

CIRCULAR LEARNINGS

UPSC CSE PREPARATION

UPSC CSE Mains GS Papers I–IV PYQ Collection

2013 – 2026 · Organised by GS Paper › Topic › Syllabus Point
Sorted year-wise within every syllabus point

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GS Paper I

History, Culture, Society & Geography · 291 PYQs

Art and Culture

Indian Culture- Salient aspects of Art Forms, Literature and Architecture from ancient to modern times.

2013 Discuss the Tandava dance as recorded in the early Indian inscriptions. [10m]

2013 Chola architecture represents a high watermark in the evolution of temple architecture. Discuss. [10m]

2013 Though not very useful from the point of view of a connected political history of South India, the Sangam literature portrays the social and economic conditions of its time with remarkable vividness. Comment. [10m]

2014 Sufis and medieval mystic saints failed to modify either the religious ideas and practices or the outward structure of Hindu/Muslim societies to any appreciable extent. Comment. [10m]

2014 Gandhara sculpture owed as much to the Romans as to the Greeks. Explain. [10m]

2014 To what extent has the urban planning and culture of the Indus Valley Civilization provided inputs to the present day urbanization? Discuss. [10m]

2014 Taxila university was one of the oldest universities of the world with which were associated a number of renowned learned personalities of different disciplines. Its strategic location caused its fame to flourish, but unlike Nalanda, it is not considered as a university in the modern sense. Discuss. [10m]

2015 The ancient civilization in Indian sub-continent differed from those of Egypt, Mesopotamia and Greece in that its culture and traditions have been preserved without a breakdown to the present day. Comment. [12.5m]

2015 Mesolithic rock cut architecture of India not only reflects the cultural life of the times but also a fine aesthetic sense comparable to modern painting. Critically evaluate this comment. [12.5m]

2016 Early Buddhist Stupa-art, while depicting folk motifs and narratives successfully expounds Buddhist ideals. Elucidate. [12.5m]

2016 Krishnadeva Raya, the King of Vijayanagar, was not only an accomplished scholar himself but was also a great patron of learning and literature. Discuss. [12.5m]

2017 How do you justify the view that the level of excellence of Gupta numismatic art is not at all noticeable in later times? [10m]

2018 Safeguarding the Indian art heritage is the need of the moment. Discuss. [10m]

2018 The Bhakti movement received a remarkable re-orientation with the advent of Sri Chaitanya Mahaprabhu. Discuss. [15m]

- 2018** Assess the importance of the accounts of the Chinese and Arab travellers in the reconstruction of the history of India. [10m]
- 2019** Highlight the Central Asian and Greco -Bactrian elements in Gandhara art. [10m]
- 2020** Indian philosophy and tradition played a significant role in conceiving and shaping the monuments and their art in India. Discuss. [15m]
- 2020** Pala period is the most significant phase in the history of Buddhism in India. Enumerate. [10m]
- 2020** The rock-cut architecture represents one of the most important sources of our knowledge of early Indian art and history. Discuss. [10m]
- 2020** Persian literary sources of medieval India reflect the spirit of the age. Comment. [15m]
- 2021** Evaluate the nature of the Bhakti literature and its contribution to Indian culture. [10m]
- 2022** Discuss the main contributions of Gupta period and Chola period to Indian heritage and culture. [15m]
- 2022** How will you explain that medieval Indian temple sculptures represent the social life of those days? [10m]
- 2022** Discuss the significance of the lion and bull figures in Indian mythology, art and architecture. [15m]
- 2023** What are the main features of Vedic society and religion? Do you think some of the features are still prevailing in Indian society? [15m]
- 2023** What were the major technological changes introduced during the Sultanate period? How did those technological changes influence the Indian society? [15m]
- 2023** Explain the role of geographical factors towards the development of Ancient India. [10m]
- 2024** Underline the changes in the field of society and economy from the Rig Vedic to the later Vedic period. [10m]
- 2024** Estimate the contribution of Pallavas of Kanchi for the development of art and literature of South India. [10m]
- 2024** “Though the great Cholas are no more yet their name is still remembered with great pride because of their highest achievements in the domain of art and architecture.” Comment. [15m]
- 2025** Discuss the salient features of the Harappan architecture. [10m]
- 2025** ‘The sculptors filled the Chandella artform with resilient vigor and breadth of life.’ Elucidate. [10m]
- 2025** Examine the main aspects of Akbar’s religious syncretism. [10m]
- 2026** Analyze the importance of Ashokan inscriptions for reconstructing Mauryan history. [10m]

2026 Vijayanagara architecture exemplifies the amalgamation of past traditions with contemporary practices. Elucidate with examples. [15m]

Modern History

Modern Indian History- Mid-18th century - Present (significant events, personalities, issues);

2013 In many ways, Lord Dalhousie was the founder of modern India. Elaborate. [10m]

2014 Examine critically the various facets of economic policies of the British in India from mid-eighteenth century till independence. [10m]

2014 In what ways did the naval mutiny prove to be the last nail in the coffin of British colonial aspirations in India? [10m]

2014 The third battle of Panipat was fought in 1761. Why were so many empire-shaking battles fought at Panipat? [10m]

2015 How different would have been the achievement of Indian independence without Mahatma Gandhi? Discuss. [12.5m]

2015 Mahatma Gandhi and Dr. B.R. Ambedkar, despite having divergent approaches and strategies, had a common goal of amelioration of the downtrodden. Elucidate. [12.5m]

2016 Highlight the differences in the approach of Subhash Chandra Bose and Mahatma Gandhi in the struggle for freedom. [12.5m]

2016 Explain how the Uprising of 1857 constitutes an important watershed in the evolution of British policies towards colonial India. [12.5m]

2017 Examine how the decline of traditional artisanal industry in colonial India crippled the rural economy. [15m]

2017 Clarify how mid-eighteenth century India was beset with the spectre of a fragmented polity. [10m]

2017 The women's questions arose in modern India as a part of the 19th century social reform movement. What were the major issues and debates concerning women in that period? [15m]

2018 Throw light on the significance of the thoughts of Mahatma Gandhi in the present times. [10m]

2019 The 1857 Uprising was the culmination the recurrent big and small local rebellions that had occurred in the preceding hundred years of British rule. Elucidate. [10m]

2020 Evaluate the policies of Lord Curzon and their long term implications on the national movement. [10m]

2021 Trace the rise and growth of socio-religious reform movements with special reference to Young Bengal and Brahmo Samaj. [10m]

2022 Why did the armies of the British East India Company - mostly comprising of Indian soldiers-win consistently against the more numerous and better equipped armies of the then Indian rulers ? Give reasons. [10m]

2022 Why was there a sudden spurt in famines in colonial India since the mid-eighteenth century ? Give reasons. [10m]

2023 How did the colonial rule affect the tribals in India and what was the tribal response to the colonial oppression? [15m]

2023 What was the difference between Mahatma Gandhi and Rabindranath Tagore in their approach towards education and nationalism? [10m]

2025 Mahatma Jotirao Phule's writings and efforts of social reforms touched issues of almost all subaltern classes. Discuss. [15m]

2026 Discuss the impact of Macaulay's Minute on colonial administration and education in India. [10m]

Freedom Struggle- Various stages, important contributors/ contributions from different parts of the country

2013 Several foreigners made India their homeland and participated in various movements. Analyze their role in the Indian struggle for freedom. [10m]

2015 It would have been difficult for the Constituent Assembly to complete its historic task of drafting the Constitution for Independent India in just three years but for the experience gained with the Government of India Act, 1935. Discuss. [12.5m]

2016 Discuss the role of women in the freedom struggle especially during the Gandhian phase. [12.5m]

2017 Why did the 'Moderates' fail to carry conviction with the nation about their proclaimed ideology and political goals by the end of the nineteenth century? [10m]

2017 Highlight the importance of the new objectives that got added to the vision of Indian independence since twenties of the last century. [15m]

2019 Many voices had strengthened and enriched the nationalist movement during the Gandhian phase. Elaborate. [15m]

2019 Assess the role of British imperial power in complicating the process of transfer of power during the 1940s. [15m]

2019 Examine the linkages between 19th centuries 'Indian Renaissance' and the emergence of national identity. [10m]

2021 Bring out the constructive programmes of Mahatma Gandhi during Non-Cooperation Movement and Civil Disobedience Movement. [15m]

2024 What were the events that led to the Quit India Movement? Point out its results. [10m]

2026 The significance of the Gandhian movements lay in the masses they mobilized. Elucidate. [10m]

Post Independence

Post-Independence- Consolidation and reorganisation within country

2013 Critically discuss the objectives of Bhoodan and Gramdan movements initiated by Acharya Vinoba Bhave and their success. [10m]

2013 Discuss the contribution of Maulana Abul Kalam Azad to pre-and post-independent India. [10m]

2013 Write a critical note on the evolution and significance of the slogan “Jai Jawana Jai Kisan”. [10m]

2013 Analyze the circumstances that led to Tashkent Agreement in 1966. Discuss the highlights of the agreement. [10m]

2013 Critically examine the compulsions which prompted India to play a decisive roles in the emergence of Bangladesh. [10m]

2014 The New Economic Policy - 1921 of Lenin had influenced the policies adopted by India soon after independence. Evaluate. [10m]

2016 Has the formation of linguistic States strengthened the cause of Indian Unity? [12.5m]

2018 Discuss whether formation of new states in recent times is beneficial or not for the economy of India. [15m]

2021 Assess the main administrative issues and socio-cultural problems in the integration process of Indian Princely States. [10m]

2022 The political and administrative reorganization of states and territories has been a continuous ongoing process since the mid-nineteenth century. Discuss with examples. [15m]

2025 Trace India's consolidation process during early phase of independence in terms of polity, economy, education and international relations. [15m]

2026 Linguistic reorganization of Indian States was driven by popular pressure from below. Comment. [15m]

2026 The model of planned economy was adopted in India to address the regional imbalances left behind by colonial rule. Comment. [15m]

World History

History of the world will include events from 18th century such as industrial revolution, world wars, redrawing of national boundaries, colonization, decolonization, political philosophies like communism, capitalism, socialism etc.— their forms and effect on the society.

- 2013** American Revolution was an economic revolt against mercantilism. Substantiate. [10m]
- 2013** Africa was chopped into states artificially created by accident of European competition. Analyse. [10m]
- 2013** What policy instruments were deployed to contain the great economic depression? [10m]
- 2013** Latecomer Industrial revolution in Japan involved certain factors that were markedly different from what west had experience. [10m]
- 2014** What were the major political, economic and social developments in the world which motivated the anti-colonial struggle in India? [10m]
- 2014** What were the events that led to the Suez Crisis in 1956? How did it deal a final blow to Britain's self-image as a world power? [10m]
- 2015** Why did the industrial revolution first occur in England? Discuss the quality of life of the people there during the industrialization. How does it compare with that in India at present? [12.5m]
- 2015** To what extent can Germany be held responsible for causing the two World Wars? Discuss critically [12.5m]
- 2016** The anti-colonial struggles in West Africa were led by the new elite of Western-educated Africans. Examine. [12.5m]
- 2017** What problems were germane to the decolonization process of Malay Peninsula. [10m]
- 2018** Why indentured labour was taken by the British from India to other colonies? Have they been able to preserve their cultural identity over there? [15m]
- 2019** Explain how the foundations of the modern world were laid by the American and French revolution. [15m]
- 2021** "There arose a serious challenge to the Democratic State System between the two World Wars." Evaluate the statement. (250 words) [15m]
- 2023** Bring out the socio-economic effects of the introduction of railways in different countries of the world. [10m]
- 2024** How far was the Industrial Revolution in England responsible for the decline of handicrafts and cottage industries in India? [15m]
- 2024** How far is it correct to say that the First World War was fought essentially for the preservation of balance of power? [15m]
- 2025** The French Revolution has enduring relevance to the contemporary world. Explain. [15m]

Society

Salient features of Indian Society; Diversity of India;

- 2014** The life cycle of a joint family depends on economic factors rather than social values. Discuss. [10m]
- 2015** Describe any four cultural elements of diversity in India and rate their relative significance in building a national identity. [12.5m]
- 2015** How do you explain the statistics that show that the sex ratio in Tribes in India is more favourable to women than the sex ratio among Scheduled Castes? [12.5m]
- 2017** In the context of diversity of India, can it be said that the regions form cultural units rather than the States? Give reasons with examples for your viewpoint. [10m]
- 2017** The spirit tolerance and love is not only an interesting feature of Indian society from very early times, but it is also playing an important part at the present. Elaborate. [15m]
- 2019** Do we have cultural pockets of small India all over the nation? Elaborate with examples. [15m]
- 2019** What makes Indian society unique in sustaining its culture? Discuss. [10m]
- 2021** Examine the uniqueness of tribal knowledge system when compared with mainstream knowledge and cultural systems. [10m]
- 2021** How does Indian society maintain continuity in traditional social values? Enumerate the changes taking place in it. [15m]
- 2022** Analyse the salience of 'sect' in Indian society vis-a-vis caste, region and religion. [15m]
- 2022** Given the diversities among tribal communities in India, in which specific contexts should they be considered as a single category? [10m]
- 2022** Explore and evaluate the impact of 'Work From Home' on family relationships. [10m]
- 2023** Child cuddling is now being replaced by mobile phones. Discuss its impact on the socialization of children. [10m]
- 2023** Do you think marriage as a sacrament in losing its value in Modern India? [10m]
- 2024** What is regional disparity? How does it differ from diversity? How serious is the issue of regional disparity in India? [15m]
- 2024** Critically analyse the proposition that there is a high correlation between India's cultural diversities and socio-economic marginalities. [15m]
- 2024** Inter-caste marriages between castes which have socio-economic parity have increased, to some extent, but this is less true of inter-religious marriages. Discuss. [10m]
- 2025** Does tribal development in India centre around two axes, those of displacement and of rehabilitation? Give your opinion. [15m]

2026 Unity in diversity remains the defining feature of Indian society despite the challenges from communalism and regionalism. Comment. [10m]

2026 Is caste disappearing in urban India? Illustrate your answer with examples. [15m]

Role of women and women's organization, population and associated issues, poverty and developmental issues.

2013 Male membership needs to be encouraged in order to make women's organization free from gender bias. Comment. [10m]

2014 Discuss the various economic and socio-cultural forces that are driving increasing feminization of agriculture in India. [10m]

2014 How does patriarchy impact the position of a middle class working woman in India? [10m]

2014 Why do some of the most prosperous regions of India have an adverse sex ratio for women? Give your arguments. [10m]

2015 Critically examine whether growing population is the cause of poverty OR poverty is the main cause of population increase in India. [12.5m]

2015 Discuss the changes in the trends of labour migration within and outside India in the last four decades. [12.5m]

2016 An essential condition to eradicate poverty is to liberate the poor from deprivation. Substantiate this statement with suitable examples [12.5m]

2018 Despite implementation of various programmes for eradication of poverty by the government in India, poverty is still existing.' Explain by giving reasons. [10m]

2018 Women's movement in India has not addressed the issues of women of lower social strata. Substantiate your view. [15m]

2019 "Empowering women is the key to control population growth". Discuss [10m]

2019 What are the continued challenges for women in India against time and space? [15m]

2020 COVID-19 pandemic accelerated class inequalities and poverty in India. Comment. [10m]

2020 How have digital initiatives in India contributed to the functioning of the educational system in the country? Elaborate your answer. [15m]

2021 Discuss the main objectives of Population Education and point out the measures to achieve them in India in detail. [15m]

2021 What is Cryptocurrency? How does it affect global society? Has it been affecting Indian society also? (250 words) [15m]

2021 Examine the role of 'Gig Economy' in the process of empowerment of women in India. [10m]

2023 Why did human development fail to keep pace with economic development in India? [15m]

- 2023** Explain why suicide among young women is increasing in Indian Society. [10m]
- 2024** What is the concept of a 'demographic winter'? Is the world moving towards such a situation? Elaborate. [10m]
- 2024** In dealing with socio-economic issues of development, what kind of collaboration between government, NGO's and private sector would be most productive? [10m]
- 2024** Distinguish between gender equality, gender equity and women's empowerment. Why is it important to take gender concerns into account in programme design and implementation? [10m]
- 2025** 'Achieving sustainable growth with emphasis on environmental protection could come into conflict with poor people's needs in a country like India – Comment. [15m]
- 2026** Critically examine the challenges of demographic transition in contemporary India. [15m]

Urbanisation: problems and remedies

- 2013** Bring out the causes for the formation of heat islands in the urban habitat of the world. [5m]
- 2013** Discussion the various social problems which originated out of the speedy process of urbanization in India. [10m]
- 2015** Smart cities in India cannot sustain without smart villages. Discuss this statement in the backdrop of rural urban integration. [12.5m]
- 2016** Major cities of India are becoming more vulnerable to flood conditions. Discuss. [12.5m]
- 2016** With a brief background of quality of urban life in India, introduce the objectives and strategy of the 'Smart City Programme'. [12.5m]
- 2017** The growth of cities as I.T. hubs has opened up new avenues employment but has also created new problems. Substantiate this statement with examples. [15m]
- 2018** Mention core strategies for the transformation of aspirational districts in India and explain the nature of convergence, collaboration and competition for its success. [15m]
- 2019** How is efficient and affordable urban mass transport key to the rapid economic development of India? [15m]
- 2020** Account for the huge flooding of million cities in India including the smart ones like Hyderabad and Pune. Suggest lasting remedial measures. [15m]
- 2021** What are the environmental implications of the reclamation of water bodies into urban land use? Explain with examples. [10m]
- 2021** What are the main socio-economic implications arising out of the development of IT industries in major cities of India? (250 words) [15m]

2022 How is the growth of Tier 2 cities related to the rise of a new middle class with an emphasis on the culture of consumption? [10m]

2023 Does urbanization lead to more segregation and/or marginalization of the poor in Indian metropolises? [15m]

2024 Why do large cities tend to attract more migrants than smaller towns? Discuss in the light of conditions in developing countries. [10m]

2025 How does smart city in India, address the issues of urban poverty and distributive justice? [10m]

Globalisation and its effects on Indian society

2013 Critically examine the effects of globalization on the aged population in India. [10m]

2015 Discuss the positive and negative effects of globalization on women in India. [12.5m]

2016 To what extent globalization has influenced the core of cultural diversity in India? Explain. [12.5m]

2018 Globalization is generally said to promote cultural homogenization but due to this cultural specificities appear to be strengthened in the Indian Society. Elucidate. [15m]

2019 Are we losing our local identity for the global identity? Discuss. (15m,250 words) [15m]

2020 Is diversity and pluralism in India under threat due to globalisation? Justify your answer. [15m]

2022 Elucidate the relationship between globalization and new technology in a world of scarce resources, with special reference to India. [15m]

2024 Globalization has increased urban migration by skilled, young, unmarried women from various classes. How has this trend impacted upon their personal freedom and relationship with family? [15m]

2025 Do you think that globalization results in only an aggressive consumer culture? [10m]

2025 How do you account for the growing fast food industries given that there are increased health concerns in modern society? Illustrate your answer with the Indian experience. [15m]

2026 Evaluate the impact of globalization on Indian youths with reference to social, political, economic and cultural spheres. [15m]

Social empowerment, communalism, regionalism & secularism.

