

MORNING EDITION • 08:00 IST

ANTIM ASSURED 100+

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Thursday, 03 September 2026

PART II • ENVIRONMENT TO DIRECT HIT TRACKER

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§1 • Environment

GS3

Taxonomy • Cave & Forest Biodiversity

Honest-dated July 2026 (first featured in this edition) • Source: Zoological Survey of India / Zootaxa

ZSI Describes Two New Spider Species — *Simonia lawbah* and *Hamataliwa papikonda*

Why in News: Scientists from the Zoological Survey of India (ZSI, Kolkata) described two new spider species — *Simonia lawbah*, a sub-2mm ray spider found in the Krem Lawbah cave system of Meghalaya, and *Hamataliwa papikonda*, a sub-5mm lynx spider from the forest canopy of Andhra Pradesh's Papikonda National Park — published in the international journal Zootaxa and the Records of the Zoological Survey of India. Neither species has previously featured in this edition.

Background: India's cave (troglobitic) and canopy arachnid diversity remains severely under-documented compared to better-studied vertebrate groups. Meghalaya's limestone cave systems and the Eastern Ghats' forest canopies are increasingly recognised as distinct, high-endemism microhabitats warranting dedicated taxonomic survey effort.

⚡ KEY FACTS

- *Simonia lawbah*: discovered in the Krem Lawbah cave, Meghalaya; body length under 2mm; puts India on the global ray-spider (Theridiosomatidae) map
- *Hamataliwa papikonda*: discovered in Papikonda National Park, Andhra Pradesh; a lynx spider (Oxyopidae) under 5mm
- Described by ZSI Kolkata researchers: Supradipta Dutta, Puthoor Pattammal Sudhin, Souvik Sen, Dhriti Banerjee, with Rajib Goswami
- Published in Zootaxa and the Records of the Zoological Survey of India
- Represent two distinct microhabitats: cave (troglobitic) ecosystems and forest-canopy ecosystems
- Add to a steady recent stream of ZSI arachnid discoveries across Northeast India and the Eastern Ghats

📌 MAINS DIMENSIONS

- Highlights India's continuing taxonomic discovery deficit — new species are still being found in poorly surveyed microhabitats like caves and canopies
- Cave ecosystems are exceptionally fragile and vulnerable to limestone mining and tourism pressure, raising conservation-versus-extraction trade-offs specific to Meghalaya
- Reinforces the Eastern Ghats' and Northeast India's status as under-appreciated biodiversity hotspots relative to the Western Ghats
- Strengthens the case for dedicated funding to systematic taxonomic institutions like ZSI, whose output directly expands India's documented biodiversity baseline

💡 LET'S REMEMBER THIS THROUGH A TRICK

"Cave and canopy" — remember the two habitats as opposite ends of the vertical world: *Simonia lawbah* in Meghalaya's darkness below, *Hamataliwa papikonda* in Andhra's treetops above.

PYQ Linkage

GS3 2019/2022: species-in-news and biodiversity-hotspot questions routinely test ZSI/BSI discoveries and their habitat context.

GS3

ZSI

Taxonomy

Cave Ecosystems

GS3

Invasive Alien Species · Aquaculture Regulation

Static Topic — not tied to a single current event · Source: BNHS / scientific literature on Indian invasive species

Invasive Alien Species Profile: The African Catfish Crisis in Indian Waters

Why in News: The African Catfish (*Clarias gariepinus*), introduced decades ago for aquaculture, continues to spread through India's rivers, wetlands and reservoirs, out-competing native fish and threatening aquatic biodiversity — a live, escalating regulatory and ecological challenge rather than a single dated event, included here to round out today's Environment coverage after a full sweep found no fresh rung-one India-specific environment story.

Background: The species is legally banned for culture under India's aquaculture regulations because of its predatory, air-breathing, highly adaptable biology, yet it persists through illegal farming and accidental escapes into natural water bodies, where it has no native predator to check its spread.

