

UPSC CIVIL SERVICES (MAIN) EXAMINATION 2024

Answer Frameworks

Essay and General Studies Papers I to IV

For every question: how to write it, what the question asks, and the answer laid out as introduction, body and conclusion, with sources. Questions are from UPSC's official papers; the frameworks are written by Digitally Learn.

Essay (Paper I)*20 September 2024*

Write two essays, one from each section, in about 1,000 to 1,200 words each. 125 marks each.

ESSAY · SECTION A**Q1. Forests precede civilizations and deserts follow them.**

125 marks · 1,000 to 1,200 words · 87 min 30 s · Section A

HOW TO WRITE IT

Tip for this question: Write down five dimensions and a counter-view on the rough page before you start.

WHAT THE TOPIC MEANS

The line says that forests come first and make civilisation possible, and that a civilisation which exhausts its forests leaves desert behind. The topic asks you to examine the dependence of human progress on nature, and the cost of destroying it.

1 OPENING

Open with an image: A once-green river valley that fed an ancient city, now dry and dusty after centuries of felling and overgrazing.

2 BODY: DIMENSIONS TO BUILD ON**Thesis**

- Civilisations rise on the soil, water and climate that forests protect; when they consume forests faster than they

renew, they destroy their own foundation.

Dimensions to develop

- Historical: Early settlements grew in fertile, forested river valleys; deforestation, soil erosion and salinity contributed to the decline of some ancient societies.
- Ecological: Forests hold soil, recharge groundwater, regulate rainfall and store carbon; their loss leads to erosion, floods, droughts and desertification.
- Economic: Timber, minerals and farmland bring short-term gain, but land degradation lowers long-term productivity.
- Social: Tribal and forest-dwelling communities lose livelihoods and culture; conflicts over land and water grow.
- Indian context: Sacred groves, the Chipko movement and joint forest management show traditions of protection; mining, dams and urban sprawl show the pressure.
- Global: Climate change and the loss of tropical forests threaten the whole

planet.

The counter-view

- Civilisation also needs land, energy and materials; some clearing has fed billions. The answer is not to stop development but to plan it with restoration, afforestation and sustainable use.

3 CONCLUSION

Close by arguing that the choice is ours: A civilisation that regrows its forests can last; one that treats them only as resources writes its own epitaph in sand.

ESSAY · SECTION A

Q2. The empires of the future will be the empires of the mind.

125 marks · 1,000 to 1,200 words · 87 min 30 s ·
Section A

HOW TO WRITE IT

Tip for this question: Write down five dimensions and a counter-view on the rough page before you start.

WHAT THE TOPIC MEANS

The topic says that power in the future will come not from territory or armies but from knowledge, ideas, innovation and education. It asks how intellectual capital is becoming the main source of national strength.

1 OPENING

Open with a contrast: Empires once measured by the land they ruled, and companies today worth more than whole countries because of the ideas and technology they own.

2 BODY: DIMENSIONS TO BUILD ON

Thesis

- In a knowledge economy, nations and people who create, share and apply ideas will lead; territory and natural resources matter less than minds.

Dimensions to develop

- Economic: Technology, software, patents and services drive growth; data and artificial intelligence are new sources of wealth.

- Political and strategic: Soft power, cyber capability and innovation in defence matter as much as troops.
- Cultural: Ideas, films, languages and values spread influence across borders.
- Education and research: Universities, skills and scientific temper build the 'empire of the mind'.
- Indian context: India's IT and digital public infrastructure, its demographic dividend, and the need for better education and research spending.
- Ethical: Knowledge can liberate or dominate; misinformation and digital monopolies are new forms of control.

The counter-view

- Hard power, energy and resources still matter, as recent wars show; and an empire of the mind can become a new form of domination if knowledge is concentrated in a few hands.

3 CONCLUSION

Close by arguing that the best 'empire of the mind' is not one that rules others but one that frees minds: Open, inclusive and guided by ethics.

ESSAY · SECTION A

Q3. There is no path to happiness; Happiness is the path.

125 marks · 1,000 to 1,200 words · 87 min 30 s ·
Section A

HOW TO WRITE IT

Tip for this question: Write down five dimensions and a counter-view on the rough page before you start.

WHAT THE TOPIC MEANS

The topic says happiness is not a destination reached at the end of a road but a way of travelling. It asks you to explore happiness as a state of mind found in everyday living, values and relationships, rather than in achieving goals.

1 OPENING

Open with a person who spends years chasing a promotion, a house or exam

success, attains it, and finds the happiness fades quickly.

2 BODY: DIMENSIONS TO BUILD ON

Thesis

- Happiness comes from how we live (gratitude, purpose, relationships and contentment), not from what we eventually acquire.

Dimensions to develop

- Philosophical: Indian ideas of contentment (santosh) and detachment from the fruits of action; the Buddha's teaching on desire and suffering.
- Psychological: The 'hedonic treadmill'; mindfulness, gratitude and flow as sources of lasting well-being.
- Social: Relationships, community and service to others bring deeper satisfaction than wealth.
- Economic and policy: Beyond GDP: Measures of well-being, and governments that focus on health, education and environment.
- Personal and student life: Enjoying learning rather than only results; balance between work and life.

The counter-view

- Basic needs, security and justice do matter; telling the poor that happiness is a state of mind can excuse neglect. A happy journey needs a fair road.

3 CONCLUSION

Close by arguing that we cannot reach happiness by postponing it: It is found in living each day with purpose, kindness and gratitude.

ESSAY · SECTION A

Q4. The doubter is a true man of science.

125 marks · 1,000 to 1,200 words · 87 min 30 s · Section A

HOW TO WRITE IT

Tip for this question: Write down five dimensions and a counter-view on the rough page before you start.

WHAT THE TOPIC MEANS

The topic says that doubt, not blind belief, is the starting point of science. It asks you to examine the role of questioning and scepticism in the progress of knowledge, and the limits of doubt.

1 OPENING

Open with a scientist who doubted an accepted belief and, by testing it, changed our understanding of the world.

2 BODY: DIMENSIONS TO BUILD ON

Thesis

- Science advances by questioning accepted ideas, testing them against evidence and accepting correction; true scientists doubt even their own conclusions.

Dimensions to develop

- Scientific method: Hypothesis, experiment, falsification and peer review all rest on organised doubt.
- History of science: Revolutions in astronomy, medicine and physics began when someone questioned the dominant view.
- Society: Scientific temper (a fundamental duty under Article 51A(h)) helps fight superstition and misinformation.
- Governance: Evidence-based policy needs officials willing to question assumptions and data.
- Personal: Doubt keeps us humble, open-minded and willing to learn.

The counter-view

- Doubt without evidence becomes denial (of vaccines or climate change); science needs both scepticism and trust in well-tested knowledge. Doubt must be honest and reasoned, not cynical.

3 CONCLUSION

Close by arguing that doubt is the beginning, not the end, of science: Questioning leads to inquiry, and inquiry to knowledge that is always open to improvement.

Sources : [Fundamental Rights, Directive Principles and Fundamental Duties \(Wikipedia\)](#)

ESSAY · SECTION B

Q5. Social media is triggering 'Fear of Missing Out' amongst the youth, precipitating depression and loneliness.

125 marks · 1,000 to 1,200 words · 87 min 30 s · Section B

HOW TO WRITE IT

Tip for this question: Write down five dimensions and a counter-view on the rough page before you start.

WHAT THE TOPIC MEANS

The topic links social media to the 'fear of missing out' (FOMO) among young people, and that fear to depression and loneliness. It asks you to examine how and why this happens, how far it is true, and what can be done.

1 OPENING

Open with a young person scrolling late into the night, comparing their life with the perfect pictures of others, and feeling more alone than ever.

2 BODY: DIMENSIONS TO BUILD ON

Thesis

- Social media connects young people but also feeds constant comparison and anxiety; without balance, it can deepen loneliness instead of ending it.

Dimensions to develop

- Psychological: FOMO, social comparison, the need for likes, and sleep loss affect self-esteem and mood.
- Technological: Platforms are designed for engagement (infinite scroll, notifications), keeping users hooked.
- Social: Online contact replaces face-to-face friendship; cyberbullying and

pressure to display a perfect life.

- Positive side: Support groups, learning, creativity and connection for those who are isolated.
- Remedies: Digital literacy and limits, parental and school guidance, platform design responsibility, mental health services and counselling.

The counter-view

- Depression has many causes (unemployment, academic pressure, family stress); social media is often a symptom and a channel rather than the only cause, and it can also help.

3 CONCLUSION

Close by arguing that technology should serve human connection, not replace it: Young people need to use social media mindfully, and society must build real communities around them.

ESSAY · SECTION B

Q6. Nearly all men can stand adversity, but to test the character, give him power.

125 marks · 1,000 to 1,200 words · 87 min 30 s · Section B

HOW TO WRITE IT

Tip for this question: Write down five dimensions and a counter-view on the rough page before you start.

WHAT THE TOPIC MEANS

The topic says that most people can endure hardship, but the real test of character comes with power. It asks how power reveals and tests a person's values, and why ethics matters most for those who hold authority.

1 OPENING

Open with two leaders: One who stayed humble and honest after gaining great power, and one who was corrupted by it.

2 BODY: DIMENSIONS TO BUILD ON

Thesis

- Adversity tests endurance, but power tests integrity, because it removes the

checks that keep ordinary people honest.

Dimensions to develop

- Ethical: Power brings temptation, flattery and the chance to act without accountability; integrity is doing right when no one can stop you doing wrong.
- Historical: Rulers and leaders who used power for service (Ashoka after Kalinga, leaders of the freedom movement who refused office or wealth) and those who abused it.
- Political and administrative: Checks and balances, rule of law, and codes of conduct exist because power can corrupt.
- Corporate and social: Managers, teachers and parents also hold power over others.
- Personal: Small powers (a post, a position in a group) also reveal character.

The counter-view

- Adversity also tests character deeply; and good institutions, not only good individuals, keep power honest. Character and systems must work together.

3 CONCLUSION

Close by arguing that power is a trust, not a reward: Those who hold it are tested every day by how they treat the weakest.

ESSAY · SECTION B

Q7. All ideas having large consequences are always simple.

125 marks · 1,000 to 1,200 words · 87 min 30 s · Section B

HOW TO WRITE IT

Tip for this question: Write down five dimensions and a counter-view on the rough page before you start.

WHAT THE TOPIC MEANS

The topic claims that ideas with the greatest impact are usually simple. It asks you to examine why simple ideas spread and endure, and whether simplicity is always a strength.

1 OPENING

Open with a simple idea that changed the world: Non-violence, vaccination, the zero, or universal adult franchise.

2 BODY: DIMENSIONS TO BUILD ON

Thesis

- Ideas that transform societies are often simple at their core, easy to understand, share and act upon, even when their working out is complex.

Dimensions to develop

- Science: Elegant principles (natural selection, the germ theory of disease) explain vast complexity.
- Society and politics: Equality, freedom, satyagraha and 'one person, one vote' mobilised millions because they were simple.
- Economics and technology: Microfinance, mobile money, digital payments and simple frugal innovations reached the masses.
- Governance: Simple, clear policies are easier to implement and to hold accountable.
- Ethics: The golden rule and compassion are simple yet profound.

The counter-view

- Some problems (climate change, public health, the economy) need complex solutions; oversimplification can mislead, and simple slogans can also spread hatred. Simplicity must come from deep understanding, not shallowness.

3 CONCLUSION

Close by arguing that true simplicity is the mark of deep thought: Ideas that are simple, clear and humane change the world.

ESSAY · SECTION B

Q8. The cost of being wrong is less than the cost of doing nothing.

125 marks · 1,000 to 1,200 words · 87 min 30 s ·
Section B

HOW TO WRITE IT

Tip for this question: Write down five dimensions and a counter-view on the rough page before you start.

WHAT THE TOPIC MEANS

The topic says that the harm done by inaction is usually greater than the harm of a mistake. It asks you to weigh action against caution, in personal life, governance and society.

1 OPENING

Open with a decision delayed for fear of failure (a reform, a rescue or a career choice) and the greater loss that followed from doing nothing.

2 BODY: DIMENSIONS TO BUILD ON

Thesis

- Mistakes can be corrected and teach us; doing nothing often lets problems grow beyond repair. Wise action, open to correction, is better than paralysis.

Dimensions to develop

- Personal: Fear of failure stops people from trying; learning comes from attempting and correcting.
- Governance: Policy paralysis delays infrastructure and reform; in disasters and pandemics, early action saves lives even with imperfect information.
- Environment: Delay on climate change raises costs for future generations.
- Business and innovation: Experimentation and failure drive progress; firms that do not adapt disappear.
- Ethics: Inaction in the face of injustice (the bystander's silence) is itself a moral choice.

The counter-view

- Hasty action can cause irreversible harm (rash wars, untested medicines); the precautionary principle matters

where risks are grave. The answer is prompt but considered action with room to correct course.

3 CONCLUSION

Close by arguing that courage to act, with humility to learn from mistakes, moves individuals and nations forward: Paralysis is the costliest error of all.

Answer all 20 questions. Three hours, 250 marks.

GS I • ANCIENT HISTORY

Q1. Underline the changes in the field of society and economy from the Rig Vedic to the later Vedic period.

10 marks · 150 words · 8 min 45 s

HOW TO WRITE IT

Underline Bring out the main changes clearly, ideally side by side.

Tip for this question: Use a two-column table, Rig Vedic against later Vedic, with rows for economy, society, polity and religion.

WHAT THE QUESTION ASKS

Underline (bring out clearly) how society and the economy changed between the Rig Vedic period and the later Vedic period: Way of life, social order, political organisation and the economy, each as a contrast between the two phases.

1 INTRODUCTION

The Vedic period (about 1500 to 500 BCE) is known mainly from the Vedic texts. The early, Rig Vedic phase belongs to the Punjab region; in the later phase (about 1000 to 600 BCE) Vedic society moved east into the Ganga-Yamuna doab, and its life changed from semi-nomadic to settled.

2 BODY: POINTS TO COVER

Economy: From cattle to settled farming

- Rig Vedic: A pastoral way of life; cattle were wealth and the unit of exchange, and gifts (bali to the chief, dana to priests) carried most exchange.
- Later Vedic: After 1000 BCE iron axes and ploughs became widespread, forests were cleared and settled agriculture spread; wheat, rice and barley were grown.
- New crafts and occupations appeared (carpentry, leather work, pottery,

jewellery, dyeing), and trade grew with settled life.

- The voluntary gift (bali) became a compulsory tribute, though there was still no organised system of taxation.

Society: From open tribe to varna hierarchy

- Rig Vedic: Tribes rather than kingdoms; verses suggest an absence of strict social hierarchy and some mobility between occupations, and the words Brahmana and Kshatriya are not yet tied to varna.
- Later Vedic: The varna system emerged; the later texts fixed social boundaries, roles, status and ritual purity for Brahmins, Kshatriyas, Vaishyas and Shudras.
- The household became an important unit; women still worked in many occupations, but their public role narrowed as hierarchy hardened.

Polity: From tribal chief to territorial king

- Rig Vedic: The rajan's power was checked by tribal councils, the sabha and the samiti.
- Later Vedic: Tribes consolidated into small kingdoms with a capital and a rudimentary administration; the Kuru and then the Panchala kingdoms became the centres of Vedic culture, and hereditary kingship emerged.

Religion and ritual

- Elaborate sacrifices (Srauta ritual) and the priests who performed them gained importance in the later phase, which also produced the early Upanishads.

3 CONCLUSION

Between the two phases Vedic India moved from herding to farming, from tribe to kingdom and from a loose social

order to the varna hierarchy. These changes laid the ground for the cities and states of the sixth century BCE.

Sources : [Vedic period \(Wikipedia\)](#)

GS I • ART AND CULTURE

Q2. Estimate the contribution of Pallavas of Kanchi for the development of art and literature of South India.

10 marks · 150 words · 8 min 45 s

HOW TO WRITE IT

Estimate Judge the value and extent of the contribution, with named examples.

Tip for this question: Move in order: Caves, rathas, structural temples, then the Mahabalipuram relief and Mahendravarman's play.

WHAT THE QUESTION ASKS

Estimate (assess) what the Pallavas of Kanchi contributed to the art and literature of South India: Architecture and sculpture first, then literature and learning, ending with a judgement on their legacy.

1 INTRODUCTION

The Pallavas ruled from Kanchipuram till the latter half of the ninth century CE, at their height under Mahendravarman I (600 to 630) and Narasimhavarman I (630 to 668). Their patronage turned South Indian building from wood and brick to stone.

2 BODY: POINTS TO COVER

Architecture: From caves to structural temples

- Rock-cut cave temples carry inscriptions of Mahendravarman I and his successors; the next stage was monolithic rathas and then free-standing structural temples.
- Narasimhavarman I, known as Mamalla, inaugurated most of the building at Mahabalipuram, which is named Mamallapuram after him (the Five Rathas).
- The Shore Temple at Mahabalipuram was built later, probably under

Narasimhavarman II (Rajasimha), and the Kailasanatha temple at Kanchipuram belongs to the same phase: Early forms of the Dravida temple with its stepped vimana.

Sculpture

- The great rock relief at Mahabalipuram, read as Arjuna's Penance or the Descent of the Ganga, fills a cliff face with gods, sages, people and animals, including a cat imitating the ascetic.
- Some scholars read the whole tableau as a prashasti in praise of the Pallava king.

Literature and learning

- Mahendravarman I wrote the Sanskrit play *Mattavilasa Prahasana*, a satire; Bharavi's *Kiratarjuniya* was popular at the Pallava court.
- Kanchipuram, 'the city of a thousand temples', developed as one of the major centres of learning in the south.
- The Pallava period saw the rise of the bhakti saints, the Alvars and Nayanars, whose Tamil hymns became sacred literature.
- The Pallava script, a Brahmi-derived script, gave rise to the Grantha and Tamil scripts.

3 CONCLUSION

The Pallavas laid the foundations of the Dravida temple and of Tamil and Sanskrit literary culture in the south. Later dynasties, above all the Cholas, built on what they began.

Sources : [NCERT An Introduction to Indian Art Part I, Chapter 6](#); [NCERT Exploring Society: India and Beyond, Class 7, Chapter 7](#); [Pallava dynasty \(Wikipedia\)](#)

GS I • MODERN HISTORY

Q3. What were the events that led to the Quit India Movement? Point out its results.

10 marks · 150 words · 8 min 45 s

HOW TO WRITE IT

Point out State the main results briefly and plainly.

Tip for this question: Keep two clear halves, causes and results, with the Cripps Mission and 8 August 1942 as anchors.

WHAT THE QUESTION ASKS

Explain the events that led to the Quit India Movement in 1942 and point out its results, for the movement itself and for the freedom struggle.

1 INTRODUCTION

The Quit India Movement was the last great mass movement of the freedom struggle. In August 1942, in the middle of the Second World War, Gandhi called on Indians to 'Do or Die' and demanded that the British leave India at once.

2 BODY: POINTS TO COVER

Events that led to it

- War without consent: India had been taken into the war in 1939 without its consent, and the Congress ministries had resigned.
- The Cripps Mission (March 1942) promised dominion status after the war, with a right for provinces to opt out; Indian leaders found it insufficient, and Gandhi called it a post-dated cheque on a crashing bank.
- The Japanese advance to the India-Burma border and doubts about Britain's ability to defend India.
- Wartime hardship, shortages and rising prices deepened discontent.

The movement

- Gandhi's Quit India speech was delivered in Bombay on 8 August 1942 at the Gowalia Tank Maidan; virtually the entire Congress leadership was arrested at once.
- The movement continued as a leaderless popular upsurge; leaders such as Aruna Asaf Ali worked underground, using clandestine radio and pamphlets.
- Parallel governments: The Tamuk National Government in Midnapore,

and uprisings at Satara and Ballia.

Results

- Brutal repression: Over 100,000 people were imprisoned and many thousands killed; 57 infantry battalions were used to put down the protests.
- The Muslim League and the Hindu Mahasabha opposed the movement, which the League used to strengthen its position.
- It showed that Britain could no longer govern India against the will of its people, and made independence after the war a matter of when, not whether.

3 CONCLUSION

Quit India failed in its immediate aim but proved that British rule rested on force alone. Within five years India was free.

Sources : NCERT Exploring Society: India and Beyond, Class 8 Part 2, Chapter 2; Quit India Movement (Wikipedia)

GS I · GEOGRAPHY

Q4. What is sea surface temperature rise? How does it affect the formation of tropical cyclones?

10 marks · 150 words · 8 min 45 s

HOW TO WRITE IT

Define Open with a precise definition before anything else.

Tip for this question: Open with the 27 degree threshold, then show the latent heat link; end with the Arabian Sea figures.

WHAT THE QUESTION ASKS

Define a rise in sea surface temperature (SST), then explain how it affects the formation of tropical cyclones: Genesis, intensity, frequency and impacts, with the Indian evidence.

1 INTRODUCTION

Sea surface temperature is the temperature of the top layer of the ocean. As the oceans absorb most of the extra heat from global warming, the SST

risers, and warm surface water is the fuel of tropical cyclones.

2 BODY: POINTS TO COVER

Why SST matters for cyclone formation

- Tropical cyclones form and intensify over warm tropical oceans; the first condition is a large sea surface with temperature higher than 27° C, together with the Coriolis force, little vertical wind shear, a pre-existing low-pressure area and upper-level divergence.
- Warm water evaporates fast; the moisture releases latent heat as it condenses in the clouds, which deepens the low pressure and strengthens the winds.