2013 Growing feeling of regionalism is an important factor in the generation of demand for a separate state. Discuss. [10m]

2014 How do the Indian debates on secularism differ from the debates in the West? [10m]

2015 Debate the issue of whether and how contemporary movements for assertion of Dalit identity work towards annihilation of caste. [12.5m]

2016 What is the basis of regionalism? Is it that unequal distribution of benefits of development on regional basis eventually promotes regionalism? Substantiate your answer. [12.5m]

2016 Why are the tribals in India referred to as the Scheduled Tribes? Indicate the major provisions enshrined in the Constitution of India for their upliftment. [12.5m]

2017 Distinguish between religiousness/religiosity and communalism giving one example of how the former has got transformed into the latter in independent India. [15m]

2017 What are the two major legal initiatives by the State since Independence, addressing discrimination against Scheduled Tribes (STs)? [10m]

2018 Caste system is assuming new identities and associational forms. Hence, caste system cannot be eradicated in India. Comment. [10m]

2018 Communalism arises either due to power struggle or relative deprivation. Argue by giving suitable illustrations. [15m]

2018 How the Indian concept of secularism is different from the western model of secularism? Discuss. [10m]

2019 What are the challenges to our cultural practices in the name of secularism. (10m,150 words) [10m]

2020 Has caste lost its relevance in understanding the multi-cultural Indian Society? Elaborate your answer with illustrations. [10m]

2020 Customs and traditions suppress reason leading to obscurantism. Do you agree? [15m]

2020 Do you agree that regionalism in India appears to be a consequence of rising cultural assertiveness? Argue. [10m]

2022 Are tolerance, assimilation and pluralism the key elements in the making of an Indian form of secularism? Justify your answer. [15m]

2023 Why is caste identity in India both fluid and static? [15m]

2023 Discuss the impact of post-liberal economy on ethnic identity and communalism. [15m]

2024 Despite comprehensive policies for equity and social justice, underprivileged sections are not yet getting the full benefits of affirmative action envisaged by the Constitution. Comment. [15m]

2025 The ethos of civil service in India stand for the combination of professionalism with nationalistic consciousness – Elucidate. [10m]

2026 How do you understand disability? Substantiate the need for inclusive policy framework in India in this regard. [10m]

2026 Do you think digital technology promotes social empowerment? Explain with examples. [10m]

Geography

Salient Features of World Physical Geography

2013 What do you understand by the phenomenon of temperature inversion in meteorology? How does it affect the weather and the habitants of the place? [5m]

2013 Major hot deserts in northern hemisphere are located between 20-30 degree north and on the western side of the continents. Why? [10m]

2013 There is no formation of deltas by rivers of the Western Ghat. Why? [5m]

2013 What do you understand by the theory of continental drift? Discuss the prominent evidences in its support. [5m]

2014 Most of the unusual climatic happenings are explained as an outcome of the El-Nino effect. Do you agree? [10m]

2014 Why are the world's fold mountain systems located along the margins of continents? Bring out the association between the global distribution of Fold Mountains and the earthquakes and volcanoes. [10m]

2014 Critically evaluate the various resources of the oceans which can be harnessed to meet the resource crisis in the world. [10m]

2015 How far do you agree that the behavior of the Indian monsoon has been changing due to humanizing landscapes? Discuss. [12.5m]

2015 Explain the factors responsible for the origin of ocean currents. How do they influence regional climates, fishing and navigation? [12.5m]

2016 Discuss the concept of air mass and explain its role in macro-climatic changes. [12.5m]

2017 What characteristics can be assigned to monsoon climate that succeeds in feeding more than 50 percent of the world population residing in Monsoon Asia? [15m]

2017 Account for variations in oceanic salinity and discuss its multi-dimensional effects. [15m]

2018 Define mantle plume and explain its role in plate tectonics. [10m]

2018 What are the consequences of spreading of 'Dead Zones' on marine ecosystem? [10m]

2019 How do ocean currents and water masses differ in their impacts on marine life and the coastal environment? Give suitable examples? [15m]

2020 Discuss the geophysical characteristics of Circum-Pacific Zone. [10m]

2021 Briefly mention the alignment of major mountain ranges of the world and explain their impact on local weather conditions, with examples. [15m]

2021 Why is India considered as a subcontinent? Elaborate your answer. [10m]

2021 Briefly mention the alignment of major mountain ranges of the world and explain their impact on local weather conditions, with examples. [15m]

2022 Troposphere is a very significant atmospheric layer that determines weather processes. How? [15m]

2022 Describe the characteristics and types of primary rocks. [10m]

2023 Why is the South-West monsoon called 'Purvaiya' (easterly) in Bhojpur Region? How has this directional seasonal wind system influenced the cultural ethos of the region? [10m]

2023 How are the fjords formed? Why do they constitute some of the most picturesque areas of the world? [10m]

2025 Discuss how the changes in shape and sizes of continents and ocean basins of the planet take place due to tectonic movements of the crustal masses. [15m]

2026 "Tundra regions are ecologically fragile but economically important." Examine this statement critically. [10m]

2026 Discuss the role of aeolian processes in desertification and land degradation. [10m]

2026 Compare the Loo, Chinook and Foehn winds with respect to their regions of prevalence, their nature and climatic impacts. [15m]

Distribution of key Natural Resources (world, South Asia and Indian subcontinent)

2013 It is said the India has substantial reserves of shale oil and gas, which can feed the needs of country for quarter century. However, tapping of the resources doesn't appear to be high on the agenda. Discuss critically the availability and issues involved. [10m]

2013 With growing scarcity of fossil fuels, the atomic energy is gaining more and more significance in India. Discuss the availability of raw material required for the generation of atomic energy in India and in the world. [10m]

2014 How does India see its place in the economic space of rising natural resource rich Africa? [10m]

2015 What are the economic significances of discovery of oil in Arctic Sea and its possible environmental consequences? [12.5m]

2018 Why is India taking keen interest in resources of Arctic Region? [10m]

2020 India has immense potential of solar energy though there are regional variations in its development. Elaborate. [15m]

2021 Discuss the multi-dimensional implications of uneven distribution of mineral oil in the world. [15m]

2022 Examine the potential of wind energy in India and explain the reasons for their limited spatial spread. [10m]

2022 Discuss the natural resource potentials of 'Deccan Trap'. [10m]

2023 Comment on the resource potentials of the long coastline of India and highlight the status of natural hazard preparedness in these areas. [15m]

2025 Explain briefly the ecological and economic benefits of solar energy generation in India with suitable examples. [10m]

2025 Give a geographical explanation of the distribution of off-shore oil reserves of the world. How are they different from the on-shore occurrences of oil reserves? [15m]

2025 Discuss the distribution and density of population in the Ganga River Basin with special reference to land, soil and water resources. [15m]

2026 "Water resources are both an asset and a source of conflict in South Asia." Examine this statement giving examples. [10m]

2026 Analyze the role of satellite-based technologies in achieving climate-smart agriculture and food security in India. [15m]

Factors responsible for the location of primary, secondary, and tertiary sector industries in various parts of the world (including India).

2013 Analyze the factors for highly decentralized cotton textile industry in India [5m]

2013 Do you agree that there is a growing trend of opening new sugar mills in the Southern states of India? Discuss with justification [5m]

2014 Whereas the British planters had developed tea gardens all along the Shivaliks and Lesser Himalayas from Assam to Himachal Pradesh, in effect they did not succeed beyond the Darjeeling area. Explain. [10m]

2014 Why did the Green Revolution in India virtually by-pass the eastern region despite fertile soil and good availability of water? [10m]

2014 Account for the change in the spatial pattern of the Iron and Steel industry in the world. [10m]

2015 The states of Jammu and Kashmir, Himachal Pradesh and Uttarakhand reaching the limits of their ecological carrying capacity due to tourism. Critically evaluate. [12.5m]

2016 Enumerate the problems and prospects of inland water transport in India. [12.5m]

2017 In spite of adverse environmental impact, coal mining is still inevitable for development." Discuss. [10m]

2017 Mention the advantages of the cultivation of pulse because of which the year 2016 was declared as the International Year of Pulses by the United Nations. [10m]

2017 Petroleum refineries are not necessarily located nearer to crude oil producing areas, particularly in many of the developing countries. Explain its implications. [15m]

2018 Define blue revolution, explain the problems and strategies for pisciculture development in India. [15m]

2018 What is the significance of Industrial Corridors in India? Identify industrial corridors, explain their main characteristics. [15m]

2018 Why is Indian Regional Navigational Satellite System (IRNSS) needed? How does it help in navigation? [10m]

2019 Can the strategy of regional-resource based manufacturing help in promoting employment in India? [10m]

2019 Discuss the factors for localization of agro-based food processing industries of North-West India. [10m]

2019 How can the mountain ecosystem be restored from the negative impact of development initiatives and tourism? [15m]

2020 Account for the present location of iron and steel industries away from the source of raw material, by giving examples. [15m]

2021 Despite India being one of the countries of the Gondwanaland, its mining industry contributes much less to Gross Domestic Product (GDP) in percentage. Discuss. [10m]

2022 Describing the distribution of rubber producing countries, indicate the major environmental issues faced by them. [15m]

2022 Mention the significance of straits and isthmus in international trade. [15m]

2023 From being net food importer in 1960s, India has emerged as a net food exporter to the world. Provide reasons. [15m]

2025 What are non-farm primary activities? How are these activities related to physiographic features in India? Discuss with suitable examples. [10m]

2025 How can Artificial Intelligence (AI) and drones be effectively used along with GIS and RS techniques in locational and areal planning? [15m]

2026 "The centre of global trade is gradually shifting from the Atlantic region to the Indo-Pacific region." Examine this statement. [15m]

Important Geophysical phenomena such as earthquakes, Tsunami, Volcanic activity, cyclone etc.,

2013 The recent cyclone on the east coast of India was called "Phailin". How are the tropical cyclones named across the world? [5m]

2013 Bring out the causes for more frequent landslides in the Himalayas than in Western Ghats [5m]

2014 Tropical cyclones are largely confined to South China Sea, Bay of Bengal and Gulf of Mexico. Why? [10m]

2016 The Himalayas are highly prone to landslides. Discuss the causes and suggest suitable measures of mitigation. [12.5m]

2021 Differentiate the causes of landslides in the Himalayan region and Western Ghats. [10m]

2021 Mention the global occurrence of volcanic eruptions in 2021 and their impact on regional environment. [10m]

2022 Discuss the meaning of colour-coded weather warnings for cyclone prone areas given by India Meteorological Department. [10m]

2024 What is sea surface temperature rise? How does it affect the formation of tropical cyclones? [10m]

2024 What is the phenomenon of 'cloudbursts'? Explain. [10m]

2024 What is a twister? Why are the majority of twisters observed in areas around the Gulf of Mexico? [15m]

2024 What are aurora australis and aurora borealis? How are these triggered? [15m]

2025 What are Tsunamis? How and where are they formed? What are their consequences? Explain with examples. [10m]

2026 What is the Fujiwhara effect? Explain its impact on the movement and intensity of tropical cyclones. [10m]

Geographical features and their location- Changes in critical geographical features (including water-bodies and ice- caps) and in flora and fauna and the effects of such changes.

2014 Bring out the relationship between the shrinking Himalayan glaciers and the symptoms of climate change in the Indian sub-continent. [10m]

2015 India is well endowed with fresh water resources. Critically examine why it still suffers from water scarcity. [12.5m]

2015 Mumbai, Delhi and Kolkata are the three mega cities of the country but the air pollution is much more serious problem in Delhi as compared to the other two. Why is this so? [12.5m]

2016 In what way micro-watershed Development projects help in water conservation in drought prone and semi-arid regions of India. [12.5m]

2016 Present an account of the Indus Water Treaty and examine its ecological, economic and political implications in the context of changing bilateral relations. [12.5m]

2016 The effective management of land and water resources will drastically reduce the human miseries. Explain [12.5m]

2016 South China Sea has assumed great geopolitical significance in the present context. Comment. [12.5m]

2017 In what way can flood be converted into a sustainable source of irrigation and all-weather inland navigation in India? [15m]

2017 How does the cryosphere affect global climate? [10m]

2017 How does the Juno Mission of NASA help to understand the origin and evolution of the Earth? [10m]

2018 The ideal solution of depleting ground water resources in India is water harvesting system. How can it be made effective in urban areas? [15m]

2019 Assess the impact of global warming on coral life system with examples. [15m]

2019 Discuss the causes of depletion of mangroves and explain their importance in maintaining coastal ecology. [10m]

2019 What is water stress? How and why does it differ regionally in India? [15m]

2020 Examine the status of forest resources of India and its resultant impact on climate change. [15m]

2020 The process of desertification does not have climatic boundaries. Justify with examples. [10m]

2020 The interlinking of rivers can provide viable solutions to the multi-dimensional inter-related problems of droughts, floods and interrupted navigation. Critically examine. [15m]

2020 How will the melting of Himalayan glaciers have a far-reaching impact on the water resources of India? [10m]

2021 How does the melting of the Arctic ice and glaciers of the Antarctic differently affect the weather patterns and human activities on the Earth? Explain. [15m]

2023 Identify and discuss the factors responsible for diversity of natural vegetation in India. Assess the significance of wildlife sanctuaries in rain forests regions of India. [15m]

2023 Discuss the consequences of climate change on the food security in tropical countries. [10m]

2023 Why is the world today confronted with a crisis of availability of and access to freshwater resources? [10m]

2024 The groundwater potential of the gangetic valley is on a serious decline. How may it affect the food security of India? [15m]

2025 How are climate change and the sea level rise affecting the very existence of many island nations? Discuss with examples. [10m]

2026 Analyze the major drivers of human-induced land-use changes in India and their geographical consequences. [15m]

CIRCULAR LEARNINGS

GS Paper II

Polity, Governance, IR & Social Justice · 287 PYQs

Polity

Indian Constitution-Historical underpinnings & evolution; Features, amendments, significant provisions, basic structure of Constitution

2013 Discuss Section 66A of IT Act, with reference to its alleged violation of Article 19 of the Constitution. [10m]

2014 What do you understand by the concept “freedom of speech and expression”? Does it cover hate speech also? Why do the films in India stand on a slightly different plane from other forms of expression? Discuss. [12.5m]

2015 Discuss the possible factors that inhibit India from enacting for its citizens a uniform civil code as provided for in the Directive Principles of State Policy. [12.5m]

2015 Does the right to clean environment entail legal regulations on burning crackers during Diwali? Discuss in the light of Article 21 of the Indian Constitution and Judgement(s) of the Apex Court in this regard. [12.5m]

2016 What was held in the Coelho case? In this context, can you say that judicial review is of key importance amongst the basic features of the Constitution? [12.5m]

2016 Did the Government of India Act, 1935 lay down a federal constitution? Discuss. [12.5m]

2016 Discuss each adjective attached to the word ‘Republic’ in the preamble. Are they defensible in the present circumstances? [12.5m]

2017 Explain the salient features of the constitution(One Hundred and First Amendment) Act, 2016. Do you think it is efficacious enough ‘to remove cascading effect of taxes and provide for common national market for goods and services’? [15m]

2017 Examine the scope of Fundamental Rights in the light of the latest judgement of the Supreme Court on Right to Privacy. [15m]

2019 “Parliament’s power to amend the Constitution is a limited power and it cannot be enlarged into absolute power.” In the light of this statement explain whether Parliament under Article 368 of the Constitution can destroy the Basic Structure of the Constitution by expanding its amending power? [15m]

2021 ‘Constitutional Morality’ is rooted in the Constitution itself and is founded on its essential facets. Explain the doctrine of ‘Constitutional Morality’ with the help of relevant judicial decisions. [10m]

2022 The most significant achievement of modern law in India in the constitutionalization of environmental problems by the Supreme Court. Discuss this statement with the help of relevant case laws. [10m]

2022 Right of movement and residence throughout the territory of India are freely available to the Indian citizens, but these rights are not absolute. Comment [10m]

2023 Explain the constitutional perspectives of Gender Justice with the help of relevant Constitutional Provisions and case laws. [15m]

2023 "The Constitution of India is a living instrument with capabilities of enormous dynamism. It is a constitution made for a progressive society". Illustrate with special reference to the expanding horizons of the right to life and personal liberty. [15m]

2024 Right to privacy is intrinsic to life and personal liberty and is inherently protected under Article 21 of the Constitution. Explain. In this reference discuss the law relating to D.N.A. testing of a child in the womb to establish its paternity. [15m]

2025 Indian Constitution has conferred the amending power on the ordinary legislative institutions with a few procedural hurdles. In view of this statement, examine the procedural and substantive limitations on the amending power of the Parliament to change the Constitution. [15m]

2025 "Constitutional morality is the fulcrum which acts as an essential check upon the high functionaries and citizens alike..." In view of the above observation of the Supreme Court, explain the concept of constitutional morality and its application to ensure balance between judicial independence and judicial accountability in India. [15m]

Functions & responsibilities of the Union and the States; issues and challenges of federal structure;

2013 Recent directives from Ministry of Petroleum and Natural Gas are perceived by the 'Nagas' as a threat to override the exceptional status enjoyed by the State. Discuss in light of Article 371A of the Indian Constitution. [10m]

2013 Constitutional mechanisms to resolve the inter-state water disputes have failed to address and solve the problems. Is the failure due to structural or process inadequacy or both? Discuss. [10m]

2013 Many State Governments further bifurcate geographical administrative areas like Districts and Talukas for better governance. In light of the above, can it also be justified that more number of smaller States would bring in effective governance at State level? Discuss. [10m]

2014 Though the federal principle is dominant in our Constitution and that principle is one of its basic features, but it is equally true that federalism under the Indian Constitution leans in favour of a strong Centre, a feature that militates against the concept of strong federalism. Discuss. [12.5m]

2015 The concept of cooperative federalism has been increasingly emphasized in recent years. Highlight the drawbacks in the existing structure and the extent to which cooperative federalism would answer the shortcomings. [12.5m]

2016 To what extent is Article 370 of the Indian Constitution, bearing marginal note "Temporary provision with respect to the State of Jammu and Kashmir", temporary? Discuss the

future prospects of this provision in the context of Indian polity. [12.5m]

2016 Discuss the essentials of the 69th Constitutional Amendment Act and anomalies, if any that have led to recent reported conflicts between the elected representatives and the institution of the Lieutenant Governor in the administration of Delhi. Do you think that this will give rise to a new trend in the functioning of Indian federal politics? [12.5m]

2018 Under what circumstances can the Financial Emergency be proclaimed by the President of India? What consequences follow when such a declaration remains in force? [10m]

2019 From the resolution of contentious issues regarding distribution of legislative powers by the courts, 'Principle of Federal Supremacy' and 'Harmonious Construction' have emerged. Explain. [10m]

2020 Indian Constitution exhibits centralising tendencies to maintain unity and integrity of the nation. Elucidate in the perspective of the Epidemic Diseases Act, 1897; The Disaster Management Act, 2005 and recently passed Farm Acts. [15m]

2020 How far do you think cooperation, competition and confrontation have shaped the nature of federation in India? Cite some recent examples to validate your answer. [10m]

2023 Account for the legal and political factors responsible for the reduced frequency of using Article 356 by the Union Governments since mid 1990s. [15m]

2023 Explain the significance of the 101st Constitutional Amendment Act. To what extent does it reflect the accommodative spirit of federalism? [15m]

2024 What changes has the Union Government recently introduced in the domain of Centre-State relations? Suggest measures to be adopted to build the trust between the Centre and the States and for strengthening federalism. [15m]

2025 Examine the evolving pattern of Centre-State financial relations in the context of planned development in India. How far have the recent reforms impacted the fiscal federalism in India? [15m]

2025 Discuss the nature of Jammu and Kashmir Legislative Assembly after the Jammu and Kashmir Reorganization Act, 2019. Briefly describe the powers and functions of the Assembly of the Union Territory of Jammu and Kashmir. [10m]

2026 Discuss the position of the Governor in the federal polity of India. What is the nature of his power while giving assent to a bill passed by the State Legislature? Is he bound by the aid and advice of his Council of Ministers in all his functions? [15m]

2026 How far has the Indian federal framework been successful in accommodating regional and cultural diversities? Highlight the role of asymmetric federalism and suggest measures to make dispute resolution mechanisms more effective. [15m]

Separation of Powers between different organs, dispute redressal mechanisms and institutions

- 2013** The Supreme Court of India keeps a check on arbitrary power of the Parliament in amending the Constitution. Discuss critically. [10m]
- 2015** Resorting to ordinances has always raised concern on violation of the spirit of separation of powers doctrine. While noting the rationales justifying the power to promulgate ordinances, analyze whether the decisions of the Supreme Court on the issue have further facilitated resorting to this power. Should the power to promulgate ordinances be repealed? [12.5m]
- 2017** Critically examine the Supreme Court's judgement on 'National Judicial Appointments Commission Act, 2014' with reference to appointment of judges of higher judiciary in India. [10m]
- 2018** Whether the Supreme Court Judgement (July 2018) can settle the political tussle between the Lt. Governor and elected government of Delhi? Examine. [15m]
- 2019** Do you think that constitution of India does not accept principle of strict separation of powers rather it is based on the principle of 'checks and balance'? Explain. [10m]
- 2020** Judicial Legislation is antithetical to the doctrine of separation of powers as envisaged in the Indian Constitution. In this context justify the filing of large number of public interest petitions praying for issuing guidelines to executive authorities. [15m]
- 2021** To what extent, in your view, the Parliament is able to ensure accountability of the executive in India? [10m]
- 2022** Discuss the essential conditions for exercise of the legislative powers by the Governor. Discuss the legality of re-promulgation of ordinances by the Governor without placing them before the Legislature. [15m]
- 2023** "Constitutionally guaranteed judicial independence is a prerequisite of democracy". Comment. [10m]
- 2024** "The growth of cabinet system has practically resulted in the marginalisation of the parliamentary supremacy." Elucidate. [10m]
- 2026** Examine how the separation of powers is practised in India compared to the rigid presidential model of the United States of America. In this context, compare the actual authority of the Indian Prime Minister with that of the President of the USA. [15m]