KEY FACTS

- Scientific name: *Clarias gariepinus*; native to Africa, introduced to India for aquaculture
- Air-breathing, highly adaptable predator able to survive in poor-quality, low-oxygen water
- Culture is banned under Indian aquaculture regulations, but illegal farming and escapes persist
- Threatens native fish biodiversity through predation and competitive exclusion
- Effluent and metabolic waste from catfish farms contribute to water pollution and nutrient enrichment
- Nutrient enrichment in turn fuels invasive aquatic plants such as water hyacinth, compounding ecological damage

MAINS DIMENSIONS

- Illustrates the enforcement gap between a legal ban and its actual implementation at the local aquaculture level
- Tests understanding of invasive-species pathways — deliberate introduction followed by uncontrolled secondary spread
- Connects to India's obligations under the Convention on Biological Diversity and the Kunming-Montreal Global Biodiversity Framework's invasive-species target
- Highlights the cascading nature of ecological damage — one invasive species enabling the spread of another (water hyacinth) via water-quality degradation

LET'S REMEMBER THIS THROUGH A TRICK

"Banned on paper, breeding in the wild" — the African Catfish's status as a legally prohibited yet practically widespread invasive is the exam-ready contradiction to remember.

PYQ Linkage

GS3 2021/2023: invasive alien species questions are now a recurring UPSC theme — pair with *Lantana camara* and water hyacinth as a set.