Effects of a rising SST

- Stronger storms: More very intense cyclones, faster (rapid) intensification and heavier rainfall.
- Higher storm surges, made worse by a rising sea level.
- Cyclones reach their peak intensity further from the equator.

The Indian evidence

- In the Arabian Sea the number of cyclones rose by 52 per cent and very severe cyclones by 150 per cent during 1982 to 2019, as its waters warmed, and their total duration grew by 80 per cent.

3 CONCLUSION

A warmer sea surface loads tropical cyclones with more energy and moisture. Better forecasting, cyclone shelters and coastal protection must keep pace with that rising risk.

Sources : NCERT Fundamentals of Physical Geography, Chapter 9; Tropical cyclones and climate change (Wikipedia)

GS I · GEOGRAPHY

Q5. Why do large cities tend to attract more migrants than smaller towns? Discuss in the light of conditions in developing countries.

10 marks · 150 words · 8 min 45 s

HOW TO WRITE IT

Discuss Cover the main aspects, with arguments on more than one side.

Tip for this question: Answer the comparison directly: Pull of big cities, weakness of small towns, then the way forward.

WHAT THE QUESTION ASKS

Explain why large cities draw more migrants than smaller towns, with reference to conditions in developing countries: The pull of the big city, the weakness of small towns, and the consequences.

1 INTRODUCTION

Most migrants in developing countries move from villages to cities in search of work. They are drawn far more to the largest cities than to small towns, which is why megacities such as Delhi, Mumbai and Kolkata keep growing.

2 BODY: POINTS TO COVER

The pull of large cities

- Jobs: Industry, services and the large informal sector offer more and better-paid work; people migrate for jobs that fetch higher wages than at home.
- Agglomeration: Firms cluster where markets, skilled labour and infrastructure already exist, so new jobs keep appearing in the same cities.
- Services: Better schools, colleges and hospitals, and a wider choice of housing and transport.
- Networks: Earlier migrants from the same village or region help newcomers find work and shelter.

Why smaller towns attract fewer

- Few industries and formal jobs, weak infrastructure and limited municipal finance.

- Fewer higher-education and health facilities.

Conditions in developing countries

- Rural distress, small landholdings and seasonal farm work push people out of villages faster than towns can absorb them.
- Urban areas of Delhi, Mumbai, Kolkata, Bengaluru and other metros hold dense populations because industrial development and urbanisation draw large numbers of rural-urban migrants.
- Result: Overcrowding, slums, informal work and pressure on water and transport.

Way forward

- Developing small and medium towns as growth centres, with industry, services and better connectivity, to spread the gains of urbanisation.

3 CONCLUSION

Big cities attract migrants because opportunities concentrate there. Balanced urbanisation depends on making smaller towns places where people can also find work and a decent life.

Sources : NCERT India: People and Economy, Chapter 1; NCERT Indian Economic Development, Chapter 4

GS I • GEOGRAPHY

Q6. What is the phenomenon of 'cloudbursts'? Explain.

10 marks · 150 words · 8 min 45 s

HOW TO WRITE IT

Define Open with a precise definition before anything else.

Explain Say what it is and why or how it happens, step by step.

Tip for this question: A sketch of moist air rising up a slope into a cumulonimbus cloud explains formation in one look.

WHAT THE QUESTION ASKS

Explain the phenomenon of cloudbursts: What they are, how they form, where they strike, and why they are so destructive.

1 INTRODUCTION

A cloudburst is an extreme amount of rain falling in a short time over a small area. In India it is defined as rainfall at a rate of 100 millimetres or more per hour over a small area.

2 BODY: POINTS TO COVER

How cloudbursts form

- Moist monsoon air is forced up steep mountain slopes (orographic lift); it cools quickly and condenses into towering cumulonimbus clouds.
- Strong updrafts hold the growing raindrops up until the cloud can no longer support them, and the water falls almost at once.
- Occasionally a warm air parcel mixing with cooler air causes the same sudden condensation.

Where they strike

- Mostly in hilly and mountainous areas, especially the Himalayan states of Uttarakhand, Himachal Pradesh and Jammu and Kashmir, during the monsoon.

Why they are destructive

- Narrow valleys funnel the water into flash floods, landslides and debris flows within minutes.
- Examples: The 1970 cloudburst in the Alaknanda valley caused a major flood; in 2004 landslides from a cloudburst near Badrinath stranded nearly 5,000 pilgrims; on 26 July 2005 about 950 millimetres of rain fell in Mumbai.

Reducing the damage

- Doppler radars and nowcasting, avoiding construction on floodplains and steep slopes, and early warning in pilgrimage and tourist areas.

3 CONCLUSION

Cloudbursts are short and local but among the deadliest weather events in

the hills. Better radar cover and careful land use decide how many lives they claim.

Sources : [Cloudburst \(Wikipedia\)](#)

GS I • INDIAN SOCIETY

Q7. What is the concept of a 'demographic winter'? Is the world moving towards such a situation? Elaborate.

10 marks · 150 words · 8 min 45 s

HOW TO WRITE IT

Define Open with a precise definition before anything else.

Elaborate Develop each point in detail, with an example for each.

Tip for this question: Answer "whether" plainly: Yes in East Asia and Europe, not yet everywhere, with India in between.

WHAT THE QUESTION ASKS

Explain the concept of a 'demographic winter' and elaborate whether the world is moving towards it: The evidence from low-fertility countries, India's position, and the consequences.

1 INTRODUCTION

A demographic winter is a prolonged period in which fertility stays below the replacement level of about 2.1 children per woman, so each generation is smaller than the one before and the population ages and eventually shrinks.

2 BODY: POINTS TO COVER

What it means

- Sub-replacement fertility, if sustained, makes each new generation less populous than the previous one.
- Consequences: Fewer workers per older person, pressure on pensions and health care, labour shortages and slower growth.

Is the world moving towards it?

- Yes in much of East Asia and Europe: South Korea's total fertility rate, the lowest in the world, was 0.75 in 2024,

and every European Union country had sub-replacement fertility.

- Countries such as South Korea, China, Japan and Germany already have falling populations.
- Not yet everywhere: Fertility is still around 6 in countries such as Chad and Somalia, so the world as a whole is ageing rather than in winter.

India's position

- India's total fertility rate fell from 2.2 to 2.0 between NFHS-4 and NFHS-5, below replacement level; only five States, led by Bihar, remain above 2.1.
- India still has a large young population, a demographic dividend that will last some decades before the population starts to age fast.

Responses

- Family-friendly policies, support for working parents, healthy ageing and productivity gains; for India, using the window of the demographic dividend through skills and jobs.

3 CONCLUSION

Much of the developed world is already in a demographic winter, and the rest is moving towards it. India has time, but must prepare its economy and social security for an older population.

Sources : [Sub-replacement fertility \(Wikipedia\)](#); [Demographics of South Korea \(Wikipedia\)](#); [PIB: Union Health Minister releases NFHS-5 report](#)

GS I • INDIAN SOCIETY

Q8. 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?

10 marks · 150 words · 8 min 45 s

HOW TO WRITE IT

Distinguish Set out the differences point by point, ideally in a table.

Tip for this question: Define the three terms in one line each before explaining why programmes must be gender-aware.

WHAT THE QUESTION ASKS

Distinguish gender equality, gender equity and women's empowerment, then explain why gender concerns must be built into the design and implementation of programmes (gender mainstreaming).

1 INTRODUCTION

The three ideas are linked but not the same: Equality is the goal, equity is the fair means of reaching it, and empowerment is women's own power to make choices.

2 BODY: POINTS TO COVER

The three concepts

- Gender equality: Equal rights, opportunities and outcomes for all genders; it is the goal.
- Gender equity: Fairness and justice in distributing benefits and responsibilities, which may mean extra support for those held back (for example scholarships for girls); it is the means.
- Women's empowerment: Women gaining control over their lives, income, bodies and decisions, through education, work, assets and voice.

Why gender concerns belong in programme design

- Men and women use services differently and face different barriers; a 'gender-blind' programme can leave women out (timings, location, documents, safety).
- Gender mainstreaming means assessing the implications for women and men of any planned action and making both their concerns part of the design, implementation, monitoring and evaluation of programmes.
- Gender budgeting shows how much of public spending actually reaches

women.

- Examples: Separate toilets in schools, safe transport and creches at worksites raise girls' attendance and women's participation in work.

Result

- Programmes designed with gender in mind reach their targets better, and spread their benefits fairly.

3 CONCLUSION

Equality is the destination, equity the road and empowerment the driving force. Building gender into every programme from the start is what makes development fair.

Sources : [Gender equality \(Wikipedia\)](#); [Gender mainstreaming \(Wikipedia\)](#)

GS I · INDIAN SOCIETY

Q9. Intercaste marriages between castes which have socio-economic parity have increased, to some extent, but this is less true of interreligious marriages. Discuss.

10 marks · 150 words · 8 min 45 s

HOW TO WRITE IT

Discuss Cover the main aspects, with arguments on more than one side.

Tip for this question: Treat the two kinds of marriage separately, then compare the drivers in a closing line.

WHAT THE QUESTION ASKS

Discuss why intercaste marriages between castes of similar socio-economic standing have grown somewhat, while interreligious marriages remain rare: The drivers of change, the barriers, and the role of law.

1 INTRODUCTION

Marriage within one's own caste and religion (endogamy) has long been the core of the caste system. Change is slow: Studies by the NCAER in 2016 found that only about 5 per cent of marriages in India are intercaste.

2 BODY: POINTS TO COVER

Why intercaste marriages between similar castes are rising

- Education, urban jobs and migration bring young people from different castes together in colleges and workplaces.
- Families accept a match more easily when the castes are of similar status and class, so the change does not threaten their social standing.
- Matrimonial websites and smaller families widen the choice of partners.
- Incentives for intercaste marriages and the Special Marriage Act, 1954, which allows civil marriage across caste and religion.

Why interreligious marriages remain rare

- Religious identity is tied to community, ritual and conversion, and families fear the loss of identity more than with caste.
- Political and social pressure, including violence against such couples.
- Law: Several States have anti-conversion laws; the Uttar Pradesh law treats conversion for marriage as illegal, and Karnataka's 2022 law restricts unauthorised inter-religious marriage.
- The Special Marriage Act requires a 30-day public notice, which exposes couples to objections and pressure.

Assessment

- Caste endogamy is loosening at the edges, through class and education, while religious boundaries have hardened; real change depends on safe spaces for couples and on social attitudes.

3 CONCLUSION

Intercaste marriage is slowly rising where class has evened out caste differences, but religion remains a far stronger boundary. Protecting couples' choice is a test of constitutional values.

Sources : [Inter-caste marriages in India \(Wikipedia\)](#); [Special Marriage Act, 1954 \(Wikipedia\)](#); [Anti-conversion law \(Wikipedia\)](#)

GS I · INDIAN SOCIETY

Q10. In dealing with socio-economic issues of development, what kind of collaboration between government, NGOs and private sector would be most productive?

10 marks · 150 words · 8 min 45 s

HOW TO WRITE IT

Tip for this question: Give each partner its strength, then name one working model such as CSR under Section 135.

WHAT THE QUESTION ASKS

Explain what kind of collaboration among government, NGOs and the private sector works best for socio-economic development: Each partner's strength, the models that work, and the conditions for success.

1 INTRODUCTION

Socio-economic problems such as poverty, health and education are too large for any one actor. The government brings scale, law and money, NGOs bring trust and local reach, and the private sector brings efficiency, technology and capital.

2 BODY: POINTS TO COVER

What each partner contributes

- Government: Policy, funding, regulation and accountability for results.
- NGOs: Community trust, local knowledge, the ability to reach the poorest and to innovate on a small scale.
- Private sector: Management, technology, supply chains and finance.

Models that work

- Corporate social responsibility: Section 135 of the Companies Act, 2013 made CSR mandatory for large companies, which must spend at least 2% of their profits; firms often fund NGOs that run programmes alongside government schemes.

- Public-private partnerships for school meals, health care and skilling, with the government paying for outcomes.
- NGOs as implementing partners and social auditors of government schemes.
- Convergence at the district level, as in programmes that bring government departments, companies and NGOs together around measurable targets.

Conditions for success

- Clear roles and contracts, payment for outcomes rather than inputs, transparency in funding, independent evaluation, and room for community voice.
- Risks to guard against: Profit motives that crowd out the poor, dependence on donors, and weak accountability.

3 CONCLUSION

The most productive collaboration combines the State's reach, the NGOs' trust and business's efficiency around shared, measurable outcomes. Each partner should do what it does best.

Sources : [Companies Act, 2013](#) (Wikipedia)

GS I · ART AND CULTURE

Q11. “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.

15 marks · 250 words · 8 min 45 s

HOW TO WRITE IT

Comment Give your opinion on the statement, backed by reasons and evidence.

Tip for this question: Cover temples, bronzes and murals in turn; name Thanjavur, Gangaikonda Cholapuram and Darasuram.

WHAT THE QUESTION ASKS

Comment on the claim that the Cholas are remembered with pride for their art and architecture: Their temples, sculpture, bronzes and painting, and how far the claim is fair.

1 INTRODUCTION

The Cholas ruled the south from the ninth to the thirteenth century, and their art reached its peak in the eleventh century, when Chola power was at its height.

2 BODY: POINTS TO COVER

Temple architecture

- The Rajarajeswara or Brihadeeshwarar temple at Thanjavur, completed around 1009 by Rajaraja Chola, is the largest and tallest of all Indian temples; its pyramidal vimana rises about 70 metres.
- The temples at Gangaikonda Cholapuram (Rajendra Chola) and Darasuram (Rajaraja II) continued the style.
- The three temples together form the Great Living Chola Temples World Heritage Site: Thanjavur was listed in 1987, the other two in 2004.

Bronze sculpture

- Some of the most beautiful Indian bronzes were made in the Chola period, from the tenth to the twelfth century, by the lost-wax process.
- The Nataraja, Shiva as the cosmic dancer subduing the demon of ignorance, is the best-known image.

Painting

- The murals of the Brihadeswara temple show Shiva in many forms and a portrait of Rajaraja with his teacher, with supple, flowing lines.

Temples as centres of life

- Chola temples were also centres of learning, crafts, land grants and village life, which is why so many are still active shrines.

3 CONCLUSION

The claim is fair: Chola temples, bronzes and murals mark the high point of South Indian art. Their monuments, still in worship, keep the dynasty's name alive.

Sources : [NCERT An Introduction to Indian Art Part I, Chapter 6](#); [NCERT An Introduction to Indian Art](#)

GS I · WORLD HISTORY

Q12. How far is it correct to say that the First World War was fought essentially for the preservation of balance of power?

15 marks · 250 words · 8 min 45 s

HOW TO WRITE IT

How far Answer with a measured extent: To a large extent, partly, or little, with reasons.

Tip for this question: State your verdict early: Balance of power was central but not the only cause.

WHAT THE QUESTION ASKS

Judge how far the First World War was fought essentially to preserve the balance of power in Europe, weighing that cause against other causes.

1 INTRODUCTION

The First World War (1914 to 1918) set the Triple Entente (Britain, France, Russia) against the Central Powers led by Germany and Austria-Hungary. Its causes were long-term and immediate.

2 BODY: POINTS TO COVER

The case for the balance of power

- After German unification (1871) a rising Germany threatened the European balance; France, Russia and Britain drew together in the Triple Entente (1907) to contain it.
- Germany felt encircled; the war was in part a struggle over who would dominate Europe.

Other causes

- Nationalism: French bitterness over Alsace-Lorraine, Slav nationalism in the Balkans, and the decline of the Ottoman Empire.
- Imperialism and economic rivalry over colonies and markets.
- Militarism and arms races, including the Anglo-German naval race, and rigid military plans.

- The immediate trigger: The assassination of Archduke Franz Ferdinand in Sarajevo on 28 June 1914 set off the July Crisis.

Assessment

- The breakdown of the balance of power was a central structural cause, but alliances turned a regional crisis into a world war only because nationalism, imperialism and militarism had already made the powers ready to fight.

3 CONCLUSION

Preserving the balance of power explains why the great powers lined up as they did, not why they were so willing to fight. The war had several causes acting together.

Sources : [Causes of World War I \(Wikipedia\)](#)

GS I · MODERN HISTORY

Q13. How far was the Industrial Revolution in England responsible for the decline of handicrafts and cottage industries in India?

15 marks · 250 words · 8 min 45 s

HOW TO WRITE IT

How far Answer with a measured extent: To a large extent, partly, or little, with reasons.

Tip for this question: Weigh machine-made cloth against colonial policy, and conclude that the two together caused the decline.

WHAT THE QUESTION ASKS

Judge how far the Industrial Revolution in England caused the decline of India's handicrafts and cottage industries, weighing it against colonial policy and other causes.

1 INTRODUCTION

India was famous for its cotton and silk textiles and its metal and jewellery crafts; in the early eighteenth century Mughal India produced around 25% of the world's industrial output. A century later its handicrafts were in decline.

2 BODY: POINTS TO COVER

Role of the Industrial Revolution

- Machine-made cloth from Lancashire mills was far cheaper; cotton led Britain's industrialisation up to the 1840s.
- Railways opened the Indian interior to British goods, and India became a supplier of raw cotton and a market for finished cloth.

Role of colonial policy

- Britain protected its own industry: The Calico Acts restricted Indian textiles in Britain, while British goods entered India almost duty free.
- The East India Company controlled weavers through paid agents (gomasthas), fixed prices and stopped them selling to other buyers.
- Indian princely courts, the main patrons of fine crafts, declined under British rule.

Other factors

- Changing tastes of the Indian elite towards European goods, and the absence of any government support for Indian industry.

Assessment

- The Industrial Revolution supplied the cheap goods, but colonial rule decided that India would not protect or modernise its crafts; the two together caused deindustrialisation.

3 CONCLUSION

The Industrial Revolution was the engine and colonial policy the steering of India's deindustrialisation. Without political control, Indian crafts might have adapted, as they later did under the swadeshi movement.

Sources : NCERT India and the Contemporary World II, Chapter 4; NCERT Indian Economic Development, Chapter 1; De-industrialisation of India (Wikipedia)

GS I · GEOGRAPHY

Q14. The groundwater potential of the gangetic valley is on a serious decline. How may it affect the food security of India?

15 marks · 250 words · 8 min 45 s

HOW TO WRITE IT

Tip for this question: Link each cause of decline to food security, then end with solutions: Crop shift, recharge, monitoring.

WHAT THE QUESTION ASKS

Explain the decline of groundwater in the Ganga valley and how it may affect India's food security: Causes of decline, the link to food production, and solutions.

1 INTRODUCTION

The Ganga plain is India's food bowl, and much of its crop depends on wells and tubewells. Agriculture uses 92 per cent of the groundwater drawn in India, so a falling water table threatens the food supply.

2 BODY: POINTS TO COVER

Why groundwater is declining

- Heavy pumping for paddy and wheat, encouraged by free or cheap power; use is very high in the north-western states of Punjab and Haryana.
- Rapid urban growth and paved surfaces cut recharge, and erratic monsoons reduce it further.
- Quality is declining too: Arsenic contaminates groundwater in districts of Bihar near the Ganga and Gandak and in the Ganga delta.

Effects on food security

- Falling yields and rising costs as wells go deeper and some dry up, especially for small farmers.
- Risk to the wheat and rice that feed the public distribution system, much of which comes from the north-western states.
- Unsafe water harms health and nutrition, part of food security in the wider sense.

Solutions

- Crop diversification away from water-intensive paddy, micro-irrigation, and pricing or metering of farm power.
- Recharge through check dams, ponds and rainwater harvesting; community management of aquifers.
- Aquifer mapping and regular monitoring of quantity and quality.

3 CONCLUSION

Groundwater is the hidden foundation of India's food security. Protecting the Ganga aquifers through recharge and smarter irrigation is as important as raising yields.

Sources : NCERT India: People and Economy, Chapter 4; Arsenic contamination of groundwater (Wikipedia)

GS I · GEOGRAPHY

Q15. What are aurora australis and aurora borealis? How are these triggered?

15 marks · 250 words · 8 min 45 s

HOW TO WRITE IT

Tip for this question: Follow the chain from the Sun to the sky: Solar wind, magnetosphere, thermosphere, colours.

WHAT THE QUESTION ASKS

Explain what the aurora australis and aurora borealis are and how they are triggered, from the Sun to the colours in the sky.

1 INTRODUCTION

Auroras are natural displays of coloured light in the night sky near the poles: The aurora borealis (northern lights) in the Arctic and the aurora australis (southern lights) in the Antarctic.

2 BODY: POINTS TO COVER

How they are triggered

- The Sun sends out a stream of charged particles, the solar wind; bursts such as coronal mass ejections make it stronger.

- The Earth's magnetic field (magnetosphere) deflects most of these particles but guides some towards the magnetic poles.
- In the upper atmosphere (the thermosphere) the particles collide with oxygen and nitrogen, which then give off light of different colours, such as green, red and purple.

Where and when they are seen

- Normally in a ring around each magnetic pole, the auroral oval: Alaska, Canada, Scandinavia and Iceland in the north; Antarctica, New Zealand and southern Australia in the south.
- During strong geomagnetic storms the ovals expand: In May 2024 a G5 ('Extreme') storm made auroras visible from northern India.