Devolution of powers and finances up to local levels and challenges therein

- 2015** In absence of a well-educated and organized local level government system, 'Panchayats' and 'Samitis' have remained mainly political institutions and not effective instruments of governance. Critically discuss. [12.5m]
- 2017** "The local self-government system in India has not proved to be effective instrument of governance". Critically examine the statement and give your views to improve the situation. [10m]

2018 Assess the importance of Panchayat system in India as a part of local government. Apart from government grants, what sources the Panchayats can look out for financing developmental projects. [15m]

2019 “The reservation of seats for women in the institutions of local self-government has had a limited impact on the patriarchal character of the Indian Political Process.” Comment. [15m]

2020 The strength and sustenance of local institutions in India has shifted from their formative phase of ‘Functions, Functionaries and Funds’ to the contemporary stage of ‘Functionality’. Highlight the critical challenges faced by local institutions in terms of their functionality in recent times. [15m]

2022 To what extent, in your opinion, has the decentralisation of power in India changed the governance landscape at the grassroots ? [10m]

2023 “The states in India seem reluctant to empower urban local bodies both functionally as well as financially.” Comment. [10m]

2024 Analyse the role of local bodies in providing good governance at local level and bring out the pros and cons merging the rural local bodies with the urban local bodies. [10m]

Comparison of Indian constitutional scheme with other countries

2018 India and USA are two large democracies. Examine the basic tenants on which the two political systems are based. [15m]

2019 What can France learn from the Indian Constitution’s approach to secularism? [10m]

2020 The judicial systems in India and UK seem to be converging as well as diverging in recent times. Highlight the key points of convergence and divergence between the two nations in terms of their judicial practices. [10m]

2021 Analyze the distinguishing features of the notion of Right to Equality in the Constitutions of the USA and India. [15m]

2022 Critically examine the procedures through which the Presidents of India and France are elected. [15m]

2023 Compare and contrast the British and Indian approaches to Parliamentary sovereignty. [10m]

2024 Discuss India as a secular state and compare with the secular principles of the US constitution [15m]

2025 Compare and contrast the President’s power to pardon in India and in the USA. Are there any limits to it in both the countries? What are ‘preemptive pardons’? [10m]

2025 Discuss the evolution of collegium system in India. Critically examine the advantages and disadvantages of the system on appointment of the Judges of the Supreme Court of India and that of the USA. [15m]

Parliament and State Legislatures (structure, functioning, conduct of business, powers & privileges; issues therein)

2013 The role of individual MPs (Members of Parliament) has diminished over the years and as a result healthy constructive debates on policy issues are not usually witnessed. How far can this be attributed to the anti-defection law, which was legislated but with a different intention? [10m]

2014 The 'Powers, Privileges and Immunities of Parliament and its Members' as envisaged in Article 105 of the Constitution leave room for a large number of un-codified and un-enumerated privileges to continue. Assess the reasons for the absence of legal codification of the 'parliamentary privileges'. How can this problem be addressed? [12.5m]

2017 The Indian Constitution has provisions for holding joint session of the two houses of the Parliament. Enumerate the occasions when this would normally happen and also the occasions when it cannot, with reasons thereof. [15m]

2017 Discuss the role of Public Accounts Committee in establishing accountability of the government to the people. [10m]

2018 Why do you think the committees are considered to be useful for parliamentary work? Discuss, in this context, the role of the Estimates Committee. [10m]

2019 Individual Parliamentarian's role as the national lawmaker is on a decline, which in turn, has adversely impacted the quality of debates and their outcome. Discuss. [15m]

2020 Rajya Sabha has been transformed from a 'useless stepney tyre' to the most useful supporting organ in past few decades. Highlight the factors as well as the areas in which this transformation could be visible. [15m]

2020 'Once a Speaker, Always a Speaker'! Do you think this practice should be adopted to impart objectivity to the office of the Speaker of Lok Sabha? What could be its implications for the robust functioning of parliamentary business in India? [10m]

2021 Explain the constitutional provisions under which Legislative Councils are established. Review the working and current status of Legislative Councils with suitable illustrations. [15m]

2021 Explain the constitutional provisions under which Legislative Councils are established. Review the working and current status of Legislative Councils with suitable illustrations. [15m]

2021 Do Department-related Parliamentary Standing Committees keep the administration on its toes and inspire reverence for parliamentary control? Evaluate the working of such committees with suitable examples. [15m]

2022 Discuss the role of the Vice-President of India as the Chairman of the Rajya Sabha. [10m]

2023 Explain the structure of the Parliamentary Committee system. How far have the financial committees helped in the institutionalization of Indian Parliament? [15m]

2023 Discuss the role of Presiding Officers of state legislatures in maintaining order and impartiality in conducting legislative work and in facilitating best democratic practices. [10m]

2026 Examine whether the constitutional office of the Lok Sabha Speaker has become vulnerable to partisan politics under the current anti-defection regime. What institutional changes are required to ensure the neutrality of the Lok Sabha Speaker in managing a polarised House? [10m]

Structure, organization and functioning of the Executive and the Judiciary—Ministries and Departments of the Government; pressure groups and formal/ informal associations and their role in the Polity

2013 Pressure group politics is sometimes seen as the informal face of politics. With regards to the above, assess the structure and functioning of pressure groups in India. [10m]

2014 Starting from inventing the 'basic structure' doctrine, the judiciary has played a highly proactive role in ensuring that India develops into a thriving democracy. In light of the statement, evaluate the role played by judicial activism in achieving the ideals of democracy. [12.5m]

2014 Instances of President's delay in commuting death sentences has come under public debate as denial of justice. Should there be a time limit specified for the President to accept/reject such petitions? Analyse. [12.5m]

2014 The size of the cabinet should be as big as governmental work justifies and as big as the Prime Minister can manage as a team. How far the efficacy of a government then is inversely related to the size of the cabinet? Discuss. [12.5m]

2015 What are the major changes brought in the Arbitration and Conciliation Act, 1996 through the recent Ordinance promulgated by the President? How far will it improve India's dispute resolution mechanism? Discuss. [12.5m]

2015 Khap Panchayats have been in the news for functioning as extra-constitutional authorities, often delivering pronouncements amounting to human rights violations. Discuss critically the actions taken by the legislative, executive and the judiciary to set the things right in this regard. [12.5m]

2017 How do pressure groups influence Indian political process? Do you agree with this view that informal pressure groups have emerged as powerful than formal pressure groups in recent years? [10m]

2019 What are the methods used by the Farmers organizations to influence the policymakers in India and how effective are these methods? [10m]

2019 "The Attorney-General is the chief legal adviser and lawyer of the Government of India." Discuss. [15m]

2021 Discuss the desirability of greater representation to women in the higher judiciary to ensure diversity, equity and inclusiveness. [10m]

2021 "Pressure groups play a vital role in influencing public policy making in India." Explain how the business associations contribute to public policies. [10m]

2023 Who are entitled to receive free legal aid? Assess the role of the National Legal Services Authority (NALSA) in rendering free legal aid in India. [10m]

2024 Explain and distinguish between Lok Adalats and Arbitration Tribunals. Whether they entertain civil as well as criminal cases? [10m]

2024 Explain the reasons for the growth of public interest litigation in India. As a result of it, has the Indian Supreme Court emerged as the world's most powerful judiciary? [15m]

2025 What are environmental pressure groups? Discuss their role in raising awareness, influencing policies and advocating for environmental protection in India. [15m]

2025 Comment on the need of administrative tribunals as compared to the court system. Assess the impact of the recent tribal reforms through rationalization of tribunals made in 2021. [10m]

2025 The Attorney General of India plays a crucial role in guiding the legal framework of the Union Government and ensuring sound governance through legal counsel." Discuss his responsibilities, rights and limitations in this regard. [10m]

2026 What is meant by judicial legislation? In this context, discuss the verdicts of the apex court allowing "passive euthanasia" and a "living will". [15m]

2026 To what extent do pressure groups, social movements and corporate lobbies deepen pluralistic democracy in India by representing excluded interests? Analyse whether the growing convergence of corporate wealth and political power poses a threat to the autonomy of formal democratic institutions. [15m]

Salient features of the Representation of People's Act.

2016 The Indian party system is passing through a phase of transition which looks to be full of contradictions and paradoxes." Discuss. [12.5m]

2017 To enhance the quality of democracy in India the Election Commission of India has proposed electoral reforms in 2016. What are the suggested reforms and how far are they significant to make democracy successful? [15m]

2017 'Simultaneous election to the Lok Sabha and the State Assemblies will limit the amount of time and money spent in electioneering but it will reduce the government's accountability to the people' Discuss. [10m]

2018 In the light of recent controversy regarding the use of Electronic Voting Machines (EVM), what are the challenges before the Election Commission of India to ensure the trustworthiness of elections in India? [10m]

2019 On what grounds a people's representative can be disqualified under the Representation of People Act, 1951? Also mention the remedies available to such person against his disqualification. [15m]

2020 “There is a need for simplification of procedure for disqualification of persons found guilty of corrupt practices under the Representation of Peoples Act”. Comment. [10m]

2022 Discuss the procedures to decide the disputes arising out of the election of a Member of the Parliament or State Legislature under The Representation of the People Act, 1951. What are the grounds on which the election of any returned candidate may be declared void? What remedy is available to the aggrieved party against the decision? Refer to the case laws. [15m]

2022 Discuss the role of the Election Commission of India in the light of the evolution of the Model Code of Conduct. [15m]

2022 While the national political parties in India favour centralisation, the regional parties are in favour of State autonomy. Comment. [15m]

2024 Examine the need for electoral reforms as suggested by various committees with particular reference to “one nation-one election” principle. [10m]

2025 Discuss the ‘corrupt practices’ for the purpose of the Representation of the People Act, 1951. Analyze whether the increase in the assets of the legislators and/or their associates, disproportionate to their known sources of income, would constitute ‘undue influence’ and consequently a corrupt practice. [10m]

2026 "Women as a class neither belong to a minority group nor are they regarded as forming a backward class." In the light of this statement, discuss the evolution of women's reservation from local bodies to Parliament. [10m]

Governance

Appointment to various Constitutional posts; Constitutional Bodies (powers, functions and responsibilities); Statutory, Regulatory and Quasi-judicial bodies

2013 Discuss the recommendations of the 13th Finance Commission which have been a departure from the previous commissions for strengthening the local government finances. [10m]

2013 The product diversification of financial institutions and insurance companies, resulting in overlapping of products and services strengthens the case for the merger of the two regulatory agencies, namely SEBI and IRDA. Justify. [10m]

2013 ‘A national Lokpal, however strong it may be, cannot resolve the problems of immorality in public affairs’. Discuss. [10m]

2014 The setting up of a Rail Tariff Authority to regulate fares will subject the cash strapped Indian Railways to demand subsidy for obligation to operate non-profitable routes and services. Taking into account the experience in the power sector, discuss if the proposed reform is expected to benefit the consumers, the Indian Railways or the private container operators. [12.5m]

2014 National Human Rights Commission (NHRC) in India can be most effective when its tasks are adequately supported by other mechanisms that ensure the accountability of a government. In light of the above observation assess the role of NHRC as an effective complement to the

judiciary and other institutions in promoting and protecting human rights standards. [12.5m]

2015 For achieving the desired objectives, it is necessary to ensure that the regulatory institutions remain independent and autonomous. Discuss in the light of the experiences in recent past. [12.5m]

2016 Exercise of CAG's powers in relation to the accounts of the Union and the States is derived from Article 149 of the Indian Constitution. Discuss whether audit of the Government's Policy implementation could amount to overstepping its own (CAG) jurisdiction. [12.5m]

2016 What is a quasi-judicial body? Explain with the help of concrete examples. [12.5m]

2017 Is the National Commission for Women able to strategize and tackle the problems that women face at both public and private spheres? Give reasons in support of your answer. [15m]

2018 How is the Finance Commission of India constituted? What do you about the terms of reference of the recently constituted Finance Commission? Discuss. [15m]

2018 The Comptroller and Auditor General (CAG) has a very vital role to play. Explain how this is reflected in the method and terms of his appointment as well as the range of powers he can exercise. [10m]

2018 Whether National Commission for Scheduled Castes (NCSC) can enforce the implementation of constitutional reservation for the Scheduled Castes in the religious minority institutions? Examine. [10m]

2018 How far do you agree with the view that tribunals curtail the jurisdiction of ordinary courts? In view of the above, discuss the constitutional validity and competency of the tribunals in India. [15m]

2018 Multiplicity of various commissions for the vulnerable sections or the society leads to problems or overlapping jurisdiction and duplication of functions. Is it better to merge all commissions into an umbrella Human Rights Commission? Argue your case. [15m]

2019 "The Central Administration Tribunal which was established for redressal of grievances and complaints by or against central government employees, nowadays is exercising its powers as an independent judicial authority." Explain. [10m]

2020 Which steps are required for constitutionalization of a Commission? Do you think imparting constitutionality to the National Commission for Women would ensure greater gender justice and empowerment in India? Give reasons. [15m]

2021 How have the recommendations of the 14th Finance Commission of India enabled the States to improve their fiscal position? [10m]

2021 The jurisdiction of the Central Bureau of Investigation (CBI) regarding lodging an FIR and conducting probe within a particular State is being questioned by various States. However, the power of the States to withhold consent to the CBI is not absolute. Explain with special reference to the federal character of India. [15m]

2021 Though the Human Rights Commissions have contributed immensely to the protection of human rights in India, yet they have failed to assert themselves against the mighty and powerful. Analyzing their structural and practical limitations, suggest remedial measures. [15m]

2022 Discuss the role of the National Commission for Backward Classes in the wake of its transformation from a statutory body to a constitutional body. [10m]

2023 Discuss the role of the Competition Commission of India in containing the abuse of dominant position by the Multi-National Corporations in India. Refer to the recent decisions. [10m]

2024 “The duty of the Comptroller and Auditor General is not merely to ensure the legality of expenditure but also its propriety.” Comment. [10m]

2025 The National Commission for Protection of Child Rights has to address the challenges faced by children in the digital era. Examine the existing policies and suggest measures the Commission can initiate to tackle the issue. [15m]

2026 Is the right to vote a fundamental right? Discuss the position of the Election Commission of India while undertaking the revision of electoral rolls. Can it also examine the question of citizenship of voters? [10m]

2026 Do constitutional bodies like the National Commission for Scheduled Castes (NCSC) and the National Commission for Scheduled Tribes (NCST) possess adequate enforcement powers to secure substantive social equality? Suggest measures to enhance their institutional effectiveness. [10m]

Government Policies & Interventions for development of various sectors (issues in their design, implementation)

2013 The basis of providing urban amenities in rural areas (PURA) is rooted in establishing connectivity. Comment. [10m]

2014 Two parallel run schemes of the Government viz. the Adhaar Card and NPR, one as voluntary and the other as compulsory, have led to debates at national levels and also litigations. On merits, discuss whether or not both schemes need run concurrently. Analyse the potential of the schemes to achieve developmental benefits and equitable growth. [12.5m]

2014 Though 100 percent FDI is already allowed in non-news media like a trade publication and general entertainment channel, the Government is mulling over the proposal for increased FDI in news media for quite some time. What difference would an increase in FDI make? Critically evaluate the pros and cons. [12.5m]

2016 Has the Indian governmental system responded adequately to the demands of Liberalization, Privatization and Globalization started in 1991? What can the government do to be responsive to this important change? [12.5m]

2018 Policy contradictions among various competing sectors and stakeholders have resulted in inadequate ‘protection and prevention of degradation’ to environment. “ Comment with

relevant illustration. [10m]

2019 ‘In the context of neo-liberal paradigm of development planning, multi-level planning is expected to make operations cost effective and remove many implementation blockages.’-Discuss. [15m]

2019 The need for cooperation among various service sector has been an inherent component of development discourse. Partnership bridges bring the gap among the sectors. It also sets in motion a culture of ‘Collaboration’ and ‘team spirit’. In the light of statements above examine India’s Development process. [15m]

2022 The Gati-Shakti Yojana needs meticulous coordination between the government and the private sector to achieve the goal of connectivity. Discuss. [10m]

2025 “In contemporary development models, decision-making and problem-solving responsibilities are not located close to the source of information and execution, defeating the objectives of development.” Critically evaluate. [15m]

2026 Can the constitutional mandate of rights-based welfare be effectively realised in the context of non-integrated governance and minimal public investment? Examine. [15m]

Development processes and the development industry —the role of NGOs, SHGs, various groups and associations, donors, charities, institutional and other stakeholders.

2013 The legitimacy and accountability of Self Help Groups (SHGs) and their patrons, the micro-finance outfits, need systematic assessment and scrutiny for the sustained success of the concept. Discuss. [10m]

2014 The penetration of Self Help Groups (SHGs) in rural areas in promoting participation in development programmes is facing socio-cultural hurdles. Examine. [12.5m]

2015 Examine critically the recent changes in the rules governing foreign funding of NGOs under the Foreign Contribution (Regulation) Act (FCRA), 1976. [12.5m]

2015 How can the role of NGOs be strengthened in India for development works relating to protection of the environment? Discuss throwing light on the major constraints. [12.5m]

2015 The Self-Help Group (SHG) Bank Linkage Programme (SBLP), which is India’s own innovation, has proved to be one of the most effective poverty alleviation and women empowerment programmes. Elucidate. [12.5m]

2016 In the Indian governance system, the role of non-state actors has been only marginal. Critically examine this statement. [12.5m]

2017 ‘The emergence of Self Help Groups(SHGs) in contemporary times points to the slow but steady withdrawal of the state from developmental activities’. Examine the role of the SHGs in developmental activities and the measures taken by the Government of India to promote the SHGs. [15m]

2020 “Micro-Finance as an anti-poverty vaccine, is aimed at asset creation and income security of the rural poor in India”. Evaluate the role of Self Help Groups in achieving the twin objectives along with empowering women in rural India. [15m]

2021 Can Civil Society and Non-Governmental Organizations present an alternative model of public service delivery to benefit the common citizen? Discuss the challenges of this alternative model. [15m]

2021 Can the vicious cycle of gender inequality, poverty and malnutrition be broken through microfinancing of women SHGs? Explain with examples. [10m]

2022 Do you agree with the view that increasing dependence on donor agencies for development reduces the importance of community participation in the development process? Justify your answer. [15m]

2023 Discuss the contribution of civil society groups for women’s effective and meaningful participation and representation in state legislatures in India. [15m]

2024 Public charitable trusts have the potential to make India’s development more inclusive as they relate to certain vital public issues. Comment. [10m]

2025 Civil Society Organizations are often perceived as being anti-State actors rather than non-State actors. Do you agree? Justify. [10m]

Transparency and accountability (institutional and other measures); Citizens Charter, E-Governance (applications, models, successes, limitations, potential)

2013 Though Citizen’s charters have been formulated by many public service delivery organizations, there is no corresponding improvement in the level of citizens’ satisfaction and quality of services being provided. Analyze. [10m]

2013 Electronic cash transfer system for the welfare schemes is an ambitious project to minimize corruption, eliminate wastage and facilitate reforms. Comment. [10m]

2015 If amendment bill to the Whistleblowers Act, 2011 tabled in the Parliament is passed, there may be no one left to protect. Critically evaluate. [12.5m]

2015 In the light of the Satyam Scandal (2009), discuss the changes brought in corporate governance to ensure transparency, accountability. [12.5m]

2016 Effectiveness of the government system at various levels and people’s participation in the governance system are inter-dependent. Discuss their relationship with each other in context of India. [12.5m]

2016 In the integrity index of Transparency International, India stands very low. Discuss briefly the legal, political, economic, social and cultural factors that have caused the decline of public morality in India. [12.5m]

2018 Citizens’ Charter is an ideal instrument of organizational transparency and accountability, but it has its own limitations. Identify the limitations and suggest measures for

greater effectiveness or the Citizens Charter. [15m]

2018 E-Governance is not only about utilization of the power of new technology, but also much about critical importance of the 'use value' of information Explain. [10m]

2019 Implementation of information and Communication Technology (ICT) based Projects / Programmes usually suffers in terms of certain vital factors. Identify these factors, and suggest measures for their effective implementation. [10m]

2020 "Recent amendments to the Right to Information Act will have profound impact on the autonomy and independence of the Information Commission". Discuss. [10m]

2020 "The emergence of Fourth Industrial Revolution (Digital Revolution) has initiated e-Governance as an integral part of government". Discuss. [10m]

2021 Has digital illiteracy, particularly in rural areas, coupled with lack of Information and Communication Technology (ICT) accessibility hindered socio-economic development? Examine with justification. [15m]

2022 Reforming the government delivery system through the Direct Benefit Transfer Scheme is a progressive step, but it has its limitations too. Comment. [10m]

2023 e-governance, as a critical tool of governance, has ushered in effectiveness, transparency and accountability in governments. What inadequacies hamper the enhancement of these features? [10m]

2024 The Citizens' charter has been a land mark initiative in ensuring citizen-centric administration. But it is yet to reach its full potential. Identify the factors hindering the realisation of its promise and suggest measures to overcome them. [15m]

2024 What are the aims and objects of the recently passed and enforced, The Public Examination (Prevention of Unfair Means) Act, 2024? Whether University/State Education Board examinations, too, are covered under the Act ? [15m]

2024 e-governance is not just about the routine application of digital technology in service delivery process. It is as much about multifarious interactions for ensuring transparency and accountability. In this context evaluate the role of the 'Interactive Service Model' of e-governance. [15m]

2025 E-governance projects have a built-in bias towards technology and back-end integration than user-centric designs. Examine. [10m]

2026 "Transparency and accountability in governance are not about controlling corruption but about creating the trust of stakeholders in the policy process by following the Rule of Law and Participatory Governance." Comment. [15m]

Role of Civil Services in a democracy.

