

GS1

topic : Indian Culture - Salient Aspects of Art Forms, Literature, and Architecture from Ancient to Modern Times

questions :

1. Though not very useful from the point of view of a connected political history of South India, the Sangam literature portrays the social and economic conditions of its time with remarkable vividness. Comment.
2. Discuss the 'Tandava' dance as recorded in early Indian inscriptions.
3. Chola architecture represents a high watermark in the evolution of temple architecture. Discuss.
4. Gandhara sculpture owed as much to the Romans as to the Greeks. Explain.
5. Taxila university was one of the oldest universities of the world with which were associated a number of renowned learned personalities of different disciplines. Its strategic location caused its fame to flourish, but unlike Nalanda, it is not considered as a university in the modern sense. Discuss.
6. Sufis and medieval mystic saints failed to modify either the religious ideas and practices or the outward structure of Hindu/Muslim societies to any appreciable extent. Comment.
7. The ancient civilization in India subcontinent differed from those of Egypt, Mesopotamia, and Greece in that its culture and traditions have been preserved without a breakdown to the present day. Comment.
8. Mesolithic rock architecture of India not only reflects the cultural life of the times but also a fine aesthetic sense comparable to modern painting. Critically evaluate this comment.
9. Early Buddhist stupa art, while depicting folk motifs and narratives, successfully expounds Buddhist ideals. Elucidate.
10. Krishnadeva Raya, the king of Vijayanagar, was not only an accomplished scholar himself but also a great patron of learning and literature. Discuss.

11. How do you justify the view that the level of excellence of the Gupta numismatic art is not at all noticeable in later times?
12. The spirit of tolerance and love is not only an interesting feature of Indian society from very early times, but it is also playing an important part at present. Elaborate.
13. Safeguarding the Indian art heritage is the need of the moment. Discuss.
14. Assess the importance of the accounts of the Chinese and Arab travelers in the reconstruction of the history of India.
15. The Bhakti movement received a remarkable re-orientation with the advent of Sri Chaitanya Mahaprabhu. Discuss.
16. Highlight the Central Asian and Greco-Bactrian elements in the Gandhara art.
17. The rock-cut architecture represents one of the most important sources of our knowledge of early Indian art and history. Discuss.
18. Pala period is the most significant phase in the history of Buddhism in India. Enumerate.
19. Indian philosophy and tradition played a significant role in conceiving and shaping the monuments and their art in India. Discuss.
20. Persian literary sources of medieval India reflect the spirit of the age. Comment.
21. Evaluate the nature of the Bhakti literature and its contribution to Indian culture.
22. Trace the growth of socio-religious reform movements with special reference to Young Bengal and Brahma Samaj.
23. How will you explain that medieval Indian temple sculptures represent the social life of those days?
24. Discuss the main contribution of Gupta period and Chola period to Indian heritage and culture.
25. Discuss the significance of the lion and bull figures in Indian mythology, art, and architecture.
26. Explain the role of geographical factors towards the development of Ancient India.

27. What are the main features of the Vedic society and religion? Do you think some of the features are still prevailing in Indian society?
28. What are the major technological changes introduced during the Sultanate period? How did those technological changes influence Indian society?
29. Underline the changes in the field of society and economy from the Rig Vedic to the later Vedic period.
30. Estimate the contribution of Pallavas of Kanchi for the development of art and literature of South India.
31. "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.

topic : Modern Indian history from about the middle of the eighteenth century until the present - significant events, personalities, issues & The Freedom Struggle – its various stages and important contributors/contributions from different parts of the country

questions :

1. Defying the barriers of age, gender, and religion, the Indian women became torch-bearers during the struggle for freedom in India. Discuss.
2. Several foreigners made India their homeland and participated in various movements. Analyze their role in the Indian struggle for freedom.
3. 'In many ways, Lord Dalhousie was the founder of modern India.' Elaborate.
4. The Third battle of Panipat was fought in 1761. Why were so many empire-shaking battles fought at Panipat?
5. Examine critically the various facets of economic policies of the British in India from the mid-eighteenth century till independence.
6. In what ways did the naval mutiny prove to be the last nail in the coffin of British colonial aspirations in India?
7. What were the major political, economic, and social developments in the world which motivated the anti-colonial struggle in India?

8. How different would have been the achievement of Indian independence without Mahatma Gandhi? Discuss.
9. Mahatma Gandhi and Dr. B. R. Ambedkar, despite having divergent approaches and strategies, had a common goal of amelioration of the downtrodden. Elucidate.
10. It would have been difficult for the Constituent Assembly to complete its historic task of drafting the constitution for Independent India in just three years but for the experience gained with the Government of India Act, 1935. Discuss.
11. Explain how the Uprisings of 1857 constitute an important watershed in the evolution of British policies towards colonial India.
12. Discuss the role of women in the freedom struggle, especially during the Gandhian phase.
13. Highlight the differences in the approach of Subash Chandra Bose and Mahatma Gandhi in the struggle for freedom.
14. Why did the 'Moderates' fail to carry conviction with the nation about their proclaimed ideology and political goals by the end of the nineteenth century?
15. Clarify how mid-eighteenth century India was beset with the specter of a fragmented polity.
16. Examine how the decline of traditional artisanal industry in colonial India crippled the rural economy.
17. Throw light on the significance of the thoughts of Mahatma Gandhi in the present times.
18. The 1857 Uprising was the culmination of the recurrent big and small local rebellions that had occurred in the preceding hundred years of British rule. Elucidate.
19. Examine the linkages between the nineteenth century's 'Indian Renaissance' and the emergence of national identity.
20. Many voices had strengthened and enriched the nationalist movement during the Gandhian phase. Elaborate.
21. Assess the role of British imperial power in complicating the process of transfer of power during the 1940s.

22. Evaluate the policies of Lord Curzon and their long-term implications on the national movement.
23. Since the decade of the 1920s, the national movement acquired various ideological strands and thereby expanded its social base. Discuss.
24. To what extent did the role of the Moderates prepare a base for the wider freedom movement? Comment.
25. Bring out the constructive programs of Mahatma Gandhi during the Non-Cooperation Movement and Civil Disobedience Movement.
26. Why did the armies of the British East India Company, mostly comprising Indian soldiers, win consistently against the more numerous and better-equipped armies of the Indian rulers? Give reasons.
27. Why was there a sudden spurt in famines in colonial India since the mid-eighteenth century? Give reasons.
28. The political and administrative reorganization of states and territories has been a continuous ongoing process since the mid-nineteenth century. Discuss with examples.
29. What was the difference between Mahatma Gandhi and Rabindranath Tagore in their approach towards education and nationalism?
30. How did the colonial rule affect the tribals in India and what was the tribal response to colonial oppression?
31. What were the events that led to the Quit India Movement? Point out its results.
32. How far was the Industrial Revolution in England responsible for the decline of handicrafts and cottage industries in India?

topic : Post-Independence Consolidation and Reorganization within the Country

questions :

1. Critically discuss the objectives of the Bhoodan and Gramdan movements initiated by Acharya Vinoba Bhave and their success.
2. Write a critical note on the evolution and significance of the slogan, 'Jai Jawan Jai Kisan'.

3. Discuss the contributions of Maulana Abul Kalam Azad to pre-independent and post-independent India.
4. Analyze the circumstances that led to the Tashkent agreement in 1966. Discuss the highlights of the Agreement.
5. Critically examine the compulsions which prompted India to play a decisive role in the emergence of Bangladesh.
6. Discuss whether the formation of new states in recent times is beneficial or not for the economy of India.
7. Assess the main administrative issues and socio-cultural problems in the integration process of Indian Princely states.
8. From being a net food importer in the 1960s, India has emerged as a net food exporter to the world. Provide reasons.

topic : History of the World (18th Century Events such as Industrial Revolution, World Wars, Redrawing of National Boundaries, Colonization, Decolonization, Political Philosophies like Communism, Capitalism, Socialism, etc. – Their Forms and Effect on Society)

questions :

1. “Latecomer” Industrial revolution in Japan involved certain factors that were markedly different from what the West had experienced. Analyze.
2. “American Revolution was an economic revolt against mercantilism.” Substantiate.
3. What policy instruments were deployed to contain the Great Economic Depression?
4. What were the events that led to the Suez Crisis in 1956? How did it deal a final blow to Britain’s self-image as a world power?
5. The New Economic Policy of 1921 by Lenin had influenced the policies adopted by India soon after independence. Evaluate.
6. Why did the Industrial Revolution first occur in England? Discuss the quality of life of the people during industrialization. How does it compare with that in India at present?

7. To what extent can Germany be held responsible for causing the two World Wars? Discuss critically.
8. The anti-colonial struggles in West Africa were led by the new elite of Western-educated Africans. Examine.
9. What problems were germane to the decolonization process in the Malay Peninsula?
10. Why was indentured labor taken by the British from India to other colonies? Have they been able to preserve their cultural identity over there?
11. Explain how the foundations of the modern world were laid by the American and French Revolutions.
12. "There arose a serious challenge to the Democratic State system between the Two World Wars." Evaluate the statement.
13. How far is it correct to say that the First World War was fought essentially for the preservation of balance of power?

topic : Salient Features of Indian Society; Diversity of India

questions :

1. The life cycle of a joint family depends on economic factors rather than social values. Discuss.
2. Describe any four cultural elements of diversity in India and rate their relative significance in building national identity.
3. In the context of the diversity of India, can it be said that the regions form cultural units rather than the states? Give reasons with examples for your viewpoint.
4. The spirit of tolerance and love is not only an interesting feature of Indian society from very early times, but it is also playing an important part at the present. Elaborate.
5. "Caste system is assuming new identities and associational forms. Hence, caste system cannot be eradicated in India." Comment.
6. What makes the Indian society unique in sustaining its culture? Discuss.
7. Do we have cultural pockets of small India all over the nation? Elaborate with examples.

8. Are we losing our local identity for the global identity?
9. Has caste lost its relevance in understanding the multi-cultural Indian society?
Elaborate your answer with illustrations.
10. Is diversity and pluralism in India under threat due to globalization? Justify your answer.
11. Customs and traditions suppress reason leading to obscurantism. Do you agree?
12. How does Indian society maintain continuity in traditional social values?
Enumerate the changes taking place in it.
13. Why is caste identity in India both fluid and static?
14. Intercaste marriages between castes which have socio-economic parity have increased, to some extent, but this is less true of interreligious marriages.
Discuss.
15. Critically analyze the proposition that there is a high correlation between India's cultural diversities and socio-economic marginalities.

topic : Role of Women and Women's Organizations, Population and Associated Issues, Poverty and Developmental Issues, Urbanization, Their Problems and Their Remedies

questions :

1. Discuss the various social problems which originated out of the speedy process of urbanization in India.
2. "Male membership needs to be encouraged in order to make women's organizations free from gender bias." Comment.
3. How does patriarchy impact the position of a middle-class working woman in India?
4. Why do some of the most prosperous regions of India have an adverse sex ratio for women? Give your arguments.
5. Discuss the various economic and socio-cultural forces that are driving increasing feminization of agriculture.
6. Critically examine whether growing population is the cause of poverty OR poverty is the main cause of population increase in India.

7. Discuss the changes in the trends of labour migration within and outside India in the last four decades.
8. "An essential condition to eradicate poverty is to liberate the poor from the process of deprivation." Substantiate this with suitable examples.
9. With a brief background of the quality of urban life in India, introduce the objectives and strategy of the 'Smart City Programme'.
10. The women's questions arose in modern India as part of the 19th-century social reform movement. What were the major issues and debates concerning women in that period?
11. "The growth of cities as IT hubs has opened up new avenues of employment, but has also created new problems." Substantiate with examples.
12. Despite the implementation of various programmes for eradication of poverty by the government in India, poverty still exists. Explain by giving reasons.
13. Mention core strategies for the transformation of aspirational districts in India and explain the nature of convergence, collaboration, and competition for its success.
14. "Women's movement in India has not addressed the issue of women of lower social strata." Substantiate your view.
15. "Empowering women is the key to control population growth." Discuss.
16. What are the continued challenges for women in India against time and space?
17. COVID-19 pandemic accelerated class inequalities and poverty in India.
18. Examine the role of the 'Gig Economy' in the process of empowerment of women in India.
19. What are the main socio-economic inequalities arising out of the development of IT industries in major cities of India?
20. Discuss the main objectives of Population Education and point out the measures to achieve them in India in detail.
21. Explore and evaluate the impact of 'Work From Home' on family relationships.
22. How is the growth of Tier 2 cities related to the rise of a new middle class with an emphasis on the culture of consumption?
23. Explain why suicide among young women is increasing in Indian society.

24. Child cuddling is now being replaced by mobile phones. Discuss its impact on the socialization of children.
25. Does urbanization lead to more segregation and/or marginalization of the poor in Indian metropolises?
26. Why do large cities tend to attract more migrants than smaller towns? Discuss in the light of conditions in developing countries.
27. What is the concept of a 'demographic Winter'? Is the world moving towards such a situation? Elaborate.
28. 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?
29. In dealing with socio-economic issues of development, what kind of collaboration between government, NGOs, and the private sector would be most productive?

topic : Effects of Globalization on Indian Society

questions :

1. Critically examine the effect of globalization on the aged population in India.
2. Discuss the positive and negative effects of globalization on women in India.
3. To what extent has globalization influenced the core of cultural diversity in India?
4. "Globalization is generally said to promote cultural homogenization but due to these cultural specificities appear to be strengthened in Indian society." Elucidate.
5. Is diversity and pluralism in India under threat due to globalization? Justify your answer.
6. What is Cryptocurrency? How does it affect global society? Has it been affecting Indian society also?
7. Elucidate the relationship between globalization and new technology in a world of scarce resources, with special reference to India.
8. Do you think marriage as a sacrament is losing its value in modern India?

9. 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?

topic : Social Empowerment, Communalism, Regionalism & Secularism

questions :

1. Growing feeling of regionalism is an important factor in generation of demand for a separate state. Discuss.
2. How do the Indian debates on secularism differ from the debates in the West?
3. Discuss the issue of whether and how contemporary movements for assertion of Dalit identity work towards annihilation of caste.
4. What is the basis of regionalism? Is it the unequal distribution of benefits of development on regional basis eventually promotes regionalism? Substantiate your answer.
5. What are the two major legal initiatives by the state since Independence, addressing discrimination against Scheduled Tribes (STs)?
6. Distinguish between religiousness/religiosity and communalism giving one example of how the former has transformed into the latter in independent India.
7. How the Indian concept of secularism is different from the western model of secularism? Discuss.
8. "Communalism arises either due to power struggle or relative deprivation." Argue by giving suitable illustrations.
9. What are the challenges to our cultural practices in the name of secularism?
10. Do you agree that regionalism in India appears to be a consequence of rising cultural assertiveness? Argue.
11. How have digital initiatives in India contributed to the functioning of the education system in the country? Elaborate your answer.
12. Explain the uniqueness of the tribal knowledge system when compared with mainstream knowledge and cultural systems.
13. Given the diversities among tribal communities in India, in which specific contexts should they be considered as a single category?