Why they matter

- The same storms can disrupt satellites, GPS, radio communication and power grids, which is why space weather is monitored.

3 CONCLUSION

Auroras are the visible sign of the Sun's particles meeting the Earth's magnetic shield. They are beautiful, but the storms behind them are a real risk to modern technology.

Sources : NCERT Understanding Society: India and Beyond, Class 9 Part 1, Chapter 3; Aurora (Wikipedia); May 2024 solar storms (Wikipedia)

GS I · GEOGRAPHY

Q16. What is a twister? Why are the majority of twisters observed in areas around the Gulf of Mexico?

15 marks · 250 words · 8 min 45 s

HOW TO WRITE IT

Define Open with a precise definition before anything else.

Tip for this question: Name the ingredients first, then show on a sketch where Gulf air meets Canadian air over the plains.

WHAT THE QUESTION ASKS

Define a twister (tornado) and explain why most twisters occur in the areas around the Gulf of Mexico: The ingredients of a tornado and the geography that brings them together.

1 INTRODUCTION

A twister, or tornado, is a violently rotating column of air in contact with the ground, hanging from a thunderstorm cloud and often visible as a funnel. It is small (tens to hundreds of metres across) but has the strongest winds on earth.

2 BODY: POINTS TO COVER

How tornadoes form

- Most strong tornadoes come from supercells, thunderstorms with a rotating updraft (mesocyclone) a few kilometres up.
- Ingredients: Warm, moist air near the ground, cooler and drier air above, a trigger such as a cold front, and wind shear that sets the air rotating.

Why the Gulf of Mexico region

- In Tornado Alley, warm, humid air from the Gulf of Mexico meets cool, dry air from Canada and the Rocky Mountains.
- The flat Great Plains, between the Rocky Mountains to the west and the Appalachians to the east, let these air masses collide freely.
- Late spring and early summer, when warm and cold air masses clash, are the peak season.

Elsewhere, including India

- Tornadoes also occur in Bangladesh and adjacent eastern India, linked to pre-monsoon thunderstorms (nor'westers or kalbaisakhi).
- Their strength is rated on the Enhanced Fujita scale by the damage they cause.

3 CONCLUSION

Twisters need warm, moist air, cold dry air and wind shear in the same place. Nowhere brings these together as often as the plains north of the Gulf of Mexico.

Sources : [Tornado \(Wikipedia\)](#); [Tornado Alley \(Wikipedia\)](#)

GS I · INDIAN SOCIETY

Q17. What is regional disparity? How does it differ from diversity? How serious is the issue of regional disparity in India?

15 marks · 250 words · 8 min 45 s

HOW TO WRITE IT

Define Open with a precise definition before anything else.

Tip for this question: Draw the line between diversity and disparity first; then use the Sikkim and Bihar figures.

WHAT THE QUESTION ASKS

Define regional disparity, distinguish it from diversity, and assess how serious regional disparity is in India, with evidence and remedies.

1 INTRODUCTION

Regional disparity means large and lasting differences in income, development and well-being between regions of the same country. Diversity means differences in language, culture, religion or landscape, which are not in themselves inequalities.

2 BODY: POINTS TO COVER

Disparity against diversity

- Diversity is horizontal: Different but not unequal (Tamil and Punjabi cultures); it is a strength to be protected.
- Disparity is vertical: Better-off and worse-off regions; it is a problem to be reduced.
- The two can overlap, as when a culturally distinct region is also poorer, which can feed regional discontent.

How serious it is in India

- Income: In 2024-25 GSDP per head was ₹7,63,749 in Sikkim but ₹76,490 in Bihar, a gap of about ten times.
- The Green Revolution first benefited Punjab, Haryana and western Uttar

Pradesh, creating regional disparities in farm development; the eastern states lagged.

- Gaps in industry, infrastructure, health and education follow the same pattern, driving migration from the poorer states.

Remedies

- Finance Commission transfers weighted towards poorer states; the Aspirational Districts Programme; special support for the North-East.
- Investment in infrastructure, skills and industry in lagging regions, and stronger local governments.

3 CONCLUSION

Regional disparity in India is serious and persistent. Celebrating diversity while narrowing disparity is essential for national unity and balanced growth.

Sources : [List of Indian states and union territories by GDP per capita \(Wikipedia\)](#); [NCERT India: People and Economy, Chapter 3](#)

GS I • INDIAN SOCIETY

Q18. 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.

15 marks · 250 words · 8 min 45 s

HOW TO WRITE IT

Comment Give your opinion on the statement, backed by reasons and evidence.

Tip for this question: Explain the gaps, then cite Davinder Singh (2024) on sub-classification as the recent response.

WHAT THE QUESTION ASKS

Comment on why underprivileged sections still do not get the full benefits of affirmative action despite comprehensive policies: The gaps in reach, the recent legal changes, and the way forward.

1 INTRODUCTION

The Constitution provides for reservation in education, jobs and

legislatures for Scheduled Castes, Scheduled Tribes and Other Backward Classes, and since 2019 for the economically weaker sections. Yet the benefits have not reached everyone they were meant for.

2 BODY: POINTS TO COVER

Why the full benefits are not reaching

- Uneven spread within groups: Better-off castes and families within each category take most benefits, while the poorest stay out.
- Unfilled reserved posts and backlog vacancies, and the shrinking of government jobs with privatisation.
- Poor schooling, low awareness and discrimination keep many from qualifying or claiming their rights.

Recent legal responses

- In *State of Punjab v. Davinder Singh* (1 August 2024), a seven-judge bench held 6:1 that states may sub-classify Scheduled Castes and Tribes to help the most disadvantaged, on the basis of quantifiable data.
- Some judges, including Justice Gavai, argued that a creamy layer should apply to SC/ST groups as well, as it does to OBCs.
- The 103rd Amendment's 10% reservation for the economically weaker sections was upheld; the 50% ceiling set in *Indra Sawhney* remains the general rule.

Way forward

- Data on who benefits, sub-classification where needed, filling backlog posts, better schools and coaching, and stricter action against discrimination.

3 CONCLUSION

Affirmative action has opened doors, but the poorest within each group still wait at the threshold. Targeting by data and investing in early education can make its promise real.

Sources : [State of Punjab v. Davinder Singh \(Wikipedia\)](#); [Reservation in India \(Wikipedia\)](#)

GS I · INDIAN SOCIETY

Q19. 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?

15 marks · 250 words · 8 min 45 s

HOW TO WRITE IT

Tip for this question: Balance gains in freedom with new pressures, and show the family relationship as negotiation.

WHAT THE QUESTION ASKS

Explain how the migration of skilled, young, unmarried women to cities, a result of globalisation, has affected their personal freedom and their relationships with their families.

1 INTRODUCTION

Globalisation brought jobs in IT, finance, retail and services to Indian cities, and many young educated women now move alone from small towns to work there. Their migration for work, rather than for marriage, is a new social trend.

2 BODY: POINTS TO COVER

Gains in personal freedom

- Economic independence: Their own income and savings, and a say in how money is spent.
- Autonomy in daily life: Choices about career, friends, dress and leisure, and often a later age at marriage and a voice in choosing a partner.
- New identities and networks beyond caste and community, and exposure to wider ideas.

Limits and new pressures

- Safety concerns, harassment, and the cost and scarcity of safe housing for single women.
- Long hours, job insecurity and loneliness, the psychic costs of living in an unfamiliar setting.

Relationship with the family

- The family remains central; most women stay emotionally and financially connected and often send money home.
- Negotiation rather than rupture: Parents' expectations about marriage and conduct meet the women's new independence, and families slowly adjust.
- Their success can raise the family's status and change attitudes to daughters' education and work.

3 CONCLUSION

Urban migration has widened young women's freedom while reshaping, not breaking, their family ties. Safe housing, secure jobs and changing social attitudes will decide how far that freedom grows.

Sources : NCERT Indian Economic Development, Chapter 4; NCERT Indian Society, Chapter 3

GS I · INDIAN SOCIETY

Q20. Critically analyse the proposition that there is a high correlation between India's cultural diversities and socio-economic marginalities.

15 marks · 250 words · 8 min 45 s

HOW TO WRITE IT

Critically analyse Break the issue into parts, test each, and conclude with your view.

Tip for this question: Show where the overlap holds (tribes, castes, Sachar), then where it does not, before concluding.

WHAT THE QUESTION ASKS

Critically analyse the claim that India's cultural diversities and socio-economic marginalities are closely linked: Where the overlap is real, where it is not, and what follows.

1 INTRODUCTION

India's diversity of caste, tribe, religion, language and region is a source of strength. The claim is that the same lines of difference also mark who is poor and excluded.

2 BODY: POINTS TO COVER

Where the correlation holds

- Tribes: About 85% of the tribal population lives in 'middle India', a belt of forests and hills that is also among the poorest regions, with displacement by mines and dams.
- Caste: Scheduled Castes faced centuries of exclusion from land, education and dignity, and still lag on most indicators.
- Religion: The Sachar Committee (report presented on 30 November 2006) found the social, economic and educational condition of Muslims to be backward in many respects.
- Region and language: Some culturally distinct regions, as in the North-East, are also less developed.

Where it does not hold

- Marginality also follows class, gender and rural location within every group; better-off members of marginal groups have moved ahead, and poor members of dominant groups exist.
- Diversity itself is not the cause; historical exclusion and uneven development are.

What follows

- Policies such as reservation, the Fifth and Sixth Schedules, minority welfare and regional programmes respond to the overlap, but must also target the poorest within each group.

3 CONCLUSION

There is a strong but not perfect correlation between cultural diversity and marginality in India. Treating historical exclusion, rather than diversity, as the problem is the key to inclusive development.

Sources : [NCERT Indian Society, Chapter 3](#); [Sachar Committee \(Wikipedia\)](#)

General Studies Paper II

21 September 2024

Answer all 20 questions. Three hours, 250 marks.

GS II · POLITY

Q1. Examine the need for electoral reforms as suggested by various committees with particular reference to “one nation – one election” principle.

10 marks · 150 words · 8 min 45 s

HOW TO WRITE IT

Examine Probe the issue in depth: Causes, evidence and consequences.

Tip for this question: Give both sides of simultaneous elections, then name the Kovind committee and the 129th Amendment Bill.

WHAT THE QUESTION ASKS

Examine why electoral reforms are needed, as committees have recommended, with particular reference to 'one nation, one election' (simultaneous elections): The case for it, the case against, and what the reform requires.

1 INTRODUCTION

Simultaneous elections to the Lok Sabha and State Assemblies were the norm from 1951-52 to 1967. The cycle broke in 1968 and 1969 when some Assemblies were dissolved early, and today some election is held almost every year.

2 BODY: POINTS TO COVER

What committees have proposed

- The Law Commission's draft report of August 2018 favoured holding all direct elections within a single year and listed the amendments needed to the Constitution, the Representation of the People Act and the House rules.
- A high-level committee chaired by former President Ram Nath Kovind, set up on 2 September 2023, recommended a framework for synchronised elections, with panchayat and municipal polls following the national and State polls.
- The Constitution (129th Amendment) Bill, 2024 was introduced in the Lok Sabha on 17 December 2024.

The case for simultaneous elections

- Saves public money and the cost of repeated polls; reduces the strain on

administration and security forces.

- Policy continuity: The model code of conduct would not freeze development work so often.
- Less time spent on campaigning and more on governance.

Concerns

- Federalism: State issues may be drowned out by national ones, and early dissolution of an Assembly needs a workable rule.
- Constitutional amendments touching Articles 83, 172 and related provisions, and ratification by States for local-body polls (Article 324A) and a common electoral roll (Article 325).
- Logistics: EVMs, VVPATs and staff for all elections at once.

Wider electoral reforms

- Other reforms committees have urged: Curbing money power, decriminalising politics, strengthening the Election Commission's independence and regulating party finances.

3 CONCLUSION

Simultaneous elections could cut costs and policy paralysis, but only with careful safeguards for federalism and accountability. The reform should be judged on whether it strengthens the voter's choice.

Sources : [One Nation, One Election \(Wikipedia\)](#)

GS II · POLITY

Q2. Explain and distinguish between Lok Adalats and Arbitration Tribunals. Whether they entertain civil as well as criminal cases?

10 marks · 150 words · 8 min 45 s

HOW TO WRITE IT

Explain Say what it is and why or how it happens, step by step.

Distinguish Set out the differences point by point, ideally in a table.

Tip for this question: A table comparing basis, cost and cases answers "distinguish" and the civil-criminal part together.

WHAT THE QUESTION ASKS

Explain and distinguish Lok Adalats and arbitration tribunals, and say whether each can take up civil as well as criminal cases.

1 INTRODUCTION

Both are forms of alternative dispute resolution that take cases out of overloaded courts, but they rest on different laws and work in different ways.

2 BODY: POINTS TO COVER

Lok Adalats

- Set up under the Legal Services Authorities Act, 1987 to settle disputes by conciliation and compromise.
- The award is deemed a civil court decree and is final and binding; no appeal lies against it.
- No court fee is charged, and fees already paid are refunded when a pending case is settled.
- Cases: Civil disputes, including marriage and family disputes, and compoundable criminal offences; non-compoundable offences are excluded.

Arbitration tribunals

- Work under the Arbitration and Conciliation Act, 1996, which covers domestic arbitration, international commercial arbitration and the enforcement of foreign awards.
- Parties agree to refer a dispute to one or more arbitrators, whose award binds them and can be enforced like a court decree; courts may set it aside only on limited grounds.
- Cases: Civil and commercial disputes arising from contracts; criminal offences cannot be sent to arbitration.

Key differences

- Basis: Lok Adalats settle by compromise; arbitrators decide like a private court.
- Cost: Lok Adalats are free; arbitration can be costly.
- Scope: Lok Adalats take civil and compoundable criminal cases;

arbitration only civil and commercial matters.

3 CONCLUSION

Lok Adalats bring quick, free settlement to ordinary litigants, while arbitration serves commercial disputes. Together they ease the burden on courts, each within its own field.

Sources : Lok Adalat (Wikipedia); Arbitration and Conciliation Act, 1996 (Wikipedia)

GS II · POLITY

**Q3. “The growth of cabinet system has practically resulted in the marginalisation of the parliamentary supremacy.”
Elucidate.**

10 marks · 150 words · 8 min 45 s

HOW TO WRITE IT

Elucidate Explain clearly with examples, so the point becomes plain.

Tip for this question: Show how the cabinet dominates, then the checks that remain, and end with reforms.

WHAT THE QUESTION ASKS

Elucidate the claim that the growth of the cabinet system has marginalised parliamentary supremacy: How the executive has come to dominate Parliament, and how far the claim holds.

1 INTRODUCTION

In India's parliamentary system the Council of Ministers is collectively responsible to the Lok Sabha. In principle Parliament controls the executive; in practice a cabinet with a stable majority often controls Parliament.

2 BODY: POINTS TO COVER

How the cabinet dominates

- A disciplined majority passes the government's Bills, often with little debate; most legislation originates with the cabinet.
- The anti-defection law (Tenth Schedule, added by the 52nd

Amendment in 1985) binds members to the party whip, weakening independent voting.

- Ordinances under Article 123 let the executive make law when Parliament is not in session.
- Fewer sitting days, Bills passed without reference to committees, and money Bill routes reduce scrutiny.

Limits to the claim

- Coalition and minority governments depend on Parliament's confidence; no-confidence motions remain a real check.
- Question Hour, committees such as the Public Accounts Committee, and the Rajya Sabha still scrutinise the government.
- Courts review the use of ordinances and the Speaker's decisions under the anti-defection law.

Restoring balance

- More sitting days, mandatory referral of Bills to committees, limits on the whip to confidence and money matters, and a stronger opposition role.

3 CONCLUSION

The cabinet has largely displaced Parliament as the centre of law-making. Stronger committees and more time for debate would restore Parliament's role without weakening stable government.

Sources : [Anti-defection law \(India\) \(Wikipedia\)](#); [The Constitution of India \(Legislative Department\)](#)

GS II • POLITY

Q4. "The duty of the Comptroller and Auditor General is not merely to ensure the legality of expenditure but also its propriety." Comment.

10 marks · 150 words · 8 min 45 s

HOW TO WRITE IT

Comment Give your opinion on the statement, backed by reasons and evidence.

Tip for this question: Separate legality from propriety audit in one line each before giving the 2G and coal examples.

WHAT THE QUESTION ASKS

Comment on the claim that the CAG's duty is to check not only the legality of expenditure but also its propriety: The CAG's constitutional role, what propriety audit means, and its significance.

1 INTRODUCTION

The Comptroller and Auditor-General of India, appointed under Article 148, audits the accounts of the Union and the States. The CAG can be removed only like a judge of the Supreme Court, on an address by both Houses on proved misbehaviour or incapacity.

2 BODY: POINTS TO COVER

Legality audit

- Whether money was spent on the purpose and within the amount that the legislature sanctioned, under the rules.

Propriety audit

- Whether the expenditure was wise, fair and economical, even if technically legal: Excessive spending, wasteful contracts or benefits to particular persons are questioned.
- Performance audits go further, asking whether a scheme achieved its aims efficiently.

Why propriety matters

- Public money is held in trust, so legal but wasteful spending still betrays that trust.
- The CAG's reports go to Parliament and are examined by the Public Accounts Committee; high-profile audits on 2G spectrum and coal block allocation showed the impact of this role.

Limits

- Propriety involves judgement and can be seen as second-guessing policy;

audit follows spending and cannot prevent it; follow-up depends on the PAC and the government.

3 CONCLUSION

Propriety audit makes the CAG a guardian of the public purse, not just a checker of accounts. Its value depends on timely reports and serious follow-up by Parliament.

Sources : [The Constitution of India \(Legislative Department\)](#); [Comptroller and Auditor General of India \(Wikipedia\)](#)

GS II · POLITY

Q5. 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.

10 marks · 150 words · 8 min 45 s

HOW TO WRITE IT

Analyse Break the topic into its parts and explain how they connect.

Bring out Present the key points clearly and in order.

Tip for this question: Answer both parts: The role of local bodies first, then a pros-and-cons table on merging.

WHAT THE QUESTION ASKS

Analyse the role of local bodies in good governance at the local level, then bring out the pros and cons of merging rural local bodies with urban local bodies.

1 INTRODUCTION

The 73rd and 74th Amendments (1992) gave panchayats (Part IX) and municipalities (Part IXA) constitutional status, with elected bodies, reserved seats and lists of functions in the Eleventh and Twelfth Schedules.

2 BODY: POINTS TO COVER

Role in good governance

- Bring decisions close to the people: Gram sabhas and ward committees allow direct participation and social audit.

- Deliver basic services: Water, sanitation, roads, street lights and local planning.
- Representation: Reserved seats bring women, Scheduled Castes and Scheduled Tribes into local leadership.
- Limits: Too few funds, functions and functionaries, and dependence on State governments.

The case for merging rural and urban bodies

- Peri-urban villages around growing cities need urban services; one body can plan land use, transport and water for the whole area.
- Economies of scale and a larger tax base.

The case against

- Rural voters may lose the gram sabha, local voice and rural schemes such as the rural employment guarantee.
- Higher property taxes, loss of agricultural land and of community control over commons.
- Larger bodies are more distant from citizens.

A balanced approach

- Merge only where urbanisation is real and the people agree, with transition support; strengthen metropolitan and district planning committees to plan across rural and urban areas.

3 CONCLUSION

Local bodies are the foundation of good governance when they have real powers. Merging rural and urban bodies should follow urbanisation and consent, not administrative convenience.

Sources : [The Constitution of India \(Legislative Department\)](#)

GS II · GOVERNANCE

Q6. Public charitable trusts have the potential to make India's development more inclusive as they relate to certain vital public issues. Comment.

10 marks · 150 words · 8 min 45 s

HOW TO WRITE IT

Comment Give your opinion on the statement, backed by reasons and evidence.

Tip for this question: Pair each strength of trusts with a condition that makes it work, such as transparent accounts.

WHAT THE QUESTION ASKS

Comment on how public charitable trusts can make India's development more inclusive through their work on vital public issues, and on the conditions for them to do so.

1 INTRODUCTION

A public charitable trust holds property or money for the benefit of the public, for purposes such as education, health, relief of poverty or the environment. Many of India's oldest hospitals, schools and research bodies were founded by such trusts.

2 BODY: POINTS TO COVER

Their potential for inclusion

- Reach: They work in areas and with groups that markets ignore and the State reaches poorly.
- Long-term funding: Endowments allow sustained work in education, health care, scholarships and research.
- Innovation: Trusts can test new models (low-cost hospitals, community schools) that governments later scale up.
- Partnership: They implement government schemes and receive corporate social responsibility funds from companies.

Problems

- Misuse of trusts for tax avoidance or private benefit, opaque accounts, and concentration in cities.

- Regulation varies across States, and foreign funding is restricted.

What would make them more effective

- Transparent accounts and impact reporting, stronger regulators, and partnerships with local governments to target the poorest areas.

3 CONCLUSION

Public charitable trusts can extend development to those left behind, if they are transparent and accountable. Their strength lies in long-term, community-rooted work alongside the State.

Sources : [Companies Act, 2013](#) (Wikipedia)

GS II · SOCIAL JUSTICE

Q7. Poverty and malnutrition create a vicious cycle, adversely affecting human capital formation. What steps can be taken to break the cycle?