2014 Has the Cadre based Civil Services Organisation been the cause of slow change in India? Critically examine. [12.5m]

2016 Traditional bureaucratic structure and culture have hampered the process of socio-economic development in India. Comment. [12.5m]

2017 Initially Civil Services in India were designed to achieve the goals of neutrality and effectiveness, which seems to be lacking in the present context. Do you agree with the view that drastic reforms are required in Civil Services. Comment [15m]

2020 “Institutional quality is a crucial driver of economic performance”. In this context suggest reforms in Civil Service for strengthening democracy. [10m]

2024 The Doctrine of Democratic Governance makes it necessary that the public perception of the integrity and commitment of civil servants becomes absolutely positive. Discuss. [10m]

2026 Analyse the advantages and limitations of the generalist structure of the Indian Civil Services in contemporary governance. [10m]

Social Justice

Welfare schemes for vulnerable sections of the population by the Centre and States and the performance of these schemes; mechanisms, laws, institutions and Bodies constituted for the protection and betterment of these vulnerable sections.

2013 The Central Government frequently complains on the poor performance of the State Governments in eradicating suffering of the vulnerable sections of the society. Restructuring of Centrally sponsored schemes across the sectors for ameliorating the cause of vulnerable sections of population aims at providing flexibility to the States in better implementation. Critically evaluate. [10m]

2014 Do government's schemes for up-lifting vulnerable and backward communities by protecting required social resources for them, lead to their exclusion in establishing businesses in urban economics? [12.5m]

2016 Examine the main provisions of the National Child Policy and throw light on the status of its implementation. [12.5m]

2017 Does the Rights of Persons with Disabilities Act, 2016 ensure effective mechanism for empowerment and inclusion of the intended beneficiaries in the society? Discuss [10m]

2019 Performance of welfare schemes that are implemented for vulnerable sections is not so effective due to absence of their awareness and active involvement at all stages of policy process – Discuss. [15m]

2021 “Though women in post-Independent India have excelled in various fields, the social attitude towards women and feminist movement has been patriarchal.” Apart from women education and women empowerment schemes, what interventions can help change this milieu? [15m]

2022 The Rights of Persons with Disabilities Act, 2016 remains only a legal document without intense sensitisation of government functionaries and citizens regarding disability. Comment.

[10m]

2023 “Development and welfare schemes for the vulnerable, by its nature, are discriminatory in approach.” Do you agree? Give reasons for your answer. [15m]

2025 Women’s social capital complements in advancing empowerment and gender equity. Explain. [10m]

2026 Right to privacy relating to self-identity is very dear to every human being and well protected under Article 21 of the Constitution. In this context, examine the effect of the amendment in 2026, to the Transgender Persons (Protection of Rights) Act, 2019. [10m]

2026 Does India's tribal development policy reflect the aspirations for a socially grounded and equity-based governance? Justify your answer. [10m]

Issues relating to development and management of Social Sector/Services relating to Health, Education, Human Resources.

2013 Identify the Millennium Development Goals (MDGs) that are related to health. Discuss the success of the actions taken by the Government for achieving the same. [10m]

2014 Should the premier institutes like IITs/IIMs be allowed to retain premier status, allowed more academic independence in designing courses and also decide mode/ criteria of selection of students. Discuss in light of the growing challenges. [12.5m]

2014 An athlete participates in Olympics for personal triumph and nation’s glory; victors are showered with cash incentives by various agencies, on their return. Discuss the merit of state sponsored talent hunt and its cultivation as against the rationale of a reward mechanism as encouragement. [12.5m]

2015 The quality of higher education in India requires major improvements to make it internationally competitive. Do you think that the entry of foreign educational institutions would help improve the quality of higher and technical education in the country? Discuss. [12.5m]

2015 Public health system has limitations in providing universal health coverage. Do you think that the private sector could help in bridging the gap? What other viable alternatives would you suggest? [12.5m]

2016 Demographic Dividend in India will remain only theoretical unless our manpower becomes more educated, aware, skilled and creative. What measures have been taken by the government to enhance the capacity of our population to be more productive and employable? [12.5m]

2016 Professor Amartya Sen has advocated important reforms in the realms of primary education and primary health care. What are your suggestions to improve their status and performance? [12.5m]

2017 ‘To ensure effective implementation of policies addressing water, sanitation and hygiene needs, the identification of beneficiary segments is to be synchronized with the anticipated outcomes’ Examine the statement in the context of the WASH scheme. [10m]

2018 Appropriate local community-level healthcare intervention is a prerequisite to achieve 'Health for All' in India. Explain. [10m]

2019 Despite Consistent experience of High growth, India still goes with the lowest indicators of human development. Examine the issues that make balanced and inclusive development elusive. [10m]

2020 National Education Policy 2020 is in conformity with the Sustainable Development Goal-4 (2030). It intends to restructure and reorient education system in India. Critically examine the statement. [15m]

2020 In order to enhance the prospects of social development, sound and adequate health care policies are needed particularly in the fields of geriatric and maternal health care. Discuss. [10m]

2021 "Earn while you learn" scheme needs to be strengthened to make vocational education and skill training meaningful." Comment. (150 words) [10m]

2021 "Besides being a moral imperative of a Welfare State, primary health structure is a necessary precondition for sustainable development." Analyse.(150 words) [10m]

2022 The Right of Children to Free and Compulsory Education Act, 2009 remains inadequate in promoting incentive-based system for children's education without generating awareness about the importance of schooling. Analyse. [15m]

2023 Skill development programs have succeed in increasing human resources supply to various sectors. In the context of the statement analyze the linkages between education, skill and employment. [15m]

2023 The crucial aspect of development process has been the inadequate attention paid to Human Resource Development in India. Suggest measures that can address this adequacy. [10m]

2024 In a crucial domain like the public healthcare system, the Indian State should play a vital role to contain the adverse impact of marketisation of the system. Suggest some measures through which the State can enhance the reach of public healthcare at the grassroots level. [15m]

2026 Should education be treated primarily as a welfare obligation of the state or as a strategic investment for building a globally competitive, knowledge-driven nation? Critically evaluate. [15m]

Issues relating to poverty and hunger

2013 The concept of Mid Day Meal (MDM) scheme is almost a century old in India with early beginnings in Madras Presidency in pre-independent India. The scheme has again been given impetus in most states in the last two decades. Critically examine its twin objectives, latest mandates and success. [10m]

2015 Though there have been several different estimates of poverty in India, all indicate reduction in poverty levels over time. Do you agree? Critically examine with reference to urban and rural poverty indicators. [12.5m]

2017 'Poverty Alleviation Programmes in India remain mere show pieces until and unless they are backed by political will'. Discuss with reference to the performance of the major poverty alleviation programmes in India. [15m]

2017 Hunger and Poverty are the biggest challenges for good governance in India still today. Evaluate how far successive governments have progressed in dealing with these humongous problems. Suggest measures for improvement. [10m]

2018 How far do you agree with the view that the focus on lack of availability of food as the main cause of hunger takes the attention away from ineffective human development policies in India? [15m]

2019 There is a growing divergence in the relationship between poverty and hunger in India. The shrinking of social expenditure by the government is forcing the poor to spend more on NonFood essential items squeezing their food – budget.- Elucidate. [10m]

2020 "The incidence and intensity of poverty are more important in determining poverty based on income alone". In this context analyse the latest United Nations Multidimensional Poverty Index Report. [15m]

2022 Besides the welfare schemes, India needs deft management of inflation and unemployment to serve the poor and the underprivileged sections of the society. Discuss. [15m]

2024 Poverty and malnutrition create a vicious cycle, adversely affecting human capital formation. What steps can be taken to break the cycle? [10m]

2025 Inequality in the ownership pattern of resources is one of the major causes of poverty. Discuss in the context of 'paradox of poverty'. [15m]

2026 Malnutrition in India is not merely a public health concern; it is also a challenge of social equity, human development and effective welfare governance. Discuss. [10m]

International Relations

India and its neighborhood- relations.

2013 Discuss the political developments in Maldives in the last two years. Should they be of any cause of concern to India? [10m]

2013 In respect of India-Sri Lanka relations, discuss how domestic factors influence foreign policy. [10m]

2013 The protests in Shahbag Square in Dhaka in Bangladesh reveal a fundamental split in society between the nationalists and Islamic forces. What is its significance for India? [10m]

2013 What is meant by Gujral doctrine? Does it have any relevance today? Discuss. [10m]

2015 Project 'Mausam' is considered a unique foreign policy initiative of the Indian Government to improve relationship with its neighbors. Does the project have a strategic dimension? Discuss. [12.5m]

2015 Terrorist activities and mutual distrust have clouded India-Pakistan relations. To what extent the use of soft power like sports and cultural exchanges could help generate goodwill between the two countries? Discuss with suitable examples. [12.5m]

2022 India is an age-old friend of Sri Lanka.' Discuss India's role in the recent crisis in Sri Lanka the light of the preceding statement. [10m]

2026 "China's Belt and Road Initiative (BRI) has transformed South Asia from a regional space into a theatre of great power competition." Analyse the strategic implications of the BRI for India's security and regional influence in South Asia. [15m]

Bilateral, regional and global groupings and agreements involving India and/or affecting India's interests.

2013 Economic ties between India and Japan, while growing in recent years, are still far below their potential. Elucidate the policy constraints which are inhibiting this growth. [10m]

2014 With respect to the South China sea, maritime territorial disputes and rising tension affirm the need for safeguarding maritime security to ensure freedom of navigation and over flight throughout the region. In this context, discuss the bilateral issues between India and China. [12.5m]

2015 Increasing interest of India in Africa has its pros and cons. Critically examine. [12.5m]

2016 Increasing cross-border terrorist attacks in India and growing interference in the internal affairs of several member-states by Pakistan are not conducive for the future of SAARC (South Asian Association for Regional Cooperation). Explain with suitable examples. [12.5m]

2016 Evaluate the economic and strategic dimensions of India's Look East Policy in the context of the post-Cold War international scenario. [12.5m]

2018 India's relations with Israel have, of late, acquired a depth and diversity, which cannot be rolled back." Discuss. [10m]

2019 'The time has come for India and Japan to build a strong contemporary relationship, one involving global and strategic partnership that will have a great significance for Asia and the world as a whole.' Comment. [10m]

2019 "What introduces friction into the ties between India and the United States is that Washington is still unable to find for India a position in its global strategy, which would satisfy India's National self-esteem and ambitions" Explain with suitable examples. [15m]

2020 What is the significance of Indo-US defence deals over Indo-Russian defence deals? Discuss with reference to stability in the Indo-Pacific region. [15m]

2020 'Quadrilateral Security Dialogue (Quad)' is transforming itself into a trade bloc from a military alliance, in present times - Discuss. [15m]

2021 "If the last few decades were of Asia's growth story, the next few are expected to be of Africa's." In the light of this statement, examine India's influence in Africa in recent years. [10m]

2021 The newly tri-nation partnership AUKUS is aimed at countering China's ambitions in the Indo-Pacific region. Is it going to supersede the existing partnerships in the region? Discuss the strength and impact of AUKUS in the present scenario. [15m]

2021 Critically examine the aims and objectives of SCO. What importance does it hold for India? [15m]

2022 How will I2U2 (India, Israel, UAE and USA) grouping transform India's position in global politics ? [15m]

2022 Do you think that BIMSTEC is a parallel organisation like the SAARC? What are the similarities and dissimilarities between the two? How are Indian foreign policy objectives realized by forming this new organisation? [10m]

2023 'Virus of Conflict is affecting the functioning of the SCO'. In the light of the above statement point out the role of India in mitigating problems. [10m]

2024 Discuss the geopolitical and geostrategic importance of Maldives for India with a focus on global trade and energy flows. Further also discuss how this relationship affects India's maritime security and regional stability amidst international competition? [10m]

2024 Critically analyse India's evolving diplomatic, economic and strategic relations with the Central Asian Republics (CARs) highlighting their increasing significance in regional and global geopolitics. [10m]

2025 India–Africa digital partnership is achieving mutual respect, co-development and long-term institutional partnerships. Elaborate. [10m]

2026 "IPMDA (Indo-Pacific Partnership for Maritime Domain Awareness) bridges the gap between India's SAGAR (Security and Growth for All in the Region) vision and the Quad's collective Indo-Pacific strategy." Make a critical assessment of the statement focusing on IPMDA. [10m]

2026 "BRICS acts as a powerful counterweight in global governance, actively amplifying the voice and influence of the Global South." Explain the role of BRICS in projecting itself as an alternative to other groupings. [10m]

Effect of policies and politics of developed and developing countries on India's interests, Indian diaspora.

2013 The proposed withdrawal of International Security Assistance Force (ISAF) from Afghanistan in 2014 is fraught with major security implications for the countries of the region. Examine in light of the fact that India is faced with a plethora of challenges and needs to safeguard its own strategic interests. [10m]

2013 What do you understand by 'The String of Pearls'? How does it impact India? Briefly outline the steps taken by India to counter this. [10m]

2017 The question of India's Energy Security constitutes the most important part of India's economic progress. Analyze India's energy policy cooperation with West Asian Countries. [15m]

2017 ‘China is using its economic relations and positive trade surplus as tools to develop potential military power status in Asia’, In the light of this statement, discuss its impact on India as her neighbor. [10m]

2017 Indian Diaspora has an important role to play in South-East Asian countries’ economy and society. Appraise the role of Indian Diaspora in SouthEast Asia in this context [15m]

2018 A number of outside powers have entrenched themselves in Central Asia, which is a zone of interest to India. Discuss the implications, in this context, of India’s joining the Ashgabat Agreement, 2018. [10m]

2018 In what ways would the ongoing US-Iran Nuclear Pact Controversy affect the national interest of India? How should India respond to this situation? [15m]

2019 “The long-sustained image of India as a leader of the oppressed and marginalised Nations has disappeared on account of its new found role in the emerging global order”. Elaborate. [15m]

2020 ‘Indian diaspora has a decisive role to play in the politics and economy of America and European Countries’. Comment with examples. [10m]

2021 “The USA is facing an existential threat in the form of a China, that is much more challenging than the erstwhile Soviet Union.” Explain. [10m]

2022 Clean energy is the order of the day. Describe briefly India’s changing policy towards climate change in various international fora in the context of geopolitics. [15m]

2023 ‘The expansion and strengthening of NATO and a stronger US-Europe strategic partnership works well in India.’ What is your opinion about this statement? Give reasons and examples to support your answer. [15m]

2023 Indian diaspora has scaled new heights in the West. Describe its economic and political benefits for India. [10m]

2024 The West is fostering India as an alternative to reduce dependence on China’s supply chain and as a strategic ally to counter China’s political and economic dominance.’ Explain this statement with examples. [10m]

2025 “Energy security constitutes the dominant kingpin of India’s foreign policy, and is linked with India’s overarching influence in Middle Eastern countries.” How would you integrate energy security with India’s foreign policy trajectories in the coming years? [15m]

2025 With the waning of globalization, post-Cold War world is becoming a site of sovereign nationalism. Elucidate. [10m]

2026 "India's global diaspora acts as a living bridge, as a critical economic factor and knowledge network in transforming cultural heritage into geopolitical influence and strategic leverage worldwide." Critically examine this statement. [15m]

Important International institutions, agencies and fora- their structure, mandate.

2013 The World Bank and the IMF, collectively known as the Bretton Woods Institutions, are the two inter-governmental pillars supporting the structure of the world's economic and financial order. Superficially, the World Bank and the IMF exhibit many common characteristics, yet their role, functions and mandate are distinctly different. Elucidate. [10m]

2014 Some of the International funding agencies have special terms for economic participation stipulating a substantial component of the aid to be used for sourcing equipment from the leading countries. Discuss on merits of such terms and if, there exists a strong case not to accept such conditions in the Indian context. [12.5m]

2014 Some of the International funding agencies have special terms for economic participation stipulating a substantial component of the aid to be used for sourcing equipment from the leading countries. Discuss on merits of such terms and if, there exists a strong case not to accept such conditions in the Indian context. [12.5m]

2014 India has recently signed to become founding a New Development Bank (NDB) and also the Asian Infrastructure Investment Bank (AIIB). How will the role of the two Banks be different? Discuss the significance of these two Banks for India. [12.5m]

2014 The aim of Information Technology Agreements (ITAs) is to lower all taxes and tariffs on information technology products by signatories to zero. What impact should such agreements have on India's interests? [12.5m]

2014 WTO is an important international institution where decisions taken affect countries in profound manner. What is the mandate of WTO and how binding are their decisions? Critically analyse India's stand on the latest round of talks on Food security. [12.5m]

2015 Discuss the impediments India is facing in its pursuit of a permanent seat in UN Security Council. [12.5m]

2016 What are the aims and objectives of the McBride Commission of the UNESCO? What is India's position on these? [12.5m]

2016 The broader aims and objectives of WTO are to manage and promote international trade in the era of globalization. But the Doha round of negotiations seem doomed due to differences between the developed and the developing countries. Discuss in the Indian perspective. [12.5m]

2017 What are the main functions of the United Nations Economic and Social Council (ECOSOC)? Explain different functional commissions attached to it. [10m]

2018 What are the key areas of reform if the WTO has to survive in the present context of 'Trade War', especially keeping in mind the interest of India? [15m]

2019 'Too little cash, too much politics, leaves UNESCO fighting for life.' Discuss the statement in the light of US' withdrawal and its accusation of the cultural body as being 'anti-Israel bias'. [10m]

2020 Critically examine the role of WHO in providing global health security during the Covid-19 pandemic. [10m]

2023 'Sea is an important Component of the Cosmos'. Discuss in the light of the above statement the role of the IMO(International Maritime Organisation) in protecting environment and enhancing maritime safety and security. [15m]

2024 Terrorism has become a significant threat to global peace and security'. Evaluate the effectiveness of the United Nations Security Council's Counter-Terrorism Committee (CTC) and its associated bodies in addressing and mitigating this threat at the international level. [15m]

2025 "The reform process in the United Nations remains unresolved, because of the delicate imbalance of East and West and entanglement of the USA vs. Russo-Chinese alliance." Examine and critically evaluate the East-West policy confrontations in this regard. [15m]

GS Paper III

Economy, Agriculture, S&T, Environment & Security · 288 PYQs

Economic Development

Indian Economy (issues re: planning, mobilisation of resources, growth, development, employment);

2013 Discussion the rationale for introducing Good and services tax in India. Bring out critically the reasons for delay in roll out for its regime. [10m]

2014 While we flaunt India's demographic dividend, we ignore the dropping rates of employability. What are we missing while doing so? Where will the jobs that India desperately needs come from? Explain. [12.5m]

2015 The nature of economic growth in India is described as jobless growth. Do you agree with this view? Give arguments in favour of your answer. [12.5m]