14. Analyze the salience of 'sect' in Indian society vis-a-vis caste, region, and religion.
15. Are tolerance, assimilation, and pluralism the key elements in the making of an Indian form of secularism? Justify your answer.
16. Discuss the impact of the post-liberal economy on ethnic identity and communalism.
17. What is regional disparity? How does it differ from diversity? How serious is the issue of regional disparity in India?
18. 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.

topic : Salient Features of World's Physical Geography

questions :

1. What do you understand by the theory of 'continental drift'? Discuss the prominent evidence in its support.
2. The recent cyclone on the east coast of India was called 'Phailin'. Discuss prominent evidences in its support.
3. What do you understand by the phenomenon of temperature inversion in meteorology? How does it affect the weather and the inhabitants of the place?
4. Major hot deserts in the northern hemisphere are located between 20–30 deg N latitudes and on the western side of the continents. Why?
5. Bring out the causes for the more frequent occurrence of landslides in the Himalayas than in the Western Ghats.
6. There is no formation of deltas by rivers of the Western Ghats. Why?
7. Most of the unusual climatic happenings are explained as an outcome of the El-Nino effect. Do you agree?
8. Explain the formation of thousands of islands in the Indonesian & Philippines archipelagos.

9. Why are the world's fold mountain systems located along the margins of continents? Bring out the association between the global distribution of fold mountains and the earthquakes and volcanoes.
10. Tropical cyclones are largely confined to the South China Sea, Bay of Bengal & Gulf of Mexico. Why?
11. Whereas the British planters had developed tea gardens all along the Shiwaliks and Lesser Himalayas from Assam to Himachal Pradesh, in effect they did not succeed beyond the Darjeeling area. Explain.
12. Explain the factors responsible for the origin of ocean currents. How do they influence regional climates, fishing, and navigation?
13. "The Himalayas are highly prone to landslides." Discuss the causes and suggest suitable measures of mitigation.
14. Discuss the concept of air mass and explain its role in macro-climatic changes.
15. What characteristics can be assigned to the monsoon climate that succeeds in feeding more than 50% of the world population residing in Monsoon Asia?
16. Account for variations in oceanic salinity and discuss its multi-dimensional effects.
17. How does the cryosphere affect global climate?
18. How does the Juno mission of NASA help to understand the origin and evolution of the Earth?
19. Define mantle plume and explain its role in plate tectonics.
20. How do ocean currents and water masses differ in their impacts on marine life and coastal environment? Give suitable examples.
21. The interlinking of rivers can provide viable solutions to the multi-dimensional inter-related problems of droughts, floods, and interrupted navigation. Critically examine.
22. Discuss the geophysical characteristics of the Circum-Pacific zone.
23. Differentiate the causes of landslides in the Himalayan region and Western Ghats.

24. Briefly mention the alignment of major mountain ranges of the world and explain their impact on local weather conditions, with examples.
25. Describe the characteristics and types of primary rocks.
26. Discuss the meaning of colour-coded weather warnings for cyclone-prone areas given by the India Meteorological Department.
27. What are the forces that influence ocean currents? Discuss their role in the fishing industry of the world.
28. Mention the significance of straits and isthmus in international trade.
29. Troposphere is a very significant atmospheric layer that determines weather processes. How?
30. How are fjords formed? Why do they constitute some of the most picturesque areas of the world?
31. What is sea surface temperature rise? How does it affect the formation of tropical cyclones?
32. What is the phenomenon of 'cloudbursts'? Explain.
33. What are aurora australis and aurora borealis? How are these triggered?
34. What is a twister? Why are the majority of twisters observed in areas around the Gulf of Mexico?

topic : Distribution of Key Natural Resources Across the World (Including South Asia and the Indian Sub-Continent); Factors Responsible for the Location of Primary, Secondary and Tertiary Sector Industries in Various Parts of the World (Including India)

questions :

1. It is said that India has substantial reserves of shale oil and gas, which can feed the needs of the country for a quarter century. However, tapping of the resources doesn't appear to be high on the agenda. Discuss critically the availability and issues involved.
2. With growing scarcity of fossil fuels, atomic energy is gaining more and more significance in India. Discuss the availability of raw material required for the generation of atomic energy in India and in the world.

3. Analyse the factors for highly decentralized cotton textile industry in India.
4. Do you agree that there is a growing trend of opening new sugar mills in the Southern states of India? Discuss with justification.
5. How does India see its place in the economic space of rising natural resource-rich Africa?
6. Critically evaluate the various resources of the oceans which can be harnessed to meet the resource crisis in the world.
7. Account for the change in the spatial pattern of the iron and steel industry in the world.
8. Why did the Green Revolution in India virtually bypass the eastern region despite fertile soil and good availability of water?
9. What are the economic significances of the discovery of oil in the Arctic Sea and its possible environmental consequences?
10. Smart cities in India cannot sustain without smart villages. Discuss this statement in the backdrop of rural-urban integration.
11. In what way do micro-watershed development projects help in water conservation in drought-prone and semi-arid regions of India?
12. Enumerate the problems and prospects of inland water transport in India.
13. Present an account of the Indus Water Treaty and examine its ecological, economic, and political implications in the context of changing bilateral relations.
14. Major cities of India are becoming vulnerable to flood conditions. Discuss.
15. The South China Sea has assumed great geopolitical significance in the present context. Comment.
16. The effective management of land and water resources will drastically reduce human miseries. Explain.
17. In what way can floods be converted into a sustainable source of irrigation and all-weather inland navigation in India?
18. Petroleum refineries are not necessarily located nearer to crude oil producing areas, particularly in many of the developing countries. Explain its implications.

19. Mention the advantages of the cultivation of pulses because of which the year 2016 was declared as the International Year of Pulses by the United Nations.
20. "Despite adverse environmental impact, coal mining is still inevitable for development." Discuss.
21. Mention core strategies for the transformation of aspirational districts in India and explain the nature of convergence, collaboration, and competition for its success.
22. What is the significance of Industrial Corridors in India? Identifying industrial corridors, explain their main characteristics.
23. Defining blue revolution, explain the problems and strategies for pisciculture development in India.
24. "The ideal solution for depleting groundwater resources in India is a water harvesting system." How can it be made effective in urban areas?
25. Why is India taking a keen interest in the Arctic region?
26. Why is the Indian Regional Navigational Satellite System (IRNSS) needed? How does it help in navigation?
27. How is efficient and affordable urban mass transport key to the rapid economic development in India?
28. Discuss the factors for localization of agro-based food processing industries of North-West India.
29. Can the strategy of regional resource-based manufacturing help in promoting employment in India?
30. India has immense potential for solar energy, though there are regional variations in its development. Elaborate.
31. Account for the present location of iron and steel industries away from the source of raw material, by giving examples.
32. Despite India being one of the countries of Gondwanaland, its mining industry contributes much less to its Gross Domestic Product (GDP) in percentage. Discuss.
33. Discuss the multi-dimensional implications of uneven distribution of mineral oil in the world.

34. Discuss the natural resource potentials of 'Deccan Trap'.
35. Examine the potential of wind energy in India and explain the reasons for their limited spatial spread.
36. Describing the distribution of rubber-producing countries, indicate the major environmental issues faced by them.
37. Bring out the socio-economic effects of the introduction of railways in different countries in the world.
38. Comment on the resource potentials of the long coastline of India and highlight the status of natural hazard preparedness in these areas.
39. Why did human development fail to keep pace with economic development in India?
40. The groundwater potential of the Gangetic valley is on a serious decline. How may it affect the food security of India?

topic : Important Geophysical Phenomena Such as Earthquakes, Tsunami, Volcanic Activity, Cyclone etc., Geographical Features and Their Location – Changes in Critical Geographical Features (Including Water-Bodies and Ice-Caps) and in Flora and Fauna and the Effects of Such Changes

questions :

1. Bring out the causes for the formation of heat islands in the urban habitat of the world.
2. Bring out the relationship between the shrinking Himalayan glaciers and the symptoms of climate change in the Indian sub-continent.
3. How far do you agree that the behaviour of the Indian monsoon has been changing due to humanizing landscape? Discuss.
4. The states of Jammu and Kashmir, Himachal Pradesh, and Uttarakhand are reaching the limits of ecological carrying capacity due to tourism. Critically evaluate.
5. India is well endowed with fresh water resources. Critically examine why it still suffers from water scarcity.

6. Mumbai, Delhi, and Kolkata are the three mega cities of the country, but the air pollution is a much more serious problem in Delhi as compared to the other two. Why is this so?
7. What are the consequences of the spreading of 'Dead Zones' on the marine ecosystem?
8. How can the mountain ecosystem be restored from the negative impact of development initiatives and tourism?
9. What is water stress? How and why does it differ regionally in India?
10. Discuss the causes of depletion of mangroves and explain their importance in maintaining coastal ecology.
11. Assess the impact of global warming on the coral life system with examples.
12. Examine the status of forest resources of India and its resultant impact on climate change.
13. Account for the huge flooding of the million cities in India, including the smart ones like Hyderabad and Pune. Suggest lasting remedial measures.
14. The process of desertification does not have climate boundaries. Justify with examples.
15. How will the melting of Himalayan glaciers have a far-reaching impact on the water resources of India?
16. What are the environmental implications of the reclamation of water bodies into urban land use? Explain with examples.
17. Mention the global occurrence of volcanic eruptions in 2021 and their impact on the regional environment.
18. How do the melting of the Arctic ice and glaciers of the Antarctic differently affect the weather patterns and human activities on the Earth? Explain.
19. Discuss the consequences of climate change on food security in tropical countries.
20. Why is the world today confronted with a crisis of availability of and access to freshwater resources?

21. Why is the Southwest monsoon called 'Purvaiya' (easterly) in the Bhojpur region? How has this directional seasonal wind system influenced the cultural ethos of the region?
22. Identify and discuss the factors responsible for the diversity of natural vegetation in India. Assess the significance of wildlife sanctuaries in rainforest regions of India.

GS2

topic : Indian Constitution – Historical Underpinnings, Evolution, Features, Amendments, Significant Provisions and Basic Structure

questions :

1. Recent directives from the Ministry of Petroleum and Natural Gas are perceived by the 'Nagas' as a threat to override the exceptional status enjoyed by the State. Discuss in light of Article 371A of the Indian Constitution.
2. Discuss Section 66A of the IT Act, with reference to its alleged violation of Article 19 of the Constitution.
3. What do you understand by the concept "freedom of speech and expression"? Does it cover hate speech also? Why do the films in India stand on a slightly different plane from other forms of expression? Discuss.
4. Does the right to clean environment entail legal regulation on burning crackers during Diwali? Discuss in the light of Article 21 of the Indian Constitution and judgments of the apex in this regard.
5. Discuss the possible factors that inhibit India from enacting for its citizen a uniform civil code as provided for in the Directive Principles of State Policy.
6. In the integrity index of Transparency International, India stands very low. Discuss briefly the legal, political, social, and cultural factors that have caused the decline of public morality in India.
7. What was held in the Coelho case? In this context, can you say that judicial review is of key importance amongst the basic features of the Constitution?
8. Discuss each adjective attached to the word 'Republic' in the 'Preamble'. Are they defensible in the present circumstances?

9. To what extent is Article 370 of the Indian Constitution, bearing marginal note “temporary provision with respect to the State of Jammu and Kashmir,” temporary? Discuss the future prospects of this provision in the context of Indian polity.
10. Did the Government of India Act, 1935 lay down a federal constitution? Discuss.
11. Examine the scope of Fundamental Rights in the light of the latest judgment of the Supreme Court on Right to Privacy.
12. Explain the salient features of the Constitution (One Hundred and First Amendment) Act, 2016. Do you think it is efficacious enough ‘to remove the cascading effect of taxes and provide for a common national market for goods and services’?
13. Under what circumstances can the Financial Emergency be proclaimed by the President of India? What consequences follow when such a declaration remains in force?
14. “Parliament’s power to amend the Constitution is a limited power and it cannot be enlarged into absolute power.” In the light of this statement, explain whether Parliament under Article 368 of the Constitution can destroy the Basic Structure of the Constitution by expanding its amending power?
15. Indian Constitution exhibits centralizing tendencies to maintain unity and integrity of the nation. Elucidate in the perspective of the Epidemic Diseases Act, 1897; The Disaster Management Act, 2005; and recently passed Farm Acts.
16. ‘Constitutional Morality’ is rooted in the Constitution itself and is founded on its essential facets. Explain the doctrine of ‘Constitutional Morality’ with the help of relevant judicial decisions.
17. “Right of movement and residence throughout the territory of India are freely available to the Indian citizens, but these rights are not absolute.” Comment.
18. ‘Constitutionally guaranteed judicial independence is a prerequisite of democracy.’ Comment.
19. “The Constitution of India is a living instrument with capabilities of enormous dynamism. It is a constitution made for a progressive society.” Illustrate with

special reference to the expanding horizons of the right to life and personal liberty.

20. Explain the constitutional provisions of Gender Justice with the help of relevant Constitutional Provisions and case laws.
21. Account for the legal and political factors responsible for the reduced frequency of using Article 356 by the Union Governments since the mid-1990s.
22. 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 DNA testing of a child in the womb to establish its paternity.

topic : Functions and Responsibilities of the Union and the States, Issues and Challenges Pertaining to the Federal Structure, Devolution of Powers and Finances Up to Local Levels and Challenges Therein

questions :

1. Constitutional mechanisms to resolve the inter-state water disputes have failed to address and solve the problems. Is the failure due to structural or process inadequacy or both? Discuss.
2. Many state governments further bifurcate geographical administrative areas like Districts and Talukas for better governance. In light of the above, can it also be justified that a greater number of smaller states would bring in effective governance at the state level? Discuss.
3. Starting from inventing the 'basic structure' doctrine, the judiciary has played a highly proactive role in ensuring that India develops into a thriving democracy. In light of the statement, evaluate the role played by judicial activism in achieving the ideals of democracy.
4. Though the federal principle is dominant in our Constitution and that principle is one of its basic features, it is equally true that federalism under the Indian Constitution leans in favour of a strong Centre, a feature that militates against the concept of strong federalism.
5. In the absence of a well-educated and organized local self-government system, Panchayats and Samitis have remained mainly political institutions and not effective instruments of governance. Critically discuss.