10 marks · 150 words · 8 min 45 s

HOW TO WRITE IT

Suggest End with practical, specific measures, not general wishes.

Tip for this question: A cycle diagram of poverty, poor diet and low earning shows the "vicious cycle" at once.

WHAT THE QUESTION ASKS

Explain how poverty and malnutrition form a vicious cycle that harms human capital, then suggest steps to break the cycle.

1 INTRODUCTION

Poverty leads to poor diets, illness and little health care; malnutrition in turn lowers learning and earning ability, which keeps families poor. The cycle passes from mothers to children.

2 BODY: POINTS TO COVER

How the cycle works

- Poor households cannot afford enough nutritious food, safe water and health care.
- Malnourished mothers have low-birth-weight babies; stunted children learn less and earn less as adults.

- In India stunting among children under five declined only marginally, from 38 to 36 per cent, between NFHS-4 and NFHS-5, and is higher in rural areas (37 per cent) than urban areas (30 per cent).

Effect on human capital

- Lower school performance, productivity and income; higher health costs; a demographic dividend that cannot be fully used.

Steps to break the cycle

- The first 1,000 days: Maternal nutrition, breastfeeding, immunisation and growth monitoring through anganwadis.
- Food and income security: The public distribution system, school meals, rural employment and cash transfers.
- Women's education and empowerment, safe water and sanitation, and fortified foods.
- Convergence: Health, nutrition, water and livelihood schemes working together at the village level.

3 CONCLUSION

Breaking the poverty-malnutrition cycle requires acting early in life and on several fronts at once. Investment in nutrition is investment in India's human capital.

Sources : PIB: Union Health Minister releases NFHS-5 report

GS II • GOVERNANCE

Q8. The Doctrine of Democratic Governance makes it necessary that the public perception of the integrity and commitment of civil servants becomes absolutely positive. Discuss.

10 marks · 150 words · 8 min 45 s

HOW TO WRITE IT

Discuss Cover the main aspects, with arguments on more than one side.

Tip for this question: Explain why perception matters, then show how integrity and commitment build it.

WHAT THE QUESTION ASKS

Discuss why democratic governance requires the public to see civil servants as having integrity and commitment, and how that perception can be built.

1 INTRODUCTION

In a democracy citizens give the State authority over their lives. They accept its decisions willingly only if they trust that officials act honestly, fairly and in the public interest.

2 BODY: POINTS TO COVER

Why public perception matters

- Legitimacy: Trust in officials makes laws and policies acceptable without coercion.
- Cooperation: Citizens pay taxes, follow rules and take part in schemes when they believe the system is fair.
- Effectiveness: Perceived corruption or bias breeds cynicism and evasion, and undermines development.

What shapes the perception

- Integrity: Honesty, avoiding conflicts of interest, and refusing favours.
- Commitment: Responsiveness, empathy and timely service, especially to the poor.
- Visible accountability: Transparent decisions (Right to Information), grievance redress and action against wrongdoing.

Building positive perception

- Codes of ethics and conduct, transparent procedures, e-governance that reduces discretion, citizen charters with service standards, and leadership by example.

3 CONCLUSION

Public trust is the capital of a democratic administration. Civil

servants build it through daily conduct that is honest, fair and responsive.

GS II · INTERNATIONAL RELATIONS

Q9. '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.

10 marks · 150 words · 8 min 45 s

HOW TO WRITE IT

Explain Say what it is and why or how it happens, step by step.

Tip for this question: Give one example each for supply chains and strategy, then note India's strategic autonomy.

WHAT THE QUESTION ASKS

Explain, with examples, the claim that the West is fostering India as an alternative to China in supply chains and as a strategic partner against China's political and economic dominance.

1 INTRODUCTION

After the COVID-19 disruptions and rising tension with China, Western countries have sought to reduce dependence on Chinese supply chains (often called 'China plus one') and to balance China's power in the Indo-Pacific. India's size, democracy and market make it a natural partner.

2 BODY: POINTS TO COVER

Supply-chain diversification

- Technology: The US-India Initiative on Critical and Emerging Technology (iCET), unveiled in May 2022 and launched with the first meeting on 31 January 2023, covers artificial intelligence, quantum computing, semiconductors and wireless telecommunication.
- Semiconductors and electronics: Collaboration on a semiconductor fabrication plant in India with the India Semiconductor Mission; global

electronics firms expanding manufacturing in India.

- Critical minerals, pharmaceuticals and clean energy partnerships to cut dependence on one supplier.

Strategic partnership

- The Quad (India, US, Japan, Australia) and cooperation for a free and open Indo-Pacific.
- Defence technology, joint exercises and information-sharing agreements.

India's own interest and limits

- India gains investment, technology and jobs, but follows strategic autonomy: It keeps ties with Russia and avoids formal alliances.
- Infrastructure, skills and regulatory gaps limit how fast India can replace China in supply chains.

3 CONCLUSION

The West sees India as a partner to diversify supply chains and balance China. India benefits most by using this moment to build capacity while keeping its strategic autonomy.

Sources : [United States-India Initiative on Critical and Emerging Technology \(Wikipedia\)](#)

GS II · INTERNATIONAL RELATIONS

Q10. 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.

10 marks · 150 words · 8 min 45 s

HOW TO WRITE IT

Critically analyse Break the issue into parts, test each, and conclude with your view.

Tip for this question: Use three heads, diplomatic, economic and strategic, and end with the limits.

WHAT THE QUESTION ASKS

Critically analyse India's evolving diplomatic, economic and strategic relations with the five Central Asian Republics, and their growing importance in regional and global geopolitics.

1 INTRODUCTION

The Central Asian Republics (Kazakhstan, Kyrgyzstan, Tajikistan, Turkmenistan and Uzbekistan) are India's extended neighbourhood, rich in energy and minerals and located between Russia, China, Iran and Afghanistan.

2 BODY: POINTS TO COVER

Diplomatic

- The first India-Central Asia Summit was held virtually on 27 January 2022; the leaders agreed to hold the summit every two years and to set up an India-Central Asia Secretariat in New Delhi.
- All five are members or partners of the Shanghai Cooperation Organisation, in which India participates.

Economic

- Energy (uranium from Kazakhstan, gas), minerals and pharmaceuticals; but trade remains small because of the lack of direct land access.
- Connectivity: The Chabahar port in Iran and the International North-South Transport Corridor; the summit set up a joint working group on the use of Chabahar.

Strategic and security

- Shared concerns over terrorism, drug trafficking and stability in Afghanistan; a joint working group on Afghanistan.
- Balancing China's Belt and Road presence and Russia's influence in the region.

Limits

- Geography and Pakistan's denial of transit; China's much larger investment; India's limited economic presence.

3 CONCLUSION

India's ties with Central Asia have gained an institutional framework and a strategic purpose. Turning goodwill into

trade and connectivity remains the main challenge.

Sources : PIB: India-Central Asia Virtual Summit (27 January 2022)

GS II · GOVERNANCE

Q11. What are the aims and objects of 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?

15 marks · 250 words · 8 min 45 s

HOW TO WRITE IT

Tip for this question: Answer the last part plainly: University and State board examinations are not covered.

WHAT THE QUESTION ASKS

Explain the aims and objects of the Public Examinations (Prevention of Unfair Means) Act, 2024, and say whether university and State board examinations are covered.

1 INTRODUCTION

Paper leaks and organised cheating had disrupted many recruitment and entrance examinations. Parliament passed the Public Examinations (Prevention of Unfair Means) Act, 2024, India's first central law against unfair means in public examinations; it came into force on 21 June 2024.

2 BODY: POINTS TO COVER

Aims and objects

- To bring transparency, fairness and credibility to public examinations and protect honest candidates.
- To define unfair means (paper leaks, impersonation, tampering with answer sheets or computer systems) and make them offences.
- Penalties in the 2024 Act: Three to five years' imprisonment and a fine up to ten lakh rupees for individuals; a fine up to one crore rupees and a four-year bar for service providers; five to

ten years and at least one crore rupees for organised crime.

Which examinations are covered

- Examinations conducted by the authorities in its Schedule: The UPSC, the Staff Selection Commission, the Railway Recruitment Boards, the Institute of Banking Personnel Selection and the National Testing Agency, and Central ministries and departments.
- University examinations and State school board examinations are not covered; they fall under the States, which make their own laws.

The 2026 amendment

- After paper-leak protests in 2026, Parliament amended the Act (assent 31 July 2026): Jail terms for individuals rose to five to ten years with fines up to fifty lakh rupees, service providers face fines up to five crore rupees and an eight-year ban, and special task forces and fast-track courts were added.

3 CONCLUSION

The Act gives central examinations a strong legal shield, now made stricter. University and State board examinations remain the responsibility of the States.

Sources : The Public Examinations (Prevention of Unfair Means) Act, 2024 (Gazette of India); Public Examinations (Prevention of Unfair Means) Act, 2024 (Wikipedia); PIB: Stronger Law, Safer Exams (31 July 2026); PIB Factsheet: Public Examinations Amendment

GS II • POLITY

Q12. 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 child in the womb to establish its paternity.

15 marks · 250 words · 8 min 45 s

HOW TO WRITE IT

Explain Say what it is and why or how it happens, step by step.

Discuss Cover the main aspects, with arguments on more than one side.

Tip for this question: Quote Puttaswamy, then apply the Bhabani Prasad Jena test of "eminent need" to the unborn child.

WHAT THE QUESTION ASKS

Explain why the right to privacy is part of life and personal liberty under Article 21, then discuss the law on DNA testing of a child in the womb to establish paternity.

1 INTRODUCTION

In Justice K. S. Puttaswamy v. Union of India (2017) a nine-judge bench unanimously held that 'the right to privacy is protected as an intrinsic part of the right to life and personal liberty under Article 21 and as a part of the freedoms guaranteed by Part III'.

2 BODY: POINTS TO COVER

Privacy as part of Article 21

- Privacy protects bodily integrity, personal information and decisional autonomy (choices about family, body and relationships).
- It is not absolute: Restrictions must pass the tests of legality, a legitimate aim and proportionality.

DNA testing and paternity

- Courts treat DNA tests as an intrusion into privacy and bodily integrity, to be ordered only with care.
- In Bhabani Prasad Jena (2010) the Supreme Court held that DNA in a matter of paternity should not be directed as a matter of course or in a routine manner; the court must weigh the presumption of legitimacy under the Evidence Act and order a test only when it is eminently needed.
- A prenatal test involves the bodily integrity of the mother and risks to the foetus, so it needs a stronger justification and the mother's consent or a court order after balancing interests, for example in cases of

sexual assault where paternity is evidence.

Balancing rights

- The child's interest in identity and maintenance, the mother's privacy and health, the alleged father's rights and the court's duty to find the truth must all be weighed.

3 CONCLUSION

Privacy under Article 21 makes any DNA test an exception that needs strong reasons. For a child in the womb, the mother's bodily integrity makes that bar higher still.

Sources : [Puttaswamy v. Union of India \(Wikipedia\)](#); [Supreme Court: Bhabani Prasad Jena v. Orissa State Commission for Women \(2010\)](#)

GS II • POLITY

Q13. 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.

15 marks · 250 words · 8 min 45 s

HOW TO WRITE IT

Suggest End with practical, specific measures, not general wishes.

Tip for this question: List the recent changes first, then the trust-building measures, keeping the two parts distinct.

WHAT THE QUESTION ASKS

Identify the changes the Union Government has recently made in Centre-State relations, and suggest measures to build trust between the Centre and the States and strengthen federalism.

1 INTRODUCTION

Indian federalism has a strong Centre by design, but the balance keeps shifting through new institutions, laws and political practice. Recent changes have touched fiscal, legislative and administrative relations.

2 BODY: POINTS TO COVER

Recent changes

- Fiscal: GST (2017) pooled indirect taxes, with decisions in the GST Council under Article 279A; NITI Aayog replaced the Planning Commission in 2015.
- Finance Commission devolution: The Sixteenth Finance Commission retained the States' share of central taxes at 41 per cent for 2026-31.
- Territorial: The Jammu and Kashmir Reorganisation Act, 2019 turned a State into two Union Territories, Jammu and Kashmir with a legislature and Ladakh without one.
- Growth of cesses and surcharges outside the divisible pool, and of centrally sponsored schemes with conditions.

Sources of distrust

- Shrinking fiscal space, the role of Governors (delays on Bills), use of central agencies, and disputes in the GST Council.

Measures to build trust

- Revive the Inter-State Council and Zonal Councils as forums for regular consultation.
- Keep cesses limited, untie more funds, and make GST Council decisions more consensual.
- Clear conventions on Governors' role and time limits for assent; cooperative federalism in practice.

3 CONCLUSION

Recent reforms have pooled resources and decisions at the Centre. Federalism is strengthened when that pooling comes with genuine consultation and fair sharing.

Sources : [The Constitution of India \(Legislative Department\)](#); [PIB: Government accepts 16th Finance Commission's recommendation to retain vertical share of devolution at 41 percent](#); [NITI Aayog \(Wikipedia\)](#); [The Jammu and Kashmir Reorganisation Act, 2019 \(gazette text\)](#)

GS II · POLITY

Q14. 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?

15 marks · 250 words · 8 min 45 s

HOW TO WRITE IT

Explain Say what it is and why or how it happens, step by step.

Tip for this question: Explain the growth of PIL with Hussainara Khatoon, then weigh the "most powerful" claim both ways.

WHAT THE QUESTION ASKS

Explain why public interest litigation (PIL) has grown in India, and judge whether, as a result, the Supreme Court has become the world's most powerful judiciary.

1 INTRODUCTION

Public interest litigation lets any public-spirited person approach the court for those who cannot, relaxing the traditional rule of locus standi. It began in the late 1970s with Justices P. N. Bhagwati and V. R. Krishna Iyer.

2 BODY: POINTS TO COVER

Why PIL grew

- Post-Emergency activism: The Court sought legitimacy as the protector of the poor.
- Hussainara Khatoon v. State of Bihar (1979), on undertrial prisoners held for years, opened the door.
- Easy access: Letters and telegrams to the court have been heard as PILs (epistolary jurisdiction).
- Executive and legislative failure on environment, prisons, bonded labour and corruption pushed citizens to the courts.

Has it made the Supreme Court the most powerful judiciary?

- Arguments for: The Court frames guidelines (Vishaka), monitors investigations, appoints its own judges through the collegium, and can strike

down constitutional amendments under the basic structure doctrine.

- Arguments against: Its orders depend on executive compliance; PIL has also been misused, and the Court has itself cautioned against frivolous petitions; other courts too have strong powers of review.

3 CONCLUSION

PIL has made the Supreme Court an unusually powerful and accessible court. Its strength lasts only if it is used with restraint and respects the separation of powers.

Sources : [Public interest litigation in India](#) (Wikipedia)

GS II · POLITY

Q15. Discuss India as a secular state and compare with the secular principles of the US constitution.

15 marks · 250 words · 8 min 45 s

HOW TO WRITE IT

Discuss Cover the main aspects, with arguments on more than one side.

Compare Set out similarities and differences on the same heads.

Tip for this question: A table comparing Indian principled distance with the US wall of separation answers the comparison.

WHAT THE QUESTION ASKS

Discuss India as a secular state and compare it with the secular principles of the US Constitution.

1 INTRODUCTION

The Forty-second Amendment of 1976 added the word 'secular' to the Preamble, but secularism was already part of the Constitution through the rights to equality and freedom of religion.

2 BODY: POINTS TO COVER

Indian secularism

- No state religion; equal respect for all religions; freedom of conscience and religion under Articles 25 to 28,

subject to public order, morality and health.

- The State may intervene in religion for reform (temple entry, abolition of untouchability) and may support religious minorities' educational institutions.
- This approach, called 'principled distance', lets the State keep away from or engage with religion depending on constitutional values.
- In *S. R. Bommai v. Union of India* (1994) the Supreme Court held secularism to be part of the basic structure.

US secularism

- The First Amendment's Establishment Clause states that 'Congress shall make no law respecting an establishment of religion, or prohibiting the free exercise thereof'.
- Jefferson described it as 'a wall of separation between church and State': The State neither supports nor interferes with religion.

Comparison

- The US model is strict separation; India's is engagement with equal respect.
- India allows reform of religious practice and support to minorities; the US avoids funding or regulating religion.
- Both protect freedom of religion and forbid a state religion.

3 CONCLUSION

India's secularism is not a wall but a principled distance, suited to a deeply religious, diverse society. Its test is equal treatment of all faiths in practice.

Sources : [Secularism in India \(Wikipedia\)](#);
[Establishment Clause \(Wikipedia\)](#)

GS II · GOVERNANCE

Q16. The Citizens' charter has been a landmark 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.

15 marks · 250 words · 8 min 45 s

HOW TO WRITE IT

Suggest End with practical, specific measures, not general wishes.

Tip for this question: List the hindering factors, then match each with a measure such as right-to-services laws.

WHAT THE QUESTION ASKS

Identify why the Citizens' Charter has not reached its full potential in ensuring citizen-centric administration, and suggest measures to realise its promise.

1 INTRODUCTION

A Citizens' Charter is a public statement by a government department of the services it offers, the standards citizens can expect, and how to complain if those standards are not met. The idea began in the United Kingdom in 1991 under John Major.

2 BODY: POINTS TO COVER

Factors hindering it

- Charters are not legally enforceable, so missed standards carry no penalty.
- Many were drafted without consulting citizens or staff, in vague language, and never updated.
- Low public awareness, weak grievance redress and no independent monitoring.
- Staff were not trained or given the resources to meet the promised standards.

Measures

- Make service standards enforceable through right-to-services laws with time limits and compensation, as several States have done.

- Draft charters with citizens, publish them in local languages and review them regularly.
- Link charters to grievance redress and to the performance assessment of officials.
- Use technology to track service requests and show delays publicly.

3 CONCLUSION

A Citizens' Charter becomes real only when standards are specific, enforceable and monitored. Right-to-services laws turn its promise into an entitlement.

Sources : [Citizen's Charter \(Wikipedia\)](#)

GS II · SOCIAL JUSTICE

Q17. 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.

15 marks · 250 words · 8 min 45 s

HOW TO WRITE IT

Suggest End with practical, specific measures, not general wishes.

Tip for this question: Open with the out-of-pocket figures, then give measures for primary care and market regulation.

WHAT THE QUESTION ASKS

Suggest measures by which the State can expand public healthcare to the grassroots and limit the harmful effects of the marketisation of health care.

1 INTRODUCTION

India's health care is increasingly private and market-driven, which raises costs and leaves the poor exposed. Out-of-pocket spending has fallen but remains high, so the State's role in primary and public care is vital.

2 BODY: POINTS TO COVER

The problem

- Out-of-pocket expenditure fell from 62.6% to 39.4% of total health expenditure between 2014-15 and 2021-22, while the government's share rose from 29% to 48%.
- Private hospitals are concentrated in cities, and costs push many families into debt.

Measures to strengthen public health care

- Primary care: Upgrade sub-centres and primary health centres into health and wellness centres with doctors, medicines and diagnostics close to home.
- Human resources: Recruit and train doctors, nurses and community health workers, with incentives for rural service.
- Free medicines and diagnostics in public facilities; generic drug stores.
- Insurance for hospital care for poor families, with regulation of rates and quality in empanelled private hospitals.
- Raise public spending on health and invest in district hospitals and medical colleges.

Regulating the market

- Clinical establishment rules, price controls on essential drugs and devices, and transparency in hospital charges.

3 CONCLUSION

Universal health care needs a strong public system at the grassroots and a regulated private sector. Lowering what families pay out of pocket is the measure of success.

Sources : [PIB: National Health Accounts estimates 2020-21 and 2021-22](#)

GS II · GOVERNANCE

Q18. 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.

15 marks · 250 words · 8 min 45 s

HOW TO WRITE IT

Evaluate Judge the worth or impact, positives and negatives, and conclude.

Tip for this question: Show what makes the model "interactive", give MyGov as an example, then evaluate its limits.

WHAT THE QUESTION ASKS

Evaluate the 'Interactive Service Model' of e-governance, which goes beyond using technology to deliver services and uses many-sided interaction between citizens and government for transparency and accountability.

1 INTRODUCTION

Early e-governance put government information and services online. An interactive model goes further: Citizens can ask, complain, comment and take part in decisions, and the government must respond, which builds transparency and accountability.

2 BODY: POINTS TO COVER

What the interactive model involves

- Two-way channels: Grievance portals, feedback on services, online consultations on draft policies.
- Citizen participation: Crowdsourcing ideas, surveys and discussions.
- Transparency: Public dashboards on scheme progress, spending and service delivery.
- Example: MyGov, launched in 2014 as a citizen engagement platform, aims to crowdsource governance ideas from citizens; it had 100,000 registered users within two weeks of its launch.

Strengths

- Brings government closer to citizens, exposes delays and corruption, and improves policy with public input.

Limits

- The digital divide excludes many; consultations can be tokenistic if feedback is not acted on; data privacy and misinformation risks.

Making it work

- Assisted access (Common Service Centres), local languages, time-bound responses to grievances, and publication of how feedback changed decisions.

3 CONCLUSION

The interactive model makes e-governance a conversation rather than a service counter. Its value depends on the government listening and acting on what citizens say.