2015 Success of 'Make in India' programme depends on the success of 'Skill India' programme and radical labour reforms. Discuss with logical arguments. [12.5m]

2017 Among several factors for India's potential growth, savings rate is the most effective one. Do you agree? What are the other factors available for growth potential? [10m]

2018 How are the principles followed by the NITI Aayog different from those followed by the erstwhile Planning Commission in India? [15m]

2019 Do you agree with the view that steady GDP growth and low inflation have left the Indian economy in good shape? Give reasons in support of your arguments. [10m]

2019 Enumerate the indirect taxes which have been subsumed in the Goods and Services Tax (GST) in India. Also, comment on the revenue implications of the GST introduced in India since July 2017. [10m]

2020 Explain the meaning of investment in an economy in terms of capital formation. Discuss the factors to be considered while designing a concession agreement between a public entity and a private entity. [15m]

2020 Define potential GDP and explain its determinants. What are the factors that have been inhibiting India from realizing its potential GDP? [10m]

2020 Explain the rationale behind the Goods and Services Tax (Compensation to States) Act of 2017. How has COVID-19 impacted the GST compensation fund and created new federal tensions? [15m]

2021 Explain the difference between computing methodology of India's gross domestic product (GDP) before the year 2015 and after the year 2015. [10m]

2021 Do you agree that the Indian economy has recently experienced a V-shaped recovery? Give reasons in support of your answer. [15m]

2022 The increase in life expectancy in the country has led to newer health challenges in the community. What are those challenges and what steps need to be taken to meet them ? [10m]

2022 Economic growth in the recent past has been led by increase in labour activity.” Explain this statement. Suggest the growth pattern that will lead to creation of more jobs without compromising labour productivity. [15m]

2023 Most of the unemployment in India is structural in nature. Examine the methodology adopted to compute unemployment in the country and suggest improvements. [15m]

2023 Distinguish between ‘care economy’ and ‘monetized economy’. How can care economy be brought into monetized economy through women empowerment? [15m]

2023 What is the status of digitalization in the Indian economy? Examine the problems faced in this regard and suggest improvements. [10m]

2023 Faster economic growth requires increased share of the manufacturing sector in GDP, particularly of MSMEs. Comment on the present policies of the Government in this regard. [10m]

2024 What are the causes of persistent high food inflation in India? Comment on the effectiveness of the monetary policy of the RBI to control this type of inflation. [10m]

2025 Discuss the rationale of the Production Linked Incentive (PLI) scheme. What are its achievements? In what way can the functioning and outcomes of the scheme be improved? [15m]

2025 India aims to become a semiconductor manufacturing hub. What are the challenges faced by the semiconductor industry in India? Mention the salient features of the India Semiconductor Mission. [15m]

2026 What do you mean by Digital Rupee? In this context, explain the working and progress of India's Central Bank Digital Currency (CBDC). [10m]

2026 How are startups in India promoting entrepreneurship, innovation and employment? Discuss the global and domestic challenges in their working and suggest suitable measures to overcome these challenges. [15m]

Inclusive growth and issues arising from it

2013 With a consideration towards the strategy of inclusive growth, the new Companies Bill, 2013 has indirectly made CSR a mandatory obligation. Discuss the challenges expected in its implementation in right earnest. Also discuss other provisions in the Bill and their implications [10m]

2014 Capitalism has guided the world economy to unprecedented prosperity. However, it often encourages shortsightedness and contributes to wide disparities between the rich and the poor. In this light, would it be correct to believe and adopt capitalism driving inclusive growth in India? Discuss. [12.5m]

2016 Pradhan Mantri Jan-Dhan Yojana (PMJDY) is necessary for bringing unbanked to the institutional finance fold. Do you agree with this for financial inclusion of the poorer section of

the Indian society? Give arguments to justify your opinion. [12.5m]

2016 Comment on the challenges for inclusive growth which include careless and useless manpower in the Indian context. Suggest measures to be taken for facing these challenges.

[12.5m]

2016 What are 'Smart Cities? Examine their relevance for urban development in India. Will it increase rural-urban differences? Give arguments for Smart Villages' in the light of PURA and RURBAN Mission. [12.5m]

2017 What are the salient features of 'inclusive growth'? Has India been experiencing such a growth process? Analyze and suggest measures for inclusive growth. [15m]

2019 It is argued that the strategy of inclusive growth is intended to meet the objectives of inclusiveness and sustainability together. Comment on this statement. [15m]

2020 Explain intra-generational and inter-generational issues of equity from the perspective of inclusive growth and sustainable development. [10m]

2021 Investment in infrastructure is essential for a more rapid and inclusive economic growth. Discuss in the light of India's experience. [15m]

2022 Is inclusive growth possible under market economy? State the significance of financial inclusion in achieving economic growth in India. [10m]

2024 Examine the pattern and trend of public expenditure on social services in the post-reforms period in India. To what extent this has been in consonance with achieving the objective of inclusive growth? [10m]

2025 Distinguish between the Human Development Index (HDI) and Inequality-adjusted Human Development Index (IHDI) with special reference to India. Why is the IHDI considered a better indicator of inclusive growth? [10m]

2026 Examine the view that financial inclusion is an integral part of social and economic inclusion in a country like India. Also throw light on the usefulness of the R.B.I.'s Financial Inclusion Index. [10m]

Government Budgeting

2013 What are the reasons for introduction of Fiscal responsibility and Budget Management (FRBM) act, 2003? Discuss critically its salient features and their effectiveness. [10m]

2013 What is meaning of the term tax-expenditure? Taking housing sector as an example, discuss how it influences budgetary policies of the government. [10m]

2016 Women empowerment in India needs gender budgeting. What are the requirements and status of gender budgeting in the Indian context? [12.5m]

2017 One of the intended objectives of Union Budget 2017-18 is to 'transform, energize and clean India'. Analyse the measures proposed in the Budget 2017-18 to achieve the objective. [15m]

2018 Comment on the important changes introduced in respect of the Long-term Capital Gains Tax (LCGT) and Dividend Distribution Tax (DDT) in the Union Budget for 2018-2019. [10m]

2019 The public expenditure management is a challenge to the government of India in the context of budget-making during the post-liberalization period. Clarify it. [15m]

2021 Distinguish between capital budget and revenue budget. Explain the components of both these Budgets. [10m]

2025 Explain how the Fiscal Health Index (FHI) can be used as a tool for assessing the fiscal performance of states in India. In what way would it encourage the states to adopt prudent and sustainable fiscal policies? [15m]

Food processing and related industries in India (scope & significance, location, upstream-downstream requirements, supply chain management);

2013 India needs to strengthen measures to promote the pink revolution in food industry for better nutrition and health. Critically elucidate the statement. [10m]

2015 What are the impediments in marketing and supply chain management in developing the food processing industry in India? Can e-commerce help in overcoming these bottlenecks? [12.5m]

2017 What are the reasons for poor acceptance of cost effective small processing unit? How the food processing unit will be helpful to uplift the socio-economic status of poor farmers? [10m]

2019 Elaborate on the policy taken by the government of India to meet the challenges of the food processing sector. [15m]

2020 What are the challenges and opportunities of food processing sector in the country? How can income of the farmers be substantially increased by encouraging food processing? [10m]

2022 Elaborate the scope and significance of the food processing industry in India. [10m]

2025 Examine the scope of the food processing industries in India. Elaborate the measures taken by the government in the food processing industries for generating employment opportunities. [15m]

Effects of Liberalisation on the economy; Changes in Industrial policy & their effects on industrial growth

2013 Discuss the impact of FDI entry into multi-trade retail sector on supply chain management in commodity trade pattern of the economy. [5m]

2013 Though India allowed foreign direct investment (FDI) in what is called multi brand retail through joint venture route in September 2012, the FDI even after a year, has not picked up. Discuss the reasons. [5m]

2013 Examine the impact of liberalization on companies owned by Indian. Are the competing with the MNCs satisfactorily? [10m]

2014 Foreign direct investment in the defence sector is now said to be liberalised. What influence this is expected to have on Indian defence and economy in the short and long run?

[12.5m]

2014 Normally countries shift from agriculture to industry and then later to services, but India shifted directly from agriculture to services. What are the reasons for the huge growth of services vis-a-vis industry in the country? Can India become a developed country without a strong industrial base? [12.5m]

2015 Craze for gold in Indians have led to a surge in import of gold in recent years and put pressure on balance of payments and external value of rupee. In view of this, examine the merits of Gold Monetization Scheme. [12.5m]

2015 There is a clear acknowledgement that Special Economic Zones (SEZs) are a tool of industrial development, manufacturing and exports. Recognizing this potential, the whole instrumentality of SEZs requires augmentation. Discuss the issues plaguing the success of SEZs with respect to taxation, governing laws and administration. [12.5m]

2016 Justify the need for FDI for the development of the Indian economy. Why there is gap between MOUs signed and actual FDIs? Suggest remedial steps to be taken for increasing actual FDIs in India. [12.5m]

2016 How globalization has led to the reduction of employment in the formal sector of the Indian economy? Is increased informalization detrimental to the development of the country?

[12.5m]

2017 “Industrial growth rate has lagged behind in the overall growth of Gross-Domestic-Product(GDP) in the post-reform period” Give reasons. How far the recent changes in Industrial Policy are capable of increasing the industrial growth rate? [15m]

2017 Account for the failure of the manufacturing sector in achieving the goal of labour-intensive exports. Suggest measures for more labour intensive rather capital-intensive export. [10m]

2018 How would the recent phenomena of protectionism and currency manipulations in world trade affect macroeconomic stability of India? [15m]

2024 Discuss the merits and demerits of the four ‘Labour Codes’ in the context of labour market reforms in India. What has been the progress so far in this regard? [15m]

2025 What are the challenges before the Indian economy when the world is moving away from free trade and multilateralism to protectionism and bilateralism? How can these challenges be met? [10m]

Infrastructure (energy, ports, roads, airports, railways); Investment models

2013 Adaptation of PPP model for infrastructure development of the country has not been free from criticism. Critically discuss the pros and cons of the model. [10m]

2013 Write a note on India's green energy corridor to alleviate the problems of conventional energy. [10m]

2013 What do you understand by run of the river hydroelectricity project? How is it different from any other hydroelectricity project? [5m]

2014 International civil aviation laws provide all countries complete and exclusive sovereignty over the airspace above the territory. What do you understand by airspace? What are the implications of these laws on the space above this airspace? Discuss the challenges which this poses and suggests ways to contain the threat. [12.5m]

2014 Explain how private public partnership agreements, in longer gestation infrastructure projects, can transfer unsuitable liabilities to the future. What arrangements need to be put in place to ensure that successive generations' capacities are not compromised? [12.5m]

2014 National urban transport policy emphasizes on moving people instead of moving vehicles. Discuss critically the success of various strategies of the government in this regard. [12.5m]

2015 To what factors can the recent dramatic fall in equipment costs and tariff of solar energy be attributed? What implications does the trend have for the thermal power producers and the related industry? [12.5m]

2016 Give an account of the current status and the targets to be achieved pertaining to renewable energy sources in the country. Discuss in brief the importance of National Programme on Light Emitting Diodes (LEDs). [12.5m]

2017 Examine the developments of Airports in India through Joint Ventures under Public-Private Partnership (PPP) model. What are the challenges faced by the authorities in this regard. [10m]

2018 With growing energy needs should India keep on expanding its nuclear energy programme? Discuss the facts and fears associated with nuclear energy. [15m]

2018 Access to affordable, reliable, sustainable and modern energy is the sine qua non to achieve Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs). Comment on the progress made in India in this regard. [10m]

2020 Describe the benefits of deriving electric energy from sunlight in contrast to the conventional energy generation. What are the initiatives offered by our Government for this purpose? [15m]

2022 Why is Public Private Partnership (PPP) required in infrastructural projects ? Examine the role of PPP model in the redevelopment of Railway Stations in India. [10m]

2022 Do you think India will meet 50 percent of its energy needs from renewable energy by 2030 ? Justify your answer. How will the shift of subsidies from fossil fuels to renewables help achieve the above objective ? Explain. [15m]

2024 What is the need for expanding the regional air connectivity in India? In this context, discuss the government's UDAN Scheme and its achievements. [15m]

2026 Explain the key challenges for India's energy security. What measures do you suggest for ensuring energy security along with economic growth and sustainability? [15m]

Agriculture

Major Crops - Cropping patterns in various parts of the country

2016 What is allelopathy? Discuss its role in major cropping systems of irrigated agriculture. [12.5m]

2017 What are the major reasons for declining rice and wheat yield in the cropping system? How crop diversification is helpful to stabilize the yield of the crop in the system? [15m]

2018 How has the emphasis on certain crops brought about changes in cropping patterns in recent past? Elaborate the emphasis on millets production and consumption. [15m]

2018 Assess the role of National Horticulture Mission (NHM) in boosting the production, productivity and income of horticulture farms. How far has it succeeded in increasing the income of farmers? [15m]

2018 Sikkim is the first 'Organic State' in India. What are the ecological and economical benefits of Organic State? [10m]

2019 How far is the Integrated Farming System (IFS) helpful in sustaining agricultural production? [10m]

2020 What are the major factors responsible for making rice-wheat system a success? In spite of this success how has this system become bane in India? [15m]

2021 What is the present challenges before crop diversification? How do emerging technologies provide an opportunity for crop diversification? [15m]

2022 What is Integrated Farming System ? How is it helpful to small and marginal farmers in India ? [15m]

2023 Explain the changes in cropping pattern in India in the context of changes in consumption pattern and marketing conditions. [15m]

2024 Explain the role of millets for ensuring health and nutritional security in India. [10m]

2025 Explain the factors influencing the decision of the farmers on the selection of high value crops in India. [10m]

2026 How Indian agriculture has been transformed from food scarcity to food surplus level? Explain the various government policies implemented for diversification of Indian agriculture. [15m]

Different types of irrigation and irrigation systems

- 2016** What is water-use efficiency? Describe the role of micro-irrigation in increasing the water-use efficiency. [12.5m]
- 2019** Elaborate on the impact of the National Watershed Project in increasing agricultural production from water-stressed areas. [10m]
- 2020** Suggest measures to improve water storage and irrigation system to make its judicious use under depleting scenario. [15m]
- 2020** What are the salient features of the Jal Shakti Abhiyan launches by the Government of India for water conservation and water security? [10m]
- 2021** How and to what extent would micro-irrigation help in solving India's water crisis? [10m]
- 2024** What are the major challenges faced by Indian irrigation system in recent times? State the measures taken by the government for efficient irrigation management. [15m]

Storage, transport and marketing of Agricultural produce and issues and related constraints

- 2014** There is also a point of view that agriculture produce market committees (APMCs) set up under the state acts have not only impeded the development of agriculture but also have been the cause of food inflation in India. Critically examine. [12.5m]
- 2018** Examine the role of supermarkets in supply chain management of fruits, vegetables and food items. How do they eliminate number of intermediaries? [10m]
- 2020** What are the main constraints in transport & marketing of agricultural produce in India? [10m]
- 2022** What are the main bottlenecks in upstream and downstream process of marketing of agricultural products in India ? [15m]
- 2025** Elaborate the scope and significance of supply chain management of agricultural commodities in India. [10m]
- 2026** Explain the factors responsible for inefficiency of agri-produce marketing. How e-commerce helps to reduce inefficiency of agri-produce marketing? Explain. [10m]

E- technology in the aid of farmers

- 2014** "In the villages itself no form of credit organization will be suitable except the cooperative society". All India Rural Credit Survey. Discuss this statement in the background of agricultural finance in India. What constraints and challenges do financial institutions supplying agricultural finance face? How can technology be used to better reach and serve rural clients? [12.5m]
- 2015** How can the 'Digital India' programme help farmers to improve farm productivity and income? What steps has the Government taken in this regards? [12.5m]

2023 How does e-Technology help farmers in production and marketing of agricultural produce? Explain it. [10m]

2025 How does nanotechnology offer significant advancements in the field of agriculture? How can this technology help to uplift the socio-economic status of farmers? [15m]

Issues related to direct and indirect farm subsidies and MSP; PDS (objectives, functioning, limitations, revamping, issues of buffer stocks & food security), Technology Missions

2013 What are the different types of agriculture subsidies given to farmers at the national and state levels? Critically analyze the agriculture subsidy regime with the reference to the distortions created by it. [10m]

2013 Food security bill is expected to eliminate hunger and malnutrition in India. Critically discuss various apprehensions in its effective implementation along with the concerns it has generated in WTO. [10m]

2015 In what way could replacement of price subsidy with Direct Benefit Transfer (DBT) change the scenario of subsidies in India? Discuss. [12.5m]

2016 Given the vulnerability of Indian agriculture to vagaries of nature, discuss the need for crop insurance and bring out the salient features of the Pradhan Mantri Fasal Bima Yojana (PMFBY) [12.5m]

2017 How do subsidies affect the cropping pattern, crop diversity and economy of farmers? What is the significance of crop insurance, minimum support price and food processing for small and marginal farmers? [15m]

2017 Explain various types of revolutions, took place in Agriculture after Independence in India. How these revolutions have helped in poverty alleviation and food security in India? [10m]

2018 What do you mean by Minimum Support Price (MSP)? How will MSP rescue the farmers from the low income trap? [10m]

2019 What are the reformative steps taken by the government to make food grain distribution system more effective? [15m]

2021 What are the salient features of the National Food Security Act, 2013? How has the Food Security Bill helped in eliminating hunger and malnutrition in India? [15m]

2022 What are the major challenges of Public Distribution System (PDS) in India ? How can it be made effective and transparent ? [10m]

2023 What are the direct and indirect subsidies provided to farm sector in India? Discuss the issues raised by the World Trade Organization(WTO) in relation to agricultural subsidies. [15m]

2024 Elucidate the importance of buffer stocks for stabilizing agricultural prices in India. What are the challenges associated with the storage of buffer stock? Discuss. [15m]

2026 Describe the various Technology Missions initiated in Indian agriculture and examine their role in food security. [10m]

2026 Discuss the different types of subsidies and supports provided by the Government of India to agricultural sector. Examine the related issues pertaining to Agreement on Agriculture of World Trade Organisation (WTO). [15m]

Economics of Animal-Rearing

2015 Livestock rearing has a big potential for providing non-farm employment and income in rural areas. Discuss suggesting suitable measures to promote this sectors in India [12.5m]

Land Reforms in India

2013 Establish the relationship between land reform, agriculture productivity and elimination of poverty in Indian Economy. Discussion the difficulty in designing and implementation of the agriculture friendly land reforms in India. [10m]

2014 The right to fair compensation and transparency land acquisition, rehabilitation and resettlement act, 2013 has come into effect from 1 January 2014. What implication would it have on industrialisation and agriculture in India? [12.5m]

2015 In view of the declining average size of land holdings in India which has made agriculture non-viable for a majority of farmers, should contract farming and land leasing be promoted in agriculture? Critically evaluate the pros and cons. [12.5m]

2016 Discuss the role of land reforms in agricultural development. Identify the factors that were responsible for the success of land reforms in India. [12.5m]

2021 How did land reforms in some parts of the country help to improve the socio-economic conditions of marginal and small farmers? [10m]

2023 State the objectives and measures of land reforms in India. Discuss how land ceiling policy on landholding can be considered as an effective reform under economic criteria. [10m]

2024 What were the factors responsible for the successful implementation of land reforms in some parts of the country? Elaborate. [10m]

Science & Technology

Science and Technology- developments and their applications and effects in everyday life

2013 How does the 3D printing technology work? List out the advantages and disadvantages of the technology. [5m]

2013 What is digital signature? What does its authentication mean? Giver various salient built in features of a digital signature. [5m]

2013 What is an FRP composite material? How are they manufactured? Discuss their applications in aviation and automobile industry [5m]

2013 What do you understand by fixed dose drug combinations (FDCs)? Discuss their merits and demerits. [10m]

2013 What do you understand by Umpire decision review in cricket? Discuss its various components. Explain how silicon tape on the edge of a bat may fool the system? [10m]

2014 Can overuse and the availability of antibiotics without doctor's prescription, the contributors to the emergence of drug-resistant diseases in India? What are the available mechanisms for monitoring and control? Critically discuss the various issues involved. [12.5m]

2017 Stem cell therapy is gaining popularity in India to treat a wide variety of medical conditions including Leukaemia, Thalassaemia, damaged cornea and several burns. Describe briefly what stem cell therapy is and what advantages it has over other treatments? [10m]