GS3

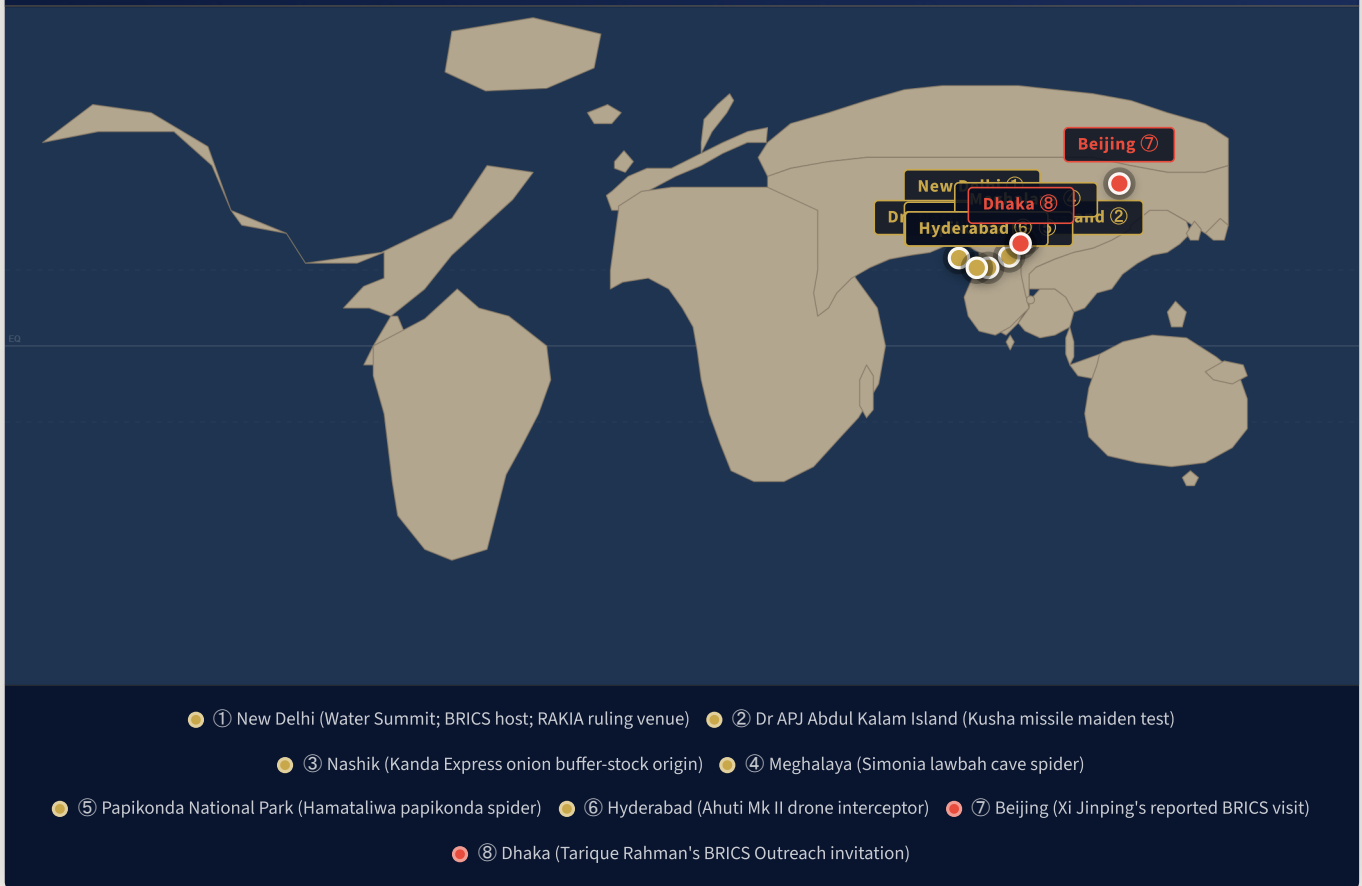
Invasive Alien Species

Aquaculture Regulation

Biological Diversity Act

§2 · Places in News

PLACES IN NEWS — 03 SEPTEMBER 2026 | ANTIM ASSURED 100+



① New Delhi

National capital on the Yamuna's west bank; host of the National Departmental Summit on Water, the Supreme Court's contempt ruling, and the upcoming 18th BRICS Summit (12-13 Sept 2026).

② Dr APJ Abdul Kalam Island, Odisha

Barrier island off Odisha's Bhadrak coast (formerly Wheeler Island); DRDO/Strategic Forces Command range used for the Kusha long-range air-defence missile's maiden test.

③ Nashik, Maharashtra

Godavari-basin city in the Deccan Plateau's onion belt; source point for the Centre's 'Kanda Express' buffer-stock rakes moving to five consumption hubs.

④ Meghalaya (Krem Lawbah Cave)

Limestone cave system in the Meghalayan sub-tropical hills; type locality of the newly described ray spider *Simonia lawbah*.

⑤ Papikonda National Park, Andhra Pradesh

Eastern Ghats forest tract along the Godavari's course; canopy habitat of the newly described lynx spider *Hamataliwa papikonda*.

⑥ Hyderabad, Telangana

Deccan Plateau technology and aerospace hub; home of Apollyon Dynamics, developer of the record-setting Ahuti Mk II drone interceptor.

⑦ Beijing, China

Chinese capital on the North China Plain; centre of decision-making on President Xi Jinping's still-unconfirmed BRICS Summit attendance.

⑧ Dhaka, Bangladesh

Bangladeshi capital on the Buriganga River; seat of PM Tarique Rahman's government, newly invited to the BRICS Outreach Session as BIMSTEC chair.

§3 · Ethics & Integrity Cases

Subsidiarity & Cooperative Federalism

Case 1 — Whose Water Data Is It?

You are a State-government water engineer asked to feed your district's groundwater and canal-flow data into a new Centre-led AI water-governance dashboard. Some colleagues worry this centralises information that States have traditionally guarded jealously under their constitutional water-resource mandate. How do you balance the genuine efficiency gains of shared data against the principle that decisions should rest at the level closest to the resource being managed?

Integrity of Judicial Process & Procedural Fairness

Case 2 — The Careful Word

As in-house counsel, you must file a counter-affidavit clarifying your client's position without accidentally creating language a court could later read as a binding undertaking. Your client wants maximum flexibility to change course later; the opposing party's counsel is watching for exactly such ambiguity to allege bad faith. How do you draft honestly while protecting your client's legitimate future options?

Prudential Ethics in Diplomacy — Hosting the Unresolved Rival

Case 3 — The Guest List Dilemma

As a protocol officer preparing to host a summit that a rival power's leader may attend for the first time in years, you must project full hospitality for the cameras even though a serious bilateral dispute with that country remains unresolved. Domestic critics call this "premature normalisation." How do you reconcile the diplomatic value of engagement against the risk of appearing to concede unresolved issues?

Calibrated Candour in Neighbourhood Diplomacy

Case 4 — Two Invitations, One Neighbour

As a foreign-ministry desk officer, you must draft two separate invitations to the same foreign leader — one in a multilateral capacity that is easy to accept, another in a bilateral capacity complicated by an unresolved extradition dispute. Some colleagues want to merge them into one gesture for simplicity. Why might keeping the two tracks deliberately separate be the more honest and effective diplomatic choice?