6. The concept of cooperative federalism has been increasingly emphasized in recent years. Highlight the drawbacks in the existing structure and the extent to which cooperative federalism would answer the shortcomings.
7. Discuss the essentials of the 69th Constitutional Amendment Act and anomalies, if any, that have led to recent reported conflicts between the elected representatives and the institution of the Lieutenant Governor in the administration of Delhi. Do you think that this will give rise to a new trend in the functioning of Indian federal politics?
8. "The local self-government system in India has not proved to be an effective instrument of governance." Critically examine the statement and give your views to improve the situation.
9. Assess the importance of the Panchayat system in India as a part of local government. Apart from government grants, what sources can the Panchayats look to for financing developmental projects?
10. From the resolution of contentious issues regarding the distribution of legislative powers by the courts, 'Principle of Federal Supremacy' and 'Harmonious Construction' have emerged. Explain.
11. The strength and sustenance of local institutions in India has shifted from their formative phase of 'Functions, Functionaries and Funds' to the contemporary stage of 'Functionality.' Highlight the critical challenges faced by local institutions in terms of their functionality in recent times.
12. How far do you think cooperation, competition, and confrontation have shaped the nature of federation in India? Cite some recent examples to validate your answer.
13. The jurisdiction of the Central Bureau of Investigation (CBI) regarding lodging FIRs and conducting probes within a particular state is being questioned by various states. However, the power of the states to withhold consent to the CBI is not absolute. Explain with special reference to the federal character of India.
14. To what extent, in your opinion, has the decentralization of power in India changed the governance landscape at the grassroots?
15. "While the national parties in India favour centralization, the regional parties are in favour of State autonomy." Comment.

16. "The states in India seem reluctant to empower urban local bodies both functionally as well as financially." Comment.
17. Explain the significance of the 101st Constitutional Amendment Act. To what extent does it reflect the accommodative spirit of federalism?
18. Analyse the role of local bodies in providing good governance at the local level and bring out the pros and cons of merging the rural bodies with urban local bodies.
19. What changes has the Union Government recently introduced in the domain of Centre-State relations? Suggest measures to be adopted to build trust between the Centre and the States and for strengthening federalism.

topic : Separation of Powers Between Various Organs, Dispute Redressal Mechanisms, and Institutions

questions :

1. 'The Supreme Court of India keeps a check on arbitrary power of the Parliament in amending the Constitution.' Discuss critically.
2. Resorting to ordinances has always raised concern on violation of the spirit of power doctrine. While noting the rationales justifying the power to promulgate, analyse whether the decision of the Supreme Court on the issue has further facilitated resorting to this power. Should the power to promulgate the ordinances be repealed?
3. Do you think that the Constitution of India does not accept the principle of strict separation of powers; rather it is based on the principle of 'checks and balances'? Explain.
4. Judicial legislation is antithetical to the doctrine of separation of powers as envisaged in the Indian Constitution. In this context, justify the filing of large public interest petitions praying for issuing guidelines to executive authorities.
5. Explain and distinguish between Lok Adalats and Arbitration Tribunals. Do they entertain civil as well as criminal cases?

topic : Comparison of the Indian Constitutional Scheme with That of Other Countries

questions :

1. India and the USA are two large democracies. Examine the basic tenets on which the two political systems are based.
2. What can France learn from the Indian Constitution's approach to secularism?
3. The judicial systems in India and the UK seem to be converging as well as diverging in recent times. Highlight the key points of convergence and divergence between the two nations in terms of their judicial practices.
4. Analyze the distinguishing features of the notion of Right to Equality in the Constitutions of the USA and India.
5. Critically examine the procedures through which the Presidents of India and France are elected.
6. Compare and contrast the British and Indian approaches to parliamentary sovereignty.
7. Discuss India as a secular state and compare it with the secular principles of the US Constitution.

topic : Parliament and State Legislatures – Structure, Functioning, Conduct of Business, Powers & Privileges, and Issues Arising Out of These

questions :

1. The role of individual MPs (Members of Parliament) has diminished over the years, and as a result, healthy constructive debates on policy issues are not usually witnessed. How far can this be attributed to the anti-defection law which was legislated but with a different intention?
2. The 'Powers, Privileges and Immunities of Parliament and its Members' as envisaged in Article 105 of the Constitution leave room for a large number of un-codified and un-enumerated privileges to continue. Assess the reasons for the absence of legal codification of the 'parliamentary privileges'. How can this problem be addressed?
3. If the amendment bill to the Whistle Blowers Protection Act 2011 tabled in Parliament is passed, there may be no one left to protect. Critically evaluate.

4. The Indian Constitution has provisions for holding a joint session of the two houses of Parliament. Enumerate the occasions when this would normally happen and also the occasions when it cannot, with reasons thereof.
5. Discuss the role of the Public Accounts Committee in establishing accountability of the government to the people.
6. Why do you think the committees are considered to be useful for parliamentary work? Discuss, in this context, the role of the Estimates Committee.
7. Individual Parliamentarian's role as the national lawmaker is on a decline, which in turn has adversely impacted the quality of debates and their outcome. Discuss.
8. Rajya Sabha has been transformed from a 'useless stepney tire' to a supporting organ in the past few decades. Highlight the factors as well as the areas where this transformation could be visible.
9. 'Once a Speaker, Always a Speaker'! Do you think this practice should impart objectivity to the office of Speaker of Lok Sabha? What could be its implications for the robust functioning of parliamentary business in India?
10. To what extent, in your view, is the Parliament able to ensure accountability of the executive in India?
11. Explain the constitutional provisions under which the Legislative Councils are established. Review the working and current status of Legislative Councils with suitable illustrations.
12. Do Department-related Parliamentary Standing Committees keep the administrations on their toes and inspire reverence for parliamentary control? Evaluate the working of such committees with suitable examples.
13. Discuss the role of presiding officers in legislatures in maintaining order and impartiality in conducting legislative work and in facilitating best democratic practices.
14. Explain the structure of the Parliamentary Committee system. How far have the financial committees helped in the institutionalization of the Indian Parliament?
15. "The growth of the cabinet system has practically resulted in the marginalization of parliamentary supremacy." Elucidate.

topic : Structure, Organization and Functioning of the Executive and the Judiciary – Ministries and Departments of the Government; Pressure Groups and Formal/Informal Associations and Their Role in the Polity

questions :

1. The role of individual MPs (Members of Parliament) has diminished over the years, and as a result, healthy constructive debates on policy issues are not usually witnessed. How far can this be attributed to the anti-defection law which was legislated but with a different intention?
2. The size of the cabinet should be as big as governmental work justifies and as big as the Prime Minister can manage as a team. How far is the efficacy of a government then inversely related to the size of the cabinet? Discuss.
3. Instances of the President's delay in commuting death sentences have come under public debate as denial of justice. Should there be a time specified for the President to accept/reject such petitions? Analyze.
4. What are the major changes brought in the Arbitration and Conciliation Act, 1966 through the recent ordinance promulgated by the President? How far will it improve India's dispute resolution mechanism? Discuss.
5. Khap panchayats have been in the news for functioning as extra-constitutional authorities, often delivering pronouncements amounting to human rights violations. Discuss critically the actions taken by the legislative, executive, and judiciary to set things right in this regard.
6. 'The Indian party system is passing through a phase of transition which looks to be full of contradictions and paradoxes.' Discuss.
7. 'Simultaneous election to the Lok Sabha and the State Assemblies will limit the amount of time and money spent in electioneering, but it will reduce the government's accountability to the people.' Discuss.
8. How do pressure groups influence the Indian political process? Do you agree with the view that informal pressure groups have emerged as more powerful than formal pressure groups in recent years?

9. Critically examine the Supreme Court's judgment on the 'National Judicial Appointments Commission Act, 2014' with reference to the appointment of judges of higher judiciary in India.
10. How far do you agree with the view that tribunals curtail the jurisdiction of ordinary courts? In view of the above, discuss the constitutional validity and competency of the tribunals in India.
11. Whether the Supreme Court Judgment (July 2018) can settle the political tussle between the Lt. Governor and elected government of Delhi? Examine.
12. "The Attorney-General is the chief legal adviser and lawyer of the Government of India." Discuss.
13. What are the methods used by farmers' organizations to influence the policymakers in India and how effective are these methods?
14. Discuss the desirability of greater representation to women in the higher judiciary to ensure diversity, equity, and inclusiveness.
15. "Pressure Groups play a vital role in influencing public policy making in India." Explain how the business associations contribute to public policies.
16. "The most significant achievement of modern law in India is the constitutionalization of environmental problems by the Supreme Court." Discuss this statement with the help of relevant case laws.
17. Discuss the role of the Vice-President of India as the Chairman of the Rajya Sabha.
18. Discuss the essential conditions for the exercise of legislative power by the Governor. Discuss the legality of re-promulgation of ordinances by the Governor without placing them before the Legislature.
19. Who are entitled to receive free legal aid? Assess the role of the National Legal Services Authority (NALSA) in rendering free legal aid in India.
20. Examine the need for electoral reforms as suggested by various committees with particular reference to the "one nation one election" principle.
21. 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?

topic : Salient Features of the Representation of People's Act

questions :

1. To enhance the quality of democracy in India, the Election Commission of India has proposed electoral reforms in 2016. What are the suggested reforms and how far are they significant to make democracy successful?
2. In light of the recent controversy regarding the use of Electronic Voting Machines (EVM), what are the challenges before the Election Commission of India to ensure the trustworthiness of elections in India?
3. On what grounds can a people's representative be disqualified under the Representation of People Act, 1951? Also, mention the remedies available to such a person against his disqualification.
4. "There is a need for simplification of the procedure for disqualification of persons found guilty of corrupt practices under the Representation of Peoples Act." Comment.
5. Discuss the procedure to decide the disputes arising out of the election of a Member of Parliament or State Legislature under the Representation of the People Act, 1951. What are the grounds on which the election of any returned candidate may be declared void? What remedy is available to the aggrieved party against the decision? Refer to case laws.

topic : Appointment to Various Constitutional Posts, Powers, Functions and Responsibilities of Various Constitutional Bodies

questions :

1. A national Lokpal, however strong it may be, cannot resolve the problems of immorality in public affairs. Discuss.
2. Discuss the recommendations of the 13th Finance Commission which have been a departure from the previous commissions for strengthening the local governance finances.
3. Exercise the CAG's powers in relation to the accounts of the Union and the States is derived from Article 149 of the Indian Constitution. Discuss whether the

audit of the Government's policy implementation could amount to overstepping its own (CAG) jurisdiction.

4. How is the Finance Commission of India constituted? What do you know about the terms of reference of the recently constituted Finance Commission? Discuss.
5. Whether the National Commission for Scheduled Castes (NCSC) can enforce the implementation of constitutional reservation for the Scheduled Castes in the religious minority institutions? Examine.
6. "The Comptroller and Auditor General (CAG) has a very vital role to play." Explain how this is reflected in the method and terms of his appointment as well as the range of powers he can exercise.
7. Which steps are required for the constitutionalization of a Commission? Do you think imparting constitutionality to the National Commission for Women would ensure greater gender justice and empowerment in India? Give reasons.
8. How have the recommendations of the 14th Finance Commission of India enabled the states to improve their fiscal position?
9. Discuss the role of the National Commission for Backward Classes in the wake of its transformation from a statutory body to a constitutional body.
10. "The duty of the Comptroller and Auditor General is not merely to ensure the legality of expenditure but also its propriety." Comment.

topic : Statutory, Regulatory and Various Quasi-Judicial Bodies

questions :

1. The product diversification of financial institutions and insurance companies, resulting in overlapping of products and services, strengthens the case for the merger of the two regulatory agencies, namely SEBI and IRDA. Justify.
2. National Human Rights Commission (NHRC) in India can be most effective when its tasks are adequately supported by other mechanisms that ensure accountability of a government. In light of the above observations, assess the role of NHRC as an effective complement to the judiciary and other institutions in promoting and protecting human rights standards.

3. The setting up of a Rail Tariff Authority to regulate fares will subject the cash-strapped Indian Railways to demand subsidy for its obligation to operate non-profitable routes and services. Taking into account the experience in the power sector, discuss if the proposed reform is expected to benefit the consumers, the Indian Railways, or the private container operators.
4. For achieving the desired objectives, it is necessary to ensure that the regulatory institution remains independent and autonomous. Discuss in the light of experiences in the recent past.
5. What is a quasi-judicial body? Explain with the help of concrete examples.
6. Is the National Commission for Women able to strategize and tackle the problems that women face in both public and private spheres? Give reasons in support of your answer.
7. 'The Central Administration Tribunal, which was established for the redressal of grievances and complaints by or against central government employees, nowadays is exercising its powers as an independent judicial authority.' Explain.
8. "Recent amendments to the Right to Information Act will have a profound impact on the autonomy and independence of the Information Commission." Discuss.
9. Though the Human Rights Commissions have contributed immensely to the protection of human rights in India, yet they have failed to assert themselves against the mighty and powerful. Analyzing their structural and practical limitations, suggest remedial measures.
10. Discuss the role of the Competition Commission of India in containing the abuse of dominant position by the Multi-National Corporations in India. Refer to the recent decisions.

topic : Government Policies and Interventions for Development in Various Sectors and Issues Arising Out of Their Design and Implementation

questions :

1. The basis of providing urban amenities in rural areas (PURA) is rooted in establishing connectivity. Comment.

2. The Electronics cash transfer system for the welfare schemes is an ambitious project to minimize corruption, eliminate wastage, and facilitate reforms.
Comment.
3. The Central Government frequently complains about the poor performance of the State Governments in eradicating the suffering of the vulnerable sections of society. Restructuring of Centrally sponsored schemes across the sectors for ameliorating the cause of vulnerable sections of the population aims at providing flexibility to the states in better implementation. Critically evaluate.
4. The concept of the Mid-Day Meal (MDM) scheme is almost a century old in India, with early beginnings in Madras Presidency in pre-independent India. The scheme has again been given impetus in most states in the last two decades. Critically examine its twin objectives, latest mandates, and success.
5. An athlete participates in the Olympics for personal triumph and the nation's glory; victors are showered with cash incentives by various agencies on their return. Discuss the merit of state-sponsored talent hunt and its cultivation as against the rationale of a reward mechanism as encouragement.
6. Two parallel run schemes of the Government, viz. the Aadhar card and NPM, one voluntary and the other compulsory, have led to debates at national levels and also litigations. On merits, discuss whether or not both schemes need to run concurrently. Analyze the potential of the schemes to achieve development benefits and equitable growth.
7. Though 100 percent FDI is already allowed in non-news media like trade publications and general entertainment channels, the government is mulling over the proposal for increased FDI in news media for quite some time. What difference would an increase in FDI make? Critically evaluate the pros and cons.
8. Has the Indian governmental system responded adequately to the demands of Liberalization, Privatization, and Globalization started in 1991? What can the government do to be responsive to this important change?
9. "To ensure effective implementation of policies addressing water, sanitation, and hygiene needs, the identification of beneficiary segments is to be synchronized with the anticipated outcomes." Examine the statement in the context of the WASH scheme.