2020 COVID-19 pandemic has caused unprecedented devastation worldwide. However, technological advancements are being availed readily to win over the crisis. Give an account of how technology was sought to aid management to the pandemic. [15m]

2020 How is science interwoven deeply with our lives? What are the striking changes in agriculture triggered off by the science-based technologies? [10m]

2021 The Nobel Prize in Physics of 2014 was jointly awarded to a Akasaki, Amano and Nakamura for the invention of Blue LEDs in 1990s. How has this invention impacted the everyday life of human beings? [15m]

2022 What is the basic principle behind vaccine development? How do vaccines work? What approaches were adopted by the Indian vaccine manufacturers to produce COVID-19 vaccines? [15m]

2022 Each year a large amount of plant material, cellulose, is deposited on the surface of Planet Earth. What are the natural processes this cellulose undergoes before yielding carbon dioxide, water and other end products? [10m]

2024 The world is facing an acute shortage of clean and safe freshwater. What are the alternative technologies which can solve this crisis? Briefly discuss any three such technologies citing their key merits and demerits. [15m]

2024 What is the technology being employed for electronic toll collection on highways? What are its advantages and limitations? What are the proposed changes that will make this process seamless? Would this transition carry any potential hazards? [10m]

Achievements of Indians in S&T; Indigenisation of technology & developing new technology

2014 Scientific research in Indian universities is declining, because a career in science is not as attractive as our business operations, engineering or administration, and the universities are becoming consumer oriented. Critically comment. [12.5m]

2017 Give an account of the growth and development of nuclear science and technology in India. What is the advantage of fast breeder reactor programme in India? [15m]

2018 Discuss the work of ‘Bose-Einstein Statistics’ done by Prof. Satyendra Nath Bose and show how it revolutionized the field of Physics. [10m]

2019 How was India benefited from the contributions of Sir M.Visvesvaraya and Dr. M. S. Swaminathan in the fields of water engineering and agricultural science respectively? [10m]

2025 The fusion energy programme in India has steadily evolved over the past few decades. Mention India’s contributions to the international fusion energy project International Thermonuclear Experimental Reactor (ITER). What will be the implications of the success of this project for the future of global energy? [10m]

2026 Distinguish between a Fast Breeder Reactor (FBR) and a thermal nuclear reactor. In the context of first indigenously developed prototype FBR at Kalpakkam, explain the term ‘criticality’. What are its implications for clean energy future of our country? [10m]

Awareness in the fields of IT, Space, Computers, robotics, nano-technology, bio-technology and issues relating to intellectual property rights

2013 Bring out the circumstances in 2005 which forced amendment to section 3(d) in the Indian Patent Law, 1970. Discuss how it has been utilized by Supreme court in its judgment rejecting Novartis patent application for “Glivec”. Discuss briefly the pros and cons of the decision. [10m]

2014 In a globalised world, intellectual property rights assume significance and are a source of litigation. Broadly distinguish between the terms – copyrights, patents and trade secrets. [12.5m]

2015 India’s Traditional Knowledge Digital Library (TKDL) which has a database containing formatted information on more than 2 million medicinal formulations is proving a powerful weapon in the country’s fight against erroneous patents. Discuss the pros and cons making this database publicly available under open-source licensing [12.5m]

2015 Discuss the advantage and security implications of cloud hosting of servers vis-a-vis in-house machine-based hosting for government businesses. [12.5m]

2015 What are the areas of prohibitive labour that can be sustainably managed by robots? Discuss the initiatives that can propel research in premier research institutes for substantive and gainful innovation. [12.5m]

2015 What do you understand by ‘Standard Positioning Systems’ and ‘Protection Positioning Systems’ in the GPS era? Discuss the advantages India perceives from its ambitious IRNSS programme employing just seven satellites. [12.5m]

2016 Why is nanotechnology one of the key technologies of the 21st century? Describe the salient features of Indian Government’s Mission on Nanoscience and Technology and the scope of its application in the development process of the country. [12.5m]

2016 Discuss India’s achievements in the field of Space Science and Technology. How the application of this technology has helped India in its socio-economic development? [12.5m]

2017 India has achieved remarkable successes in unmanned space missions including the Chandrayaan and Mars Orbiter Mission, but has not ventured into manned space mission, both in terms of technology and logistics? Explain critically. [10m]

2018 Why is there so much activity in the field of biotechnology in our country? How has this activity benefitted the field of biopharma? [15m]

2019 How can biotechnology improve the living standards of farmers? [15m]

2019 How is the government of India protecting traditional knowledge of medicine from patenting by pharmaceutical companies? [15m]

2019 What is India's plan to have its own space station and how will it benefit our space programme? [10m]

2020 What do you understand by nanotechnology and how is it helping in health sector? [10m]

2021 What are the research and developmental achievements in applied biotechnology? How will these achievements help to uplift the poor sections of the society? [15m]

2021 How is S-400 air defence system technically superior to any other system presently available in the world? [10m]

2022 Launched on 25th December, 2021, James Webb Space Telescope has been much in the news since then. What are its unique features which make it superior to its predecessor Space Telescopes? What are the key goals of this mission? What potential benefits does it hold for the human race? [15m]

2023 Introduce the concept of Artificial Intelligence (AI). How does AI help clinical diagnosis? Do you perceive any threat to privacy of the individual in the use of AI in the healthcare? [10m]

2023 Discuss several ways in which microorganisms can help in meeting the current fuel shortage. [10m]

2023 What is the main task of India's third moon mission which could not be achieved in its earlier mission? List the countries that have achieved this task. Introduce the subsystems in the spacecraft launched and explain the role of the 'Virtual Launch Control Centre' at the Vikram Sarabhai Space Centre which contributed to the successful launch from Sriharikota [15m]

2024 What is the present world scenario of intellectual property rights with respect to life materials? Although, India is second in the world to file patents, still only a few have been commercialized. Explain the reasons behind this less commercialization. [10m]

2024 What are asteroids? How real is the threat of them causing extinction of life? What strategies have been developed to prevent such a catastrophe? [15m]

2025 How can India achieve energy independence through clean technology by 2047? How can biotechnology play a crucial role in this endeavour? [10m]

2026 Explain by giving two examples, how biotechnology has helped the Indian farmers in processing their perishable crops. [10m]

2026 Mention salient features of 'Mission Drishti'. Discuss the imaging techniques used in the satellite launched on 3rd May 2026. Why it is being considered world's first satellite of its kind? [15m]

2026 What is agentic Artificial Intelligence (AI)? Explain its working. Describe its applications with suitable examples. Discuss the advantages, risks and challenges associated with agentic AI systems. [15m]

Environment

Conservation, environmental pollution and degradation, environmental impact assessment

2013 Enumerate the National Water Policy of India. Taking river Ganges as an example, discuss the strategies which may be adopted for river water pollution control and management. What are the legal provisions for management and handling of hazardous wastes in India? [10m]

2013 What are the consequences of illegal mining? Discuss the ministry of environment and forests' concept of "GO AND NO GO" zones for coal mining. [10m]

2014 Environmental impact assessment studies are increasingly undertaken before project is cleared by the government. Discuss the environmental impacts of coal-fired thermal plants located at Pitheads. [12.5m]

2014 Should the pursuit of carbon credit and clean development mechanism set up under UNFCCC be maintained even though there has been a massive slide in the value of carbon credit? Discuss with respect to India's energy needs for economic growth. [12.5m]

2015 The Namami Gange and National mission for clean Ganga (NMCG) programmes and causes of mixed results from the previous schemes. What quantum leaps can help preserve the river Ganga better than incremental inputs? [12.5m]

2016 Rehabilitation of human settlements is one of the important environmental impacts which always attracts controversy while planning major projects. Discuss the measures suggested for mitigation of this impact while proposing major developmental projects. [12.5m]

2017 'Climate Change' is a global problem. How India will be affected by climate change? How Himalayan and coastal states of India will be affected by climate change? [15m]

2017 Not many years ago, river linking was a concept but it is becoming reality in the country. Discuss the advantages of river linking and its possible impact on the environment. [10m]

2018 How does biodiversity vary in India? How is the Biological Diversity Act, 2002 helpful in conservation of flora and fauna? [15m]

2018 What are the impediments in disposing the huge quantities of discarded solid wastes which are continuously being generated? How do we remove safely the toxic wastes that have been accumulating in our habitable environment? [10m]

2018 What is wetland? Explain the Ramsar concept of 'wise use' in the context of wetland conservation. Cite two examples of Ramsar sites from India. [10m]

2019 Define the concept of carrying capacity of an ecosystem as relevant to an environment. Explain how understanding this concept is vital while planning for sustainable development of a region. [15m]

2019 Coastal sand mining, whether legal or illegal, poses one of the biggest threats to our environment. Analyse the impact of sand mining along the Indian coasts, citing specific examples. [10m]

2020 How does the draft Environment Impact Assessment (EIA) Notification, 2020 differ from the existing EIA Notification, 2006? [10m]

2020 What are the key features of the National Clean Air Programme (NCAP) initiated by the Government of India? [15m]

2021 Describe the key points of the revised Global Air-Quality Guidelines (AQGs) recently released by the World Health Organisation (WHO). How are these different from its last update in 2005? What changes in India's National Clean Air Programme are required to achieve these revised standards? [10m]

2021 Describe the major outcomes of the 26th session of the Conference of the Parties (COP) to the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change (UNFCCC). What are the commitments made by India in this conference? [15m]

2021 Explain the purpose of the Green Grid Initiative launched at world leaders Summit of the COP 26 UN Climate Change Conference in Glasgow in November, 2021. When was this idea first floated in the International Solar Alliance (ISA)? [10m]

2022 Discuss in detail the photochemical smog emphasizing its formation, effects and mitigation. Explain the 1999 Gothenburg Protocol. [10m]

2022 Explain the causes and effects of coastal erosion in India. What are the available coastal management techniques for combating the hazard? [15m]

2022 Discuss global warming and mention its effects on the global climate. Explain the control measures to bring down the level of greenhouse gases which cause global warming, in the light of the Kyoto Protocol, 1997. [15m]

2023 What is oil pollution? What are its impacts on the marine ecosystem? In what way is oil pollution particularly harmful for a country like India? [10m]

2023 The adoption of electric vehicles is rapidly growing worldwide. How do electric vehicles contribute to reducing carbon emissions and what are the key benefits they offer compared to traditional combustion engine vehicles? [15m]

2023 The Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change (IPCC) has predicted a global sea level rise of about one metre by AD 2100. What would be its impact in India and the other countries in the Indian Ocean region? [15m]

2023 Comment on the National Wetland Conservation Programme initiated by the Government of India and name a few India's wetlands of international importance included in the Ramsar Sites. [15m]

2024 What role do environmental NGOs and activists play in influencing Environmental Impact Assessment (EIA) outcomes for major projects in India? Cite four examples with all important details. [10m]

2024 Industrial pollution of river water is a significant environmental issue in India. Discuss the various mitigation measures to deal with this problem and also the government's initiatives in this regard. [10m]

2025 What is Carbon Capture, Utilization and Storage (CCUS)? What is the potential role of CCUS in tackling climate change? [10m]

2025 Examine the factors responsible for depleting groundwater in India. What are the steps taken by the government to mitigate such depletion of groundwater? [15m]

2025 Seawater intrusion in the coastal aquifers is a major concern in India. What are the causes of seawater intrusion and the remedial measures to combat this hazard? [10m]

2025 Mineral resources are fundamental to the country economy and these are exploited by mining. Why is mining considered an environmental hazard? Explain the remedial measures required to reduce the environmental hazard due to mining. [15m]

2025 Write a review on India's climate commitments under the Paris Agreement (2015) and mention how these have been further strengthened in COP26 (2021). In this direction, how has the first Nationally Determined Contribution (NDC) intended by India been updated in 2022? [15m]

2026 Discuss the aim and goals of Kunming-Montreal global biodiversity framework. Mention India's commitments and initiatives to achieve the goals and targets of this framework giving suitable examples. [10m]

2026 What are the challenges to solid waste management in India? Discuss the governmental policy framework on solid waste management. Discuss the success/failure cases of Delhi and Indore cities highlighting the salient feature of their solid waste management initiatives. [15m]

Disaster Management

Disaster and Disaster Management

2013 How important are vulnerability and risk assessment for pre-disaster management. As an administrator, what are key areas that you would focus in a disaster management [10m]

2014 Drought has been recognised as a disaster in view of its party expense, temporal duration, slow onset and lasting effect on various vulnerable sections. With a focus on the September 2010 guidelines from the National disaster management authority, discuss the mechanism for preparedness to deal with the El Nino and La Nina fallouts in India. [12.5m]

2015 The frequency of earthquakes appears to have increased in the Indian subcontinent. However, India's preparedness for mitigating their impact has significant gaps. Discuss various aspects. [12.5m]

2016 With reference to National Disaster Management Authority (NDMA) guidelines, discuss the measures to be adopted to mitigate the impact of the recent incidents of cloudbursts in many places of Uttarakhand. [12.5m]

2016 The frequency of urban floods due to high intensity rainfall is increasing over the years. Discussing the reasons for urban floods. highlight the mechanisms for preparedness to reduce the risk during such events. [12.5m]

2017 On December 2004, tsunami brought havoc on 14 countries including India. Discuss the factors responsible for occurrence of Tsunami and its effects on life and economy. In the light of guidelines of NDMA (2010) describe the mechanisms for preparedness to reduce the risk during such events. [15m]

2018 Describe various measures taken in India for Disaster Risk Reduction (DRR) before and after signing 'Sendai Framework for DRR (2015-2030)'. How is this framework different from 'Hyogo Framework for Action, 2005'? [15m]

2019 Disaster preparedness is the first step in any disaster management process. Explain how hazard zonation mapping will help in disaster mitigation in the case of landslides. [15m]

2019 Vulnerability is an essential element for defining disaster impacts and its threat to people. How and in what ways can vulnerability to disasters be characterized? Discuss different types of vulnerability with reference to disasters. [10m]

2020 Discuss the recent measures initiated in disaster management by the Government of India departing from the earlier reactive approach. [15m]

2021 Discuss about the vulnerability of India to earthquake related hazards. Give examples including the salient features of major disasters caused by earthquakes in different parts of India during the last three decades. [10m]

2021 Describe the various causes and effects of landslides. Mention the important components of the National Landslide Risk Management Strategy. [15m]

2022 Explain the mechanism and occurrence of cloudburst in the context of the Indian subcontinent. Discuss two recent examples. [10m]

2023 Dam failures are always catastrophic, especially on the downstream side, resulting in a colossal loss of life and property. Analyze the various causes of dam failures. Give two examples of large dam failures. [10m]

2024 What is disaster resilience? How is it determined? Describe various elements of a resilience framework. Also mention the global targets of the Sendai Framework for Disaster Risk Reduction (2015-2030). [15m]

2024 Flooding in urban areas is an emerging climate-induced disaster. Discuss the causes of this disaster. Mention the features of two such major floods in the last two decades in India. Describe the policies and frameworks in India that aim at tackling such floods. [15m]

2026 Discuss how the contradiction between 'rapid infrastructure development' and 'disaster-risk reduction' in ecologically-sensitive areas of India can be managed, with suitable examples. [10m]

2026 "Community participation is the cornerstone of effective disaster management." Analyse this statement with suitable examples from India. Also discuss the challenges to community participation and measures to strengthen it. [15m]

Internal Security

Linkages between Development & spread of Extremism

2013 Article 244 of Indian Constitution relates to Administration of Scheduled areas and tribal areas. Analyze the impact of non-implementation of the provisions of fifth schedule on the growth of Left Wing Extremism. [10m]

2015 The persisting drives of the government for development of large industries in backward areas have resulted in isolating the tribal population and the farmers who face multiple displacements with Malkangiri and naxalbari foci, discuss the corrective strategies needed to win the left wing extremism (LWE) doctrine affected citizens back into the mainstream of social and economic growth. [12.5m]

2017 The north-eastern region of India has been infested with insurgency for a very long time. Analyze the major reasons for the survival of armed insurgency in this region. [10m]

2018 Left Wing Extremism (LWE) is showing a downward trend, but still affects many parts of the country. Briefly explain the Government of India's approach to counter the challenges posed by LWE. [10m]

2020 What are the sound determinants of left-wing extremism in Eastern part of India? What strategy should Government of India, civil administration and security forces adopt to counter the threat in the affected areas? [15m]

2022 Naxalism is a social, economic and developmental issue manifesting as a violent internal security threat. In this context, discuss the emerging issues gest a multilayered strategy to tackle the menace of Naxalism. [15m]

2025 The Government of India recently stated that Left Wing Extremism (LWE) will be eliminated by 2026. What do you understand by LWE and how are the people affected by it? What measures have been taken by the government to eliminate LWE? [10m]

2025 What are the major challenges to internal security and peace process in the North-Eastern States? Map the various peace accords and agreements initiated by the government in the past decade. [15m]

2026 Separatist movements have been one of the major factors contributing to militancy and instability in Jammu & Kashmir (J & K). Bring out actions taken by the Government to bring J & K into national mainstream. Discuss pre and post abrogation status of Articles 370 and 35A. Also bring out positive impacts of abrogation of both articles in mainstreaming the state. [15m]

Role of external state and non-state actors in creating challenges to internal security.

2014 The diverse nature of India as a multi-religious and multi-ethnic society is not immune to the impact of radicalism which has been in her neighbourhood. Discuss along with the strategies to be adopted to counter this environment. [12.5m]

2014 China and Pakistan have entered into an agreement for development of an economic corridor. What threat does it dispose for India's security? Critically examine. [12.5m]

2016 Use of Internet and social media by non-state actors for subversive activities is a major concern. How have these have misused in the recent past? Suggest effective guidelines to curb the above threat. [12.5m]

2018 The China-Pakistan Economic Corridor (CPEC) is viewed as a cardinal subset of China's larger 'One Belt One Road' initiative. Give a brief description of CPEC and enumerate the reasons why India has distanced itself from the same. [10m]

2021 Analyse the multidimensional challenges posed by external state and non-state actors, to the internal security of India. Also discuss measures required to take to be taken to combat the threats. [15m]

Challenges to internal security through communication networks, role of media and social networking sites in internal security challenges, basics of cyber security; money-laundering and its prevention.

2013 Cyber warfare is considered by some defense analysts to be a larger threat than even Al Qaeda or terrorism. What do you understand by Cyber warfare? Outline the cyber threats which India is vulnerable to and bring out the state of the country's preparedness to deal with the same. [10m]

2013 Money laundering poses a serious threat to country's economic sovereignty. What is its significance for India and what steps are required to be taken to control this menace? [10m]

2013 What are social networking site and what security implications do these sites present? [10m]

2015 Considering the threats cyberspace poses for the country, India needs a "Digital Armed Force" to prevent crimes. Critically evaluate the National Cyber Security Policy, 2013 outlining the challenges perceived in its effective implementation. [12.5m]

2015 Religious indoctrination via digital media has resulted in Indian youth joining the ISIS. What is ISIS and its mission? How can ISIS be dangerous for the internal security of our country? [12.5m]

2017 Discuss the potential threats of Cyber attack and the security framework to prevent it.

[10m]

2017 Mob violence is emerging as a serious law and order problem in India. By giving suitable examples, analyze the causes and consequences of such violence. [15m]

2018 Data security has assumed significant importance in the digitized world due to rising cyber crimes. The Justice B. N. Srikrishna Committee Report addresses issues related to data security. What, in your view, are the strengths and weakness of the Report relating to protection of personal data in cyber space? [15m]

2018 India's proximity to two of the world's biggest illicit opium-growing states has enhanced her internal security concerns. Explain the linkages between drug trafficking and other illicit activities such as gunrunning, money laundering and human trafficking. What counter-measures should be taken to prevent the same? [15m]

2019 What is the CyberDome Project? Explain how it can be useful in controlling internet crimes in India. [10m]

2020 Discuss different types of cyber crimes and measures required to be taken to fight the menace. [10m]

2021 Keeping in view India's internal security, analyse the impact of cross-border cyber attacks. Also discuss defensive measures against these sophisticated attacks. [10m]

2021 Discuss how emerging technologies and globalisation contribute to money laundering. Elaborate measures to tackle the problem of money laundering both at national and international levels. [10m]

2022 What are the different elements of cyber security ? Keeping in view the challenges in cyber security, examine the extent to which India has successfully developed a comprehensive National Cyber Security Strategy. [15m]

2024 Describe the context and salient features of the Digital Personal Data Protection Act, 2023. [10m]

2024 Social media and encrypting messaging services pose a serious security challenge. What measures have been adopted at various levels to address the security implications of social media? Also suggest any other remedies to address the problem. [15m]

2026 Explain how fake news and disinformation pose threat to Internal Security and Public Order in Indian context? In this regard, discuss salient features of amendments in respect of Information Technology (Intermediary Guidelines and Digital Media Ethics Code) Rules 2021. [10m]

2026 Discuss counterfeit currency and money laundering as major sources of terror funding in India. State the actions being taken at International level to check these menaces. Highlight the role of Financial Action Task Force (FATF) and methods of compliance by its member states in preventing terror funding. [15m]

Security challenges and their management in border areas - linkages of organized crime with terrorism.