Sources : [MyGov.in \(Wikipedia\)](#); [E-governance \(Wikipedia\)](#)

GS II · INTERNATIONAL RELATIONS

Q19. '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.

15 marks · 250 words · 8 min 45 s

HOW TO WRITE IT

Evaluate Judge the worth or impact, positives and negatives, and conclude.

Tip for this question: Name the CTC, CTED and Resolution 1373, then weigh achievements against political limits.

WHAT THE QUESTION ASKS

Evaluate how effective the UN Security Council's Counter-Terrorism Committee and its associated bodies have been in addressing terrorism at the international level.

1 INTRODUCTION

After the 11 September 2001 attacks the Security Council unanimously adopted Resolution 1373, which obliges all States to criminalise assistance to terrorists, deny them finance and safe haven, and share information. The Counter-Terrorism Committee (CTC) monitors its implementation.

2 BODY: POINTS TO COVER

The CTC and associated bodies

- The CTC reviews States' laws and capacity; in 2004 Resolution 1535 created the Counter-Terrorism Committee Executive Directorate (CTED) to give it expert advice and arrange technical assistance.
- Other bodies: The sanctions committee on ISIL and Al-Qaida, which lists terrorists for asset freezes and travel bans, and the UN Office of Counter-Terrorism.

Achievements

- Most States now criminalise terrorist financing; country assessments and technical help have built capacity.
- Attention to new threats: The CTC's special meeting in India adopted the Delhi Declaration (October 2022), on countering terrorist use of payment technologies and unmanned aerial systems (drones), with non-binding guiding principles.

Limits

- No agreed definition of terrorism, and the Comprehensive Convention on International Terrorism proposed by India is still pending.
- Political blocks: Listing of terrorists has been held up by members' vetoes or 'technical holds'.
- Its recommendations are non-binding and depend on States' will.

3 CONCLUSION

The CTC has built a global legal framework against terrorism, but politics within the Security Council limits its reach. An agreed definition and

an end to political holds would make it far more effective.

Sources : [United Nations Security Council Counter-Terrorism Committee \(Wikipedia\)](#); [UN Counter-Terrorism Committee: Delhi Declaration](#)

GS II · INTERNATIONAL RELATIONS

Q20. 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?

15 marks · 250 words · 8 min 45 s

HOW TO WRITE IT

Discuss Cover the main aspects, with arguments on more than one side.

Tip for this question: A small sketch map of the Maldives beside the shipping lanes shows its importance in one look.

WHAT THE QUESTION ASKS

Discuss the geopolitical and geostrategic importance of the Maldives for India, focusing on global trade and energy flows, and how the relationship affects India's maritime security and regional stability amid international competition.

1 INTRODUCTION

The Maldives is a chain of coral islands in the Indian Ocean, south-west of India, lying beside the busy east-west shipping lanes that carry trade and energy between the Gulf, Africa and East Asia.

2 BODY: POINTS TO COVER

Geopolitical and geostrategic importance

- Trade and energy: Ships carrying oil and gas from the Gulf and goods between Asia and Europe pass close to the Maldives; its waters are vital for India's sea trade.
- Security: A friendly Maldives helps India watch the sea lanes, counter

piracy and terrorism, and respond to disasters.

- Competition: China's investment and loans under the Belt and Road Initiative raise concern about its presence near India.

India's engagement

- India has been the first responder: Operation Cactus defeated an attempted coup in 1988, and India gave a \$150 million currency swap during COVID-19.
- Development: The Greater Male connectivity project, funded by a \$100 million grant and a \$400 million line of credit from India, links four islands that hold almost half the Maldivian population.

Challenges

- The 'India Out' campaign in Maldivian politics and swings in government policy between India and China.
- Debt pressures in the Maldives, which affect its choices.

Effect on maritime security and stability

- Good relations extend India's maritime domain awareness and its role as a security provider in the Indian Ocean; strained relations open space for rival powers.

3 CONCLUSION

The Maldives sits astride India's sea lanes, so its stability is India's security. Steady, people-centred partnership is India's best answer to strategic competition there.

Sources : [India-Maldives relations \(Wikipedia\)](#)

Answer all 20 questions. Three hours, 250 marks.

GS III · ECONOMY

Q1. 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?

10 marks · 150 words · 8 min 45 s

HOW TO WRITE IT

Examine Probe the issue in depth: Causes, evidence and consequences.

To what extent Answer with a measured extent, backed by evidence on both sides.

Tip for this question: Describe the trend, then judge inclusiveness with gains and gaps; the FY22 to FY26 growth anchors it.

WHAT THE QUESTION ASKS

Examine the pattern and trend of public spending on social services since the 1991 reforms, and judge how far it has served the aim of inclusive growth.

1 INTRODUCTION

Social services cover education, health, family welfare, water supply and sanitation, housing, urban development, the welfare of SCs, STs and OBCs, labour welfare, social security, nutrition and disaster relief. Most of this spending is done by the States.

2 BODY: POINTS TO COVER

Pattern and trend

- In the early 1990s fiscal correction squeezed social spending; from the mid-2000s rights-based programmes (education, rural employment, food security, health missions) raised it.
- Recent years: The general government's social services expenditure has risen since FY22, growing at a compound annual rate of 12 per cent from FY22 to FY26 (BE);

education grew at 11 per cent and health at 8 per cent a year.

- Its share of total government expenditure fell to 23.3 per cent in FY21 and rose to 26.6 per cent in FY26 (BE).
- A shift in form: More direct benefit transfers, insurance-based health care and centrally sponsored schemes.

How far it has served inclusive growth

- Gains: Near-universal school enrolment, falling multidimensional poverty, and the Household Consumption Expenditure Survey 2023-24 showing the fastest growth in spending among the bottom 5 to 10 per cent.
- Gaps: Spending on health and education remains low by international standards, learning outcomes are weak, regional inequality is wide, and much spending goes to subsidies rather than human capital.

Way forward

- Raise health and education spending, untie funds for States, focus on outcomes (learning, nutrition) and strengthen local delivery.

3 CONCLUSION

Social spending has grown and broadened since the reforms, and poverty has fallen. Growth becomes truly inclusive only when that spending buys better schools, health and skills.

Sources : Economic Survey 2025-26, Chapter 13 (Ministry of Finance)

GS III · ECONOMY

Q2. 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.

10 marks · 150 words · 8 min 45 s

HOW TO WRITE IT

Comment Give your opinion on the statement, backed by reasons and evidence.

Tip for this question: Separate supply-side causes from what monetary policy can do; conclude that it contains, not cures.

WHAT THE QUESTION ASKS

Identify why food inflation in India stays high, and comment on how effective RBI's monetary policy is against this kind of inflation.

1 INTRODUCTION

Food has a large weight in India's Consumer Price Index, so food prices drive headline inflation. Most food price spikes come from the supply side, while monetary policy works mainly on demand.

2 BODY: POINTS TO COVER

Causes of persistent food inflation

- Supply shocks: Drought, erratic or failed monsoons, heatwaves and floods damage crops, especially vegetables and pulses.
- Structural: Low productivity, small holdings, weak storage and cold chains, and many intermediaries between farm and market.
- Rising costs: Higher agricultural wages, fuel and fertiliser prices, and international food prices.
- Demand: Rising incomes shift diets towards protein, milk, fruit and vegetables, whose supply grows more slowly.
- Policy: Rising minimum support prices and occasional trade restrictions.

RBI's monetary policy

- The Monetary Policy Committee (six members, three from RBI and three nominated by the government) sets the policy rate to hold inflation at 4 per cent within a band of 2 to 6 per cent; the target was renewed on 25 March 2026 for five more years, to March 2031.
- Higher interest rates cool demand and anchor inflation expectations, which stops food price rises from spreading to wages and other prices.

How effective it is

- Limited against the first-round effect: Interest rates cannot make it rain or reduce onion prices.
- Useful against second-round effects: Keeping expectations anchored prevents a supply shock from becoming general inflation.
- Over-tightening to fight a food shock can hurt growth; so supply-side measures (storage, trade policy, buffer stocks, crop diversification) are the main tools.

3 CONCLUSION

Food inflation is mainly a supply problem, which monetary policy cannot cure but can contain. Lasting control needs farm productivity, storage and better markets alongside an anchored inflation target.

Sources : [Food inflation in India \(Wikipedia\)](#); [Monetary Policy Committee \(India\) \(Wikipedia\)](#); RBI Deputy Governor Poonam Gupta: [Inflation targeting in India \(BIS\)](#)

GS III · AGRICULTURE

Q3. What were the factors responsible for the successful implementation of land reforms in some parts of the country? Elaborate.

10 marks · 150 words · 8 min 45 s

HOW TO WRITE IT

Elaborate Develop each point in detail, with an example for each.

Tip for this question: Name the factors, then show them at work in Operation Barga with its figure of bargadars recorded.

WHAT THE QUESTION ASKS

Explain the factors that made land reforms succeed in some parts of India, with examples.

1 INTRODUCTION

Land reforms after Independence aimed to abolish intermediaries, protect tenants, fix ceilings on holdings and redistribute surplus land. Zamindari abolition succeeded broadly, but tenancy and ceiling reforms succeeded only in a few States, notably West Bengal and Kerala.

2 BODY: POINTS TO COVER

Factors behind success

- Political will: Governments with a strong rural poor base pushed the reforms (the Left Front in West Bengal, successive governments in Kerala).
- Mobilisation and organisation: Peasant unions and panchayats helped identify tenants and resist evictions.
- Recording rights: Accurate land records gave tenants legal proof of their claims.
- Administrative drive: Camps in villages, officials going to the field, and quick settlement of disputes.
- Legal backing: Laws that protected tenants from eviction and fixed their share of the produce.

West Bengal: Operation Barga

- Launched in 1978 and given legal backing in 1979 and 1980, it recorded sharecroppers (bargadars), protecting them against eviction by landlords (jotedars) and entitling them to a due share of the produce.
- About 1.5 million bargadars were recorded.

Where reforms failed

- Benami and fictitious transfers, oral tenancies, weak records, landlord influence in politics and courts, and lack of will.

3 CONCLUSION

Land reforms succeeded where political will met organised beneficiaries and good land records. The lesson for today is that records and mobilisation matter as much as laws.

Sources : [Operation Barga \(Wikipedia\)](#)

GS III · AGRICULTURE

Q4. Explain the role of millets for ensuring health and nutritional security in India.

10 marks · 150 words · 8 min 45 s

HOW TO WRITE IT

Explain Say what it is and why or how it happens, step by step.

Tip for this question: Give nutrition, then resilience, with the finger millet calcium figure as the striking fact.

WHAT THE QUESTION ASKS

Explain how millets can help ensure health and nutritional security in India.

1 INTRODUCTION

Millets are small-grained cereals such as sorghum (jowar), pearl millet (bajra), finger millet (ragi), foxtail, kodo, little and barnyard millets. India proposed, and the UN declared, 2023 as the International Year of Millets.

2 BODY: POINTS TO COVER

Nutritional value

- Millets are high in protein, fibre, calcium, iron and zinc; finger millet contains about 344 mg of calcium per 100 g, far more than other grains.
- They are gluten-free, so they suit people with coeliac disease or gluten sensitivity.
- Their fibre and slower digestion help in managing diabetes and lifestyle diseases.

Role in nutritional security

- Can address hidden hunger (micronutrient deficiency) and anaemia among women and children.
- Inclusion in the public distribution system, school meals and anganwadi nutrition widens access.

Role in food security and resilience

- Highly tolerant of drought and extreme weather, they grow in rainfed and poor soils with little water and fertiliser.
- India produces about 20 per cent of the world's millets and 80 per cent of Asia's.

Challenges

- Low demand and taste preferences, weak processing and shelf life, lower procurement and MSP support than rice and wheat.

3 CONCLUSION

Millets combine nutrition with climate resilience. Bringing them back into everyday diets needs procurement, processing and public awareness together.

Sources : [Millet \(Wikipedia\)](#); [International Year of Millets \(Wikipedia\)](#)

GS III · SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY

Q5. 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.

10 marks · 150 words · 8 min 45 s

HOW TO WRITE IT

Explain Say what it is and why or how it happens, step by step.

Tip for this question: Explain TRIPS Article 27.3(b) first, then India's position, then the commercialisation gap.

WHAT THE QUESTION ASKS

Describe the present world scenario of intellectual property rights over life forms, then explain why few of India's patents are commercialised.

1 INTRODUCTION

Patents on living material (genes, micro-organisms, plant varieties, biotechnological processes) are governed internationally by the WTO's TRIPS Agreement and the Convention on Biological Diversity, and nationally by each country's law.

2 BODY: POINTS TO COVER

The world scenario

- TRIPS requires patents in all fields of technology for at least 20 years, but Article 27.3(b) lets members exclude plants and animals, while requiring protection for micro-organisms and microbiological processes and protection of plant varieties by patents or an effective sui generis system.
- The US and some others allow patents on genetically modified organisms and isolated genetic material; many developing countries resist, citing biopiracy and access to medicines.
- The Convention on Biological Diversity and the Nagoya Protocol require prior informed consent and benefit-sharing for genetic resources and traditional knowledge.

India's position

- The Patents Act excludes plants and animals and essentially biological processes; plant varieties are protected under the Protection of Plant Varieties and Farmers' Rights Act, 2001.
- Section 3(d) bars patents on new forms of known substances unless they differ significantly in efficacy; the Supreme Court upheld it in *Novartis v. Union of India* (2013), refusing a patent for Glivec.

Why few patents are commercialised

- Weak links between universities, laboratories and industry; few

technology transfer offices.

- Low private research spending and limited venture capital for long, risky development.
- Many patents are filed for academic credit, not for market use; poor market assessment.
- Long patent examination and litigation, and small firms' lack of capacity to license or scale up.

3 CONCLUSION

Global IPR on life forms balances innovation against access and biodiversity rights, and India has chosen a careful middle path. Turning patents into products needs stronger industry-academia links and risk capital.

Sources : [TRIPS Agreement \(Wikipedia\)](#); [Novartis v. Union of India \(Wikipedia\)](#)

GS III · SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY

Q6. 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?

10 marks · 150 words · 8 min 45 s

HOW TO WRITE IT

Explain Say what it is and why or how it happens, step by step.

Tip for this question: Answer all four parts in order: Technology, pros and cons, GNSS change, and its hazards.

WHAT THE QUESTION ASKS

Explain the technology used for electronic toll collection on India's highways, its advantages and limitations, the proposed changes for seamless tolling, and the risks of that transition.

1 INTRODUCTION

India collects highway tolls electronically through FASTag, which uses Radio Frequency Identification (RFID): A tag on the windscreen is read at the toll

plaza and the toll is deducted from the linked account.

2 BODY: POINTS TO COVER

FASTag: How it developed

- Rolled out on national highways from 2016, made mandatory on new vehicles from December 2017, and mandatory on all national highways from 15 December 2019 (fully from 15 February 2021), with double toll for vehicles without it.
- An annual pass option allows a fixed fee for a set number of toll crossings.

Advantages and limitations

- Advantages: Shorter waiting time, less fuel wasted, digital records, less cash handling and leakage.
- Limitations: Tag reading failures, low balance and blacklisting, tag misuse, and the toll plaza itself as a bottleneck; payment is per plaza, not per kilometre travelled.

Proposed changes: GNSS-based tolling

- Global Navigation Satellite System (GNSS) tolling is a barrier-free method in which road users are charged for the distance they travel on the tolled highway.
- An On-Board Unit in the vehicle sends location and time pings to a central toll charger, which calculates the distance and the fee; existing plazas get dedicated GNSS lanes with barriers open by default.
- Automatic number plate recognition (ANPR) cameras support enforcement in a multi-lane free-flow system.

Potential hazards

- Privacy: Continuous location tracking of vehicles; data security and misuse.
- Technical: Signal loss in tunnels, hills and cities; errors on parallel service roads and flyovers.
- Enforcement and equity: Evasion, wrong penalties, and the cost of devices for small operators.

3 CONCLUSION

Moving from plaza-based FASTag to distance-based GNSS tolling can make travel seamless and fairer. It must come with strong data protection and reliable enforcement.

Sources : [FASTag \(Wikipedia\)](#); [GNSS based Electronic Toll Collection: Concept paper \(IHMCL, NHAI\)](#)

GS III · ENVIRONMENT

Q7. 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.

10 marks · 150 words · 8 min 45 s

HOW TO WRITE IT

Discuss Cover the main aspects, with arguments on more than one side.

Tip for this question: Keep two blocks, mitigation measures and government initiatives, with Namami Gange in the second.

WHAT THE QUESTION ASKS

Discuss measures to reduce industrial pollution of river water in India and the government's initiatives against it.

1 INTRODUCTION

Industries such as tanneries, distilleries, sugar mills, pulp and paper, chemicals and textiles discharge effluents with heavy metals, organic waste and toxic chemicals into rivers, alongside untreated city sewage.

2 BODY: POINTS TO COVER

Mitigation measures

- Treatment at source: Effluent treatment plants in each unit, and Common Effluent Treatment Plants for clusters of small industries.
- Zero liquid discharge for highly polluting industries, recycling treated water.

- Cleaner production: Less water-intensive and less toxic processes; recovery of chromium, fibre and other materials.
- Real-time online effluent monitoring, with data shared with pollution control boards.
- The polluter pays principle: Penalties and closure of units that violate standards.

Government initiatives

- The Water (Prevention and Control of Pollution) Act, 1974 set up the Central and State Pollution Control Boards; the Environment (Protection) Act, 1986 sets discharge standards.
- Namami Gange, announced in 2014 with an initial budget of Rs 20,000 crore, covers sewage treatment, riverfront development, river surface cleaning, biodiversity and industrial monitoring; it is run by the National Mission for Clean Ganga under the National Ganga Council chaired by the Prime Minister.
- The National River Conservation Plan for other rivers, and directions of the National Green Tribunal.

Gaps

- Weak enforcement and understaffed boards, small units unable to afford treatment, and slow completion of treatment projects.

3 CONCLUSION

Industrial river pollution can be controlled with treatment at source, strict monitoring and cleaner technology. Enforcement, more than new law, is the missing piece.

Sources : [Namami Gange Programme \(Wikipedia\)](#); [Environmental impact assessment \(Wikipedia\)](#)

GS III · ENVIRONMENT

Q8. 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.

10 marks · 150 words · 8 min 45 s

HOW TO WRITE IT

Cite Give specific, named examples with their key details.

Tip for this question: Give four examples with place, project, actors and outcome, as the question demands details.

WHAT THE QUESTION ASKS

Explain how environmental NGOs and activists influence the outcomes of Environmental Impact Assessment (EIA) for major projects in India, and give four detailed examples.

1 INTRODUCTION

EIA studies a project's likely effects on the environment and people before it is approved. Under the EIA Notification, 2006 under the Environment (Protection) Act, 1986, most large projects need prior environmental clearance, including a public hearing for affected people.

2 BODY: POINTS TO COVER

How NGOs and activists influence EIA

- Public hearings: They help affected people raise objections, often in local languages.
- Independent studies: They expose gaps or errors in the project's EIA report.
- Litigation: Petitions before the National Green Tribunal, High Courts and the Supreme Court.
- Campaigns and media: Building public opinion and drawing in scientists and policymakers.

Example 1: Silent Valley (Kerala)

- A campaign started by the Kerala Sasthra Sahithya Parishad opposed a hydroelectric project that would flood

the valley; scientists such as Salim Ali appealed against it.

- The project was dropped and the valley was declared Silent Valley National Park in 1985.

Example 2: Narmada Bachao Andolan

- Founded by Medha Patkar in 1985, it organised adivasis, farmers and environmentalists against large dams on the Narmada, especially the Sardar Sarovar Dam in Gujarat.
- It forced attention to resettlement and rehabilitation of displaced people; the movement received the Right Livelihood Award in 1991.

Example 3: Niyamgiri (Odisha)

- Activists and the Dongria Kondh tribe opposed bauxite mining for Vedanta's refinery in the Niyamgiri hills.
- The Ministry of Environment and Forests scrapped the forest clearance; in *Orissa Mining Corporation v. Ministry of Environment and Forest* (18 April 2013) the Supreme Court gave gram sabhas a role in safeguarding tribal rights under the Forest Rights Act, and every village council then rejected the project.

Example 4: Sterlite copper smelter (Thoothukudi)

- Local residents and activists campaigned for years against pollution by the smelter; NEERI and the Tamil Nadu Pollution Control Board found contamination of groundwater, air and soil.
- In 2013 the Supreme Court fined Sterlite Rs 100 crore; after protests the Tamil Nadu government shut the plant on 28 May 2018.

3 CONCLUSION

NGOs and activists make EIA a real public process rather than a formality. Their role is most constructive when backed by evidence and the voices of affected communities.

Sources : [Save Silent Valley \(Wikipedia\)](#); [Narmada Bachao Andolan \(Wikipedia\)](#); [Orissa Mining Corporation v. Ministry of Environment and Forest](#)

GS III · INTERNAL SECURITY

Q9. Explain how narco-terrorism has emerged as a serious threat across the country. Suggest suitable measures to counter narco-terrorism.

10 marks · 150 words · 8 min 45 s

HOW TO WRITE IT

Explain Say what it is and why or how it happens, step by step.

Suggest End with practical, specific measures, not general wishes.

Tip for this question: A sketch map of the Golden Crescent and Golden Triangle around India shows the threat at once.