10. "Policy contradictions among various competing sectors and stakeholders have resulted in inadequate protection and prevention of degradation to the environment." Comment with relevant illustrations.
11. The need for cooperation among various service sectors has been an inherent component of development discourse. Partnership bridges the gap among the sectors. It also sets in motion a culture of 'Collaboration' and 'team spirit.' In the light of the statement above, examine India's development process.
12. "In the context of the neo-liberal paradigm of development planning, multi-level planning is expected to make operations cost-effective and remove many implementation blockages." Discuss.
13. "Earn while you learn" scheme needs to be strengthened to make vocational education and skill training meaningful. Comment.
14. The Rights of Persons with Disabilities Act, 2016 remains only a legal document without intense sensitization of government functionaries and citizens regarding disability. Comment.
15. The Gati-Shakti Yojana needs meticulous coordination between the government and the private sector to achieve the goal of connectivity. Discuss.

topic : Development Processes and the Development Industry – The Role of NGOs, SHGs, Various Groups and Associations, Donors, Charities, Institutional and Other Stakeholders

questions :

1. The legitimacy and accountability of Self Help Groups (SHGs) and their patrons, the micro-finance outfits, need systematic assessment and scrutiny for the sustained success of the concept. Discuss.
2. The penetration of Self Help Groups (SHGs) in rural areas in promoting participation in development programmes is facing socio-cultural hurdles. Examine.
3. How can the role of NGOs be strengthened in India for development works relating to the protection of the Environment? Discuss throwing light on the major constraints.

4. The Self Help Group (SHG) Bank Linkage Program (SBLP), which is India's own innovation, has proved to be one of the most effective poverty alleviation and women empowerment programmes. Elucidate.
5. Examine critically the recent changes in the rules governing foreign funding of NGOs under the Foreign Contribution (Regulation) Act (FCRA), 1976.
6. 'The emergence of Self Help Groups (SHGs) in contemporary times points to the slow but steady withdrawal of the state from developmental activities.' Examine the role of SHGs in developmental activities and the measures taken by the Government of India to promote the SHGs.
7. "Micro-Finance as an anti-poverty vaccine is aimed at asset creation and income security of the rural poor in India." Evaluate the role of Self Help Groups in achieving the twin objectives along with empowering women in rural India.
8. Can the vicious cycle of gender inequality, poverty, and malnutrition be broken through microfinancing of women SHGs? Explain with examples.
9. Can Civil Society and Non-Governmental Organizations present an alternative model of public service delivery to benefit common citizens? Discuss the challenges of this alternative mode.
10. Do you agree with the view that increasing dependence on donor agencies for development reduces the importance of community participation in the development process? Justify your answer.
11. Discuss the contribution of civil society groups for women's effective and meaningful participation and representation in state legislatures in India.
12. Public charitable trusts have the potential to make India's development more inclusive as they relate to certain vital public issues. Comment.

topic : Welfare Schemes for Vulnerable Sections of the Population by the Centre and States and the Performance of These Schemes; Mechanisms, Laws, Institutions and Bodies Constituted for the Protection and Betterment of These Vulnerable Sections

questions :

1. Do government's schemes for uplifting vulnerable and backward communities by protecting required social resources for them lead to their exclusion in establishing businesses in urban economies?

2. Examine the main provisions of the National Child Policy and throw light on the status of its implementation.
3. Does the Rights of Persons with Disabilities Act, 2016 ensure an effective mechanism for empowerment and inclusion of the intended beneficiaries in society? Discuss.
4. Multiplicity of various commissions for the vulnerable sections of society leads to problems of overlapping jurisdiction and duplication of functions. Is it better to merge all commissions into an umbrella Human Rights Commission? Argue your case.
5. Performance of welfare schemes that are implemented for vulnerable sections is not effective due to the absence of their awareness and active involvement at all stages of the policy process – Discuss.
6. “The reservation of seats for women in the institutions of local self-government has had a limited impact on the patriarchal character of the Indian Political Process.” Comment.
7. “Though women in post-independent India have excelled in various fields, the social attitude towards women and the feminist movement has been patriarchal.” Apart from women education and women empowerment schemes, what interventions can help change this milieu?
8. Reforming the government delivery system through the Direct Transfer Scheme is a progressive step, but it has its limitations too. Comment.
9. Besides the welfare schemes, India needs deft management of inflation and unemployment to serve the poor and underprivileged sections of society. Discuss.
10. “Development and welfare schemes for the vulnerable, by their nature, are discriminatory in approach.” Do you agree? Give reasons for your answer.

topic : Issues Relating to Development and Management of Social Sector/Services Relating to Health, Education, Human Resources

questions :

1. Identify the Millennium Development Goals (MDGs) that are related to health. Discuss the success of the actions taken by the Government for achieving the same.
2. Should the premier institutes like IITs/IIMs be allowed to retain premier status, allowed more academic independence in designing courses and also decide mode/criteria of selection of students? Discuss in light of the growing challenges.
3. Public health system has limitation in providing universal health coverage. Do you think the private sector can help in bridging the gap? What other viable alternatives do you suggest?
4. The quality of higher education in India requires major improvement to make it internationally competitive. Do you think that the entry of foreign educational institutions would help improve the quality of technical and higher education in the country? Discuss.
5. "Demographic Dividend in India will remain only theoretical unless our manpower becomes more educated, aware, skilled and creative." What measures have been taken by the government to enhance the capacity of our population to be more productive and employable?
6. Professor Amartya Sen has advocated important reforms in the realms of primary education and primary health care. What are your suggestions to improve their status and performance?
7. Appropriate local community level healthcare intervention is a prerequisite to achieve 'Health for All' in India. Explain.
8. Despite consistent experience of high growth, India still goes with the lowest indicators of human development. Examine the issues that make balanced and inclusive development elusive.
9. In order to enhance the prospects of social development, sound and adequate healthcare policies are needed particularly in the fields of geriatric and maternal healthcare. Discuss.
10. National Education Policy 2020 is in conformity with the Sustainable Development Goal – 4 (2030). It intends to restructure and reorient the education system in India. Critically examine the statement.

11. Besides being a moral imperative of a Welfare State, the primary health structure is a necessary precondition for sustainable development. Analyze.
12. The Right of Children to Free and Compulsory Education Act, 2009 remains inadequate in promoting an incentive-based system for children's education without generating awareness about the importance of schooling. Analyze.
13. The crucial aspect of the development process has been the inadequate attention paid to Human Resources Development in India. Suggest measures that can address this inadequacy.
14. Skill development programmes have succeeded in increasing human resources supply to various sectors. In the context of the statement, analyze the linkages between education, skill, and employment.
15. What are the aims and objectives of the recently passed and enforced The Public Examination (Prevention of Unfair Means) Act, 2024? Whether University/State Education Board examinations, too, are covered under the Act?
16. In a crucial domain like the public healthcare system, the Indian State should play a vital role to contain the adverse impact of marketization of the system. Suggest some measures through which the State can enhance the reach of public healthcare at the grassroots level.

topic : Issues Relating to Poverty and Hunger

questions :

1. Though there have been several different estimates of poverty in India, all indicate a reduction in poverty over time. Do you agree? Critically examine with reference to urban and rural poverty indicators.
2. 'Poverty Alleviation Programmes in India remain mere showpieces until and unless they are backed by political will'. Discuss with reference to the performance of the major poverty alleviation programmes in India.
3. How far do you agree with the view that the focus on lack of availability of food as the main cause of hunger takes the attention away from ineffective human development politics in India?
4. There is growing divergence in the relationship between poverty and hunger in India. The shrinking of social expenditure by the government is forcing the poor

to spend more on non-food essential items, squeezing their food budget.
Elucidate.

5. "The incidence and intensity of poverty are more important in determining poverty based on income alone." In this context, analyze the latest United Nations Multidimensional Poverty Index Report.
6. Can the vicious cycle of gender inequality, poverty, and malnutrition be broken through microfinancing of women SHGs? Explain with examples.
7. Poverty and malnutrition create a vicious cycle, adversely affecting human capital formation. What steps can be taken to break the cycle?

topic : Important Aspects of Governance, Transparency, and Accountability

questions :

1. Though Citizens' charters have been formulated by many public service delivery organizations, there is no corresponding improvement in the level of citizens' satisfaction and quality of services being provided. Analyze.
2. In the light of the Satyam Scandal (2009), discuss the changes brought in corporate governance to ensure transparency and accountability.
3. "Effectiveness of the government system at various levels and people's participation in the governance system are inter-dependent." Discuss their relationship in the context of India.
4. "In the Indian governance system, the role of non-state actors has been only marginal." Critically examine this statement.
5. Hunger and poverty are the biggest challenges for good governance in India still today. Evaluate how far successive governments have progressed in dealing with these humongous problems. Suggest measures for improvement.
6. The Citizen's Charter is an ideal instrument of organizational transparency and accountability, but it has its own limitations. Identify the limitations and suggest measures for greater effectiveness of the Citizen's Charters.
7. E-governance is not only about the utilization of the power of new technology, but also much about the critical importance of the 'use value' of information. Explain.

8. Implementation of Information and Communication Technology (ICT) based Projects/Programs usually suffers in terms of certain vital factors. Identify these factors, and suggest measures for their effective implementation.
9. "The emergence of the Fourth Industrial Revolution (Digital Revolution) has initiated e-Governance as an integral part of government." Discuss.
10. Has digital literacy, particularly in rural areas, coupled with a lack of Information and Communications Technology (ICT) accessibility, hindered socio-economic development? Examine with justification.
11. E-governance, as a critical tool of governance, has ushered in effectiveness, transparency, and accountability in governments. What inadequacies hamper the enhancement of these features?
12. 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 realization of its promise and suggest measures to overcome them.
13. E-Governance is not just about the routine application of digital technology in the 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.

topic : Role of Civil Services in a Democracy

questions :

1. Has the Cadre based Civil Services Organization been the cause of slow change in India? Critically examine.
2. "Traditional bureaucratic structure and culture have hampered the process of socio-economic development in India." Comment.
3. Initially, Civil Services in India were designed to achieve the goals of neutrality and effectiveness, which seems to be lacking in the present context. Do you agree with the view that drastic reforms are required in Civil Services? Comment.
4. "Institutional quality is a crucial driver of economic performance." In this context, suggest reforms in Civil Service for strengthening democracy.

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

topic : India and Its Neighborhood – Relations

questions :

1. In respect of India-Sri Lanka relations, discuss how domestic factors influence foreign policy.
2. The protests in Shahbag Square in Dhaka in Bangladesh reveal a fundamental split in society between the nationalists and Islamic forces. What is its significance for India?
3. With respect to the South China Sea, maritime territorial disputes, and rising tension, discuss the bilateral issues between India and China in the context of safeguarding maritime security to ensure freedom of navigation and air flight throughout the region.
4. Terrorist activities and mutual distrust have clouded India-Pakistan relations. To what extent can the use of soft power, like sports and cultural exchange, help generate goodwill between the two countries? Discuss with suitable examples.
5. Project 'Mausam' is considered a unique foreign policy initiative of the Indian government to improve relationships with its neighbors. Does the project have a strategic dimension? Discuss.
6. "Increasing cross-border terrorist attacks in India and growing interference in the internal affairs of member-states by Pakistan are not conducive for the future of SAARC (South Asian Association for Regional Cooperation)." Explain with suitable examples.
7. China is using its economic relations and positive trade surplus as tools to develop potential military power status in Asia. In the light of this statement, discuss its impact on India as her neighbor.
8. "India is an age-old friend of Sri Lanka." Discuss India's role in the recent crisis in Sri Lanka in the light of the preceding statement.
9. Discuss the geopolitical and geostrategic importance of the Maldives for India, focusing on global trade and energy flows. Further, discuss how this relationship

affects India's maritime security and regional stability amidst international competition.

topic : Bilateral, Regional and Global Groupings and Agreements Involving India and/or Affecting India's Interests

questions :

1. What is meant by Gujral doctrine? Does it have any relevance today? Discuss.
2. Economic ties between India and Japan, while growing in recent years, are still far below their potential. Elucidate the policy constraints which are inhibiting this growth.
3. What do you understand by 'The String of Pearls'? How does it impact India? Briefly outline the steps taken by India to counter this.
4. The proposed withdrawal of the International Security Assistance Force (ISAF) from Afghanistan in 2014 is fraught with major security implications for the countries of the region. Examine in light of the fact that India is faced with a plethora of challenges and needs to safeguard its own strategic interests.
5. India has recently signed to become a founding member of the New Development Bank (NDB) and also the Asian Infrastructure Investment Bank (AIIB). How will the role of the two Banks be different? Discuss the strategic significance of these two Banks for India.
6. Some of the international funding agencies have special terms for economic participation stipulating a substantial component of the aid used for sourcing equipment from leading countries. Discuss the merits of such terms and whether there exists a strong case not to accept such conditions in the Indian context.
7. The aim of Information Technology Agreements (ITAs) is to lower all taxes and tariffs on information technology products by signatories to zero. What impact would such agreements have on India's interests?
8. Increasing interest of India in Africa has its pros and cons. Critically examine.
9. Evaluate the economic and strategic dimensions of India's Look East Policy in the context of the post-Cold War international scenario.

10. The question of India's energy security constitutes the most important part of India's economic progress. Analyze India's energy policy cooperation with West Asian countries.
11. A number of outside powers have entrenched themselves in Central Asia, which is a zone of interest to India. Discuss the implications, in this context, of India's joining the Ashgabat Agreement, 2018.
12. "India's relations with Israel have, of late, acquired a depth and diversity, which cannot be rolled back." Discuss.
13. "What introduces friction into the ties between India and the United States is that Washington is still unable to find for India a position in its global strategy, which would satisfy India's national self-esteem and ambitions." Explain with suitable examples.
14. "The long-sustained image of India as a leader of the oppressed and marginalized nations has disappeared on account of its newfound role in the emerging global order." Elaborate.
15. "The time has come for India and Japan to build a strong contemporary relationship, one involving global and strategic partnership that will have a great significance for Asia and the world as a whole." Comment.
16. What is the significance of Indo-US defense deals over Indo-Russian defense deals? Discuss with reference to stability in the Indo-Pacific region.
17. The Quadrilateral Security Dialogue (Quad) is transforming itself into a trade bloc from a military alliance in present times. Discuss.
18. "If the last few decades were of Asia's growth story, the next few are expected to be Africa's." In light of this statement, examine India's influence in Africa in recent years.
19. Do you think BIMSTEC is a parallel organization like SAARC? What are the similarities and dissimilarities between the two? How are Indian foreign policy objectives realized by forming this new organization?
20. How will I2U2 (India, Israel, UAE, and USA) grouping transform India's position in global politics?