2013 How far are India's internal security challenges linked with border management, particularly in view of the long porous borders with most countries of South Asia and Myanmar?

[10m]

2014 How illegal transborder migration does pose a threat to India's security? Discuss the strategies to curb this, bring out the factors which give impetus to such migration. [12.5m]

2014 In 2012, the longitudinal marking of the high-risk areas for piracy was moved from 65° East to 78° east in the Arabian Sea by International Maritime organisation. What impact does this have on India's maritime security concerns? [12.5m]

2016 Border management is a complex task due to difficult terrain and hostile relations with some countries. Elucidate the challenges and strategies for effective border management. [12.5m]

2016 Terrorism is emerging as a competitive industry over the last few decades. Analyse the above statement. [12.5m]

2016 The terms 'Hot Pursuit' and 'Surgical Strikes' are often used in connection with armed action against terrorist attacks. Discuss the strategic impact of such actions. [12.5m]

2017 The scourge of terrorism is a grave challenge to national security. What solutions do you suggest to curb this growing menace? What are the major sources of terrorist funding? [15m]

2019 Cross-border movement of insurgents is only one of the several security challenges facing the policing of the border in North-East India. Examine the various challenges currently emanating across the India-Myanmar border. Also, discuss the steps to counter the challenges.

[15m]

2019 The banning of 'Jamaat-e - islaami' in Jammu and Kashmir brought into focus the role of over-ground workers (OGWs) in assisting terrorist organizations. Examine the role played by OGWs in assisting terrorist organizations in insurgency affected areas. Discuss measures to neutralize the influence of OGWs. [10m]

2020 For effective border area management, discuss the steps required to be taken to deny local support to militants and also suggest ways to manage favourable perception among locals.

[10m]

2021 Analyse the complexity and intensity of terrorism, its causes, linkages and obnoxious nexus. Also suggest measures required to be taken to eradicate the menace of terrorism. [15m]

2022 What are the maritime security challenges in India ? Discuss the organisational, technical and procedural initiatives taken to improve the maritime security. [10m]

2022 Discuss the types of organised crimes. Describe the linkages between terrorists and organised crime that exist at the national and transnational levels. [10m]

2023 The use of unmanned aerial vehicles(UAVs) by our adversaries across the borders to ferry arms/ammunitions, drugs, etc., is a serious threat to the internal security. Comment on the measures being taken to tackle this threat. [10m]

2023 Give out the major sources of terror funding in India and efforts being made to curtail these sources. In the light of this, also discuss the aim and objective of the ‘No Money for Terror [NMFT]’ Conference recently held at New Delhi in November 2022. [15m]

2023 Winning of ‘Hearts and Minds’ in terrorism affected areas is an essential step in restoring the trust of the population. Discuss the measures adopted by the Government in this respect as part of the conflict resolution in Jammu and Kashmir. [10m]

2024 India has a long and troubled border with China and Pakistan fraught with contentious issues. Examine the conflicting issues and security challenges along the border. Also give out the development being undertaken in these areas under the Border Area Development Programme (BADP) and Border Infrastructure and Management (BIM) Scheme. [15m]

2024 Explain how narco-terrorism has emerged as a serious threat across the country. Suggest suitable measures to counter narco-terrorism. [10m]

2025 Why is maritime security vital to protect India’s sea trade? Discuss maritime and coastal security challenges and the way forward. [15m]

2025 Terrorism is a global scourge. How has it manifested in India? Elaborate with contemporary examples. What are the counter measures adopted by the State? Explain. [10m]

2026 Ladakh is strategically located between China and Pakistan. As a measure to win hearts and minds of locals, discuss the Border Area Development Programmes (BADP) by the Central Government and civic actions by the Army. Also discuss demand of promulgation of provision of the Sixth Schedule of constitution for Ladakh. [10m]

Various Security forces and agencies and their mandate.

2015 Human rights activists constantly highlight the view that the Armed Forces (Special Powers) Act, 1958 (AFSPA) is a draconian act leading to cases of human rights abuses by the security forces. What sections of AFSPA are opposed by the activists? Critically evaluate the requirement with reference to the view held by the Apex Court. [12.5m]

2019 The Indian government has recently strengthened the anti-terrorism laws by amending the Unlawful activities (Prevention) Act (UAPA), 1967 and the NIA Act. Analyze the changes in the context of prevailing security environment while discussing the scope and reasons for opposing the UAPA by human rights organizations. [15m]

2020 Analyze internal security threats and transborder crimes along Myanmar, Bangladesh and Pakistan borders including Line of Control (LoC). Also discuss the role played by various security forces in this regard. [15m]

2023 What are the internal security challenges being faced by India? Give out the role of Central Intelligence and Investigative Agencies tasked to counter such threats. [15m]

GS Paper IV

Ethics, Integrity & Aptitude · 185 PYQs

Ethics

Ethics and Human Interface: Essence, Determinants and Consequences of Ethics in - Human Actions; Dimensions of Ethics; Ethics - in Private and Public Relationships.

2013 Some people feel that values keep changing with time and situation, while others strongly believe that there are certain universal and eternal human values. Give your perception in this regard with due justification. [10m]

2013 It is often said that ‘politics’ and ‘ethics’ do not go together. What is your opinion in this regard? Justify your answer with illustrations. [10m]

2013 The good of an individual is contained in the good of all. What do you understand by this statement? How can this principle be implemented in public life? [10m]

2013 What do you understand by ‘values’ and ‘ethics’? In what way is it important to be ethical along with being professionally competent? [10m]

2013 What do you understand by the following terms in the context of public service? (5 terms x 3 marks each: a) Integrity b) Perseverance c) Spirit of service d) Commitment e) Courage of conviction f) Personal opinion [15m]

2014 The current society is plagued with widespread trust-deficit. What are the consequences of this situation for personal well-being and for societal well-being? What can you do at the personal level to make yourself trustworthy? [10m]

2014 Human beings should always be treated as ‘ends’ in themselves and never as merely ‘means’. Explain the meaning and significance of this statement, giving its implications in the modern techno-economic society. [10m]

2014 In the context of defence services, ‘patriotism’ demands readiness to even lay down one’s life in protecting the nation. According to you, what does patriotism imply in everyday civil life? Explain with illustrations and justify your answer. [10m]

2014 What does ethics seek to promote in human life? Why is it all the more important in public administration? [10m]

2015 What is meant by ‘environmental ethics’? Why is it important to study? Discuss any one environmental issue from the viewpoint of environmental ethics. [10m]

2015 Differentiate between the following (200 words); a) Law and Ethics; b) Ethical management and Management of ethics; c) Discrimination and Preferential treatment; d) Personal ethics and Professional ethics [10m]

2016 Explain how ethics contributes to social and human well-being. [10m]

2017 Increased national wealth did not result in equitable distribution of its benefits. It has created only some “enclaves of modernity and prosperity for a small minority at the cost of the majority.” Justify. [10m]

2017 Without commonly shared and widely entrenched moral values and obligations, neither the law, nor democratic government, nor even the market economy will function properly. What do you understand by this statement? Explain with illustration in the contemporary times. [10m]

2017 Examine the relevance of the following in the context of civil service: (a) Transparency (b) Accountability (c) Fairness and justice (d) Courage of conviction (e) Spirit of service. [10m]

2018 Suppose the Government of India is thinking of constructing a dam in a mountain valley bound by forests and inhabited by ethnic communities. What rational policy should it resort to in dealing with unforeseen contingencies? [10m]

2018 With regard to morality of actions, one view is that means are of paramount importance and the other view is that the ends justify the means. Which view do you think is more appropriate? Justify your answer. [10m]

2020 The current internet expansion has instilled a different set of cultural values which are in conflict with traditional values. Discuss. [10m]

2020 Discuss the role of ethics and values in enhancing the following three major components of Comprehensive National Power (CNP) viz. human capital, soft power (culture and policies), and social harmony. [10m]

2020 Distinguish between laws and rules. Discuss the role of ethics in formulating them. [10m]

2021 Impact of digital technology as a reliable source of input for rational decision making is a debatable issue. Critically evaluate with a suitable example. [10m]

2022 Online methodology is being used for day-to-day meetings, institutional approvals in the administration and for teaching and learning in education sector to the extent telemedicine in the health sector is getting popular with the approvals of the competent authority. No doubt it has advantages and disadvantages for both the beneficiaries and system at large. Describe and discuss the ethical issues involved in the use of online method particularly to vulnerable section of society. [10m]

2022 It is believed that adherence to ethics in human actions would ensure in smooth functioning of an organization/system. If so, what does ethics seek to promote in human life? How do ethical values assist in the resolution of conflicts faced by him in his day-to-day functioning? [10m]

2022 Write short notes on the following in 30 words each : (i) Constitutional morality (ii) Conflict of interest (iii) Probity in public life (iv) Challenges of digitalization (v) Devotion to duty [10m]

2023 Differentiate ‘moral intuition’ from ‘moral reasoning’ with suitable examples. [10m]

2024 Global warming and climate change are the outcomes of human greed in the name of development, indicating the direction in which extinction of organisms including human beings is heading towards loss of life on Earth. How do you put an end to this to protect life and bring equilibrium between the society and the environment ? [10m]

2024 The application of Artificial Intelligence as a dependable source of input for administrative rational decision-making is a debatable issue. Critically examine the statement from the ethical point of view. [10m]

2024 “The concept of Just and Unjust is contextual. What was just a year back, may turn out to be unjust in today’s context. Changing context should be constantly under scrutiny to prevent miscarriage of justice.” Examine the above statement with suitable examples. [10m]

2024 “Ethics encompasses several key dimensions that are crucial in guiding individuals and organizations towards morally responsible behaviour.” Explain the key dimensions of ethics that influence human actions Discuss how these dimensions shape ethical decision-making in the professional context. [10m]

2025 Keeping the national security in mind, examine the ethical dilemmas related to controversies over environmental clearance of development projects in ecologically sensitive border areas in the country. [10m]

2025 In the present digital age, social media has revolutionised our way of communication and interaction. However, it has raised several ethical issues and challenges. Describe the key ethical dilemmas in this regard. [10m]

2026 An endangered tribe has developed a severe skeletal deformity. A university research has identified a mineral supplement as a possible remedy, though clinical trials are yet to be conducted. Should the District Magistrate (DM) use this research on the tribe? Discuss from the perspective of medical and administrative ethics. [10m]

2026 Citing the serious adverse effects of long-term medication, a doctor convinces the family of a female patient for surgery. This led the patient to reluctantly consent for the surgery, though her original choice was to opt for medication. Explain the concepts of paternalism and beneficence by analysing the doctor's action. [10m]

Human Values: Lessons from the Lives and Teachings of Great Leaders, Reformers and Administrators; Role of family society and educational institutions in inculcating values.

2014 We are witnessing increasing instances of sexual violence against women in the country. Despite existing legal provisions against it, the number of such incidences is on the rise. Suggest some innovative measures to tackle this menace. [10m]

2014 Which eminent personality has inspired you the most in the context of ethical conduct in life? Give the gist of his/her teachings giving specific examples, describe how you have been able to apply these teachings for your own ethical development. [10m]

2014 All human beings aspire for happiness. Do you agree? What does happiness mean to you? Explain with examples. [10m]

2015 Social values are more important than economic values. Discuss the above statement with examples in the context of inclusive growth of a nation. [10m]

2016 Discuss Mahatma Gandhi's concept of seven sins. [10m]

2017 The crisis of ethical values in modern times is traced to a narrow perception of the good life. Discuss. [10m]

2017 "Great ambition is the passion of a great character. Those endowed with it may perform very good or very bad acts. All depends on the principles which direct them." – Napoleon Bonaparte. Stating examples mention the rulers (i) who have harmed society and country, (ii) who worked for the development of society and country. [10m]

2020 "Education is not an injunction, it is an effective and pervasive tool for all-round development of an individual and social transformation". Examine the New Education Policy, 2020 (NEP, 2020) in light of the above statement. [10m]

2020 What are the main factors responsible for gender inequality in India? Discuss the contribution of Savitribai Phule in this regard. [10m]

2020 What teachings of Buddha are most relevant today and why? Discuss. [10m]

2023 "Corruption is the manifestation of the failure of core values in the society." In your opinion, what measures can be adopted to uplift the core values in the society? [10m]

2023 What were the major teachings of Guru Nanak? Explain their relevance in the contemporary world. [10m]

2025 What are the major teachings of Mahavir? Explain their relevance in the contemporary world. [10m]

2026 Some moral philosophers argue that spending some of your resources—without significantly affecting your financial stability—to help other people who badly suffer is our moral duty and not merely a matter of charity. Justify this claim by explaining the distinction between duty and charity. [10m]

Attitude: Content, Structure, Function; its Influence and Relation with Thought and Behaviour; Moral and Political Attitudes; Social Influence and Persuasion.

2014 What factors affect the formation of a person's attitude towards social problems? In our society, contrasting attitudes are prevalent about many social problems. What contrasting attitudes do you notice about the caste system in our society? How do you explain the existence of these contrasting attitudes? [10m]

2015 Two different kinds of attitudes exhibited by public servants towards their work have been identified as the bureaucratic attitude and the democratic attitude. A) Distinguish between these two terms and write their merits and demerits. B) Is it possible to balance the two to create a better administration for the faster development of our country? [10m]

2016 Our attitudes towards life, work, other people and society are generally shaped unconsciously by the family and social surroundings in which we grow up. Some of these unconsciously acquired attitudes and values are often undesirable in the citizens of modern democratic and egalitarian society. (a) Discuss such undesirable values prevalent in today's educated Indians. (b) How can such undesirable attitudes be changed and socio-ethical values be cultivated in the aspiring and serving civil servants? [10m]

2016 Anger is a harmful negative emotion. It is injurious to both personal life and work life. (a) Discuss how it leads to negative emotions and undesirable behaviours. (b) How can it be managed and controlled? [10m]

2016 How could social influence and persuasion contribute to the success of Swatchh Bharat Abhiyan? [10m]

2017 Young people with ethical conduct are not willing to come forward to join active politics. Suggest steps to motivate them to come forward. [10m]

2017 Discipline generally implies following the order and subordination. However, it may be counter-productive for the organisation. Discuss. [10m]

2020 A positive attitude is considered to be an essential characteristic of a civil servant who is often required to function under extreme stress. What contributes a positive attitude in person? [10m]

2020 'Hatred is destructive of a person's wisdom and conscience that can poison a nation's spirit. Do you agree with this view? Justify your answer. [10m]

2021 Attitude is an important component that goes as input in the development of human beings. How to build a suitable attitude needed for a public servant? [10m]

2022 The Rules and Regulations provided to all the civil servants are same, yet there is difference in the performance. Positive minded officers are able to interpret the Rules and Regulations in favour of the case and achieve success, whereas negative minded officers are unable to achieve goals by interpreting the same Rules and Regulations against the case. Discuss with illustrations. [10m]

2023 In the context of work environment, differentiate between 'coercion' and 'undue influence' with suitable examples. [10m]

2024 Mindless addiction to Form, ignoring the Substance of the matter, results in rendering of injustice. A perceptive civil servant is one who ignores such literalness and carries out true intent. Examine the above statement with suitable illustrations. [10m]

2025 To achieve holistic development goal, a civil servant acts as an enabler and active facilitator of growth rather than a regulator. What specific measures would you suggest to achieve this goal? [10m]

2025 "For any kind of social re-engineering by successfully implementing welfare schemes, a civil servant must use reason and critical thinking in an ethical framework." Justify this statement with suitable examples. [10m]

Emotional intelligence-concepts, and their utilities and application in administration and governance.

2013 What is 'emotional intelligence' and how can it be developed in people? How does it help an individual in taking ethical decisions? [10m]

2017 How will you apply emotional intelligence in administrative practices? [10m]

2019 "Emotional Intelligence is the ability to make your emotions work for you instead of against you." Do you agree with this view? Discuss. [10m]

2020 What are the main components of emotional intelligence (EI) ? Can they be learned? discuss. [10m]

2021 In case of a crisis of conscience does emotional intelligence help to overcome the same without compromising the ethical and moral stand that you are likely to follow? Critically examine. [10m]

2023 What really matters for success, character, happiness and lifelong achievements is a definite set of emotional skills – your EQ not just purely cognitive abilities that are measured by conventional IQ tests." Do you agree with this view ? Give reasons in support of your answer. [10m]

Contributions of Moral Thinkers and Philosophers from India and World

2013 Nearly all men can withstand adversity, but if you want to test a man's character, give him power.—Abraham Lincoln [10m]

2013 I count him braver who overcomes his desires than him who overcomes his enemies.—Aristotle [10m]

2013 There is enough on this earth for every one's need but for no one's greed. Mahatma Gandhi. [10m]

2015 "The weak can never forgive; forgiveness is the attribute of the strong." [10m]

2015 We can easily forgive a child who is afraid of the dark; the real tragedy of life is when men are afraid of the light. [10m]

2016 Analyse John Rawls's concept of social justice in the Indian context. [10m]

2016 Corruption causes misuse of government treasury, Administrative inefficiency and obstruction in the path of national Development. Discuss Kautilya's views. [10m]

2017 "If a country is to be corruption free and become a nation of beautiful minds, I strongly feel there are three key societal members who can make a difference. they are father, the mother and the teacher." – A. P. J. Abdul Kalam. Analyse. [10m]

2018 The true rule, in determining to embrace, or reject any thing, is not whether it has any evil in it; but whether it has more evil than good. There are few things wholly evil or wholly good. Almost every thing, especially of governmental policy, is an inseparable compound of the two; so that our best judgement of the preponderance between them is continually demand. -

Abraham Lincoln. [10m]

2018 Anger and intolerance are the enemies of correct understanding. -Mahatma Gandhi [10m]

2018 Falsehood takes the place of truth when it results in unblemished common good.
-Tirukkural [10m]

2019 “Where there is righteousness in the heart, there is beauty in the character. When there is beauty in the character, there is harmony in the home. When there is harmony in the home, there is order in the nation. When there is order in the nation, there is peace in the world.” [10m]

2019 “A man is but the product of his thoughts. What he thinks, he becomes.” – M.K.Gandhi [10m]

2019 “An unexamined life is not worth living.” – Socrates [10m]

2020 “The best way to find yourself is to lose yourself in service of others .” Mahatma Gandhi [10m]

2020 ”A system of morality which is based on relative emotional values is a mere illusion, a thoroughly vulgar conception which has nothing sound in it and nothing true.” – Socrates. [10m]

2020 ”Condemn none: if you can stretch out a helping hand do so. If not fold your hands, bless your brothers and let them go their own way.” – Swami Vivekanand [10m]

2021 “We can never obtain peace in the outer world until and unless we obtain peace within ourselves” [10m]

2021 “Life doesn’t make any sense without interdependence. We need each other, and the sooner we learn that it is better for us all” – Erik Erikson [10m]

2021 “Every work has got to pass through hundreds of difficulties before succeeding. Those that persevere will see the light, sooner or later” – Swami Vivekananda [10m]

2022 “If a country is to be corruption free and become a nation of beautiful minds, I strongly feel there are three key societal members who can make a difference. They are the father, the mother and the teacher.” – Abdul Kalam. [10m]

2022 “Judge your success by what you had to give up in order to get it.” Dalai Lama. [10m]

2022 Ethics is knowing the difference between what you have the right to do and what is right to do.’ -Potter Stewart . [10m]

2023 “To awaken the people, it is the women who must be awakened. Ones she is on the move, the family moves, the village moves, the nation moves.” – Jawaharlal Nehru [10m]

2023 “The simplest acts of kindness are by far more powerful than a thousand heads bowing in prayer.” – Mahatma Gandhi [10m]

2023 Do not hate anybody, because that hatred that comes out from you must, in the long run, come back to you. If you love, that love will come back to you, completing the circle.” – Swami Vivekanand. [10m]