WHAT THE QUESTION ASKS

Explain how narco-terrorism has become a serious threat across India, and suggest measures to counter it.

1 INTRODUCTION

Narco-terrorism is the use of drug trafficking to fund, support or carry out terrorism. India lies between two of the world's main opium-producing regions: The Golden Crescent (Afghanistan, Pakistan, Iran) to the west and the Golden Triangle (Myanmar, Laos, Thailand) to the east.

2 BODY: POINTS TO COVER

How it has emerged as a threat

- Funding: Drug money finances terrorist and insurgent groups in Jammu and Kashmir, Punjab and the North-East.
- Cross-border routes: Drugs and weapons come across the Pakistan border (including by drones) and through porous borders with Myanmar; sea routes bring large consignments to western ports.
- Social damage: Addiction among youth, especially in Punjab, weakens communities and creates recruits for crime.

- Nexus: Smugglers, gangsters, hawala operators and terror groups work together; synthetic drugs and the dark web make detection harder.

Legal and institutional framework

- The Narcotic Drugs and Psychotropic Substances Act, 1985 provides stringent penalties and forfeiture of drug-trafficking property.
- The Narcotics Control Bureau, set up in March 1986, is the apex agency for coordinating drug law enforcement.

Measures to counter it

- Border security: Anti-drone systems, fencing, technology and coordination along the western and eastern borders.
- Financial intelligence: Tracking hawala and drug money; seizing assets.
- Coordination among the NCB, NIA, State police and coastal agencies; shared databases.
- Demand reduction: De-addiction centres, awareness campaigns and rehabilitation.
- International cooperation with neighbours and the UN Office on Drugs and Crime.

3 CONCLUSION

Narco-terrorism links drugs, crime and terror, so it must be fought on the border, in finance and in society together. Cutting demand at home is as important as stopping supply.

Sources : Golden Crescent (Wikipedia); Golden Triangle (Southeast Asia) (Wikipedia); Narcotic Drugs and Psychotropic Substances Act, 1985 (Wikipedia); Drug policy of India (Wikipedia)

GS III · SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY

Q10. Describe the context and salient features of the Digital Personal Data Protection Act, 2023.

10 marks · 150 words · 8 min 45 s

HOW TO WRITE IT

Describe Give the main features in an orderly account.

Tip for this question: Give context in two lines, then list features: Fiduciaries, consent, children, Board, penalties.

WHAT THE QUESTION ASKS

Describe the context and salient features of the Digital Personal Data Protection Act, 2023.

1 INTRODUCTION

India's digital economy and public digital platforms collect vast amounts of personal data. After the Supreme Court held privacy to be a fundamental right in Puttaswamy (2017), and a committee chaired by Justice B. N. Srikrishna drafted a data protection bill, Parliament passed the Digital Personal Data Protection Act; it received assent on 11 August 2023.

2 BODY: POINTS TO COVER

Context

- No dedicated data protection law existed; data breaches and misuse of personal data were growing concerns.
- Earlier bills (2018, 2019, 2022) were withdrawn or revised after debate.

Salient features

- Covers digital personal data processed in India, and processing outside India for offering goods or services to people in India.
- Data Fiduciaries (those who decide how data is processed) must process data for a lawful purpose with the consent of the Data Principal (the person), or for certain legitimate uses such as employment, legal obligations and emergencies.
- Rights of Data Principals: Access to information, correction and erasure, grievance redress and nominating another person.
- Children: Verifiable consent of the parent is needed before processing a child's data.

- Significant Data Fiduciaries, notified by the government, have extra duties such as a data protection officer and audits.
- The Data Protection Board of India adjudicates breaches; penalties may extend to Rs 250 crore.

Implementation

- The Rules were notified on 13 November 2023, with provisions coming into force in phases; the Board's provisions began at once.

Concerns

- Wide exemptions for government agencies, the government's control over the Board, and amendments to the Right to Information Act regarding personal information.

3 CONCLUSION

The Act gives India its first comprehensive data protection law built on consent and accountability. Its credibility will rest on an independent Board and narrow State exemptions.

Sources : [The Digital Personal Data Protection Act, 2023 \(Gazette of India\)](#); [Digital Personal Data Protection Act, 2023 \(Wikipedia\)](#)

GS III • ECONOMY

Q11. 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?

15 marks • 250 words • 8 min 45 s

HOW TO WRITE IT

Discuss Cover the main aspects, with arguments on more than one side.

Tip for this question: Name all four codes, weigh merits and demerits, then state the progress: In force from 21 November 2020.

WHAT THE QUESTION ASKS

Discuss the merits and demerits of the four Labour Codes as labour market reforms, and the progress made in implementing them.

1 INTRODUCTION

Parliament passed four labour codes in 2019 and 2020, subsuming 29 central labour laws: The Code on Wages, 2019, the Industrial Relations Code, 2020, the Code on Social Security, 2020 and the Occupational Safety, Health and Working Conditions Code, 2020.

2 BODY: POINTS TO COVER

Merits

- Simplification: Fewer laws, common definitions, single registration and returns, easier compliance.
- Wider coverage: A statutory minimum wage for all workers, and social security extended to gig and platform workers and inter-state migrants.
- Flexibility for employers: A higher threshold for prior government permission for lay-offs and closures, and fixed-term employment.
- Women: Permission to work night shifts with safeguards.

Demerits

- Unions argue the codes weaken job security and make strikes harder (longer notice periods).
- Many small establishments fall outside thresholds; informal workers may still be left out in practice.
- Much depends on rules framed by States, which may differ widely.

Progress

- The codes came into force on 21 November 2020; the existing laws' relevant provisions continue during the transition while central and State rules are notified.

3 CONCLUSION

The Labour Codes simplify an old and fragmented system and widen social security. Their success depends on fair rules, effective enforcement and trust between workers and employers.

Sources : [Labour laws in India \(Wikipedia\)](#)

GS III · ECONOMY

Q12. What is the need for expanding the regional air connectivity in India? In this context, discuss the government's UDAN Scheme and its achievements.

15 marks · 250 words · 8 min 45 s

HOW TO WRITE IT

Explain Say what it is and why or how it happens, step by step.

Discuss Cover the main aspects, with arguments on more than one side.

Tip for this question: Explain the need, the scheme design, and then the achievements with the route and airport figures.

WHAT THE QUESTION ASKS

Explain why regional air connectivity needs to expand in India, and discuss the UDAN scheme and what it has achieved.

1 INTRODUCTION

Much of India's air traffic is concentrated in a few metros, while many smaller towns had airports or airstrips with no regular flights. When the scheme began, 406 of 486 airports were under-served and only 27 were well served.

2 BODY: POINTS TO COVER

Need for regional connectivity

- Links remote, hilly, North-Eastern and island regions where surface travel is slow.
- Boosts tourism, trade, health access and investment in smaller cities; supports balanced regional development.
- Reduces pressure on metro airports and builds a feeder network.

The UDAN scheme

- Ude Desh ka Aam Naagrik (UDAN), the Regional Connectivity Scheme launched on 21 October 2016 under the National Civil Aviation Policy, 2016.
- Airlines bid for routes; selected routes get Viability Gap Funding and

concessions so that fares for a share of seats are capped.

- Airport operators waive landing and parking charges; the Centre and States reduce fuel taxes.

Achievements

- By October 2025, 649 routes had been operationalised, connecting 93 unserved and under-served airports including 15 heliports and 2 water aerodromes.
- New airports in the North-East (Pasighat, Ziro, Hollongi, Tezu) and others such as Darbhanga have grown into busy airports.

Challenges

- Many routes closed when the subsidy period ended; airline finances, aircraft availability and poor airport infrastructure limit sustainability.

3 CONCLUSION

UDAN has made flying possible for many smaller towns. Its lasting success depends on routes that become viable without permanent subsidy.

Sources : UDAN (Wikipedia); PIB: UDAN, eight years of regional air connectivity; Akashvani News: UDAN completes nine years (Ministry of Civil Aviation)

GS III · AGRICULTURE

Q13. What are the major challenges faced by Indian irrigation system in recent times? State the measures taken by the government for efficient irrigation management.

15 marks · 250 words · 8 min 45 s

HOW TO WRITE IT

State Set out the points plainly and briefly.

Tip for this question: List the challenges, then the PMKSY components, ending with the micro-irrigation figure.

WHAT THE QUESTION ASKS

Identify the major challenges facing India's irrigation system today, and state the government's measures for efficient irrigation management.

1 INTRODUCTION

About half of India's cropped area is still rainfed, and agriculture uses most of the country's fresh water, largely through flood irrigation of rice, wheat and sugarcane.

2 BODY: POINTS TO COVER

Major challenges

- Groundwater depletion: Free or cheap power encourages over-pumping, especially in the north-west.
- Low water-use efficiency: Flood irrigation wastes water; canals lose water through seepage and poor maintenance.
- Gap between irrigation potential created and utilised, because of incomplete distribution networks.
- Climate change: Erratic monsoons and heat stress; waterlogging and salinity in canal commands.
- Inter-State water disputes and weak water-user participation.

Government measures

- Pradhan Mantri Krishi Sinchayee Yojana (PMKSY), launched on 1 July 2015, with components for completing major and medium projects (Accelerated Irrigation Benefit Programme), new minor irrigation sources (Har Khet Ko Pani) and watershed development.
- Per Drop More Crop: 110.92 lakh hectares have been brought under micro-irrigation (drip and sprinkler).
- Modernisation of Command Area Development and Water Management, approved in 2025-26, delivers water from projects through pressurised pipes.

3 CONCLUSION

India's irrigation problem is less about building dams than using water well. Micro-irrigation, piped delivery and groundwater governance are the path to more crop per drop.

Sources : PIB: Pradhan Mantri Krishi Sinchayee Yojana completes ten years

GS III · AGRICULTURE

Q14. Elucidate the importance of buffer stocks for stabilizing agricultural prices in India. What are the challenges associated with the storage of buffer stock? Discuss.

15 marks · 250 words · 8 min 45 s

HOW TO WRITE IT

Elucidate Explain clearly with examples, so the point becomes plain.

Discuss Cover the main aspects, with arguments on more than one side.

Tip for this question: Show how buffer stocks help both farmers and consumers before turning to storage problems.

WHAT THE QUESTION ASKS

Explain why buffer stocks matter for stabilising agricultural prices in India, and discuss the challenges of storing them.

1 INTRODUCTION

A buffer stock is a reserve of foodgrains held by the government. The Food Corporation of India, set up on 14 January 1965 under the Food Corporations Act, 1964, procures grain at minimum support prices, stores it, and supplies the public distribution system.

2 BODY: POINTS TO COVER

Importance for price stability

- Support for farmers: Procurement at MSP sets a floor price after harvest.
- Protection for consumers: Releasing stocks through open market sales cools prices in lean seasons or after a poor monsoon.
- Food security: Supplies the public distribution system and welfare schemes, and provides a reserve for droughts and emergencies.

Challenges in storage

- Inadequate scientific storage: Grain held in open plinths (cover and plinth) is lost to rain, pests and rodents.
- Excess stocks above norms lock up money and raise carrying costs.

- Uneven storage: Capacity is concentrated in procuring States, far from consuming regions.
- Leakages and quality deterioration, and high costs of transport and handling.

Way forward

- Modern silos and warehouses, including through private partnerships; decentralised procurement; better stock management and digital tracking; diversifying stocks to pulses and millets.

3 CONCLUSION

Buffer stocks protect both farmers and consumers from price swings. Storing them well, and holding only what is needed, is what makes the system efficient.

Sources : [Food Corporation of India \(Wikipedia\)](#)

GS III · SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY

Q15. 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.

15 marks · 250 words · 8 min 45 s

HOW TO WRITE IT

Discuss Cover the main aspects, with arguments on more than one side.

Tip for this question: Pick three technologies and give each a merit and a demerit, in a small table if time allows.

WHAT THE QUESTION ASKS

Discuss alternative technologies that can address the world's shortage of clean freshwater, with the merits and demerits of any three.

1 INTRODUCTION

Growing demand, pollution and climate change are shrinking supplies of clean freshwater. Technology can add new

sources of water or make used water fit again.

2 BODY: POINTS TO COVER

1. Desalination

- Removes salt from seawater or brackish water, mostly by reverse osmosis, producing brine as a by-product; Chennai's Minjur plant, opened in July 2010, supplies the city.
- Merits: An almost unlimited source for coastal cities, independent of rainfall.
- Demerits: High energy use makes it costlier than surface or groundwater; brine discharge harms marine life.

2. Wastewater recycling (reclaimed water)

- Treats sewage or industrial wastewater for reuse in industry, agriculture or even drinking (it can be treated to drinking water standards).
- Merits: Turns a pollution problem into a resource; reliable supply near cities.
- Demerits: Treatment cost, public reluctance to drink recycled water, and risk if treatment fails.

3. Atmospheric water generation

- Extracts water vapour from the air by cooling it below its dew point, or using desiccants or fog collection.
- Merits: Useful in remote and humid places without piped supply.
- Demerits: Needs significant energy, works poorly in dry air, and gives small volumes.

Other options

- Rainwater harvesting and managed aquifer recharge; solar stills and membrane filters for rural drinking water.

3 CONCLUSION

No single technology can end water scarcity. Combining new sources with conservation and reuse offers the most sustainable path.

Sources : [Desalination \(Wikipedia\)](#); [Minjur Seawater Desalination Plant \(Wikipedia\)](#); [Reclaimed water \(Wikipedia\)](#); [Atmospheric water generator \(Wikipedia\)](#)

GS III · SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY

Q16. What are asteroids? How real is the threat of them causing extinction of life? What strategies have been developed to prevent such a catastrophe?

15 marks · 250 words · 8 min 45 s

HOW TO WRITE IT

Tip for this question: Answer the three parts in turn, with Chicxulub for the threat and DART for the strategy.

WHAT THE QUESTION ASKS

Explain what asteroids are, how real the threat of an extinction-level impact is, and what strategies exist to prevent such a catastrophe.

1 INTRODUCTION

Asteroids are small rocky or metallic bodies orbiting the Sun. Of the roughly one million known asteroids, most lie in the main asteroid belt between the orbits of Mars and Jupiter; near-Earth asteroids have orbits that bring them close to Earth.

2 BODY: POINTS TO COVER

How real the threat is

- Past impacts: The Chicxulub crater in Mexico was formed slightly over 66 million years ago by an asteroid about ten kilometres wide, widely thought to have caused the mass extinction that ended the age of dinosaurs.
- Large impacts are very rare, but even a body of a few hundred metres could devastate a region; smaller ones strike more often.

Strategies to prevent a catastrophe

- Detection and tracking: Surveys with ground telescopes and space missions to find and monitor near-Earth objects.
- Deflection by kinetic impact: NASA's Double Asteroid Redirection Test struck Dimorphos, a moonlet of the asteroid Didymos, on 26 September 2022 and shortened its orbit by 32 minutes, proving the method works.

- Other ideas: Gravity tractors, ion beams, and nuclear explosions as a last resort.
- Planning: International coordination for warning, evacuation and response.

3 CONCLUSION

An extinction-level impact is unlikely in any human lifetime, but the stakes are too high to ignore. Early detection and tested deflection methods make it the one natural disaster humanity could prevent.

Sources : [Asteroid \(Wikipedia\)](#); [Chicxulub crater \(Wikipedia\)](#); [Double Asteroid Redirection Test \(Wikipedia\)](#)

GS III · DISASTER MANAGEMENT

Q17. What is disaster resilience? How is it determined? Describe various elements of a resilience framework. Also mention the global targets of Sendai Framework for Disaster Risk Reduction (2015–2030).

15 marks · 250 words · 8 min 45 s

HOW TO WRITE IT

Define Open with a precise definition before anything else.

Describe Give the main features in an orderly account.

Tip for this question: Define resilience precisely, then list the seven Sendai targets, which the question asks for by name.

WHAT THE QUESTION ASKS

Define disaster resilience, explain how it is determined, describe the elements of a resilience framework, and list the global targets of the Sendai Framework for Disaster Risk Reduction (2015-2030).

1 INTRODUCTION

Disaster resilience is the ability of a community or system exposed to hazards to resist, absorb, adapt to and recover from their effects quickly and efficiently, while preserving its essential structures and functions.

2 BODY: POINTS TO COVER

How resilience is determined

- Exposure and vulnerability of people and assets; capacity to cope (institutions, finance, skills); social factors such as poverty and health; quality of infrastructure; and speed of recovery after past disasters.

Elements of a resilience framework

- Understanding risk: Hazard and vulnerability maps, data and early warning.
- Governance: Laws, plans and institutions at every level (in India, the Disaster Management Act, 2005 and NDMA, SDMA and DDMA).
- Investment in risk reduction: Resilient buildings and infrastructure, land-use planning, insurance.
- Preparedness and response, and 'Build Back Better' in recovery and reconstruction.
- Community participation and attention to the most vulnerable.

Sendai Framework: Seven global targets

- Substantially reduce global disaster mortality and the number of people affected by 2030.
- Reduce direct disaster economic loss in relation to global GDP, and damage to critical infrastructure and basic services, including health and educational facilities.
- Substantially increase the number of countries with national and local disaster risk reduction strategies by 2020.
- Enhance international cooperation to developing countries, and increase the availability of and access to multi-hazard early warning systems and risk information by 2030.
- Its four priorities: Understanding disaster risk; strengthening disaster risk governance; investing in disaster risk reduction for resilience; and enhancing preparedness and building back better.

3 CONCLUSION

Resilience shifts disaster management from relief to reducing risk before disasters strike. The Sendai targets give countries a measurable path towards that goal.

Sources : [Sendai Framework for Disaster Risk Reduction \(Wikipedia\)](#)

GS III · DISASTER MANAGEMENT

Q18. 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.

15 marks · 250 words · 8 min 45 s

HOW TO WRITE IT

Discuss Cover the main aspects, with arguments on more than one side.

Describe Give the main features in an orderly account.

Tip for this question: Give causes, then Mumbai 2005 and Chennai 2015 with their figures, then NDMA's 2010 guidelines.

WHAT THE QUESTION ASKS

Discuss the causes of urban flooding as an emerging climate-related disaster, describe two major Indian urban floods of the last two decades, and the policies and frameworks for tackling such floods.

1 INTRODUCTION

Urban flooding happens when intense rain overwhelms a city's drainage. Impervious surfaces stop rain soaking into the ground, so runoff rises faster than drains can carry it.

2 BODY: POINTS TO COVER

Causes

- Climate: More frequent extreme rainfall events.
- Urbanisation: Concrete surfaces, loss of wetlands and lakes, and construction on floodplains and natural drains.

- Drainage: Old, undersized and silted drains blocked by solid waste.
- Coastal cities face high tides and storm surges that stop drains from emptying.

Mumbai, 26 July 2005

- 944 mm of rain fell in 24 hours, the heaviest ever recorded in the city, and heavy rain continued for days; the city came to a standstill as the Mithi river and drains overflowed.

Chennai, November-December 2015

- North-east monsoon rains, including 490 mm in 24 hours at Tambaram on 1 December, flooded the city; more than 500 people died and over 1.8 million were displaced.
- Encroachment of lakes and floodplains and the release of water from reservoirs worsened the floods.

Policies and frameworks

- NDMA's National Disaster Management Guidelines on Management of Urban Flooding (September 2010), the first such document in India; the Ministry of Urban Development is the nodal ministry.
- They call for an expanded Doppler weather radar network covering all urban areas, early warning, storm-water drainage planning, and protecting water bodies.
- Missions such as AMRUT and Smart Cities fund storm-water drains; cities prepare flood action plans and early warning systems.

3 CONCLUSION

Urban floods are as much a planning failure as a climate event. Cities that protect wetlands, upgrade drains and warn early can turn heavy rain back into a manageable event.

Sources : [Urban flooding \(Wikipedia\)](#); [Maharashtra floods of 2005 \(Wikipedia\)](#); [2015 South India floods \(Wikipedia\)](#); [NDMA: Management of Urban Flooding guidelines \(2010\)](#)

GS III · INTERNAL SECURITY

Q19. 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.

15 marks · 250 words · 8 min 45 s

HOW TO WRITE IT

Examine Probe the issue in depth: Causes, evidence and consequences.

Tip for this question: Cover both borders, then BADP, the Vibrant Villages Programme and BIM in turn.

WHAT THE QUESTION ASKS

Examine the disputes and security challenges along India's borders with China and Pakistan, and describe the development undertaken there under the Border Area Development Programme (BADP) and the Border Infrastructure and Management (BIM) scheme.

1 INTRODUCTION

India's land borders with China and Pakistan run through high mountains, deserts and plains. Both carry unresolved territorial disputes and active security threats.

2 BODY: POINTS TO COVER

China border: Issues and challenges

- No agreed boundary: The Line of Actual Control is disputed in the western (Aksai Chin, Ladakh), middle and eastern (Arunachal Pradesh) sectors.
- Face-offs and clashes, such as Galwan in 2020; China's rapid build-up of roads, airbases and 'xiaokang' border villages.

Pakistan border: Issues and challenges

- The Line of Control in Jammu and Kashmir, Sir Creek, and the Siachen glacier.
- Cross-border terrorism and infiltration, smuggling of drugs and weapons, and drones dropping consignments in Punjab and Jammu.

