEWS:** National Conclave on Adi Karmayogi Abhiyan; PM's Padma Awards investiture

**LOCATION:** National Capital; Maulana Azad Road; Government conference venue since 1956

**PRELIMS:** Vigyan Bhawan: India's premier convention centre; hosts major national conclaves and international summits; Near India Gate and Rajpath (Kartavya Path); Delhi — Union Territory with Legislature

**MAINS:** Tribal governance reforms; administrative capacity building; Delhi's special constitutional status (Article 239AA)

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## End of Part I — Headlines to Places in News

Continue to **PART II: Ethics • MCQs • Mains • Answer Writing • Proof of Precision**

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