2024 “In law, a man is guilty when he violates the rights of others. In ethics, he is guilty if he only thinks of doing so.” — Immanuel Kant [10m]

2024 “Faith is of no avail in the absence of strength. Faith and strength, both are essential to accomplish any great work.” — Sardar Patel [10m]

2024 “Learn everything that is good from others, but bring it in, and in your own way absorb it, do not become others.” — Swami Vivekananda [10m]

2025 “The strength of a society is not in its laws, but in the morality of its people.” — Swami Vivekananda [10m]

2025 “Those who in trouble untroubled are, Will trouble trouble itself.” — Thiruvalluvar [10m]

2025 “The greatest discovery of my generation is that a human being can alter his life by altering his attitudes.” — William James [10m]

2026 Dr. B. R. Ambedkar had cautioned that employing civil disobedience within a constitutional democracy equates to endorsing 'anarchy'. How should modern democracies navigate the ethical dilemmas posed by civil disobedience movements that aim to promote social justice against policies that may raise genuine concerns? [10m]

2026 In what ways can an Indian Administrative Officer apply Gandhi's notion of 'trusteeship' to ensure fairness in governance? [10m]

2026 Shakespeare in Henry IV says, "The arms are fair when the intent of bearing them is just". What ethical implications does this have in governance? [10m]

Aptitude and Foundational Values for Civil Service, Integrity, Impartiality and Non-partisanship, Objectivity, Dedication to Public Service, Empathy, Tolerance and compassion towards weaker-sections

2013 Indicate two more attributes which you consider important for public service. Justify your answer. [10m]

2014 Integrity without knowledge is weak and useless, but knowledge without integrity is dangerous and dreadful. What do you understand by this statement? Explain your stand with illustrations from the modern context. [10m]

2015 How do the virtues of trustworthiness and fortitude get manifested in public service? Explain with examples. [10m]

2016 Why should impartiality and non-partisanship be considered as foundational values in public services, especially in the present day socio-political context? Illustrate your answer with examples. [10m]

2017 One of the tests of integrity is complete refusal to be compromised. Explain with reference to a real life example. [10m]

2018 State the three basic values, universal in nature, in the context of civil services and bring out their importance. [10m]

2018 In looking for people to hire, you look for three qualities: integrity, intelligence and energy. And if they do not have the first, the other two will you. - Warren Buffett. What do you understand by this statement in the present-day scenario? Explain. [10m]

2019 What do you understand by the term 'public servant'? Reflect on the expected role of a public servant. [10m]

2019 What are the basic principles of public life? Illustrate any three of these with suitable examples. [10m]

2021 Identify five ethical traits on which one can plot the performance of a civil servant. Justify their inclusion in the matrix. [10m]

2021 Identify ten essential values that are needed to be an effective public servant. Describe the ways and means to prevent non-ethical behaviour in public servants. [10m]

2021 Should impartial and being non-partisan be considered indispensable qualities to make a successful civil servant? Discuss with illustrations. [10m]

2021 "Integrity is a value that empowers the human being". Justify with suitable illustration. [10m]

2022 Apart from intellectual competency and moral qualities, empathy and compassion are some of the other vital attributes that facilitate the civil servants to be more competent in tackling the crucial issues or taking critical decisions. Explain with suitable illustrations. [10m]

2026 A business house is working on a project that could displace a forest community from their habitat. As the administrative officer of that district, what ethical challenges are you likely to face? [10m]

2026 Efficiency is doing things right, while effectiveness is doing the right thing. How do you strike a balance between the two to enhance productivity? [10m]

2026 On the request of his Personal Assistant (PA), the District Magistrate (DM) stops the transfer of a schoolteacher who takes private tuition for his daughter diagnosed with learning disability. In this context, discuss the aspects of empathy versus compliance with rules. [10m]

Public/Civil Service Values and Ethics in Public Administration: Status and Problems; Ethical Concerns and Dilemmas in Government and Private Institutions; Laws, Rules, Regulations and Conscience as Sources of Ethical Guidance; Accountability and Ethical Governance; Strengthening of Ethical and Moral Values in Governance; ethical Issues in International Relations and Funding; Corporate Governance

2013 What do you understand by the term 'voice of conscience'? How do you prepare yourself to heed to the voice of conscience? [10m]

2013 What is meant by 'crisis of conscience'? Narrate one incident in your life when you were faced with such a crisis and how you resolved the same. [10m]

2014 What does 'accountability' mean in the context of public service? What measures can be adopted to ensure individual and collective accountability of public servants? [10m]

2015 Public servants are likely to confront with the issues of 'Conflict of Interest'. What do you understand by the term 'Conflict of Interest' and how does it manifest in the decision making by public servants? If faced with the conflict of interest situation, how would you resolve it? Explain with the help of examples. [10m]

2015 At the international level, the bilateral relations between most nations are governed on the policy of promoting one's own national interest without any regard for the interest of other nations. This leads to conflicts and tensions between the nations. How can ethical consideration help resolve such tensions? Discuss with specific examples. [10m]

2015 A mere compliance with law is not enough, the public servant also has to have a well-developed sensibility to ethical issues for effective discharge of duties." Do you agree? Explain with the help of two examples, where (i) an act is ethically right, but not legally and (ii) an act is legally right, but not ethically. [10m]

2016 What do you understand by the terms 'governance', 'good governance' and 'ethical governance'? [10m]

2016 Max Weber said that it is not wise to apply to public administration the sort of moral and ethical norms we apply to matters of personal conscience. It is important to realise that the State bureaucracy might possess its own independent bureaucratic morality. Critically analyse this statement. [10m]

2016 Law and ethics are considered to be the two tools for controlling human conduct so as to make it conducive to civilized social existence. (a) Discuss how they achieve this objective. (b) Giving examples, show how the two differ in their approaches. [10m]

2017 Corporate social responsibility makes companies more profitable and sustainable. Analyse. [10m]

2017 Conflict of interest in the public sector arises when (a) official duties, (b) public interest, and (c) personal interest are taking priority one above the other. How can this conflict in administration be resolved? Describe with an example. [10m]

2017 Strength, peace and security are considered to be the pillars of international relations. Elucidate. [10m]

2018 In doing a good thing, everything is permitted which is not prohibited expressly or by clear implication. Examine the statement with suitable examples in the context of a public servant discharging his/her duties. [10m]

2018 What is meant by public interest? What are the principles and procedures to be followed by the civil servants in public interest? [10m]

2018 What is meant by conflict of interest? Illustrate with examples, the difference between the actual and potential conflicts of interest. [10m]

2018 Explain the process of resolving ethical dilemmas in Public Administration. [10m]

2019 “Non-performance of duty by a public servant is a form of corruption” Do you agree with this view? Justify your answer (150 words, 10m) [10m]

2019 What is meant by ‘crisis of conscience’? How does it manifest itself in the public domain? [10m]

2019 What is meant by constitutional morality? How does one uphold constitutional morality? [10m]

2020 ‘The will to power exists, but it can be tamed and be guided by rationality and principles of moral duty.’ Examine this statement in the context of international relations. [10m]

2021 An independent and empowered social audit mechanism is an absolute must in every sphere of public service, including the judiciary, to ensure performance, accountability and ethical conduct. Elaborate. [10m]

2021 Besides domain knowledge, a public official needs innovativeness and creativity of a high order as well, while resolving ethical dilemmas. Discuss with a suitable example. [10m]

2021 “Refugees should not be turned back to the country where they would face prosecution or human rights violation.” Examine the statement with reference to the ethical dimension being violated by the nation claiming to be democratic with an open society. [10m]

2022 What do you understand by term ‘good governance’? How far recent initiatives in terms of e-Governance steps taken by the State have helped the beneficiaries? Discuss with suitable examples. [10m]

2022 In contemporary world, corporate sector’s contribution in generating wealth and employment is increasing. In doing so, they are bringing in unprecedented onslaught on the climate, environmental sustainability and living conditions of human beings. In this background, do you find that Corporate Social Responsibility (CSR) is efficient and sufficient enough to fulfill the social roles and responsibilities needed in the corporate world for which the CSR is mandated? Critically examine. [10m]

2022 Russia and Ukraine war has been going on for the last seven months. Different countries have taken independent stands and actions keeping in view their own national interests. We are all aware that war has its own impact on the different aspects of society, including human tragedy. What are those ethical issues that are crucial to be considered while launching the war and its continuation so far? Illustrate with justification the ethical issues involved in the given state of affair. [10m]

2023 Explain the term social capital. How does it enhance good governance? [10m]

2023 What do you understand by ‘moral integrity’ and ‘professional efficiency’ in the context of corporate governance in India ? Illustrate with suitable examples. [10m]

2023 ‘International aid’ is an accepted form of helping ‘resource-challenged’ nations. Comment on ‘ethics in contemporary international aid’. Support your answer with suitable examples. [10m]

2023 Is conscience a more reliable guide when compared to laws, rules and regulations in the context of ethical decision making ? Discuss. [10m]

2024 “It is not enough to talk about peace, one must believe in it; and it is not enough to believe in it, one must act upon it” In the present context, the major weapon industries of the developed nations are adversely influencing continuation of number of wars for their own self-interest, all around the world. What are the ethical considerations of the powerful nations in today’s international arena to stop continuation of ongoing conflicts? [10m]

2024 The soul of the new law, Bharatiya Nyaya Sanhita (BNS) is Justice, Equality and Impartiality based on Indian culture and ethos. Discuss this in the light of major shift from a doctrine of punishment to justice in the present judicial system. [10m]

2025 “Constitutional morality is not a natural sentiment but a product of civil education and adherence of the rule of law.” Examine the significance of constitutional morality for public servant highlighting the role in promoting good governance and ensuring accountability in public administration. [10m]

2025 “One who is devoted to one’s duty attains highest perfection in life.” Analyse this statement with reference to sense of responsibility and personal fulfilment as a civil servant. [10m]

2025 Carl von Clausewitz once said, “War is a diplomacy by other means.” Critically analyse the above statement in the present context of contemporary geo-political conflict. [10m]

2026 Owing to paucity of time, a university professor generates a Ph.D. evaluation report using Artificial Intelligence and submits it with some modifications. Discuss this from the perspective of accountability and integrity. [10m]

2026 Discuss how national security can be balanced with concerns of human rights. [10m]

2026 Usually schools, working in remote areas, do not fully comply with government regulations. However, if the rules are enforced strictly, it would lead to most schools closing down. How should an administrator strike a balance between enforcement of rules and educational rights of children? [10m]

2026 In international relations, ethical considerations are often subjugated to the strategic interests of nation-states. Discuss this from an ethical perspective. [10m]

Probity in Governance: Concept of Public Service; Philosophical Basis of Governance and Probity; Information Sharing and Transparency in Government, Right to information; Codes of Ethics, Codes of Conduct, Citizen’s Charters, Work Culture, Quality of Service Delivery, utilization of Public Funds, Challenges of Corruption.Environment

2014 It is often said that poverty leads to corruption. However, there is no dearth of instances where affluent and powerful people indulge in corruption in a big way. What are the basic causes of corruption among people? Support your answer with examples. [10m]

2014 What do you understand by ‘probity’ in public life? What are the difficulties in practicing it in the present times? How can these difficulties be overcome? [10m]

2014 There is a heavy ethical responsibility on the public servants because they occupy positions of power, handle huge amounts of public funds, and their decisions have wide-ranging impact on society and environment. What steps have you taken to improve your ethical competence to handle such responsibility? [10m]

2015 Some recent developments such as introduction of RTI Act, media and judicial activism, etc., are proving helpful in bringing about greater transparency and accountability in the functioning of the government. However, it is also being observed that at times the mechanisms are misused. Another negative effect is that the officers are now afraid to take prompt decisions. Analyze this situation in detail and suggest how this dichotomy can be resolved. Suggest how these negative impacts can be minimized. [10m]

2015 Today we find that in spite of various measures like prescribing codes of conduct, setting up vigilance cells/commissions, RTI, active media and strengthening of legal mechanisms, corrupt practices are not coming under control. A) Evaluate the effectiveness of these measures with justifications. B) Suggest more effective strategies to tackle this menace. [10m]

2016 Discuss the Public Services Code as recommended by the 2nd Administrative Reforms Commission. [10m]

2018 Distinguish between “Code of ethics” and “Code of conduct” with suitable examples. [10m]

2018 The Right to Information Act is not all about citizens’ empowerment alone, it essentially redefines the concept of accountability. Discuss. [10m]

2019 Explain the basic principles of citizens’ charter movement and bring out its importance. [10m]

2019 There is a view that the official secrets act is an obstacle to the implementation of the Rights to Information act. Do you agree with the view? Discuss [10m]

2019 What do you understand by probity in governance? Based on your understanding of the term, suggest measures for ensuring probity in government. [10m]

2019 Effective utilisation of public funds is crucial to meet development goals. Critically examine the reasons for under-utilization and mis-utilisation of public funds and their implications. [10m]

2022 Whistle blower, who reports corruption and illegal activities, wrongdoing and misconduct to the concerned authorities, runs the risk of being exposed to grave danger, physical harm and victimization by the vested interests, accused persons and his team. What policy measures would you suggest to strengthen protection mechanism to safeguard the whistle blower? [10m]

2022 Wisdom lies in knowing what to reckon with and what to overlook. An officer being engrossed with the periphery, ignoring the core issues before him, is no rare in the bureaucracy. Do you agree that such preoccupation of an administrator leads to travesty of justice to the cause of effective service delivery and good governance? Critically evaluate. [10m]

2023 ‘Probity is essential for an effective system of governance and socio-economic development.’ Discuss. [10m]

2024 The 'Code of Conduct and 'Code of Ethics' are the sources of guidance in public administration. There is code of conduct already in operation, whereas code of ethics is not yet put in place. Suggest a suitable mode. for code of ethics to maintain integrity, probity and transparency. governance. [10m]

2024 "In Indian culture and value system, an equal opportunity has been provided irrespective of gender identity. The number of women in public service has been steadily increasing over the years." Examine the gender specific challenges faced by female public servants and suggest to increase their efficiency in discharging their duties and maintaining high standards of probity. [10m]

2024 Mission Karmayogi is aiming for maintaining a very high standard of conduct and behaviour to ensure efficiency for serving citizens and in developing oneself. How will this scheme empower the civil servants in enhancing productive efficiency and delivering the services at the grassroots level? [10m]

2025 It is said that for an ethical work culture, there must be code of ethics in place in every organisation. To ensure value-based and compliance-based work culture, what suitable measures would you adopt in your work place? [10m]

2025 India is an emerging economic power of the world as it has recently secured the status of fourth largest economy of the world as per IMF projection. However, it has been observed that in some sectors, allocated funds remain either under-utilised or misutilised. What specific measures would you recommend for ensuring accountability in this regard to stop leakages and gaining the status of third largest economy of the world in near future? [10m]

Case Studies on above issues.

CASE STUDY 2026 (20m) Lata, a mother of two children, was admitted to a hospital for acute abdominal pain. Her sister-in-law, Sujatha, accompanied her. Dr. Mansi examined Lata and recommended a diagnostic laparoscopy. Lata's consent was taken to conduct the medical procedure under general anesthesia. During the laparoscopy, Dr. Mansi's team discovered a tumor in Lata's uterus. A closer examination suggested that the tumor could be malignant. One option before Dr. Mansi was to extract a sample for biopsy — if malignant, Lata would need another surgery to remove the uterus. The alternative was to remove the uterus immediately. As Lata was under general anesthesia, Dr. Mansi explained the situation to Sujatha, who agreed to a hysterectomy in writing. Lata was informed the next day and felt betrayed, as her own consent for the uterus removal had not been taken. She decided to approach the court.

(a) Discuss the ethical issues involved in this case.

(b) Discuss the moral conduct of the doctor in this situation.

CASE STUDY 2026 (20m) Ravi, a senior police officer with vast experience in riot control and cyber-policing, has been the Superintendent of Police (SP) of a district with a history of frequent rioting. Last year, Ravi installed an AI-enabled predictive policing system that captures biometric data of persons in a crowd and matches it against a data library, helping identify persons involved in various crimes. The system flagged an immigrant and low-income

neighbourhood as a centre for gang violence and drug trafficking, leading police to focus patrolling, preventive detentions and checkpoints there; public order visibly improved. However, community leaders, civil rights lawyers and human rights activists submitted a memorandum alleging the system is based on incorrect historical data shaped by social biases and discriminatory policing, and that increased surveillance has created tension, aggravated by residents not knowing what data is recorded against their names.

- (a) What are the ethical issues, including biases, involved in the use of AI in data-driven policing?
- (b) Place yourself in Ravi's role and discuss the alternatives available. Justify the action that optimises compliance with ethics.

CASE STUDY 2026 (20m) Seema, a senior bureaucrat known for integrity and efficiency, was recently posted as District Collector (DC) of Surinder Nagar, where a large industrial area is being established. Many farmers applied for change of land use (CLU) to convert farmland to residential use, creating a large backlog; some applications had been approved selectively, out of chronological order, and case files showed complaints of large bribes for approvals. Seema found that a small group of touts, working with some subordinate officials, was controlling this illegal activity, creating fear among other employees who became reluctant to process any applications — worsening the backlog, hindering local economic progress and causing public dissatisfaction. An aggressive internal investigation risked institutional resistance and possible backlash from labour unions, while ignoring the situation would encourage wrongdoers and continue avoidable harassment of the public.

- (a) What are the ethical issues involved in this case?
- (b) Discuss the options open to Seema. Identify the recommended option and justify it.

CASE STUDY 2026 (20m) Vikas, a government officer with over a decade of experience in public administration, recently became District Collector (DC) of Nainipura, a remote hilly district bordering a forest, where one of his major duties is ensuring proper functioning of the Public Distribution System (PDS) for economically weaker sections (EWS). He learnt that mandatory real-time biometric identification of beneficiaries, meant to prevent leakages, was creating problems as fingerprint matching often failed for growing children, manual labourers and senior citizens, worsened during periods of low WiFi connectivity; distributors then resorted to personal discretion when they could identify the recipient. Strict adherence to the regulations would ensure fiscal probity but greatly trouble EWS beneficiaries and could even impinge on their Article 21 right to life, while leaving the matter solely to distributor discretion could lead to misuse and leakages.

- (a) What are the options open to Vikas? How should he balance fiscal probity with empathy towards the designated beneficiaries?
- (b) Discuss the ethics of using technology as a gatekeeper for welfare schemes.

CASE STUDY 2026 (20m) Rajapuram is a border district where Jhara and Biru, its two major communities, are in continual conflict, straining the social fabric. Ethnic tensions — stemming

from conflicting land claims, uneven resource allocation and inadequate political representation — have erupted into violence causing many deaths, forcing separate relief camps for the two communities; the situation appears to be getting out of control. Rajan, newly appointed District Magistrate (DM), is tasked with restoring administrative authority, reopening the highway and initiating peace talks. He found that inter-community rivalry had seeped into the local administration and police, eroding their neutrality and both communities' trust in government, while the neighbouring country could exploit the situation to spur insurgent activity. Rajan favoured a controlled approach, starting with reopening the highway to restore food and medical supplies, and considered requisitioning CRPF units to help restore administrative control.

- (a) Discuss the ethical issues that need to be addressed in this case.
- (b) What are the options open to Rajan? Which option would ensure protection of his non-partisan image without compromising ethics?

CASE STUDY 2026 (20m) Ajit was recently promoted as Head of the Department of Weapon Sales (DWS) in the Ministry of Defence Production (MDP), responsible for international sales of domestically produced weapons. Following strong performance of MDP weapons in two recent wars, Country A and Country B both sought purchases, particularly long-range artillery and missiles, but production constraints allow DWS to accept only one order. Country A, a developing nation with a sound technology base and no security-alliance membership, seeks a large long-term-loan acquisition for protection from a troublesome neighbour, and MDP is planning R&D collaboration with it. Country B, also developing, prioritises military strength (sometimes at the cost of human-resource and infrastructure spending), is in a security alliance with a superpower hosting a large base there, is negotiating a free-trade agreement as part of an economic bloc, is not an NPT signatory but has smaller nuclear weapons and delivery systems, supports some guerrilla forces abroad, and seeks a smaller acquisition with part advance payment while also negotiating purchases from another nation. Colleagues highlighted the economic benefits, jobs and diplomatic gains from the sale, and warned that refusing could push Country B to another supplier.

- (a) Discuss the options available to Ajit. Which option should he select and why?
- (b) How can Ajit balance the nation's economic and strategic interests with ethical considerations?