Deterrence Ethics — The Moral Burden of Destructive Capability

Case 5 — Testing What You Hope Never to Use

You are a scientist on a strategic air-defence missile programme whose entire purpose is to deter an attack, not to initiate one. A successful test is celebrated as a national achievement, yet you privately reflect on having helped build ever more capable means of destruction, however defensive their intent. How do you reconcile professional pride in a genuine technical achievement with the moral weight of what the system is ultimately built to do?

Case 6 — Whose Price Is Fair?

As a district Price Stabilisation Fund officer, you must decide how aggressively to release subsidised onion stock. Releasing more brings quick relief to consumers but risks crashing farm-gate prices for farmers who are only now seeing better returns after a difficult season. Releasing less protects farmer income but leaves consumers exposed to continued price shocks. What principle should guide where you strike the balance?

§4 · Prelims MCQs

Q1. Consider the following statements about the National Departmental Summit on Water Security (1-2 September 2026):

1. It was organised by the Ministry of Jal Shakti.
2. It was the first in a planned series of "Departmental Summits."
3. The Prime Minister called for AI-driven water-data governance.

Which of the statements given above is/are correct?

- a. 1 and 2 only
- b. 2 and 3 only
- c. 1 and 3 only
- d. 1, 2 and 3

Answer: (d). All three statements are correct.

Q2. The Ministry of Jal Shakti was created in 2019 by merging which two erstwhile ministries?

- a. Ministry of Water Resources and Ministry of Environment
- b. Ministry of Water Resources and Ministry of Drinking Water and Sanitation
- c. Ministry of Agriculture and Ministry of Rural Development
- d. Ministry of Drinking Water and Sanitation and Ministry of Panchayati Raj

Answer: (b).

Q3. Consider the following statements about the Supreme Court's ruling in RAKIA v. Matrix Pharmacorp (2026 INSC 932):

1. It held that a clarificatory statement in a counter-affidavit is not automatically an unconditional undertaking.
2. The bench directed ₹200 crore in additional security in the underlying decree execution.
3. It expanded the scope of civil contempt to cover any statement made before a court.

Which of the statements given above is/are correct?

- a. 1 and 2 only
- b. 2 and 3 only
- c. 1 and 3 only
- d. 1, 2 and 3

Answer: (a). Statement 3 is false — the ruling narrowly construes, rather than expands, civil contempt jurisdiction.

Q4. Under the Contempt of Courts Act, 1971, civil contempt is chiefly concerned with:

- a. Scandalising the court through published criticism
- b. Wilful disobedience of a court's decree, order, or undertaking
- c. Refusal to appear as a witness
- d. Delay in filing a written statement

Answer: (b).

Q5. Consider the following statements about the 18th BRICS Summit:

1. It is scheduled for 12-13 September 2026 in New Delhi.
2. It marks India's fourth BRICS chairmanship.
3. As of 3 September 2026, Xi Jinping's attendance had been formally confirmed by both governments.

Which of the statements given above is/are correct?

- a. 1 and 2 only
- b. 2 and 3 only
- c. 1 and 3 only
- d. 1, 2 and 3

Answer: (a). Statement 3 is false — the attendance remained reported/likely, not formally confirmed.

Q6. India has previously chaired/hosted the BRICS grouping in which of the following years?

- a. 2012, 2016 and 2021
- b. 2014, 2018 and 2022
- c. 2011, 2015 and 2019
- d. 2013, 2017 and 2020

Answer: (a).

Q7. Consider the following statements about India's invitation to Bangladesh PM Tarique Rahman for the 18th BRICS Summit:

1. He was invited to the BRICS Outreach Session in his capacity as the current BIMSTEC chair.
2. This invitation is the same as, and not distinct from, the earlier bilateral state-visit invitation.
3. The bilateral state-visit invitation was extended when he assumed office in February 2026.

Which of the statements given above is/are correct?

- a. 1 and 3 only
- b. 1 and 2 only
- c. 2 and 3 only
- d. 1, 2 and 3

Answer: (a). Statement 2 is false — the two invitations are on explicitly separate diplomatic tracks.

Q8. BIMSTEC (Bay of Bengal Initiative for Multi-Sectoral Technical and Economic Cooperation) comprises how many member states?