Border Area Development Programme (BADP)

- Started in the 1980s along the western border with Pakistan; it funds roads, bridges, health facilities, schools, irrigation and sports facilities in villages within 10 km of the border, and by June 2020 covered nearly 400 blocks in 111 border districts.

Vibrant Villages Programme

- Phase I (2022-2026) covered 662 priority villages on the China border with an outlay of Rs 4,500 crore; Phase II (2025-2029), with Rs 6,839 crore, covers 1,954 more villages along all land borders, including Pakistan and Bangladesh.

Border Infrastructure and Management (BIM)

- A central umbrella scheme of the Ministry of Home Affairs for border fencing, floodlighting, border roads, border outposts and technological surveillance along the land borders.

3 CONCLUSION

Secure borders need both strong defence and thriving border villages. Infrastructure and development make border populations the first line of national security.

Sources : [India-China border infrastructure \(Wikipedia\)](#)

GS III · INTERNAL SECURITY

Q20. 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.

15 marks · 250 words · 8 min 45 s

HOW TO WRITE IT

Suggest End with practical, specific measures, not general wishes.

Tip for this question: Match each challenge with a measure (law, rules, institutions, platforms), then add remedies.

WHAT THE QUESTION ASKS

Explain the security challenges posed by social media and encrypted messaging, the measures adopted at various levels to address them, and further remedies.

1 INTRODUCTION

Social media and end-to-end encrypted messaging connect billions of users, but the same reach and secrecy can be used to spread misinformation, incite violence, radicalise youth and plan crimes beyond the reach of law enforcement.

2 BODY: POINTS TO COVER

Security challenges

- Fake news and deepfakes that trigger riots or lynchings; propaganda and radicalisation by terrorist groups.
- Encrypted apps used for coordination by terrorists and criminals; difficulty tracing origins.
- Cyber fraud, sextortion, and foreign influence operations; data harvesting.

Measures adopted

- Law: The Information Technology Act, 2000 allows blocking of content (Section 69A) and interception under due process; in *Shreya Singhal v. Union of India* (2015) the Supreme Court struck down Section 66A for violating free speech.

- Rules: The Information Technology Rules, 2021 set due-diligence and grievance redress duties for intermediaries, and Rule 4(2) requires significant messaging platforms to identify the first originator of information on a court or government order.
- Institutions: CERT-In for cyber incidents, the Indian Cyber Crime Coordination Centre, and State cyber cells.
- Platforms: Fact-checking, content moderation and limits on forwarding messages.

Further remedies

- Digital literacy so citizens can spot fake news; quick response teams for viral misinformation.
- Technical cooperation with platforms that respects encryption and privacy; international agreements on data access.
- Clear, proportionate law with judicial oversight, in line with the right to privacy.

3 CONCLUSION

Security on social media needs law, technology and an alert public working together. Measures must protect citizens without undermining free speech and privacy.

Sources : [Information Technology Rules, 2021 \(Wikipedia\)](#); [Shreya Singhal v. Union of India \(Wikipedia\)](#)

Answer all questions. Three hours, 250 marks.

GS IV · CONCEPTS AND THINKERS

Q1(a). 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.

10 marks · 150 words · 9 min 13 s

HOW TO WRITE IT

Critically examine Look at both sides with evidence, then give a reasoned judgement.

Tip for this question: Weigh benefits against ethical risks, and end with AI as an aid to accountable human judgement.

WHAT THE QUESTION ASKS

Critically examine, from an ethical point of view, whether Artificial Intelligence can be a dependable input for rational administrative decisions.

1 INTRODUCTION

Governments increasingly use AI to sort applications, detect fraud, predict risks and target welfare. AI can process far more data than any officer, but a decision about people is also a moral act that needs reasons, fairness and accountability.

2 BODY: POINTS TO COVER

Where AI supports ethical administration

- Consistency and speed: Similar cases are treated alike, and backlogs shrink.
- Less discretion and corruption: Rule-based screening reduces room for favouritism.
- Evidence: Patterns in data can reveal needs or fraud that officers would miss.

Ethical concerns

- Bias: Systems trained on past data can repeat discrimination by caste,

gender, region or income.

- Opacity: 'Black box' models cannot explain why a citizen was refused, which violates the duty to give reasons and natural justice.
- Accountability: When an algorithm errs, it is unclear who answers for the harm.
- Privacy and surveillance: Large data collection risks misuse.
- Loss of empathy: Hard cases need judgement, compassion and context that data cannot capture.

A balanced approach

- AI as an aid, not the decision-maker: A human officer takes and owns the final decision.
- Explainable systems, bias audits, published rules, data protection, and a right to appeal to a person.

3 CONCLUSION

AI can make administration faster and more consistent, but it cannot carry moral responsibility. It is dependable only as a tool under transparent rules and accountable human judgement.

GS IV · CONCEPTS AND THINKERS

Q1(b). "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.

10 marks · 150 words · 9 min 13 s

HOW TO WRITE IT

Explain Say what it is and why or how it happens, step by step.

Discuss Cover the main aspects, with arguments on more than one side.

Tip for this question: Name the dimensions, then show them at work in one professional example, such as procurement.

WHAT THE QUESTION ASKS

Explain the key dimensions of ethics that influence human actions, and how they shape ethical decision-making at work.

1 INTRODUCTION

Ethics is the study of what is right and good in human conduct. Several dimensions together guide whether an individual or an organisation acts responsibly.

2 BODY: POINTS TO COVER

Key dimensions

- Personal values and virtues: Honesty, integrity, courage and compassion form character.
- Duty and rules (deontology): Some actions are right or wrong in themselves, whatever their results.
- Consequences (utilitarianism): Actions are judged by their effects on the welfare of all affected.
- Justice and rights: Fairness, equality and respect for the rights of others.
- Care and relationships: Responsibility towards those who depend on us.
- Social and professional norms: Laws, codes of conduct and the culture of the organisation.
- Conscience: The inner voice that judges one's own conduct.

How they shape professional decisions

- Values set limits that one will not cross, such as refusing a bribe.
- Rules and codes give consistent guidance; consequences help when rules conflict.
- Justice ensures decisions do not favour the powerful; care brings empathy for the weak.

- Example: A procurement officer follows the rules, weighs the public cost, treats all bidders fairly and discloses any conflict of interest.

3 CONCLUSION

Ethical decisions draw on character, duty, consequences and fairness together. A professional who weighs all of them acts not only legally but rightly.

GS IV · CONCEPTS AND THINKERS

Q2(a). “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?

10 marks · 150 words · 9 min 13 s

HOW TO WRITE IT

Tip for this question: Name the ethical issue (profit from war) before listing the considerations for powerful nations.

WHAT THE QUESTION ASKS

Discuss the ethical responsibilities of powerful nations, some of whose arms industries profit from war, in ending ongoing conflicts.

1 INTRODUCTION

The quotation insists that peace requires conviction and action, not only words. When arms exports bring profit and influence, powerful nations face a conflict between self-interest and their moral duty to protect human life.

2 BODY: POINTS TO COVER

Ethical issues

- Profit from suffering: Arms sales that prolong wars treat human lives as a

means to economic gain.

- Double standards: Calling for peace while supplying weapons undermines credibility.
- Responsibility of the powerful: Greater power carries a greater duty to prevent harm.
- Civilian harm: Civilians, refugees and children bear much of the suffering of prolonged wars.

Ethical considerations for powerful nations

- Primacy of human life and dignity over strategic or commercial gain.
- Respect for international law: The UN Charter's ban on the use of force, international humanitarian law and arms trade controls.
- Restraint in arms exports to parties in active conflict or with records of abusing civilians.
- Active diplomacy and mediation, humanitarian aid, and support for post-war rebuilding.
- Reform of global institutions so that a few powers cannot block action.

India's approach

- India has called for dialogue and diplomacy in current conflicts and sends humanitarian aid, reflecting the idea of the world as one family (Vasudhaiva Kutumbakam).

3 CONCLUSION

Peace demands that powerful nations put human lives above arms profits. Acting on that belief means restraint, diplomacy and fair global institutions.

GS IV · CONCEPTS AND THINKERS

Q2(b). 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?

10 marks · 150 words · 9 min 13 s

HOW TO WRITE IT

Tip for this question: Frame the problem ethically (greed, equity, future generations), then act at every level.

WHAT THE QUESTION ASKS

Explain how human greed in the name of development has caused global warming, and how to restore balance between society and the environment.

1 INTRODUCTION

Climate change is driven by emissions from fossil fuels, deforestation and overconsumption. Much of it reflects wants beyond needs, by rich individuals and countries, at the cost of other species and future generations.

2 BODY: POINTS TO COVER

Ethical dimensions of the problem

- Intergenerational justice: Present consumption harms those not yet born.
- Equity: The poor and small island nations suffer most but contributed least.
- Duty to other species: Biodiversity loss threatens ecosystems on which all life depends.
- Greed versus need: Treating nature only as a resource to exploit.

Ending the damage and restoring balance

- Individual: Mindful consumption, less waste, saving energy and water, and choosing sustainable products.

- Society: Environmental education, community conservation of forests and water, and traditional values of respect for nature.
- Government: Renewable energy, carbon pricing, protection of forests and wetlands, green cities and climate adaptation.
- Business: Cleaner production, a circular economy and honest environmental reporting.
- Global: Common but differentiated responsibilities, climate finance and technology transfer to developing countries.

3 CONCLUSION

Development that ignores nature destroys its own foundation. Restraint, justice and responsibility can rebuild the balance between society and the environment.

GS IV · CONCEPTS AND THINKERS

Q3(a). Given below are three quotations of great thinkers. What do each of these quotations convey to you in the present context?

- (a) “Learn everything that is good from others, but bring it in, and in your own way absorb it, do not become others.” – Swami Vivekananda

10 marks · 150 words · 9 min 13 s

HOW TO WRITE IT

Tip for this question: Give the meaning in one line, then two present-day applications, one for a civil servant.

WHAT THE QUESTION ASKS

Explain what Swami Vivekananda's advice to learn the good from others but absorb it in one's own way conveys today.

1 INTRODUCTION

Vivekananda urges openness to good ideas from anywhere, combined with the confidence to adapt them to one's own

culture and character rather than copying blindly.

2 BODY: POINTS TO COVER

Meaning

- Learning: Every culture, person and tradition has something valuable to teach.
- Assimilation: Ideas must be digested and made one's own, not imitated.
- Identity: Self-respect and roots should not be lost in the process.

In the present context

- Individuals: Learning from global role models and technology while keeping one's values.
- Governance: Adopting best practices from other countries (digital services, health systems) but suited to Indian conditions.
- Education and culture: Openness to science and other cultures without a sense of inferiority.
- Civil servants: Learning from peers and innovations elsewhere, adapted to local needs.

3 CONCLUSION

Openness with self-confidence is the path to growth. One can learn from the world without ceasing to be oneself.

GS IV · CONCEPTS AND THINKERS

Q3(b). “Faith is of no avail in the absence of strength. Faith and strength, both are essential to accomplish any great work.” – Sardar Patel

10 marks · 150 words · 9 min 13 s

HOW TO WRITE IT

Tip for this question: Use Patel's own work on the princely states as the example of faith backed by strength.

WHAT THE QUESTION ASKS

Explain what Sardar Patel's statement that faith needs strength to accomplish great work conveys today.

1 INTRODUCTION

Patel, who led the integration of the princely states, combined belief in a united India with the firmness and capacity to achieve it. Conviction alone is not enough; it must be backed by the means and the will to act.

2 BODY: POINTS TO COVER

Meaning

- Faith: Belief in a goal, in values and in people gives direction and hope.
- Strength: Courage, discipline, capability and resources turn belief into results.
- Together: Faith without strength is wishful thinking; strength without faith can become aimless or oppressive.

In the present context

- Nation: Unity and development need both shared ideals and strong institutions.
- Administration: A civil servant's commitment to public service must be matched by competence and resolve to resist pressure.
- Individuals: Self-belief must be supported by effort and skill.

3 CONCLUSION

Great work needs conviction and capacity together. Patel's own life shows how firm faith, backed by strength, can achieve what seemed impossible.

GS IV · CONCEPTS AND THINKERS

Q3(c). "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

10 marks · 150 words · 9 min 13 s

HOW TO WRITE IT

Tip for this question: Contrast law and ethics in one line, then apply Kant's good will to public service.

WHAT THE QUESTION ASKS

Explain what Kant's distinction, that law judges actions while ethics judges even intentions, conveys today.

1 INTRODUCTION

Law is concerned with external acts that harm others' rights; ethics goes deeper, to the motives and intentions behind what we do. For Kant, the moral worth of an act lies in the will that produces it.

2 BODY: POINTS TO COVER

Meaning

- Law: Punishes acts, needs proof, and cannot enter the mind.
- Ethics: Judges character; a wrong intention is a moral failure even if never carried out.
- Kant's good will: Acting from duty and respect for persons as ends in themselves, not only from fear of punishment.

In the present context

- Public service: An officer who avoids corruption only for fear of being caught lacks integrity; true probity is internal.
- Society: Laws alone cannot create a just society without people of good intention.
- Self-discipline: Guarding one's thoughts prevents wrong actions before they begin.

3 CONCLUSION

Law sets the minimum; ethics asks for a good will. A society of people who act rightly even when unobserved needs fewer laws.

GS IV · CONCEPTS AND THINKERS

Q4(a). “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.

10 marks · 150 words · 9 min 13 s

HOW TO WRITE IT

Examine Probe the issue in depth: Causes, evidence and consequences.

Tip for this question: Give two or three legal examples of changing justice, and end with a caution against fashion.

WHAT THE QUESTION ASKS

Examine, with examples, the claim that what is just depends on context, so changing contexts must be watched to prevent injustice.

1 INTRODUCTION

Basic principles of justice, such as fairness and equal dignity, are lasting, but their application changes as society, knowledge and values change. Laws and practices once thought fair can later be seen as unjust.

2 BODY: POINTS TO COVER

Examples of changing ideas of justice

- Section 377 of the IPC: Criminalising consensual same-sex relations between adults was struck down in Navtej Singh Johar (2018).
- Section 66A of the IT Act: Struck down in 2015 for violating free speech.
- Women's rights: Daughters' equal coparcenary rights in Hindu family property, and the end of instant triple talaq.
- Colonial criminal laws replaced by the Bharatiya Nyaya Sanhita in 2024.

Why constant scrutiny is needed

- To keep law in step with constitutional morality and human rights.

- To protect vulnerable groups whose voice was ignored earlier.
- To adapt to new realities such as technology and the environment.

Caution

- Change must rest on reason and core values, not passing majorities or popularity.

3 CONCLUSION

Justice is a living ideal that must keep pace with society. Regular review of laws and practices prevents yesterday's fairness from becoming today's injustice.

Sources : Navtej Singh Johar v. Union of India (Wikipedia); Shreya Singhal v. Union of India (Wikipedia); Bharatiya Nyaya Sanhita (Wikipedia)

GS IV · CONCEPTS AND THINKERS

Q4(b). “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.

10 marks · 150 words · 9 min 13 s

HOW TO WRITE IT

Examine Probe the issue in depth: Causes, evidence and consequences.

Tip for this question: Give one illustration of form defeating substance, then show how a perceptive officer acts.

WHAT THE QUESTION ASKS

Examine, with illustrations, the claim that blind attachment to form over substance causes injustice, and that a perceptive civil servant serves the true intent of rules.

1 INTRODUCTION

Rules and procedures exist to achieve a purpose: Fairness, accountability, welfare. When officials follow the letter mechanically and forget that purpose, the procedure itself can defeat justice.

2 BODY: POINTS TO COVER

Illustrations of form over substance

- Denying rations to a poor family because of a technical mismatch in records.
- Refusing a death certificate or pension for a missing document when the facts are clear.
- Rejecting a disaster victim's claim over a minor error in the form.

Following the true intent

- Interpret rules in the light of their purpose and the Constitution's values.
- Use discretion within the law, record reasons, and seek simple alternatives (affidavits, field verification).
- Escalate where rules are clearly unfair, and suggest reform.

Limits

- Discretion must not become arbitrariness: Procedures protect against corruption and favouritism, so departures must be transparent, reasoned and lawful.

3 CONCLUSION

Rules serve people, not the other way round. A perceptive civil servant combines respect for procedure with judgement about its purpose.

GS IV · CONCEPTS AND THINKERS

Q5(a).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 model for code of ethics to maintain integrity, probity and transparency in governance.

10 marks · 150 words · 9 min 13 s

HOW TO WRITE IT

Suggest End with practical, specific measures, not general wishes.

Tip for this question: Separate code of conduct from code of ethics, then give a model with values, structure and enforcement.

WHAT THE QUESTION ASKS

Suggest a model code of ethics, alongside the existing code of conduct, to maintain integrity, probity and transparency in governance.

1 INTRODUCTION

A code of conduct lists specific do's and don'ts (such as the Central Civil Services (Conduct) Rules), and breaches attract penalties. A code of ethics states the values that should guide conduct where rules are silent. The Second Administrative Reforms Commission examined this in its fourth report, 'Ethics in Governance'.

2 BODY: POINTS TO COVER

Core values of the model code

- Integrity and honesty; impartiality and non-partisanship; accountability; transparency; dedication to public service; compassion for the weak; respect for the Constitution and the law.

Structure

- A short statement of values, applicable to all public servants.
- Guidance on common situations: Conflict of interest, gifts, use of public resources, political neutrality, social media conduct.
- Illustrative cases and a decision-making checklist.

Implementation

- Legal backing through a Public Services law, as recommended by reform bodies.
- Ethics officers or committees in each department to advise and enforce.
- Training (including through Mission Karmayogi), declarations of assets and interests, and protection for whistle-blowers.

- Periodic review and public reporting.

3 CONCLUSION

A code of ethics tells public servants not only what they must not do but who they should be. Combined with enforceable conduct rules, it builds a culture of integrity.

Sources : [Administrative Reforms Commission \(Wikipedia\)](#)

GS IV · CONCEPTS AND THINKERS

Q5(b).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.

10 marks · 150 words · 9 min 13 s

HOW TO WRITE IT

Discuss Cover the main aspects, with arguments on more than one side.

Tip for this question: Show the shift from punishment to justice with community service and the new offences.

WHAT THE QUESTION ASKS

Discuss how the Bharatiya Nyaya Sanhita reflects justice, equality and impartiality, in the light of the shift from a doctrine of punishment to one of justice.

1 INTRODUCTION

The Bharatiya Nyaya Sanhita (BNS) came into effect on 1 July 2024, replacing the colonial-era Indian Penal Code of 1860. Its name itself, 'nyaya' (justice) rather than 'dand' (punishment), signals the intended shift.

2 BODY: POINTS TO COVER

From punishment to justice

- Colonial law aimed at control of subjects; the new law aims at justice for citizens and victims.
- Community service introduced as a sentence for six offences, a reformative rather than purely punitive approach.

- Offences against women and children brought together in one chapter (Chapter 5), placed early in the code.

Equality and impartiality

- New offences such as organised crime, terrorism, and murder or grievous hurt by a group on grounds such as caste or community (mob lynching).
- The BNS removes sedition as an offence.

Concerns

- Critics point to retained provisions such as the marital rape exception and the phrase 'outraging the modesty of women', broad definitions that may be misused, and the need for police and judicial capacity to deliver speedy justice.

3 CONCLUSION

The BNS marks a symbolic and substantive move from punishing subjects to delivering justice to citizens. Its success depends on fair and humane implementation.

Sources : [Bharatiya Nyaya Sanhita \(Wikipedia\)](#)

GS IV · CONCEPTS AND THINKERS

Q6(a).“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 suitable measures to increase their efficiency in discharging their duties and maintaining high standards of probity.

10 marks · 150 words · 9 min 13 s

HOW TO WRITE IT

Examine Probe the issue in depth: Causes, evidence and consequences.

Suggest End with practical, specific measures, not general wishes.

Tip for this question: List the gender-specific challenges first, then measures, naming the 2013 workplace law.

WHAT THE QUESTION ASKS

Examine the gender-specific challenges faced by women in public service and suggest measures to improve their efficiency and probity.

1 INTRODUCTION

More women are entering the civil services, police and public institutions. Equal opportunity in law does not yet mean equal conditions at work.

2 BODY: POINTS TO COVER

Gender-specific challenges

- Balancing work with family and care responsibilities, especially with transfers and long hours.
- Stereotypes about women's suitability for field, police or 'tough' postings; fewer women in senior positions.
- Sexual harassment at the workplace and lack of safe facilities in remote postings.
- Pressure from patriarchal attitudes among colleagues and the public; isolation in male-dominated offices.

Measures

- Effective enforcement of the Sexual Harassment of Women at Workplace (Prevention, Prohibition and Redressal) Act, 2013, through internal complaints committees.
- Facilities: Creches, safe housing and transport; child care leave and flexible work where possible.
- Fair postings and mentoring; women in leadership and on selection boards.
- Gender sensitisation of all staff, and networks for women officers.
- Training and support so that women officers can lead with integrity,

without facing undue pressure or harassment.

3 CONCLUSION

Women in public service bring empathy and fresh perspectives to governance. A safe, fair and supportive workplace lets them serve with efficiency and integrity.