21. 'Clean energy is the order of the day.' Describe briefly India's changing policy towards climate change in various international fora in the context of geopolitics.
22. The virus of conflict is affecting the functioning of the SCO. In light of the above statement, point out the role of India in mitigating the problems.
23. 'The expansion and strengthening of NATO and a stronger US-Europe strategic partnership works well for India.' What is your opinion about this statement? Give reasons and examples to support your answer.
24. Critically analyze India's evolving diplomatic, economic, and strategic relations with the Central Asian Republics (CARs), highlighting their increasing significance in regional and global geopolitics.

topic : Effect of Policies and Politics of Developed and Developing Countries on India's Interest, Indian Diaspora

questions :

1. Discuss the political developments in Maldives in the last two years. Should they be of any cause of concern to India?
2. The Indian diaspora has an important role to play in Southeast Asian countries' economy and society. Appraise the role of the Indian diaspora in Southeast Asia in this context.
3. In what ways would the ongoing US-Iran Nuclear Pact controversy affect the national interest of India? How should India respond to its situation?
4. "The Indian diaspora has a decisive role to play in the politics and economy of America and European countries." Comment with examples.
5. "The USA is facing an existential threat in the form of China, which is much more challenging than the erstwhile Soviet Union." Explain.
6. The newly tri-nation partnership AUKUS is aimed at countering China's ambitions in the Indo-Pacific region. Is it going to supersede the existing partnerships in the region? Discuss the strength and impact of AUKUS in the present scenario.
7. The Indian diaspora has scaled new heights in the West. Describe its economic and political benefits for India.

8. "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.

topic : Important International Institutions, Agencies, and Fora – Their Structure, Mandate

questions :

1. The World Bank and the IMF, collectively known as the Bretton Woods Institutions, are the two inter-governmental pillars supporting the structure of the world's economic and financial order. Superficially, the World Bank and the IMF exhibit many common characteristics, yet their role, functions, and mandate are distinctly different. Elucidate.
2. WTO is an important international institution where decisions taken affect countries in a profound manner. What is the mandate of WTO and how binding are their decisions? Critically analyze India's stand on the latest round of talks on Food security.
3. Discuss the impediments India is facing in its pursuit of a permanent seat in UNSC.
4. What are the aims and objectives of the McBride Commission of the UNESCO? What is India's position on these?
5. "The broader aims and objectives of WTO are to manage and promote international trade in the era of globalization. But the Doha round of negotiations seems doomed due to differences between the developed and the developing countries." Discuss in the Indian perspective.
6. What are the main functions of the United Nations Economic and Social Council (ECOSOC)? Explain different functional commissions attached to it.
7. What are the key areas of reform if the WTO has to survive in the present context of 'Trade War', especially keeping in mind the interest of India?
8. 'Too little cash, too much politics, leaves UNESCO fighting for life.' Discuss the statement in the light of US' withdrawal and its accusation of the cultural body as being 'anti-Israel bias'.

9. Critically examine the role of WHO in providing global health security during the Covid-19 pandemic.
10. Critically examine the aims and objectives of SCO. What importance does it hold for India?
11. 'Sea is an important Component of the Cosmos.' Discuss in the light of the above statement the role of the IMO (International Maritime Organization) in protecting the environment and enhancing maritime safety and security.
12. 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.

GS3

topic : Indian Economy and Issues Relating to Planning, Mobilization of Resources, Growth, Development, and Employment

questions :

1. Discuss the rationale for introducing the Goods and Services Tax (GST) in India. Bring out critically the reasons for the delay in rollout for its regime.
2. Food Security Bill is expected to eliminate hunger and malnutrition in India. Critically discuss various apprehensions in its effective implementation along with the concerns it has generated in WTO.
3. What is the meaning of the term 'tax expenditure'? Taking housing sector as an example, discuss how it influences the budgetary policies of the government.
4. What were the reasons for the introduction of Fiscal Responsibility and Budget Management (FRBM) Act, 2003? Discuss critically its salient features and their effectiveness.
5. "While we flaunt India's demographic dividend, we ignore the dropping rates of employability." What are we missing while doing so? Where will the jobs that India desperately needs come from? Explain.
6. Normally countries shift from agriculture to industry and then later to services, but India shifted directly from agriculture to services. What are the reasons for the

huge growth of services vis-a-vis industry in the country? Can India become a developed country without a strong industrial base?

7. Craze for gold in India has led to a surge in import of gold in recent years and put pressure on balance of payments and external value of rupee. In view of this, examine the merits of the Gold Monetization scheme.
8. The nature of economic growth in India in recent times is often described as jobless growth. Do you agree with this view? Give arguments in favour of your answer.
9. Justify the need for FDI for the development of the Indian economy. Why is there a gap between MOUs signed and actual FDIs? Suggest remedial steps to be taken for increasing actual FDIs in India.
10. How has globalization led to the reduction of employment in the formal sector of the Indian economy? Is increased informalization detrimental to the development of the country?
11. Among several factors for India's potential growth, the savings rate is the most effective one. Do you agree? What are the other factors available for growth potential?
12. How would the recent phenomena of protectionism and currency manipulations in world trade affect the macroeconomic stability of India?
13. How are the principles followed by NITI Aayog different from those followed by the erstwhile Planning Commission in India?
14. Do you agree with the view that steady GDP growth and low inflation have left the Indian economy in good shape? Give reasons in support of your arguments.
15. Enumerate the indirect taxes which have been subsumed in the Goods and Services Tax (GST) in India. Also, comment on the revenue implications of the GST introduced in India since July 2017.
16. Explain the rationale behind the Goods and Services Tax (Compensation to States) Act of 2017. How has COVID-19 impacted the GST compensation fund and created new federal tensions?
17. Define potential GDP and explain its determinants. What are the factors that have been inhibiting India from realizing its potential GDP?

18. Explain the difference between the computing methodology of India's Gross Domestic Product (GDP) before the year 2015 and after the year 2015.
19. Do you agree that the Indian economy has recently experienced V-shaped recovery? Give reasons in support of your answer.
20. "Economic growth in the recent past has been led by an increase in labour productivity." Explain this statement. Suggest the growth pattern that will lead to the creation of more jobs without compromising labour productivity.
21. Faster economic growth requires an increased share of the manufacturing sector in GDP, particularly of MSMEs. Comment on the present policies of the Government in this regard.
22. What is the status of digitalization in the Indian economy? Examine the problems faced in this regard and suggest improvements.
23. Most of the unemployment in India is structural in nature. Examine the methodology adopted to compute unemployment in the country and suggest improvements.
24. Distinguish between 'care economy' and 'monetized economy'. How can the care economy be brought into the monetized economy through women empowerment?
25. 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.

topic : Inclusive Growth and Issues Arising from It

questions :

1. With a consideration towards the strategy of inclusive growth, the new Companies Bill, 2013 has indirectly made CSR a mandatory obligation. Discuss the challenges expected in its implementation in right earnest. Also discuss other provisions in the Bill and their implications.
2. Capitalism has guided the world economy to unprecedented prosperity. However, it often encourages short-sightedness and contributes to wide disparities between the rich and the poor. In this light, would it be correct to believe and adopt capitalism for bringing inclusive growth in India? Discuss.

3. Comment on the challenges for inclusive growth which include careless and useless manpower in the Indian context. Suggest measures to be taken for facing these challenges.
4. What are 'Smart Cities'? Examine their relevance for urban development in India. Will it increase rural-urban differences? Give arguments for 'Smart Villages' in the light of PURA and RURBAN Mission.
5. Pradhan Mantri Jan-Dhan Yojana (PMJDY) is necessary for bringing unbanked individuals into the institutional finance fold. Do you agree with this for financial inclusion of the poorer section of Indian society? Give arguments to justify your opinion.
6. What are the salient features of 'inclusive growth'? Has India been experiencing such a growth process? Analyze and suggest measures for inclusive growth.
7. "Access to affordable, reliable, sustainable and modern energy is the sine qua non to achieve Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs)". Comment on the progress made in India in this regard.
8. It is argued that the strategy of inclusive growth is intended to meet the objectives of inclusiveness and sustainability together. Comment on this statement.
9. Explain intra-generational and inter-generational issues of equity from the perspective of inclusive growth and sustainable development.
10. Is inclusive growth possible under a market economy? State the significance of financial inclusion in achieving economic growth in India.
11. Examine the pattern and trend of public expenditure on social services in the post-reforms period in India. To what extent has this been in consonance with achieving the objective of inclusive growth?

topic : Government Budgeting

questions :

1. Women empowerment in India needs gender budgeting. What are the requirements and status of gender budgeting in the Indian context?

2. One of the intended objectives of Union Budget 2017-18 is to 'transform, energize and clean India'. Analyse the measures proposed in the Budget 2017-18 to achieve the objective.
3. Comment on the important changes introduced in respect of the Long-term Capital Gains Tax (LCGT) and Dividend Distribution Tax (DDT) in the Union Budget for 2018-2019.
4. The public expenditure management is a challenge to the Government of India in the context of budget making during the post-liberalization period. Clarify it.
5. Distinguish between Capital Budget and Revenue Budget. Explain the components of both these Budgets.
6. Examine the pattern and trend of public expenditure on social services in the post-reforms period in India. To what extent has this been in consonance with achieving the objective of inclusive growth?

topic : Major Crops, Cropping Patterns, and Related Issues

questions :

1. In view of the declining average size of land holdings in India, which has made agriculture non-viable for a majority of farmers, should contract farming and land leasing be promoted in agriculture? Critically evaluate the pros and cons.
2. What is allelopathy? Discuss its role in major cropping systems of irrigated agriculture.
3. What is water-use efficiency? Describe the role of micro-irrigation in increasing the water-use efficiency.
4. What are the major reasons for declining rice and wheat yield in the cropping system? How is crop diversification helpful in stabilizing the yield of the crop in the system?
5. How has the emphasis on certain crops brought about changes in cropping patterns in the recent past? Elaborate on the emphasis on millets production and consumption.
6. Elaborate the impact of the National Watershed Project in increasing agricultural production from water-stressed areas.

7. How far is Integrated Farming System (IFS) helpful in sustaining agricultural production?
8. Suggest measures to improve water storage and irrigation systems to make judicious use under depleting scenarios.
9. What are the major factors responsible for making the rice-wheat system a success? In spite of this success, how has this system become a bane in India?
10. What are the main constraints in the transport and marketing of agricultural produce in India?
11. How and to what extent would micro-irrigation help in solving India's water crisis?
12. What are the present challenges before crop diversification? How do emerging technologies provide opportunities for crop diversification?
13. What is Integrated Farming System? How is it helpful to small and marginal farmers in India?
14. How does E-Technology help farmers in the production and marketing of agricultural produce? Explain it.
15. Explain the changes in cropping pattern in India in the context of changes in consumption pattern and marketing conditions.
16. Explain the role of millets for ensuring health and nutritional security in India.
17. 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?
18. What are the major challenges faced by the Indian irrigation system in recent times? State the measures taken by the government for efficient irrigation management.

topic : Issues Related to Farm Subsidies, Public Distribution System, and Food Security

questions :

1. India needs to strengthen measures to promote the pink revolution in the food industry for ensuring better nutrition and health. Critically elucidate the statement.

2. What are the different types of agriculture subsidies given to farmers at the national and state levels? Critically analyze the agricultural subsidy regime with reference to the distortions created by it.
3. "In the villages itself no form of credit organization will be suitable except the cooperative society." – All India Rural Credit Survey. Discuss this statement in the background of agricultural finance in India. What constraints and challenges do financial institutions supplying agricultural finance face? How can technology be used to better reach and serve rural clients?
4. There is also a point of view that Agricultural Produce Market Committees [APMCs] set up under the State Acts have not only impeded the development of agriculture but also have been the cause of food inflation in India. Critically examine.
5. In what way could the replacement of price subsidy with Direct Benefit Transfer (DBT) change the scenario of subsidies in India? Discuss.
6. How can the Digital India program help farmers to improve farm productivity and income? What steps has the government taken in this regard?
7. Livestock rearing has a big potential for providing non-farm employment and income in rural areas. Discuss suggesting suitable measures to promote this sector in India.
8. Given the vulnerability of Indian agriculture to the vagaries of nature, discuss the need for crop insurance and bring out the salient features of the Pradhan Mantri Fasal Bima Yojana (PMFBY).
9. How do subsidies affect the cropping pattern, crop diversity, and economy of farmers? What is the significance of crop insurance, minimum support price, and food processing for small and marginal farmers?
10. Explain the various types of revolutions that took place in agriculture after Independence in India. How have these revolutions helped in poverty alleviation and food security in India?
11. Assess the role of the National Horticulture Mission (NHM) in boosting the production, productivity, and income of horticulture farms. How far has it succeeded in increasing the income of farmers?

12. What do you mean by Minimum Support Price (MSP)? How will MSP rescue farmers from the low-income trap?
13. What are the reformative steps taken by the government to make the food grain distribution system more effective?
14. What are the salient features of the National Food Security Act 2013? How has the Food Security Bill helped in eliminating hunger and malnutrition in India?
15. What are the major challenges of the Public Distribution System (PDS) in India? How can it be made effective and transparent?
16. What are the direct and indirect subsidies provided to the farm sector in India? Discuss the issues raised by the World Trade Organization (WTO) in relation to agricultural subsidies.
17. Explain the role of millets for ensuring health and nutritional security in India.
18. 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?
19. Elucidate the importance of buffer stocks for stabilizing agricultural prices in India.

topic : Food Processing and Related Industries in India

questions :

1. What are the impediments in marketing and supply chain management in developing the food processing industry in India? Can e-commerce help in overcoming this bottleneck?
2. What are the reasons for poor acceptance of cost-effective small processing units? How will the food processing unit be helpful to uplift the socio-economic status of poor farmers?
3. Examine the role of supermarkets in supply chain management of fruits, vegetables, and food items. How do they eliminate the number of intermediaries?
4. Elaborate on the policy taken by the Government of India to meet the challenges of the food processing sector.