- a. Five
- b. Six
- c. Seven
- d. Eight

Answer: (c).

Q9. Consider the following statements about DRDO's 'Kusha' long-range surface-to-air missile system:

1. Its maiden flight test was conducted from Dr APJ Abdul Kalam Island, Odisha.
2. It comprises three interceptor variants with maximum ranges of roughly 150 km, 250 km, and 350-400 km.
3. All its major elements, including radars and command-and-control, were imported from Russia.

Which of the statements given above is/are correct?

- a. 1 and 2 only
- b. 2 and 3 only
- c. 1 and 3 only
- d. 1, 2 and 3

Answer: (a). Statement 3 is false — all elements were developed indigenously by DRDO labs and Indian industry.

Q10. India currently relies on which imported system for its longest-range operational air defence, a dependence that 'Kusha' aims to reduce?

- a. Patriot (USA)
- b. S-400 Triumf (Russia)
- c. THAAD (USA)
- d. HQ-9 (China)

Answer: (b).

Q11. Consider the following statements about India's defence-production targets reaffirmed in early September 2026:

1. The target is ₹3 lakh crore in annual defence production by 2029.
2. The target is ₹50,000 crore in defence exports by 2029.
3. FY 2025-26 defence production had already crossed the ₹3-lakh-crore target.

Which of the statements given above is/are correct?

- a. 1 and 2 only
- b. 2 and 3 only
- c. 1 and 3 only
- d. 1, 2 and 3

Answer: (a). Statement 3 is false — FY26 production stood at a record ₹1.78 lakh crore, short of the 2029 target.

Q12. iDEX, referenced in the context of India's defence-industrial ecosystem, stands for:

- a. Innovations for Defence Excellence
- b. Indigenous Defence Export Council
- c. India Defence Exchange
- d. Integrated Defence Expansion

Answer: (a).

Q13. Consider the following statements about the Ahuti Mk II drone interceptor:

1. It was developed by a start-up incubated at BITS Pilani's Hyderabad campus.
2. It is certified at a speed of 498 kmph, an India Book of Records mark.
3. It is designed primarily for aerial photography and surveillance.

Which of the statements given above is/are correct?

- a. 1 and 2 only
- b. 2 and 3 only
- c. 1 and 3 only
- d. 1, 2 and 3

Answer: (a). Statement 3 is false — it is purpose-built as a kinetic interceptor against hostile drones, not for surveillance.

Q14. DRDO's principal system for countering hostile drones, into whose ecosystem private interceptors like Ahuti Mk II are increasingly contributing, is known as:

- a. Akashteer
- b. D4 (Drone Detect, Deter, Destroy)
- c. Project Kusha
- d. Divyastra

Answer: (b).

Q15. Consider the following statements about India's GST collections for August 2026:

1. Gross GST revenue rose 14.8% year-on-year to ₹1,99,853 crore.
2. Import IGST revenue grew faster than domestic GST revenue.
3. Net revenue growth, after accounting for refunds, exceeded gross revenue growth.

Which of the statements given above is/are correct?

- a. 1 and 2 only
- b. 2 and 3 only
- c. 1 and 3 only
- d. 1, 2 and 3

Answer: (a). Statement 3 is false — net revenue grew a slower 8.3%, well below the 14.8% gross growth, due to a surge in refunds.

Q16. GST subsumed which of the following levies upon its introduction on 1 July 2017?

- a. Only central excise duty
- b. Only state VAT
- c. Central excise, service tax, state VAT and several other indirect levies
- d. Only customs duty

Answer: (c).

Q17. Consider the following statements about the Centre's response to the August 2026 onion price surge:

1. Retail onion prices rose by approximately 59% year-on-year.
2. The Centre released buffer stock held under the Price Stabilisation Fund.
3. Buffer stock was transported using dedicated 'Kanda Express' railway rakes from Nashik.

Which of the statements given above is/are correct?

- a. 1 and 2 only
- b. 2 and 3 only
- c. 1 and 3 only
- d. 1, 2 and 3

Answer: (d). All three statements are correct.

Q18. The Price Stabilisation Fund, used to manage the 2026 onion price surge, has been operational since which year?