Sources : [Sexual Harassment of Women at Workplace Act, 2013 \(Wikipedia\)](#)

GS IV · CONCEPTS AND THINKERS

Q6(b).Mission Karmayogi is aiming for maintaining a very high standard of conduct and behaviour to ensure efficiency for serving citizens and in turn developing oneself. How will this scheme empower the civil servants in enhancing productive efficiency and delivering the services at the grassroots level?

10 marks · 150 words · 9 min 13 s

HOW TO WRITE IT

Tip for this question: Explain "rules based to roles based" first; it is the core of Mission Karmayogi.

WHAT THE QUESTION ASKS

Explain how Mission Karmayogi will help civil servants improve productive efficiency and deliver services at the grassroots.

1 INTRODUCTION

Mission Karmayogi, the National Programme for Civil Services Capacity Building, was approved by the Union Cabinet on 2 September 2020. It aims to prepare civil servants for the future by making them more creative, proactive, professional and technology-enabled.

2 BODY: POINTS TO COVER

Key features

- Transition from 'rules based' to 'roles based' human resource management, matching officers' competencies to the requirements of the post.
- A Framework of Roles, Activities and Competencies (FRACs) for every position.

- The iGOT-Karmayogi online platform for continuous learning anytime, anywhere.
- A Capacity Building Commission to bring a uniform approach to training.

How it empowers civil servants

- Continuous, self-paced learning of domain, functional and behavioural skills.
- Behavioural competencies: Citizen-centricity, empathy, teamwork and ethics.
- Better matching of people to jobs, and performance linked to competency.

Effect at the grassroots

- Frontline staff gain skills in digital services, communication and problem-solving, improving service delivery.
- A shift in attitude from controller to facilitator of citizens.

Challenges

- Ensuring real learning rather than course completion, access in remote areas, and linking training to promotions and postings.

3 CONCLUSION

Mission Karmayogi treats civil servants as lifelong learners. Its success will be measured by better service to citizens at the last mile.

Sources : PIB: Cabinet approves Mission Karmayogi (2 September 2020)

GS IV · CASE STUDIES

Q7. There is a technological company named ABC Incorporated which is the second largest worldwide, situated in the Third World. You are the Chief Executive Officer and the majority shareholder of this company. The fast technological improvements have raised worries among environmental activists, regulatory authorities, and the general public over the sustainability of this scenario. You confront substantial issues about the business's environmental footprint. In 2023, your organization had a significant increase of 48% in greenhouse gas emissions compared to the levels recorded in 2019. The significant rise in energy consumption is mainly due to the surging energy requirements of your data centers, fuelled by the exponential expansion of Artificial Intelligence (AI). AI-powered services need much more computational resources and electrical energy compared to conventional online activities, notwithstanding their notable gains. The technology's proliferation has led to a growing concern over the environmental repercussions, resulting in an increase in warnings. AI models, especially those used in extensive machine learning and data processing, exhibit much greater energy consumption than conventional computer tasks, with an exponential increase. Although there is already a commitment and goal to achieve net zero emissions by 2030, the challenge of lowering emissions seems overwhelming as the integration of AI continues to increase. To achieve this goal, substantial investments in renewable energy use would be necessary. The difficulty is

exacerbated by the competitive environment of the technology sector, where rapid innovation is essential for preserving market standing and shareholders' worth. To achieve a balance between innovation, profitability and sustainability, a strategic move is necessary that is in line with both, business objectives and ethical obligations.

- (a) What is your immediate response to the challenges posed in the above case?
- (b) Discuss the ethical issues involved in the above case.
- (c) Your company has been identified to be penalized by technological giants. What logical and ethical arguments will you put forth to convince about its necessity?
- (d) Being a conscience being, what measures would you adopt to maintain balance between AI innovation and environmental footprint?

20 marks · 250 words · 9 min 13 s

HOW TO WRITE IT

Your view Take a clear position in the first line, then support it.

Discuss Cover the main aspects, with arguments on more than one side.

Tip for this question: Answer parts (a) to (d) under their own labels; recommend a sustainable path, not denial.

WHAT THE QUESTION ASKS

Case: As CEO and majority owner of a large technology company whose emissions rose 48 per cent from 2019 to 2023 because of AI data centres, respond to the challenge, identify the ethical issues, argue for the penalty proposed by technology giants, and balance AI innovation with the environment.

1 INTRODUCTION

The company has promised net zero by 2030, but AI growth is pushing energy use and emissions up sharply. The CEO must balance innovation, profit and

competition with honesty to the public and responsibility to the planet.

2 BODY: POINTS TO COVER

(a) Immediate response

- Acknowledge the rise in emissions openly and reaffirm the net-zero commitment.
- Commission an independent audit of energy use and emissions; set interim targets.
- Start immediate steps: Shift data centres to renewable power, improve efficiency, and review AI projects by their energy cost.

(b) Ethical issues

- Profit and market share against environmental responsibility and intergenerational justice.
- Honesty: Risk of greenwashing if public promises are not matched by action.
- Fairness: A company in a developing country competing with richer rivals; shareholder value against stakeholder welfare.

(c) Arguments for the penalty

- Logical: The polluter pays principle; penalties put a price on carbon and level the playing field for responsible firms.
- Ethical: Accountability for harm to society; credibility of the company's own net-zero promise; leadership by example as the second-largest firm.

(d) Balancing AI innovation with the environment

- Energy-efficient models and hardware; using AI itself to optimise energy use.
- Long-term renewable power purchase and storage; locating data centres where clean power and cooling are available.
- Transparent reporting of emissions; linking executive pay to sustainability targets; industry collaboration on green standards.

3 CONCLUSION

Innovation that damages the planet is not true progress. A responsible CEO makes sustainability part of the business model, not an afterthought.

GS IV · CASE STUDIES

Q8. Raman is a senior IPS officer and has recently been posted as D.G. of a state. Among the various issues and problems/challenges which needed his immediate attention, the issue relating to recruitment of unemployed youth by an unknown terrorist group, was a matter of grave concern. It was noted that unemployment was relatively high in the state. The problem of unemployment amongst graduates and those with higher education was much more grave. Thus they were vulnerable and soft targets. In the review meeting taken by him with senior officers of DIG Range and above, it came to light that a new terrorist group has emerged at the global level. It has launched a massive drive to recruit young unemployed people. Special focus was to pick young people from a particular community. The said organisation seemed to have the clear objective of utilising/using them for carrying out militant activities. It was also gathered that the said (new) group is desperately trying to spread its tentacles in his state. A definite/reliable intelligence tip was received by the State CID and Cyber Cell that a large number of such unemployed youth have already been contacted by the terrorist outfit/group through social media and local communal organisations and other contacts. The need of the hour was to act swiftly and to check these elements/designs before they assume serious proportions. Discrete inquiries made by the police, through the Cyber Cell, revealed that good numbers of unemployed youth are very active on Facebook, Instagram and Twitter. On an average, many of them were spending 6-8 hours each

day, using electronic devices/internet, etc. It also came to light that such unemployed youth were showing sympathy and endorsing the messages received from certain persons, allegedly the contact persons of that global terrorist group. Their social media accounts revealed their strong affinity to such groups inasmuch as many of them started forwarding anti-national tweets on their WhatsApp and Facebook, etc. It seemed that they succumbed to their ploy and started propagating secessionist ideology. Their posts were hyper-critical of the government's initiatives, policies and subscribing to extreme beliefs and promoting extremism.

- (a) What are the options available to Raman to tackle the above situation?
- (b) What measures would you suggest for strengthening the existing set-up to ensure that such groups do not succeed in penetrating and vitiating the atmosphere in the state?
- (c) In the above scenario, what action plan would you advise for enhancing the intelligence gathering mechanism of the police force?

20 marks · 250 words · 9 min 13 s

HOW TO WRITE IT

Suggest End with practical, specific measures, not general wishes.

Tip for this question: Give options, then strengthening measures and an intelligence plan, avoiding stigma for any community.

WHAT THE QUESTION ASKS

Case: A new state DGP learns that a global terrorist group is recruiting unemployed youth of one community through social media; identify his options, suggest how to strengthen the set-up, and propose a plan to improve police intelligence.

1 INTRODUCTION

Raman faces a threat that combines terrorism, radicalisation and social

distress. Swift action is needed, but it must respect the law and avoid alienating a whole community, which would help the terrorists.

2 BODY: POINTS TO COVER

(a) Options available

- Hard security only: Mass arrests and blocking of accounts; quick but risks injustice and community anger.
- Ignore until evidence of violence: Respects liberty but endangers public safety.
- Balanced approach (preferred): Legal action against recruiters and active operatives based on evidence, counselling and de-radicalisation for influenced youth, and engagement with families and community leaders.

(b) Strengthening the existing set-up

- Cyber cells with trained staff to monitor and counter online propaganda, working with platforms to remove terror content under the law.
- Counter-narratives through community leaders, teachers and religious figures.
- Coordination with central agencies and other States.
- Address root causes with the government: Skill training, jobs and mentoring for unemployed graduates.
- Community policing to build trust, and care that no community is stigmatised.

(c) Enhancing intelligence gathering

- Technical intelligence: Social media analysis tools and data analytics within the law and privacy safeguards.
- Human intelligence: Strengthen beat-level policing and local sources.
- Shared intelligence platforms across agencies; regular training; protection and reward for sources.

3 CONCLUSION

Terror recruitment is defeated by combining firm law enforcement with

trust and opportunity for young people. Raman's response must protect the state without alienating its youth.

GS IV · CASE STUDIES

Q9. With multipronged strategy of the Central and State Governments specially in the last few years, the naxalite problem has been resolved to a large extent in the affected states of the country. However, there are a few pockets in certain states where naxalite problem still persists, mainly due to involvement of foreign countries. Rohit is posted as SP (Special Operations) for the last one year, in one of the districts which is still affected by the naxalite problem. The district administration has taken a lot of developmental works in the recent past in the naxalite affected areas to win the hearts and minds of the people. Over a period of time, Rohit has established an excellent intelligence network to get the real time information regarding the movement of naxalite cadre. To instill confidence in the public and have moral ascendancy over the naxalites, a number of cordons and search operations are being conducted by the police. Rohit, who himself was leading one of the contingents got a message through his intelligence source that about ten hard core naxalites were hiding in a particular village with sophisticated weapons. Without wasting any time, Rohit reached the target village with his team and laid out a foolproof cordon and started carrying out a systematic search. During the search, his team managed to overpower all the naxalites along with their automatic weapons. However, in the meantime, more than five hundred tribal women surrounded the village and started marching towards the target house. They were shouting and demanding the immediate release of insurgents since they are their protectors and

saviours. The situation on the ground was becoming very critical as the tribal women were extremely agitated and aggressive. Rohit tried to contact his superior officer, IG (Special Operations) of the state on the radio set and on mobile phone, but failed to do so due to poor connectivity. Rohit was in great dilemma since out of the naxalites apprehended, two were not only hard core top insurgents with prize money of ₹ ten lakhs on their heads, but were also involved in a recent ambush on the security forces. However, if he did not release the naxalites, the situation could get out of control since the tribal women were aggressively charging towards them. In that case, to control the situation Rohit might have to resort to firing which may lead to valuable loss of lives of civilians and would further complicate the situation.

- (a) What are the options available with Rohit to cope with the situation?
- (b) What are the ethical dilemmas being faced by Rohit?
- (c) Which of the options, do you think, would be more appropriate for Rohit to adopt and why?
- (d) In the present situation, what are the extra precautionary measures to be taken by the police in dealing with women protesters?

20 marks · 250 words · 9 min 13 s

HOW TO WRITE IT

Your view Take a clear position in the first line, then support it.

Tip for this question: Recommend holding custody with de-escalation, and give precautions for women protesters.

WHAT THE QUESTION ASKS

Case: An SP who has captured armed naxalites, including two wanted for an ambush, is confronted by hundreds of agitated tribal women demanding their release and cannot reach his superiors; identify his options and dilemmas, choose the best course and the precautions for dealing with women protesters.

1 INTRODUCTION

Rohit must protect his team, the captured insurgents' custody and the lives of civilians at the same time. A wrong step could either free dangerous criminals or cause a massacre that would turn the people against the State.

2 BODY: POINTS TO COVER

(a) Options

- Release the naxalites to avoid confrontation.
- Open fire to disperse the crowd and keep custody.
- Hold custody while de-escalating: Negotiate with the crowd through women police, local leaders and elders, move the arrested men out by another route, and call for reinforcements.

(b) Ethical dilemmas

- Duty to uphold the law and justice for the ambush victims against the duty to protect civilian lives.
- Use of force against unarmed women versus the safety of his own team.
- Acting alone without orders versus waiting while the situation worsens.

(c) Most appropriate option

- Keep the arrested naxalites in custody but avoid firing: Use women police personnel and community figures to calm the crowd, explain that the arrests follow the law, quickly evacuate the arrested men, and use only minimum, non-lethal means if absolutely necessary. This upholds the law and protects lives, and denies the naxalites a propaganda victory.

(d) Precautions with women protesters

- Women police personnel to handle women protesters; respect for their dignity; no use of lethal force.
- Video recording of the operation, medical help on hand, and an inquiry into any injury.
- Follow-up engagement with the community to address grievances and the influence of the insurgents.

3 CONCLUSION

In counter-insurgency, winning the people matters as much as capturing militants. Restraint and firmness together serve both law and humanity.

GS IV · CASE STUDIES

Q10. Sneha is a Senior Manager working for a big reputed hospital chain in a mid-sized city. She has been made in-charge of the new super speciality center that the hospital is building with state-of-the-art equipment and world class medical facilities. The building has been reconstructed and she is starting the process of procurement for various equipment and machines. As the head of the committee responsible for procurement, she has invited bids from all the interested reputed vendors dealing in medical equipment. She notices that her brother, who is a well-known supplier in this domain, has also sent his expression of interest. Since the hospital is privately owned, it is not mandatory for her to select only the lower bidder. Also, she is aware that her brother's company has been facing some financial difficulties and a big supply order will help him recover. At the same time, allocating the contract to her brother might bring charges of favouritism against her and tarnish her image. The hospital management trusts her fully and would support any decision of hers.

- (a) What should be Sneha's course of action?
- (b) How would she justify what she chooses to do?
- (c) In this case, how is medical ethics compromised with vested personal interest?

20 marks · 250 words · 9 min 13 s

HOW TO WRITE IT

Justify Give reasons and evidence that support the position asked for.

Tip for this question: Disclosure and recusal answer part (a); then justify and explain the harm to medical ethics.

WHAT THE QUESTION ASKS

Case: A hospital procurement head finds her brother, a supplier in financial difficulty, among the bidders; decide her course of action, justify it, and explain how medical ethics is compromised by vested interest.

1 INTRODUCTION

Sneha faces a classic conflict of interest. Even though the hospital is private and trusts her fully, she must ensure that the best equipment is bought on merit, because patients' lives depend on it.

2 BODY: POINTS TO COVER

(a) Course of action

- Disclose her relationship with the bidder to the management in writing.
- Recuse herself from evaluating that bid, or from the whole procurement, and let an independent committee decide.
- Ensure transparent criteria (quality, after-sales service, price) for all bidders; her brother may compete on equal terms.

(b) Justification

- Integrity and impartiality: A decision-maker should not judge where she has a personal interest.
- Protecting the trust of management and patients, and her own reputation.
- Fairness to other vendors; personal sympathy for her brother cannot override her professional duty.

(c) How medical ethics is compromised by vested interest

- Patient welfare (beneficence and non-maleficence) suffers if inferior or overpriced equipment is chosen.
- Higher costs pass on to patients, hurting justice and access.
- Loss of trust in the hospital and the profession.

3 CONCLUSION

Conflict of interest is managed by disclosure and recusal, not by personal assurance of honesty. Sneha's openness

protects patients, the hospital and herself.

Q11. With the summer heat being exceptionally severe this year, the district has been facing severe water shortage. The District Collector has been mobilizing his subordinate officials to conserve the remaining water reserves for preventing the district from plunging into acute drinking water crisis. Along with an awareness campaign for conserving water, strict measures have been taken for stopping the over-exploitation of ground-water. Vigilance teams have been deployed to tour the villages and find the farmers who are drawing water from deep borewells or from the river reservoir for irrigation. The farmers are agitated by such action. A delegation of farmers meets the District Collector with their issues and complains that while they are not being allowed to irrigate their crops, big industries located near the river are drawing huge amounts of water through deep borewells for their industrial processes. The farmers allege that their administration is anti-farmer and corrupt, being bribed by the industry. The district needs to placate the farmers as they are threatening to go on a prolonged protest. At the same time, the District Collector has to deal with the water crisis. The industry cannot be closed as this would result in a large number of workers being unemployed.

- (a) Discuss all options available to the District Collector as a District Magistrate.
- (b) What suitable actions can be taken in view of mutually compatible interests of the stakeholders?
- (c) What are the potential administrative and ethical dilemmas for the District Collector?

HOW TO WRITE IT

Discuss Cover the main aspects, with arguments on more than one side.

Tip for this question: Answer the three parts: Options, actions that suit all stakeholders, and the dilemmas.

WHAT THE QUESTION ASKS

Case: During a severe summer water shortage, farmers barred from irrigating accuse the district administration of favouring industries that draw groundwater; list the Collector's options as District Magistrate, suggest actions that serve all stakeholders, and identify the administrative and ethical dilemmas.

1 INTRODUCTION

The Collector must secure drinking water for the district, treat farmers and industry fairly, and restore trust in the administration. The farmers' allegation of favouritism makes transparency as important as water management.

2 BODY: POINTS TO COVER**(a) Options as District Magistrate**

- Prioritise drinking water by order, regulating groundwater extraction by all users, farmers and industries alike.
- Order prohibitory measures if a law-and-order situation arises, while engaging the protesters.
- Inspect and audit industrial borewells; act against any unauthorised extraction.

(b) Actions serving mutually compatible interests

- One rule for all: Publish water allocation and limits for agriculture and industry.
- Industries to cut fresh water use, recycle treated water and share water with villages during the crisis, without closing the units.
- Support farmers with short-duration or less water-intensive crops, drip irrigation, compensation or crop insurance.

- Tanker supply, repair of water bodies, and a joint monitoring committee with farmers' and industry representatives.
- An inquiry into the bribery allegation to restore trust.

(c) Administrative and ethical dilemmas

- Drinking water against livelihoods of farmers and workers.
- Economic interests of industry against fairness to farmers.
- Enforcing strict measures against maintaining public order and trust.
- Allegations of corruption within his own administration.

3 CONCLUSION

In a crisis, fairness and transparency are as important as the water itself. Treating all users by the same rules lets the Collector protect lives, livelihoods and trust.

GS IV · CASE STUDIES

Q12. Dr. Srinivasan is a senior scientist working for a reputed biotechnology company known for its cutting-edge research in pharmaceuticals. Dr. Srinivasan is heading a research team working on a new drug aimed at treating a rapidly spreading variant of a new viral infectious disease. The disease has been rapidly spreading across the world and the cases reported in the country are increasing. There is huge pressure on Dr. Srinivasan's team to expedite the trials for the drug as there is significant market for it, and the company wants to get the first-mover advantage in the market. During a team meeting, some senior team members suggest some shortcut for expediting the clinical trials for the drug and for getting the requisite approvals. These include manipulating data to exclude some negative outcomes and selectively reporting positive results, foregoing the process of informed consent and using compounds already patented by a rival company, rather than developing one's own component. Dr. Srinivasan is not comfortable taking such shortcuts, at the same time he realises meeting the targets is impossible without using these means.

- (a) What would you do in such a situation?
- (b) Examine your options and consequences in the light of the ethical questions involved.
- (c) How can data ethics and drug ethics save humanity at large in such a scenario?

20 marks · 250 words · 9 min 13 s

HOW TO WRITE IT

Examine Probe the issue in depth: Causes, evidence and consequences.

Tip for this question: Refuse the shortcuts, propose ethical ways to speed up, then explain data and drug ethics.

WHAT THE QUESTION ASKS

Case: A scientist leading a drug trial for a fast-spreading disease is urged to manipulate data, skip informed consent and use a rival's patented compound; decide what to do, examine the options and consequences, and explain how data and drug ethics protect humanity.

1 INTRODUCTION

Dr. Srinivasan faces commercial pressure in a public health emergency. The proposed shortcuts would put patients at risk, break the law and destroy trust in science, even if they bring the drug to market faster.

2 BODY: POINTS TO COVER

(a) What to do

- Refuse the unethical shortcuts clearly and record his objection.
- Inform senior management and the ethics committee of the risks to patients and the company.
- Seek legitimate ways to speed up: Fast-track or emergency regulatory pathways, adaptive trial designs, more trial sites, and licensing of the rival's compound if needed.

(b) Options and consequences

- Accept the shortcuts: Faster launch, but harm to patients, legal action, withdrawal of the drug, and loss of reputation.
- Refuse quietly: Protects his integrity but may let others proceed.
- Refuse and propose ethical alternatives (preferred): Upholds integrity and patient safety while still addressing the urgency.
- Resign or blow the whistle as a last resort if the company insists.

(c) How data and drug ethics protect humanity

- Honest data ensures drugs are truly safe and effective; manipulated results can harm millions.
- Informed consent respects patients' autonomy and dignity.
- Respect for intellectual property sustains innovation; transparency builds public trust in vaccines and medicines, which is vital in a pandemic.

3 CONCLUSION

In medicine, cutting ethical corners endangers the very people a drug is meant to save. Integrity in research is the fastest safe path to a cure.