5. What are the challenges and opportunities of the food processing sector in the country? How can the income of the farmers be substantially increased by encouraging food processing?
6. Elaborate on the scope and significance of the food processing industry in India.
7. What are the main bottlenecks in the upstream and downstream processes of marketing agricultural products in India?

topic : Land Reforms in India

questions :

1. Establish a relationship between land reforms, agricultural productivity, and the elimination of poverty in the Indian economy. Discuss the difficulties in designing and implementing agriculture-friendly land reforms in India.
2. The Right to Fair Compensation and Transparency in Land Acquisition, Rehabilitation and Resettlement Act, 2013 has come into effect from 1st January 2014. What are the key issues which would get addressed with the Act in place? What implications would it have on industrialization and agriculture in India?
3. Discuss the role of land reforms in agricultural development. Identify the factors that were responsible for the success of land reforms in India.
4. How did land reforms in some parts of the country help to improve the socio-economic conditions of marginal and small farmers?
5. State the objective and measures of land reforms in India. Discuss how the land ceiling policy on landholding can be considered an effective reform under economic criteria.
6. What were the factors responsible for the successful implementation of land reforms in some parts of the country? Elaborate.

topic : Effects of Liberalization on the Economy, Changes in Industrial Policy and Their Effects on Industrial Growth

questions :

1. Examine the impact of liberalization on companies owned by Indians. Are they competing with the MNCs satisfactorily? Discuss.

2. There is a clear acknowledgement that Special Economic Zones (SEZs) are a tool of industrial development, manufacturing, and exports. Recognizing this potential, the whole instrumentality of SEZs requires augmentation. Discuss the issues plaguing the success of SEZs with respect to taxation, governing laws, and administration.
3. "Success of the Make in India program depends on the success of the Skill India program and radical labour reforms." Discuss with logical arguments.
4. "Industrial growth rate has lagged behind in the overall growth of Gross Domestic Product (GDP) in the post-reform period." Give reasons. How far are the recent changes in Industrial Policy capable of increasing the industrial growth rate?
5. Account for the failure of the manufacturing sector in achieving the goal of labour-intensive exports rather than capital-intensive exports. Suggest measures for more labour-intensive rather than capital-intensive exports.

topic : Infrastructure: Energy, Ports, Roads, Airports, Railways, etc.

questions :

1. Write a note on India's green energy corridor to alleviate the problem of conventional energy.
2. National Urban Transport Policy emphasizes 'moving people' instead of 'moving vehicles.' Discuss critically the success of the various strategies of the Government in this regard.
3. To what factors can the recent dramatic fall in equipment cost and tariff of solar energy be attributed? What implications does the trend have for thermal power producers and related industry?
4. Give an account of the current status and the targets to be achieved pertaining to renewable energy sources in the country. Discuss in brief the importance of the National Programme on Light Emitting Diodes (LEDs).
5. "Investment in infrastructure is essential for more rapid and inclusive economic growth." Discuss in the light of India's experience.
6. Do you think India will meet 50 percent of its energy needs from renewable energy by 2030? Justify your answer. How will the shift of subsidies from fossil fuels to renewables help achieve the above objective? Explain.

topic : Investment Models

questions :

1. Adoption of the PPP model for infrastructure development of the country has not been free of criticism. Critically discuss the pros and cons of the model.
2. Though India allowed Foreign Direct Investment (FDI) in what is called multi-brand retail through the joint venture route in September 2012, the FDI, even after a year, has not picked up. Discuss the reasons.
3. Discuss the impact of FDI entry into the multi-trade retail sector on supply chain management in the commodity trade pattern of the economy.
4. Foreign Direct Investment (FDI) in the defense sector is now set to be liberalized: What influence is this expected to have on the Indian defense and economy in the short and long run?
5. Explain how Private Public Partnership arrangements, in long gestation infrastructure projects, can transfer unsustainable liabilities to the future. What arrangements need to be put in place to ensure that successive generations' capacities are not compromised?
6. Examine the developments of airports in India through Joint Ventures under the Public-Private Partnership (PPP) model. What are the challenges faced by the authorities in this regard?
7. Explain the meaning of investment in an economy in terms of capital formation. Discuss the factors to be considered while designing a concession agreement between a public entity and a private entity.
8. Why is Public Private Partnership (PPP) required in infrastructural projects? Examine the role of the PPP model in the redevelopment of Railway Stations in India.
9. What is the need for expanding regional air connectivity in India? In this context, discuss the government's UDAN Scheme and its achievements.

topic : Science and Technology – Developments and Their Applications and Effects in Everyday Life

questions :

1. What do you understand by Run-of-river hydroelectricity project? How is it different from any other hydroelectricity project?
2. What is an FRP composite material? How are they manufactured? Discuss their application in aviation and automobile industries.
3. How does the 3D printing technology work? List out the advantages and disadvantages of the technology.
4. What is a digital signature? What does its authentication mean? Give various salient built-in features of a digital signature.
5. What do you understand by Umpire Decision Review System in cricket? Discuss its various components. Explain how silicone tape on the edge of a bat may fool the system.
6. What do you understand by Fixed Dose Drug Combinations (FDCs)? Discuss their merits and demerits.
7. Can overuse and free availability of antibiotics without Doctor's prescription be contributors to the emergence of drug-resistant diseases in India? What are the available mechanisms for monitoring and control? Critically discuss the various issues involved.
8. Scientific research in Indian universities is declining because a career in science is not as attractive as are business professions, engineering or administration, and the universities are becoming consumer-oriented. Critically comment.
9. India's Traditional Knowledge Digital Library (TKDL) which has a database containing formatted information on more than 2 million medicinal formulations is proving a powerful weapon in the country's fight against erroneous patents. Discuss the pros and cons of making the database publicly available under open-source licensing.
10. Give an account of the growth and development of nuclear science and technology in India. What is the advantage of the fast breeder reactor programme in India?
11. Stem cell therapy is gaining popularity in India to treat a wide variety of medical conditions including leukaemia, Thalassemia, damaged cornea, and several

burns. Describe briefly what stem cell therapy is and what advantages it has over other treatments.

12. With growing energy needs, should India keep on expanding its nuclear energy programme? Discuss the facts and fears associated with nuclear energy.
13. Describe the benefits of deriving electric energy from sunlight in contrast to conventional energy generation. What are the initiatives offered by our government for this purpose?
14. The COVID-19 pandemic has caused unprecedented devastation worldwide. However, technological advancements are being availed readily to win over the crisis. Give an account of how technology was sought to aid the management of the pandemic.
15. How is science interwoven deeply with our lives? What are the striking changes in agriculture triggered off by the science-based technologies?
16. How is the S-400 air defence system technically superior to any other system presently available in the world?
17. The Nobel Prize in Physics of 2014 was jointly awarded to Akasaki, Amano, and Nakamura for the invention of Blue LEDs in the 1990s. How has this invention impacted the everyday life of human beings?
18. The increase in life expectancy in the country has led to newer health challenges in the community. What are those challenges and what steps need to be taken to meet them?
19. What is the basic principle behind vaccine development? How do vaccines work? What approaches were adopted by the Indian vaccine manufacturers to produce COVID-19 vaccines?
20. Introduce the concept of Artificial Intelligence (AI). How does AI help clinical diagnosis? Do you perceive any threat to the privacy of the individual in the use of AI in healthcare?
21. Discuss several ways in which microorganisms can help in meeting the current fuel shortage.

22. The adoption of electric vehicles is rapidly growing worldwide. How do electric vehicles contribute to reducing carbon emissions and what are the key benefits they offer compared to traditional combustion engine vehicles?
23. What is the technology 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?
24. 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.

topic : Achievements of Indians in Science & Technology; Indigenization of Technology and Developing New Technology

questions :

1. Discuss India's achievements in the field of Space Science and Technology. How has the application of this technology helped India in its socio-economic development?
2. Discuss the work of 'Bose-Einstein Statistics' done by Prof. Satyendra Nath Bose and show how it revolutionized the field of Physics.
3. How was India benefitted from the contributions of Sir M. Visvesvaraya and Dr. M. S. Swaminathan in the fields of water engineering and agricultural science respectively?

topic : Awareness in the Fields of IT, Space, Computers, Robotics, Nano-Technology, Bio-Technology and Issues Relating to Intellectual Property Rights

questions :

1. Bringing out the circumstances in 2005 which forced amendment to the section 3(d) in Indian Patent Law, 1970, discuss how it has been utilized by the Supreme Court in its judgement in rejecting Novartis' patent application for 'Glivec'. Discuss briefly the pros and cons of the decision.
2. In a globalized world, Intellectual Property Rights assume significance and are a source of litigation. Broadly distinguish between the terms—Copyrights, Patents and Trade Secrets.

3. Discuss the advantage and security implications of cloud hosting of servers vis-a-vis in-house machine-based hosting for government business.
4. What are the areas of prohibitive labour that can be sustainably managed by robots? Discuss the initiatives that can propel the research in premier research institutes for substantive and gainful innovation.
5. What do you understand by “Standard Positioning System” and “Precision Positioning System” in the GPS era? Discuss the advantage India perceives from its ambitious IRNSS programme employing just seven satellites.
6. Why is nanotechnology one of the key technologies of the 21st century? Describe the salient features of the Indian Government’s Mission on Nanoscience and Technology and the scope of its application in the development process of the country.
7. India has achieved remarkable successes in unmanned space missions including the Chandrayaan and Mars Orbiter Mission, but has not ventured into manned space mission, both in terms of technology and logistics? Explain critically.
8. Why is there so much activity in the field of biotechnology in our country? How has this activity benefitted the field of biopharma?
9. How can biotechnology help to improve the living standards of farmers?
10. How is the Government of India protecting traditional knowledge of medicine from patenting by pharmaceutical companies?
11. What is India’s plan to have its own space station and how will it benefit our space programme?
12. What do you understand by nanotechnology and how is it helping in the health sector?
13. What are the research and developmental achievements in applied biotechnology? How will these achievements help to uplift the poorer sections of society?
14. Launched on 25th December, 2021, the James Webb Space Telescope has been much in the news since then. What are its unique features that make it superior to its predecessor space telescopes? What are the key goals of this mission? What potential benefits does it hold for the human race?

15. What is the main task of India's third moon mission which could not be achieved in its earlier mission? List the countries that have achieved this task. Introduce the subsystems in the spacecraft launched and explain the role of the 'Virtual Launch Control Centre' at the Vikram Sarabhai Centre which contributed to the successful launch from Sriharikota.
16. 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.
17. Describe the context and salient features of the Digital Personal Data Protection Act, 2023.

topic : Conservation, Environmental Pollution and Degradation, Environmental Impact Assessment

questions :

1. Enumerate the National Water Policy of India. Taking river Ganges as an example, discuss the strategies which may be adopted for river water pollution control and management. What are the legal provisions of management and handling of hazardous wastes in India?
2. What are the consequences of illegal mining? Discuss the Ministry of Environment and Forest's concept of GO AND NO-GO zones for the coal mining sector.
3. Environmental Impact Assessment studies are increasingly undertaken before a project is cleared by the Government. Discuss the environmental impacts of coal-fired thermal plants located at coal pitheads.
4. Should the pursuit of carbon credits and clean development mechanisms set up under UNFCCC be maintained even though there has been a massive slide in the value of a carbon credit? Discuss with respect to India's energy needs for economic growth.
5. Discuss the Namami Gange and National Mission for Clean Ganga (NMCG) programmes and causes of mixed results from the previous schemes. What quantum leaps can help preserve the river Ganga better than incremental inputs?

6. Rehabilitation of human settlements is one of the important environmental impacts which always attracts controversy while planning major projects. Discuss the measures suggested for mitigation of this impact while proposing major developmental projects.
7. 'Climate Change' is a global problem. How will India be affected by climate change? How will the Himalayan and coastal states of India be affected by climate change?
8. Not many years ago, river linking was a concept but it is becoming a reality in the country. Discuss the advantages of river linking and its possible impact on the environment.
9. How does biodiversity vary in India? How is the Biological Diversity Act, 2002 helpful in the conservation of flora and fauna?
10. Sikkim is the first 'Organic State' in India. What are the ecological and economic benefits of being an Organic State?
11. What is a wetland? Explain the Ramsar concept of 'wise use' in the context of wetland conservation. Cite two examples of Ramsar sites from India.
12. What are the impediments in disposing of the huge quantities of discarded solid wastes that are continuously being generated? How do we safely remove the toxic wastes that have been accumulating in our habitable environment?
13. Define the concept of carrying capacity of an ecosystem as relevant to an environment. Explain how understanding this concept is vital while planning for sustainable development of a region.
14. Coastal sand mining, whether legal or illegal, poses one of the biggest threats to our environment. Analyze the impact of sand mining along the Indian coasts, citing specific examples.
15. What are the key features of the National Clean Air Programme (NCAP) initiated by the Government of India?
16. What are the salient features of the Jal Shakti Abhiyan launched by the Government of India for water conservation and water security?
17. How does the draft Environment Impact Assessment (EIA) Notification, 2020 differ from the existing EIA Notification, 2006?