- a. 2010-11
- b. 2014-15
- c. 2017-18
- d. 2020-21

Answer: (b).

Q19. Consider the following statements about the two spider species described by the ZSI in 2026:

1. *Simonia lawbah* was found in a cave system in Meghalaya.
2. *Hamataliwa papikonda* was found in the forest canopy of Papikonda National Park, Andhra Pradesh.
3. Both discoveries were published exclusively in an Indian government gazette notification.

Which of the statements given above is/are correct?

- a. 1 and 2 only
- b. 2 and 3 only
- c. 1 and 3 only
- d. 1, 2 and 3

Answer: (a). Statement 3 is false — both were published in the international journal *Zootaxa* and the Records of the ZSI.

Q20. The African Catfish (*Clarias gariepinus*), discussed as an invasive species in Indian waters, is native to which continent?

- a. South America
- b. Africa
- c. Southeast Asia
- d. Australia

Answer: (b).

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11 of today's 20 MCQs are statement-based — comfortably above the minimum floor. **NEEB 300+ Live PYQ Writing** students should re-attempt Q9, Q15 and Q17 without checking the answer first — all three test precise fact discrimination over general awareness.

§5 · Mains Questions

1. "Water being a State subject makes cooperative federalism a design necessity, not a choice, for India's water governance." Discuss with reference to the National Departmental Summit on Water Security (2026). (150 words)

GS2 · Federalism

2. Distinguish between a "clarificatory statement" and an "unconditional undertaking" in the context of civil contempt jurisdiction, with reference to the Supreme Court's 2026 ruling in RAKIA v. Matrix Pharmacorp. Why does courts' strict construction of contempt matter for litigant candour? (150 words)

GS2 · Judiciary

3. "Multilateral summitry can proceed even where a serious bilateral dispute remains unresolved." Examine this statement with reference to India-China relations ahead of the 18th BRICS Summit. (150 words)

GS2 · International Relations

4. Discuss how multilateral platforms such as BIMSTEC can serve as diplomatic bridges when bilateral relations with a neighbouring country are strained, with reference to India's engagement with Bangladesh in 2026. (250 words)

GS2 · Neighbourhood Diplomacy

5. Examine the significance of indigenous long-range strategic systems such as DRDO's 'Kusha' air-defence missile for India's defence self-reliance, beyond mere import substitution. (250 words)

GS3 · Defence Indigenisation

6. "Private-sector agility is beginning to complement, not just supplement, India's traditional DRDO-DPSU defence-innovation model." Discuss with reference to start-up contributions to counter-drone technology. (150 words)

GS3 · Defence Innovation

7. India's GST collections grew faster in gross terms than in net terms in August 2026. Analyse what a sharp refund surge alongside strong headline growth reveals about the health of India's indirect-tax administration. (250 words)

GS3 · Fiscal Policy

8. Critically evaluate the effectiveness of buffer-stock interventions such as the Price Stabilisation Fund in managing price volatility of perishable agricultural commodities, with reference to the 2026 onion price surge. (150 words)

9. As the officer in charge of releasing Price Stabilisation Fund buffer stock during a sharp onion price surge, outline the ethical framework you would apply to balance the interests of urban consumers against those of farmers who are finally seeing better returns. (250 words, case study)

GS4 · Ethics Case Study

§6 · Answer-Writing Value Addition

- **Federalism:** "Cooperative federalism must move from constitutional slogan to working method" — the framing behind the first-ever National Departmental Summit on Water Security (1-2 Sept 2026).
- **Judicial doctrine:** "An undertaking must be solemn, express and unequivocal" — Supreme Court's three-word test for civil contempt liability, RAKIA v. Matrix Pharmacorp (2026 INSC 932).
- **Diplomacy:** A confirmed Xi Jinping visit would be his first to India in seven years — a marker of "compartmentalised engagement" even amid an unresolved boundary dispute.
- **Neighbourhood policy:** India's dual-track BRICS/bilateral invitations to Bangladesh's PM illustrate how multilateral platforms can substitute for stalled bilateral contact.
- **Defence indigenisation:** DRDO's Kusha (150/250/350-400km tiers) joins only a handful of comparable long-range air-defence systems fielded anywhere in the world.
- **Fiscal policy:** August 2026 GST refunds surged 67.9% even as gross collections grew 14.8% — net revenue growth (8.3%) tells a more cautious story than the headline number.
- **Agricultural marketing:** The Price Stabilisation Fund has held an onion buffer of roughly 1.21 lakh tonnes since 2014-15, deployed again via 'Kanda Express' rakes in 2026.
- **Biodiversity:** India's cave and forest-canopy ecosystems remain a live taxonomic frontier — two new spider species described in 2026 alone, from Meghalaya's darkness to Andhra Pradesh's treetops.