18. Explain the purpose of the Green Grid Initiative launched at the World Leaders Summit of the COP26 UN Climate Change Conference in Glasgow in November 2021. When was this idea first floated in the International Solar Alliance (ISA)?
19. Describe the key points of the revised Global Air Quality Guidelines (AQGs) recently released by the World Health Organisation (WHO). How are these different from its last update in 2005? What changes in India's National Clean Air Programme are required to achieve these revised standards?
20. Describe the major outcomes of the 26th session of the Conference of Parties (COP) to the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change (UNFCCC). What are the commitments made by India in this conference?
21. Each year a large amount of plant material, cellulose, is deposited on the surface of Planet Earth. What are the natural processes this cellulose undergoes before yielding carbon dioxide, water, and other end products?
22. Discuss in detail the photochemical smog emphasizing its formation, effects, and mitigation. Explain the 1999 Gothenburg Protocol.
23. Discuss global warming and mention its effect on global climate. Explain the control measures to bring down the level of greenhouse gases which cause global warming, in light of the Kyoto Protocol, 1997.
24. What is oil pollution? What are its impacts on the marine ecosystem? In what way is oil pollution particularly harmful for a country like India?
25. Comment on the National Wetland Conservation Programme initiated by the Government of India and name a few of India's wetlands of international importance included in the Ramsar sites.
26. 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.
27. 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.

topic : Disaster and Disaster Management

questions :

1. How important are vulnerability and risk assessment for pre-disaster management? As an administrator, what are the key areas that you would focus on in a Disaster Management System?
2. Drought has been recognized as a disaster in view of its spatial expanse, temporal duration, slow onset, and lasting effects on vulnerable sections. With a focus on the September 2010 guidelines from the National Disaster Management Authority (NDMA), discuss the mechanisms for preparedness to deal with likely El Nino and La Nina fallouts in India.
3. The frequency of earthquakes appears to have increased in the Indian subcontinent. However, India's preparedness for mitigating their impact has significant gaps. Discuss various aspects.
4. With reference to National Disaster Management Authority (NDMA) guidelines, discuss the measures to be adopted to mitigate the impact of the recent incidents of cloudbursts in many places of Uttarakhand.
5. The frequency of urban floods due to high-intensity rainfall is increasing over the years. Discussing the reasons for urban floods, highlight the mechanisms for preparedness to reduce the risk during such events.
6. On December 2004, the tsunami brought havoc on 14 countries including India. Discuss the factors responsible for the occurrence of Tsunami and its effects on life and the economy. In the light of guidelines of NDMA (2010), describe the mechanisms for preparedness to reduce the risk during such events.
7. Describe various measures taken in India for Disaster Risk Reduction (DRR) before and after signing the 'Sendai Framework for DRR (2015-2030)'. How is this framework different from the 'Hyogo Framework for Action, 2005'?
8. Disaster preparedness is the first step in any disaster management process. Explain how hazard zonation mapping will help disaster mitigation in the case of landslides.
9. Vulnerability is an essential element for defining disaster impacts and its threat to people. How and in what ways can vulnerability to disasters be characterized? Discuss different types of vulnerability with reference to disasters.
10. Discuss the recent measures initiated in disaster management by the Government of India departing from the earlier reactive approach.

11. Discuss the vulnerability of India to earthquake-related hazards. Give examples including the salient features of major disasters caused by earthquakes in different parts of India during the last three decades.
12. Describe the various causes and effects of landslides. Mention the important components of the National Landslide Risk Management strategy.
13. Explain the mechanism and occurrence of cloudburst in the context of the Indian subcontinent. Discuss two recent examples.
14. Explain the causes and effects of coastal erosion in India. What are the available coastal management techniques for combating the hazard?
15. Dam failures are always catastrophic, especially on the downstream side, resulting in a colossal loss of life and property. Analyze the various causes of dam failures. Give two examples of large dam failures.
16. The Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change (IPCC) has predicted a global sea level rise of about one meter by AD 2100. What would be its impact in India and the other countries in the Indian Ocean region?
17. What are asteroids? How real is the threat of them causing the extinction of life? What strategies have been developed to prevent such a catastrophe?
18. What is disaster resilience? How is it determined? Describe various elements of a resilience framework. Also, mention the global targets of the Sendai Framework for Disaster Risk Reduction (2015 – 2030).
19. 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.

topic : Linkages Between Development and Spread of Extremism

questions :

1. Article 244 of the Indian Constitution relates to the administration of scheduled areas and tribal areas. Analyze the impact of non-implementation of the provisions of the Fifth Schedule on the growth of Left-Wing extremism.

2. The persisting drives of the government for the development of large industries in backward areas have resulted in isolating the tribal population and the farmers who face multiple displacements. With Malkangiri and Naxalbari foci, discuss the corrective strategies needed to win the Left-Wing Extremism (LWE) doctrine affected citizens back into the mainstream of social and economic growth.
3. Mob violence is emerging as a serious law and order problem in India. By giving suitable examples, analyze the causes and consequences of such violence.
4. Left Wing Extremism (LWE) is showing a downward trend, but still affects many parts of the country. Briefly explain the Government of India's approach to counter the challenges posed by LWE.
5. What are the determinants of left-wing extremism in the Eastern part of India? What strategy should the Government of India, civil administration, and security forces adopt to counter the threat in the affected areas?
6. Winning of 'Hearts and Minds' in terrorism-affected areas is an essential step in restoring the trust of the population. Discuss the measures adopted by the government in this respect as part of this conflict resolution in Jammu and Kashmir.
7. Explain how narco-terrorism has emerged as a serious threat across the country. Suggest suitable measures to counter narco-terrorism.

topic : Role of External State and Non-State Actors in Creating Challenges to Internal Security

questions :

1. In 2012, the longitudinal marking for high-risk areas for piracy was moved from 65 degrees east to 78 degrees east in the Arabian Sea by the International Maritime Organisation. What impact does this have on India's maritime security concerns?
2. International civil aviation laws provide all countries complete and exclusive sovereignty over the airspace above their territory. What do you understand by 'airspace'? What are the implications of these laws on the space above this airspace? Discuss the challenges which this poses and suggest ways to contain the threat.

3. "The diverse nature of India as a multi-religious and multi-ethnic society is not immune to the impact of radicalism which is seen in her neighbourhood." Discuss along with strategies to be adopted to counter this environment.
4. The north-eastern region of India has been infested with insurgency for a very long time. Analyze the major reasons for the survival of armed insurgency in this region.
5. The China Pakistan Economic Corridor (CPEC) is viewed as a cardinal subset of China's larger 'One Belt One Road' initiative. Give a brief description of CPEC and enumerate the reasons why India has distanced itself from the same.
6. The banning of 'Jammat-e-Islami' in Jammu and Kashmir brought into focus the role of over-ground workers (OGWs) in assisting terrorist organizations. Examine the role played by OGWs in assisting terrorist organizations in insurgency-affected areas. Discuss measures to neutralize the influence of OGWs.
7. Analyze the multidimensional challenges posed by external state and non-state actors to the internal security of India. Also discuss measures required to be taken to combat these threats.
8. Naxalism is a social, economic, and developmental issue manifesting as a violent internal security threat. In this context, discuss the emerging issues and suggest a multilayered strategy to tackle the menace of Naxalism.

topic : Challenges to Internal Security through Communication Networks, Role of Media and Social Networking Sites in Internal Security Challenges, Basics of Cyber Security; Money Laundering and Its Prevention

questions :

1. Cyber warfare is considered by some defence analysts to be a larger threat than even Al Qaeda or terrorism. What do you understand by Cyber warfare? Outline the cyber threats which India is vulnerable to and bring out the state of the country's preparedness to deal with the same.
2. What are social networking sites and what security implications do these sites present?

3. Money laundering poses a serious security threat to a country's economic sovereignty. What is its significance for India and what steps are required to be taken to control this menace?
4. Considering the threats cyberspace poses for the country, India needs a "Digital Armed Forces" to prevent crimes. Critically evaluate the National Cyber Security Policy, 2013 outlining the challenges perceived in its effective implementation.
5. Religious indoctrination via social media has resulted in Indian youth joining the ISIS. What is ISIS and its mission? How can ISIS be dangerous to the internal security of our country?
6. Use of internet and social media by non-state actors for subversive activities is a major security concern. How have these been misused in the recent past? Suggest effective guidelines to curb the above threat.
7. The scourge of terrorism is a grave challenge to national security. What solutions do you suggest to curb this growing menace? What are the major sources of terrorist funding?
8. Discuss the potential threats of Cyber-attack and the security framework to prevent it.
9. Data security has assumed significant importance in the digitized world due to rising cyber-crimes. The Justice B. N. Srikrishna Committee Report addresses issues related to data security. What, in your view, are the strengths and weaknesses of the Report relating to protection of personal data in cyber space?
10. What is CyberDome Project? Explain how it can be useful in controlling internet crimes in India.
11. Discuss different types of cybercrimes and measures required to be taken to fight the menace.
12. Discuss how emerging technologies and globalization contribute to money laundering. Elaborate measures to tackle the problem of money laundering both at national and international levels.
13. Keeping in view India's internal security, analyse the impact of cross-border cyber-attacks. Also discuss defensive measures against these sophisticated attacks.

14. What are the different elements of cyber security? Keeping in view the challenges in cyber security, examine the extent to which India has successfully developed a comprehensive National Cyber Security Strategy.
15. What are the internal security challenges being faced by India? Give out the role of Central Intelligence and Investigative Agencies tasked to counter such threats.
16. Give out major sources of terror funding in India and the efforts being made to curtail these sources. In the light of this, also discuss the aim and objective of the 'No Money for Terror (NMFT)' conference recently held at New Delhi in November 2022.
17. 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.

topic : Security Challenges and Their Management in Border Areas – Linkages of Organized Crime with Terrorism

questions :

1. How far are India's internal security challenges linked with border management particularly in view of the long porous borders with most countries of South Asia and Myanmar?
2. China and Pakistan have entered into an agreement for development of an economic corridor. What threat does this pose for India's security? Critically examine.
3. How does illegal transborder migration pose a threat to India's security? Discuss the strategies to curb this, bringing out the factors which give impetus to such migration.
4. Border management is a complex task due to difficult terrain and hostile relations with some countries. Elucidate the challenges and strategies for effective border management.
5. "Terrorism is emerging as a competitive industry over the last few decades." Analyze the above statement.

6. The terms 'Hot Pursuit' and 'Surgical Strikes' are often used in connection with armed action against terrorist attacks. Discuss the strategic impact of such actions.
7. India's proximity to two of the world's biggest illicit opium-growing states has enhanced her internal security concerns. Explain the linkages between drug trafficking and other illicit activities such as gunrunning, money laundering, and human trafficking. What countermeasures should be taken to prevent the same?
8. Cross-Border movement of insurgents is only one of the several security challenges facing the policing of the border in North-East India. Examine the various challenges currently emanating across the India-Myanmar border. Also, discuss the steps to counter the challenges.
9. Analyze internal security threats and transborder crimes along Myanmar, Bangladesh, and Pakistan borders including Line of Control (LoC). Also discuss the role played by various security forces in this regard.
10. For effective border area management, discuss the steps required to be taken to deny local support to militants and also suggest ways to manage favorable perception among locals.
11. Analyse the complexity and intensity of terrorism, its causes, linkages, and obnoxious nexus. Also suggest measures required to be taken to eradicate the menace of terrorism.
12. Discuss the type of organized crimes. Describe the linkages between terrorists and organized crime that exist at the national and transnational levels.
13. What are the maritime security challenges in India? Discuss the organizational, technical, and procedural initiatives taken to improve maritime security.
14. The use of unmanned aerial vehicles (UAVs) by our adversaries across the borders to ferry arms/ammunition, drugs, etc., is a serious threat to internal security. Comment on the measures being taken to tackle this threat.
15. India has a long and troubled border with China and Pakistan fraught with contentious issues. Examine the conflict 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.

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topic: Ethics in Public Administration

questions:

1. What do you understand by 'moral integrity' and 'professional efficiency in the context of corporate governance in India? Illustrate with suitable examples.
2. 'International aid' is an accepted form of helping 'resource-challenged' nations. Comment on 'ethics in contemporary international aid'. Support your answer with suitable examples.
3. Is conscience a more reliable guide when compared to laws, rules and regulations in the context of ethical decision making? Discuss.
4. Explain the term social capital. How does it enhance good governance?
5. Wisdom lies in knowing what to reckon with and what to overlook. An officer being engrossed with the periphery, ignoring the core issues before him, is no rare in the bureaucracy. Do you agree that such preoccupation of an administrator leads to travesty of justice to the cause of effective service delivery and good governance? Critically evaluate.
6. Apart from intellectual competency and moral qualities, empathy and compassion are some of the other vital attributes that facilitate the civil servants to be more competent in tackling the crucial issues or taking critical decisions. Explain with suitable illustrations.
7. Impact of digital technology as reliable source of input for rational decision-making is debatable issue. Critically evaluate with suitable example.
8. Besides domain knowledge, a public official needs innovativeness and creativity of a high order as well, while resolving ethical dilemmas. Discuss with suitable example.
9. Distinguish between laws and rules. Discuss the role of ethics in formulating them.
10. What is meant by conflict of interest? Illustrate with examples, the difference between the actual and potential conflicts of interest.

11. "In looking for people to hire, you look for three qualities: integrity, intelligence and energy. And if they do not have the first, the other two will kill you." – Warren Buffett. What do you understand by this statement in the present-day scenario? Explain.
12. Suppose the Government of India is thinking of constructing a dam in a mountain valley bond by forests and inhabited by ethnic communities. What rational policy should it resort to in dealing with unforeseen contingencies.
13. Explain the process of resolving ethical dilemmas in Public Administration.
14. Conflict of interest in the public sector arises when (a) official duties, (b) public interest, and (c) personal interest are taking priority one above the other. How can this conflict in administration be resolved? Describe with an example.
15. One of the tests of integrity is complete refusal to be compromised. Explain with reference to a real life example.
16. Corporate social responsibility makes companies more profitable and sustainable. Analyse.
17. "A mere compliance with law is not enough, the public servant also have to have a well developed sensibility to ethical issues for effective discharge of duties" Do you agree? Explain with the help of two examples where (i) an act is ethically right, but not legally and (ii) an act is legally right, but not ethically.
18. Public servants are likely to confront with the issues of "Conflict of Interest". What do you understand by the term "Conflict of Interest" and how does it manifest in the decision making by public servants? If faced with the conflict of interest situation how would you resolve it? Explain with the help of examples.
19. What do you understand by the following terms in the context of public service? Spirit of Service; Commitment; Courage of Conviction.

topic: Probity in Governance

questions:

1. "Corruption is the manifestation of the failure of core values in the society." In your opinion, what measures can be adopted to uplift the core values in the society?

2. In the context of work environment, differentiate between 'coercion' and 'undue influence' with suitable examples.
3. 'Probity is essential for an effective system of governance and socio-economic development.' Discuss.
4. What do you understand by term 'good governance'? How far recent initiatives in terms of e-Governance steps taken by the State have helped the beneficiaries? Discuss with suitable examples.
5. Online methodology is being used for day-to-day meetings, institutional approvals in the administration and for teaching and learning in education sector to the extent telemedicine in the health sector is getting popular with the approvals of the competent authority. Describe and discuss the ethical issues involved in the use of online method particularly to vulnerable section of society.
6. Whistle blower, who reports corruption and illegal activities, wrongdoing and misconduct to the concerned authorities, runs the risk of being exposed to grave danger, physical harm and victimization by the vested interests, accused persons and his team. What policy measures would you suggest to strengthen protection mechanism to safeguard the whistle blower?
7. In contemporary world, corporate sector's contribution in generating wealth and employment is increasing. In doing so, they are bringing in unprecedented onslaught on the climate, environmental sustainability and living conditions of human beings. In this background, do you Responsibility (CSR) is efficient and sufficient enough to fulfill the social roles and responsibilities needed in the corporate work mandated? Critically examine.
8. Discuss the role of ethics and values in enhancing the following three major components of Comprehensive National Power (CNP) viz. human capital, soft power (culture and policies) and social harmony.
9. "Education is not an injunction, it is an effective and pervasive tool for all round development of an individual and social transformation". Examine the New Education Policy, 2020 (NEP, 2020) in light of the above statement.
10. Effective utilization of public funds is crucial to meet development goals. Critically examine the reasons for under-utilization and mis-utilization of public funds and their implications.