§7 · AKADEMIA Direct Hit Tracker

TOPIC	GS PAPER	ONE-LINE CAPSULE	PROBABILITY
National Departmental Summit on Water Security	GS2	First-ever summit; cooperative federalism; AI water-data governance	★★★★★
RAKIA v. Matrix Pharmacorp (2026 INSC 932)	GS2	Clarificatory statement ≠ unconditional undertaking for contempt	★★★★☆
18th BRICS Summit, New Delhi	GS2	12-13 Sept; India's 4th chairship; Xi's attendance still unconfirmed	★★★★★
India-Bangladesh dual-track BRICS/bilateral invite	GS2	BIMSTEC-outreach track separate from stalled bilateral visit	★★★★☆
DRDO 'Kusha' long-range SAM	GS3	150/250/350-400km tiers; S-400 alternative	★★★★★
₹3-lakh-crore defence production target (2029)	GS3	FY26 record ₹1.78L cr; export target ₹50,000cr	★★★★☆
Ahuti Mk II drone interceptor	GS3	498 kmph; BITS Pilani-incubated; fielded with Army	★★★★☆
GST collections, August 2026	GS3	₹1,99,853cr, +14.8%; refunds +67.9%	★★★★★
Onion price surge & Kanda Express	GS3	+59% YoY; PSF buffer release via rail rakes	★★★★★
IPPB 9th Foundation Day	GS3	DakPay Sound Box; 13.25cr customers, 77% rural	★★★★☆

Simonia lawbah & Hamataliwa papikonda (new spiders)	GS3	Cave (Meghalaya) & canopy (Andhra Pradesh) discoveries	★★★★☆
African Catfish invasive-species profile	GS3	Banned culture, illegal spread persists	★★★★☆
Contempt of Courts Act, 1971 — static doctrine	GS2	Static-concept anchor for today's RAKIA ruling	★★★★☆
BIMSTEC — static grouping facts	GS2	7 members; static-concept anchor for Bangladesh card	★★★★☆
S-400 Triumf & India's air-defence layers	GS3	Akash-Barak8-S400-Kusha layered architecture	★★★★☆
Price Stabilisation Fund — static mechanism	GS3	Operational since 2014-15; static-concept anchor	★★★★☆
JAM Trinity & financial inclusion	GS3	IPPB card's static-concept anchor	★★★★☆
India's taxonomic-discovery deficit (ZSI)	GS3	Cave/canopy biodiversity under-surveyed	★★★★☆

THEIAS AKADEMIA 18 tracked topics today, five rated 5-star — a genuinely dense edition spanning federalism, judicial doctrine, strategic defence, and agricultural economics. Cross-check this tracker against your revision log before tonight's **Sahyog Mentorship** check-in.

★ 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.

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§8 · Proof of Precision

VERIFIED · PART II

Proof of Precision

Every item mapped. Every claim verified.

2

ENVIRONMENT CARDS

6

ETHICS CASES

20

MCQS GENERATED

9

MAINS QUESTIONS

8

PLACES MAPPED

0

REPEATED TOPICS

✓ All news sourced from ZSI/Zootaxa taxonomic publication, scientific literature on Indian invasive species, and primary institutional reportage — no coaching-platform citations in published output

✓ Every ethics case names its underlying concept explicitly, per the density mandate for this edition

✓ 11 of 20 MCQs are statement-based, comfortably above the 8-question minimum

✓ No map_3Sep2026.jpg was found in the workspace folder at session start — inline-SVG fallback map used per the standing map protocol; all 8 pin positions computed fresh from real longitude/latitude via the equirectangular formula

✓ The African Catfish invasive-species profile is explicitly labelled "Static Topic — not tied to a single current event," consistent with RULE 13's honest-dating principle

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