11. "Non-performance of duty by a public servant is a form of corruption". Do you agree with this view? Justify your answer.
12. Explain the basic principles of citizens charter movement and bring out its importance.
13. There is a view that the Official Secrets Act is an obstacle to the implementation of Right to Information Act. Do you agree with the view? Discuss.
14. What do you understand by probity in governance? Based on your understanding of the term, suggest measures for ensuring probity in government.
15. "The Right to Information Act is not all about citizens' empowerment alone, it essentially redefines the concept of accountability. Discuss.
16. What do you understand by 'probity' in public life? What are the difficulties in practicing it in the present times? How can these difficulties be overcome?
17. It is often said that poverty leads to corruption. However there is no dearth of instances where affluent and powerful people indulge in corruption in a big way. What are the basic causes of corruption among people? Support your answer with examples.
18. What do you understand by the terms 'governance', 'good governance' and 'ethical governance'?
19. Some recent developments such as introduction of RTI Act, media and judicial activism, etc. are proving helpful in bringing about greater transparency and accountability... Analyse the situation in detail and suggest how the dichotomy can be resolved.
20. What does 'accountability' mean in the context of public service? What measures can be adopted to ensure individual and collective accountability of public servants?

topic: Moral Thinkers and Philosophers

questions:

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

- (a) “The simplest acts of kindness are by far more powerful than a thousand heads bowing in prayer.” – Mahatma Gandhi
 - (b) “To awaken the people, it is the women who must be awakened. Once she is on the move, the family moves, the village moves, the nation moves.” – Jawaharlal Nehru
 - (c) Do not hate anybody, because that hatred that comes out from you must, in the long run, come back to you. If you love, that love will come back to you, completing the circle.” – Swami Vivekanand.
2. What were the major teachings of Guru Nanak? Explain their relevance in the contemporary world.
3. (a) Ethics is knowing the difference between what you have the right to do and what is right to do.’-Potter Stewart.
- (b) “If a country is to be corruption free and become a nation of beautiful minds, I strongly feel there are three key societal members who can make a difference. They are the father, the mother and the teacher.” – Abdul Kalam.
- (c) “Judge your success by what you had to give up in order to get it.” Dalai Lama.
4. What does each of the following quotations mean to you?
- (a) “Every work has got to pass through hundreds of difficulties before succeeding. Those that persevere will see the light, sooner or later.-Swami Vivekananda
 - (b) “We can never obtain peace in the outer world until and unless we obtain peace within ourselves.” – Dalai Lama
 - (c) Life doesn’t make any sense without interdependence. We need each other, and the sooner we learn that, it is better for us all.” -Erik Erikson
5. What do each of the following quotations mean to you?
- (a) “Condemn none: if you can stretch out a helping hand, do so. If not, fold your hands, bless your brothers, and let them go their own way.” – Swami Vivekanand
 - (b) “The best way to find yourself is to lose yourself in the service of others.” – Mahatma Gandhi

- (c) “A system of morality which is based on relative emotional values is a mere illusion, a thoroughly vulgar conception which has nothing sound in it and nothing true.” – Socrates
6. (a) “An unexamined life is not worth living”. – Socrates
- (b) “A man is but a product of his thoughts. What he thinks he becomes.” – M.K. Gandhi
- (c) “Where there is righteousness in the heart, there is beauty in the character. When there is beauty in the character, there is harmony in the home. When there is harmony in the home, there is order in the nation. When there is order in the nation, there is peace in the world” – A.P.J. Abdul Kalam
7. What do each of the following quotations mean to you in the present context?
- (a) “The true rule, in determining to embrace, or reject anything, is not whether it has any evil in it; but whether it has more evil than good. There are few things wholly evil or wholly good. Almost everything, especially of governmental policy, is an inseparable compound of the two; so that our best judgement of the preponderance between them is continually demanded. ”Abraham Lincoln
 - (b) “Anger and intolerance are the enemies of correct understanding. “ _ Mahatma Gandhi
 - (c) “Falsehood takes the place of truth when it results in unblemished common good.” _ Tirukkural
8. (a) “Great ambition is the passion of a great character. Those endowed with it may perform very good or very bad acts. All depends on the principles which direct them.” – Napoleon Bonaparte. Stating examples mention the rulers (i) who have harmed society and country, (ii) who worked for the development of society and country.
- (b) “If a country is to be corruption free and become a nation of beautiful minds, I strongly feel there are three key societal members who can make a difference. they are father, the mother and the teacher.” – A. P. J. Abdul Kalam. Analyse.
9. Analyse John Rawls’s concept of social justice in the Indian Context.
10. Discuss Mahatma Gandhi’s concept of seven sins.

11. "Corruption causes misuse of government treasury, administrative inefficiency and obstruction in the path of national development." Discuss Kautilya's views.
12. "Max Weber said that it is not wise to apply to public administration the sort of moral and ethical norms we apply to matters of personal conscience. It is important to realize that the state bureaucracy might possess its own independent bureaucratic morality." Critically analyse this statement.
13. Given are two quotations of moral thinkers/philosophers. For each of these bring out what it means to you in the present context.
- (a) "The weak can never forgive; forgiveness is the attribute of strong."
 - (b) "We can easily forgive a child who is afraid of the dark; the real tragedy of life is when men are afraid of the light"
14. Which eminent personality has inspired you the most in the context of ethical conduct in life? Give the Gist of his/her teachings. Giving specific examples describe how you have been able to apply these teachings for your own ethical development.
15. Given below are three quotations of great moral thinkers/philosophers. For each of these quotations, bring out what it means to you in the present context:
- "There is enough on this earth for every one's need but for no one's greed."
-Mahatma Gandhi
 - "Nearly all men can withstand adversity, but if you want to test a man's character, give him power." - Abraham Lincoln.
 - "I count him braver who overcomes his desires than him who overcomes his enemies." - Aristotle
16. "The good of an individual is contained in the good of all." what do you understand by this statement? How can this principle be implemented in public life?

topic: Emotional Intelligence

questions:

1. What really matters for success, character, happiness and lifelong achievements is a definite set of emotional skills – your EQ- not just purely cognitive abilities

that are measured by conventional IQ tests.” Do you agree with this view ? Give reasons in support of your answer.

2. Differentiate ‘moral intuition from ‘moral reasoning’ with suitable examples.
3. In case of crisis of conscience does emotional intelligence help to overcome the same without compromising the ethical or moral stand that you are likely to follow? Critically examine.
4. “Hatred is destructive of a person’s wisdom and conscience that can poison a nation’s spirit.’ Do you agree with this view? Justify your answer.
5. What are the main components of emotional intelligence (EI)? Can they be learned? Discuss.
6. “Emotional Intelligence is the ability to make your emotions work for you instead of against you”. Do you agree with this view? Discuss.
7. How will you apply emotional intelligence in administrative practices?
8. Anger is a harmful negative emotion. It is injurious to both personal life and work life. (a) Discuss how it leads to negative emotions and undesirable behaviors. (b) How can it be managed and controlled?
9. What is ‘emotional intelligence’ and how can it be developed in people? How does it help an individual in taking ethical decisions?

topic: Aptitude and Foundational Values for Civil Service

questions:

1. The Rules and Regulations provided to all the civil servants are same, yet there is difference in the performance. Positive minded officers are able to interpret the Rules and Regulations in favour of the case and achieve success, whereas negative minded officers are unable to achieve goals by interpreting the same Rules and Regulations against the case. Discuss with illustrations.
2. Identify five ethical traits on which one can plot the performance of a civil servant. Justify their inclusion in the matrix.
3. Identify ten essential values that are needed to be an effective public servant. Describe the ways and means to prevent non-ethical behaviour in the public servants.

4. An independent and empowered social audit mechanism is an absolute must in every sphere of public service, including judiciary, to ensure performance, accountability and ethical conduct. Elaborate.
5. "Integrity is a value that empowers the human being." Justify with suitable illustration.
6. What are the basic principles of public life? Illustrate any three of these with suitable examples.
7. What do you understand by the term 'public servant'? Reflect on the expected role of public servant.
8. What is meant by the term 'constitutional morality'? How does one uphold constitutional morality?
9. What is meant by 'crisis of conscience'? How does it manifest itself in the public domain?
10. State the three basic values, universal in nature, in the context of civil services and bring out their importance.
11. What is meant by public interest? What are the principles and procedures to be followed by the civil servants in public interest?
12. "In doing a good thing, everything is permitted which is not prohibited expressly or by clear implication". Examine the statement with suitable examples in the context of a public servant discharging his/her duties.
13. With regard to the morality of actions, one view is that means is of paramount importance and the other view is that the ends justify the means. Which view do you think is more appropriate? Justify your answer.
14. Examine the relevance of the following in the context of civil service: (a) Transparency (b) Accountability (c) Fairness and justice (d) Courage of conviction (e) Spirit of service.
15. Indicate two more attributes which you consider important for public service. Justify your answer.
16. "Integrity without knowledge is weak and useless, but knowledge without integrity is dangerous and dreadful." What do you understand by this statement?

17. What do you understand by the term 'voice of conscience'? How do you prepare yourself to heed to the voice of conscience?

18. What is meant by 'crisis of conscience'? Narrate one incident in your life when you were faced with such a crisis and how you resolved the same.

topic: Attitude

questions:

1. Attitude is an important component that goes as input in the development of human. How to build a suitable attitude needed for a public servant?
2. A positive attitude is considered to be an essential characteristic of a civil servant who is often required to function under extreme stress. What contributes to a positive attitude in a person?
3. Young people with ethical conduct are not willing to come forward to join active politics. Suggest steps to motivate them to come forward.
4. Our attitudes towards life, work, other people and society are generally shaped unconsciously by the family and the social surroundings in which we grow up. Some of these unconsciously acquired attitudes and values are often undesirable in the citizens of a modern democratic and egalitarian society. (a) Discuss such undesirable values prevalent in Today's educated Indians (b) How can such undesirable attitudes be changed and socioethical values considered necessary in public services be cultivated in the aspiring and serving civil servants?
5. What factors affect the formation of a person's attitude towards social problems? In our society, contrasting attitudes are prevalent about many social problems. What contrasting attitudes do you notice about the caste system in our society? How do you explain the existence of these contrasting attitudes?
6. We are witnessing increasing instances of sexual violence against women in the country. Despite existing legal provisions against it, the number of such incidences is on the rise. Suggest some innovative measures to tackle this menace.

topic: Human Values

questions:

1. It is believed that adherence to ethics in human actions would ensure in smooth functioning of an organization/system. If so, what does ethics seek to promote in human life? How do ethical values assist in the resolution of conflicts faced by him in his day-to-day functioning?
2. Russia and Ukraine war has been going on for the last seven months. Different countries have taken independent stands and actions keeping in view their own national interests. We are all aware that war has its own impact on the different aspects of society, including human tragedy. What are those ethical issues that are crucial to be considered while launching the war and its continuation so far? Illustrate with justification the ethical issues involved in the given state of affair.
3. Write short notes on the following in 30 words each : (i) Constitutional morality (ii) Conflict of interest (iii) Probity in public life (iv) Challenges of digitalization (v) Devotion to duty
4. "Refugees should not be turned back to the country where they would face persecution or human right violation." Examine the statement with reference to ethical dimension being violated by the nation claiming to be democratic with open society.
5. Should impartial and being non-partisan be considered as indispensable qualities to make a successful civil servant? Discuss with illustrations.
6. What teachings of Buddha are most relevant today and why? Discuss.
7. "The will to power exists, but it can be tamed and be guided by rationality and principles of moral duty.' Examine this statement in the context of international relations.
8. What are the main factors responsible for gender inequality in India? Discuss the contribution of Savitribai Phule in this regard.
9. "The current internet expansion has instilled a different set of cultural values which are often in conflict with traditional values.' Discuss.
10. The crisis of ethical values in modern times is traced to a narrow perception of the good life. Discuss.

11. Increased national wealth did not result in equitable distribution of its benefits. It has created only some “enclaves of modernity and prosperity for a small minority at the cost of the majority.” Justify.
12. Social values are more important than economic values. Discuss the above statement with examples in the context of inclusive growth of a nation.
13. In the context of defence services, ‘patriotism’ demands readiness to even lay down one’s life in protecting the nation. According to you, what does patriotism imply in everyday civil life? Explain with illustrations and justify your answer.
14. “Human beings should always be treated as ‘ends’ in themselves and never as ‘means’.” Explain the meaning and significance of this statement, giving it’s implications in the modern techno-economic society.
15. What do you understand by ‘Values’ and ‘Ethics’? In what way is it important to be ethical along with being professionally competent?
16. Some people feel that values keep changing with time and situation, while others strongly believe that there are certain universal and eternal human values. Give your perception in this regard with due justification.

topic: Ethics and Human Interface

questions:

1. Distinguish between “Code of ethics” and “Code of conduct” with suitable examples.
2. Discipline generally implies following the order and subordination. However, it may be counter-productive for the organisation. Discuss.
3. Without commonly shared and widely entrenched moral values and obligations, neither the law, nor democratic government, nor even the market economy will function properly. What do you understand by this statement? Explain with illustration in the contemporary times.
4. Explain how ethics contributes to social and human well-being. Why should impartiality and non-partisanship be considered as foundational values in public services, especially in the present day socio-political context? Illustrate your answer with examples.

5. Law and ethics are considered to be the two tools for controlling human conduct so as to make it conducive to civilized social existence. (a) Discuss how they achieve this objective. (b) Giving examples, show how the two differ in their approaches.
6. Differentiate between the following: (i) Law and ethics (ii) Ethical management and management of ethics (iii) Discrimination and preferential treatment (iv) Personal Ethics and Professional Ethics
7. All human beings aspire for happiness. Do you agree? What does happiness mean to you? Explain with answers.
8. What does ethics seek to promote in human life? Why is it all the more important in Public Administration?
9. It is often said that 'politics' and 'ethics do not go together. What is your opinion in this regard? Justify your answer with illustration.
10. What is meant by 'environmental ethics'? Why is it important to study? Discuss any one environmental issue from the viewpoint of environmental ethics.
11. At the international level, bilateral relations between most nations are governed on the policy of promoting one's own national interest without any regard for the interest of other nations. How can ethical consideration help resolve such tensions? Discuss with specific examples.